

Form Name:	IA-BOS CoC Renewal Application
Submission Time:	June 7, 2019 4:39 pm
Browser:	Chrome 74.0.3729.169 / Windows
IP Address:	63.227.76.68
Unique ID:	510869523
Location:	41.648998260498, -93.627502441406

2019 Iowa Balance of State (IA-501) Continuum of Care (CoC) Grantee Renewal Application

APPLICANT NAME AND INFORMATION

Organization Name: Youth and Shelter Services, Inc.

Renewal Project Name: Lighthouse Transitional Living Program

Project Name(s) as appearing in HMIS/DVIMS: YSS-Story County TLP; YSS-MCLHAdmitted; YSS-Boone County TLP

Grant Identifier: IA0015L7D011710

Project Type: Transitional Housing (TH)

Projected number of clients to be served in renewal grant period: 70

Anticipated Renewal Amount: 194737.00

Verify current registration in federal System for Award Management: Yes

DUNS #: 56505589

Counties Served by Project: Boone, Story, Marshalltown

Address of Administrative Office: 420 Kellogg Ave
Ames, IA 50010

Primary Contact Name: Toby O'Berry

Primary Contact Phone: (515) 883-2379

Primary Contact Email: toberry@yss.org

Secondary Contact Name: Hope Metheny

Secondary Contact Phone: (515) 233-3141 ext. 4570

Secondary Contact Email: hmetheny@yss.org

THRESHOLD ASSURANCES

Having too little or no income: NOT a Barrier

Having a criminal record with exceptions for state, and/or federal restrictions: NOT a Barrier

Fleeing domestic violence (e.g., lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement): NOT a Barrier

Having (or not having) a previous address within Iowa: NOT a Barrier

Failure to comply with HUD's 2016 Gender Identity Rule: NOT a Barrier
(<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/>)

Failure to comply with Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Requirements including assuring non-discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and familial status and disability. NOT a Barrier

Attach project Policies & Procedures to verify barrier statuses selected above: https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74759947/510869523/74759947_barrier_not_barrier_policies.pdf

CONTINUUM OF CARE PARTICIPATION

1. a. What percentage of your clients served do you feel were referred through coordinated entry? Explain your response.

83%. We went live for Coordinated Entry (CE) and started using the prioritization list in 2 Rivers' region on August 8, 2018. YSS has been pulling clients from the prioritization list since it went live, as YSS adds clients to the list and is an Access Point. Since the region has been live for 10/12 months, YSS would estimate that the percentage of clients service from Coordinated Entry to be 83 percent. YSS has had 100% participation in all pull meetings since it has went live. Percentage of clients from CE since going live is 100%.

1. b. Describe timeline/progress of Coordinated Entry in your region. Explain your project's participation in Coordinated Entry and the steps taken to support the Coordinated Entry process in the project's region.

YSS has been involved with the Coordinated Entry (CE) process since it started in the state. YSS has collaborated with Emergency Residence Project (lead in 2 River's region) on many parts of CE. Staff is trained in Boone, Story and Marshall Counties to conduct the correct form of the Vi-SPDAT and have assisted in training on the triage tool used in the region. YSS has physical access points for CE in Ames, Boone, and Marshalltown, and staff have traveled to other places in the region to meet with potential clients face to face. YSS also uses phone services as needed to connect with potential clients. YSS provides the location and technology for the weekly pull meetings held in the 2 Rivers Region. Hope Metheny has been a part of the ICH CE policies and procedures subcommittee since it started and makes sure the Balance of the State hears specifically about youth needs in relation to CE.

2. Since January 2018, have representatives of your project attended at least three bimonthly meetings of the Iowa Council on Homelessness? Note that anyone can participate in Council meetings even if not a voting member. Posted meeting minutes must be available to verify attendance.

Yes. Hope Metheny, 3/20/18, 5/18/18, 7/20/18

3. a. Describe professional development opportunities (conferences, meeting, trainings, webinars, etc.) related to Homelessness in which representatives of your project have participated within the last 12 months.

Hope Metheny, Program Coordinator, attended the Iowa Peer to Peer Conference, the Coordinated Entry training, 2018 Housing Iowa Conference, RHYTTAC Conference (Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Conference), Ethics training, and the Iowa Balance of State CoC Grantee's Meeting.

3. b. From the mentioned above, list the top three (3) most useful experiences and describe how your project implemented information gained from them?

1. RHYTTAC Conference 2. 2018 Housing Conference 3. Iowa Peer to Peer Conference. All of these trainings had breakout sessions in them so that staff could go to the trainings that was most appropriate for their level (case management, data collection, coordination). Staff has implemented more guidance around human trafficking victims and has resources that are available to participants. Staff continues to attend trainings on Trauma informed Care to make the spaces and interactions with clients less traumatizing. Staff has implemented the Coordinated Entry process and now goes from a prioritization list with other organizations within the 2 Rivers region.

