

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2019



VCRHYP

VERMONT COALITION
OF RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAMS



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS HAPPENS HERE.

387 people under the age of 25 were experiencing literal homelessness during the one-night 2019 annual Point-In-Time Count. Of these:

- **245 were minors** (<18 years old) experiencing homelessness as part of a family unit
- **6 were unaccompanied minors** (<18 years old and not part of a family unit)
- **136 were 18-24 years old**
- **27 of the youth ages 18-24 were parenting**

An additional 122 young people were on their own and unstably housed on the night of the count. Of these:

- **53 (43%) were unaccompanied youth ages 12-17**
- **63 (52%) were young people ages 18-24**

WHAT WE DO

VCRHYP ensures the existence of a statewide network of local services for Vermont youth who are disconnected from their families, experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless. All Vermont youth should have a safe place to stay and access to supports as they build permanent connections and skills for long-term stability and well-being.

Services our members provide include:

Emergency shelter for youth 12-17: Youth are provided with 24-hour access to safe shelter and supports to meet their basic needs.

Housing for young people 16-24 years old: Young people are supported through transitional housing apartments, rental subsidies, mediation with landlords to preserve housing, help finding housing, eviction prevention, connections to other housing supports, and information about housing rights.

Independent living supports: Youth receive services designed to move them towards a successful adulthood by helping them re-engage with education, increase employability, and build vital life skills to help them achieve sustainable self-sufficiency.

Youth and family reunification & stabilization supports: Youth and their families have access to crisis intervention, case management, counseling, family mediation and other supportive services to stabilize youth in crisis, prevent them from running away and preserve families.

This report
opens into an
**OUTREACH
POSTER.**
Please hang it up!

YOUTH AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION & STABILIZATION SUPPORTS

175

youth served

19 youth provided with emergency shelter

WHY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE IN VERMONT EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSTABILITY?

Youth and their families don't have enough money

Youth from impoverished family networks can't count on family helping with security deposits or helping out in a pinch. 32% of Vermont young people live in families with low income.

Lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates

A minimum wage worker has to contribute more than 50% of their income for rent. A person living and working in Washington County making minimum wage, would need to pay more than 50% of their rent to afford a one-bedroom apartment.

Affordable apartments aren't available! The average vacancy rate in VT is 1%-3%. It's very hard to find a place to live.

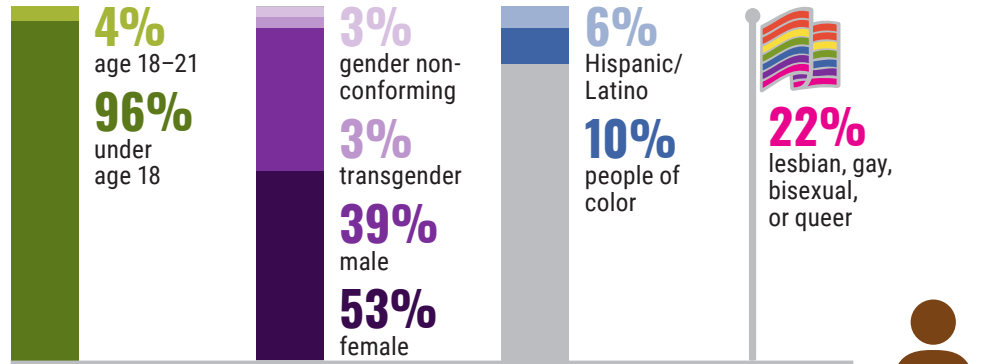
Rurality

Young people don't always have reliable transportation to get to jobs and housing.

Fractured and unsupported permanent connections

In 2018, VCRHYP conducted focus groups and surveys across the state. Those young people told us: 92% of them had been kicked out of somewhere, 29% left foster care without a place to go, 13% were evicted, and 10% had left another institutional setting without housing.

WHO WE'RE SERVING



AT TIME OF ENTRY



71% staying with family or friends

7% living in foster care

9% in a shelter or on the streets



5%

pregnant or parenting



19%

domestic violence victim or survivor

46% currently involved with DCF



60% with past DCF involvement

HOW WE'RE DOING

Social & Emotional Well-being



99% have health insurance at exit

73% have seen a primary health care provider by exit

87% accessed counseling while being served

Permanent Connections



80% report a connection to one or more caring adult at exit

66% report a connection to at least one supportive peer at exit

Stable Housing



80% of exits were to safe locations

Education & Employment



72% are attending school or have a diploma/GED at exit

LOCATIONS AT EXIT:

62% family/friends

10% residential/transitional program

6% foster care

1% medical/treatment setting

1% independent living

11% unknown

7% emergency shelter

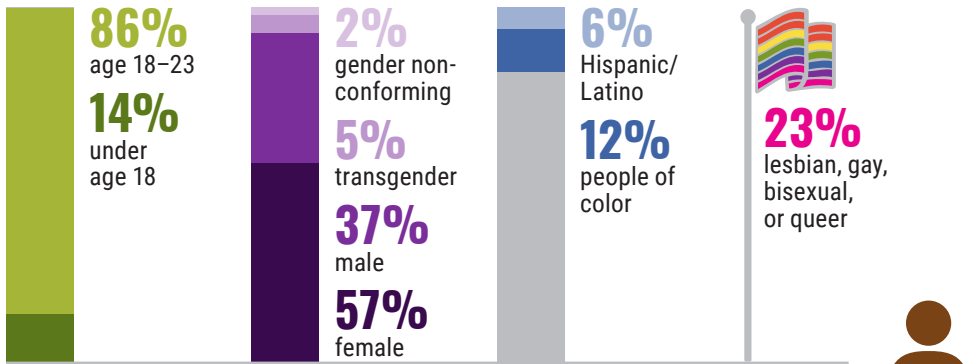
1% correctional institution

1% other

INDEPENDENT LIVING SUPPORTS

175
youth served

WHO WE'RE SERVING



AT TIME OF ENTRY



61% staying with family or friends

7% living independently

18% in a shelter or on the streets



13% currently involved with DCF



45% with past DCF involvement

HOW WE'RE DOING

Social & Emotional Well-being



96% have health insurance at exit

77% have seen a primary health care provider by exit

87% accessed life skills counseling while being served

Permanent Connections



86% report a connection to one or more caring adult at exit

81% report a connection to at least one supportive peer at exit

Stable Housing



LOCATIONS AT EXIT:

45% family/friends

31% independent living

10% residential/transitional program

<1% foster care

<1% treatment center

5% unknown

5% emergency shelter

1% Correctional institution

3% other

Education & Employment

71% are attending school or have a diploma/GED at exit

75% are employed or looking for work

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 4 youth

receiving housing supports across Vermont are **pregnant or parenting**.

1 in 4 youth

receiving housing supports in Vermont is a **victim/ survivor of domestic or sexual violence**.

23% of all youth served across VCRHYP programs are **LGBQ** and

7% are **transgender or gender non-conforming**.

Nationally, LGBTQ youth have a

120% higher risk of homelessness.

Youth who don't have a diploma or GED have a

346% higher risk of homelessness.



CAPACITY

In FY 19 VCRHYP had:

- 38 transitional housing units
- 21 year-round emergency shelter beds

In FY20 we are expanding our capacity by adding **4 new transitional housing units** and **30 new rental subsidies** for young people!

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is made up of leaders from each member agency. The Board works together to make the crucial decisions that improve youth programs throughout Vermont.

CONNIE SANDAHL
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services
St. Johnsbury

STEPHANIE BOWEN
Northeast Kingdom Community Action
Newport

JEFF HUNSBERGER
Lamoille Family Center
Morrisville

WILL TOWNE
Spectrum Youth & Family Services
Burlington

AMY JOHNSON
Northwestern Counseling & Support Services
St. Albans

RUSSELL BRADBURY-CARLIN
Youth Services, Inc.
Brattleboro

DONNA BAILEY
Addison County Parent Child Center
Middlebury

JACKIE HANLON
Windsor County Youth Services
Ludlow

KHEYA GANGULY
United Counseling Service of Bennington County
Bennington

KREIG PINKHAM
Washington County Youth Service Bureau*
Montpelier

**The Washington County Youth Service Bureau is VCRHYP's fiscal agent. We are very thankful for their ongoing support.*

Report design by Dana Dwinell-Yardley: ddydesign.com

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Brief, rare, and one-time: These are our guideposts for building responses to young people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. In order to do this, we need more housing available to youth and young adults, and we need the ability to identify and intervene earlier.

Last year we reported what youth told us they need to be better supported: Coordinated holistic supports, an adaptable array of services, and connections with caring adults. This year we have been laying the foundation to launch five new housing projects in FY20 that are designed to address these while reducing barriers to housing success and responding to community need. These innovative, youth-focused housing projects will provide:

- 30 new tenant-based rental subsidies with included funding for community-based supportive services,
- expanded transitional housing capacity,
- housing navigators to help young people connect with the right resources while they work on securing stable housing,
- landlord liaisons who will build local relationships with public and private landlords, and
- flexible short-term funding to help divert youth from homelessness through preserving their existing housing.

While all of this building has been exciting, we have also experienced some loss as our funding shifted dramatically. We went from being primarily State funded to support service delivery to being primarily funded through new HUD housing funds; a shift that will continue in the next year. We've relied on our partnerships, both with our members and with other stakeholders, to get us through this transition and help us learn this new terrain.

To help define our ongoing work with stakeholders, we released, in collaboration with the Department for Children and Families and the Coalition to End Homelessness, our Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness (you can find it here: helpingtohousevt.org/yhdp). The plan defined what new housing supports would best benefit young people in our state and laid out a roadmap that would lead us in the direction of putting an end to youth homelessness.

We are eager to see where this new road will take us and are thankful for everyone we are working with along the way.

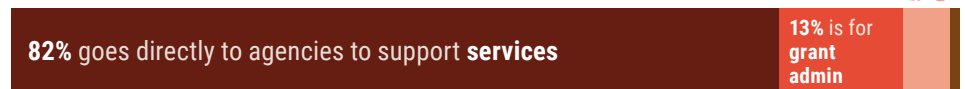
Bethany Pombar, Director

Total Funding: \$1,854,626



- Medicaid Reimbursement for Global Commitment to Healthcare: **\$1,135,351**
- Federal Grants for Transitional Living Programs: **\$389,452**
- Federal Grant for Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs: **\$200,000**
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning Funds: **\$77,500**
- Reserve Funds: **\$52,192**
- Private Donations: **\$131**

Total Expenses: \$1,854,491



82% goes directly to agencies to support services

13% is for grant admin

5% supports systems change efforts

- Direct Funding for RHY Programs: **\$1,518,665**
- Grant Administration and Technical Assistance: **\$232,230**
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning Funds: **\$96,146**
- Youth Consultant: **\$7,450**

MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS: US Administration for Children and Families – Family and Youth Services Bureau, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, Vermont Department for Children and Families, and supporters like you!