4. a. In the past year, describe your agency's activities/engagement/involvement with one or more local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) about implementing a homeless admission preference in their written policies for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) or Public Housing programs:

Due to the tornado in Marshalltown, the demand for housing in that area has changed. Due to the loss of many low income housing units the local PHA received extra emergency funds to assist people that lost their homes during the devastation. Due to this the PHA in Marshall Community has been accepting more people. The PHA in Boone/Story Counties is Central Iowa Regional Housing Authority (CIRHA). They have been invited to the Two Rivers meetings but has not been attending. The City of Ames gives updates on the number of section 8 vouchers for the City of Ames. Programs have been talking about people not being able to use their Section 8 vouchers when they receive them due to lack of landlords. Staff has directly contacted CIRHA to invite them to Two Rivers meeting. CIRHA reported that they do not currently have a homeless admission preference and they are not planning on writing them. Staff will continue to try to engage CIRHA in Two Rivers and prioritize homeless people.

4. a. Please attach documentation to verify, such as an email chain or meeting notes.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770101/510869523/74770101_4a.pdf

4. b. In the past year, describe your agency's activities/engagement/involvement with local affordable housing providers (e.g. multifamily assisted housing owners, PHAs, Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments, or local low-income housing programs) about implementing a Move On strategy (Informational resource: <https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Moving-On-Chapter-6-Final.pdf>):

We continue to partner with our local Section 8 housing authorities (two different ones in the region). Representatives meet monthly with YSS staff and stakeholders at our local homeless boards to discuss the coordinated entry process, exchanging referrals, as well as identify support services for the homeless. Representatives are encouraged to attend 2 River's meetings and organizations to discuss ways to engage landlords and other organizations/individuals. We partner with the PHA to seek the path of least resistance for housing assistance. Due to the tornado that struck in Marshalltown on July 19, 2018, the demand for housing is very high as many low income neighborhoods were destroyed. The PHA received additional emergency funding to support their efforts. While housing stock is limited, we continue to receive referrals that we add to our coordinated entry system. The local PHA utilizes YSS programs as needed. In Marshalltown we recently purchased a building connected to the PHA.

4. b. Please attach documentation to verify, such as an email chain or meeting notes.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770192/510869523/74770192_4b.pdf

5. In the past year , to what extent has your agency taken steps locally to educate communities on the issues of homelessness: (e.g. decriminalization of homelessness engaging local policymakers, law enforcement, or business leaders; implementing community plan)?

This past year YSS again partnered with ACCESS and ERP to bring the Reggie's Sleepout Event to Central Iowa. Reggie's Sleepout is a twice-a-year event, in Ames and Des Moines, designed to bring awareness to Central Iowa on the topic of specifically youth homelessness. On February 20, 2019 staff attended the A Home for All presentation by AMOS. It focused on a community conversation for PSH in Story County. On April 9th, 2019 YSS received the "A Home for Everyone" Award from the City of Ames. Staff went to the City Council meeting and accepted the award and talked to the city council and the mayor about the work that YSS is doing specifically involving homelessness. YSS staff has talked at Human Service council meetings in the areas about coordinated entry and updating referral sources on how to get homeless services efficiently. Staff also went to homeless day on the hill to speak with representatives from the districts but was unable to connect with them in person that day.

6. In the past year, to what extent has your agency taken steps locally to prevent the discharge of persons from local systems of care (foster care, health care, mental health care, correctional facilities) into homelessness?

YSS works with youth and one of its main areas of concerns is youth aging out of foster care and being homeless on their 18th birthday. YSS runs the state aftercare (children that have aged out of foster care) grant, and with those services YSS is able to start pre-aftercare 6 months prior to a foster care youth turning 18 making sure that there is an additional team member verifying that youth and not discharged to the street. Youth are also given family team meetings prior to turning 18 so referrals can be made ahead of time and a plan can be made. Staff has also been focusing on preventing mental health care discharges to the street. Upon request staff has been going to Mary Greeley behavioral health unit or their transitional unit to meet with youth while they are hospitalized so they are quickly placed on the prioritization list and can be housed when they are ready to be discharged from the hospital.

7. a. Did your agency participate in the street (unsheltered) count in counties served by your project and how?

Yes. Due to the polar vortex and the PIT being rescheduled not as much was able to be completed with the street count due to lack of being able to reschedule all of the activities on short notice. Staff was on planning committees for PIT 2 Rivers and assisted in making the plans, and getting donations for incentive bags. In every county staff had locations that unsheltered people could fill out the PIT information, and YSS staff assisted in staffing these locations. Some of the locations included libraries, food sites, and rental/utilities assistance locations. Staff also helped organize an active street count in several locations in the region, which staff worked to the best of their abilities to get them rescheduled. Staff also worked with other organizations and went out to known locations where unsheltered could be to try to get an accurate street count.

7. b. Did your agency submit the PIT/HIC information for your projects by the set submission deadline? If not, why?

Yes. Reviewed and all of ours were done timely.

8. List at least one representative of your project participate in the April 2019 Annual Meeting of Iowa Balance of State CoC Grantees. Describe any special participation your agency performed in regards to the meeting.

Hope Metheny, Program Coordinator, and Sarah Schulman, Grants Manager

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

9. a. Has this project completed it's first grant full grant cycle? (i.e. 1st year renewal with end date after application date?)

Yes

9. b. Project grant year end-date completed:

Mar 31, 2019

9. c. Grant amount:

194737.00

9. d. Total funds expended:

185000.00

9. e. Funds remaining (unexpended funds):

9737.00

9. f. Unexpended funds % (unexpended funds/grant amount):

5.00

APR Sage Submission Requirement (days)

90

APR Deadline in SAGE:

Jun 29, 2019

10. a. Date APR submitted to HUD in SAGE:

Jun 29, 2019

10. b. Did your project meet the 90-day requirement?

Yes

11. a. Has HUD monitored the project within the past two years?

No

12. a. Failure to participate in supportive services and/or failure to make progress on a service plan:

No

12. b. Loss of income or failure to improve income:

No

12. c. Active substance abuse:

No

12. d. Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area:	No
12. e. Ensure that every effort is made to help participants transition to other housing options when continuation in this project is jeopardized or about to expire?	Yes
12. f. Attach the project's written termination policy. The effective date must be evident on the policy.	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74776944/510869523/74776944_termination_policy_staff_and_client_levels.pdf
13. a. Transportation assistance is provided to clients to attend mainstream benefit appointments, employment training, or jobs.	True
13. b. At least semi-annual follow-ups are attempted with participants after project exit to ensure that mainstream benefits are received and renewed (and for RRH projects, to verify that housing stability is maintained) for a period of X years.	True
13. c. Annual interim reviews with current clients are being completed with 30 days of anniversary date to check on client well-being and update all relevant data including: income, disability status, health care, etc.	True
13. d. Project participants have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance provided by the applicant, a sub-recipient, or partner agency.	True
14. Did the number of clients served by your project achieve or exceed your estimated levels of service when you last applied/renewed this grant? Explain, success/difficulties.	Yes we were within 3 clients of our estimated number of clients served. Since this is a TH program the number for clients served can be a bit tricky to determine as the length of the program is up to 2 years, if many clients stay the maximum time then less clients will be able to be served as all of the beds will be filled. Staff work hard to turn over open beds as quickly as possible when a bed opens up, but sometimes repairs have to be completed due to clients causing damage prior to the next client(s) being able to move to a location.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE/EVALUATION

15. Does the agency maintain an average of 14 days or less between clients' project start and entry into HMIS?

Yes

17. TH: Does your project sufficiently prioritize literally homeless clients or those fleeing domestic violence?

YSS prioritizes youth homelessness. Youth homeless looks different with many of the youth able to temporarily stay for a night or two couch hopping, at times the night prior to entry not having to sleep on the streets. 40% of youth are abused within 48 hours of being Runaway and Homeless Youth and YSS tries to work quickly to prevent abuse from happening by quickly providing housing to the homeless. YSS also prioritizes youth aging out of the system and takes those youth in on their 18 birthday so the youth is only literally homeless for a few hours and doesn't have to spend even one night on the streets.

21. TH: Percentage of all adult participants who increased total income from entry to exit?

55%

22. TH: Percentage of exits to Permanent Housing?

95%

23. TH: Chronic population served in project?

6% YSS specifically works only with youth in the age range. When youth are only 24 years old at maximum when they enter the program there is less time for them to have hit that chronic population. At YSS one of our missions is to help youth prior to hitting that chronic homelessness mark and giving them the skills that they need to prevent future incidents of homelessness.

BONUS QUESTION

***Bonus - Describe any specific services provided by your project specifically for youth/mental health/substance abuse:**

At YSS we focus on youth services. YSS provides one of the most extensive youth programs in the state with services located in multiple locations for convenience to our youth population. For homeless clients we are able to house youth in a housing first program and then surround the youth with support internally at YSS so that youth can get age specific services in one location. YSS is able to provide individual and group mental health services, substance abuse services, medication management, parenting, individual, and life skills groups all specifically for youth.
