

Rural Supportive Housing Initiative

Youth Peer Network Description and Application for Participation 2016-2017

To: Rural and Balance of State CoCs

From: [Collaborative Solutions, Inc.](#), lead of the Rural Supportive Housing Initiative
and [CSH](#), Rural Supportive Housing Initiative partner

Date: October 11, 2016

RE: Applications to participate in the Rural Youth Peer Network [Phase I due November 1, 2016](#)

Background and Description:

The purpose of the Rural Youth Homelessness Peer Network is to develop the capacity of communities in rural areas to provide non-time-limited supportive housing to youth age 18-24 experiencing homelessness and housing instability. The Rural Youth Peer Network provides an opportunity for rural communities and providers to come together to identify the need, build capacity to implement solutions, and develop projects within their communities to create non-time-limited supportive housing opportunities for youth.

The purpose and framework of the Peer Network has been informed through [Opening Doors, which identifies the goal to end youth homelessness by 2020](#), a listening session focused on youth homelessness held in June at the 2016 CSH Summit, the recently released [CSH](#) report "[No Strings Attached: Helping Vulnerable Youth with Non-Time-Limited Supportive Housing](#)", and the expertise of Collaborative Solutions, Inc. in building capacity of communities, providers, and other key stakeholders to create housing solutions for vulnerable people living in rural communities. Specifically, this Peer Network responds to the current capacity of rural communities and our limited national understanding of the need and solutions for youth experiencing homelessness in the following ways:

- Increasing community understanding of the need of the youth population and why it is important to address their housing needs
- Ensuring accurate counts of youth in the 2017 PIT, which HUD has stated will serve as the baseline for measuring CoC performance on ending youth homelessness
- Ensuring youth are involved in all aspects of youth homelessness planning and efforts
- Increased understanding of non-time-limited supportive housing as an effective intervention for vulnerable youth and the intervention's applicability to rural communities

What is the Rural Supportive Housing Initiative?

Collaborative Solutions Inc., (CS), a national nonprofit organization, provides technical assistance (TA) and training, organizational capacity and leadership development, advocacy and policy development, and planning, research and evaluation services to communities and nonprofit organizations in the Southeast and across the U.S. As a part of our national TA, CS has intentionally focused on increasing the capacity of rural providers and communities to better serve the vulnerable populations that live in them. We began this work in 2004 in the Southeast to address the significant lack of safe and affordable homes for vulnerable individuals and families in the South, particularly in rural communities, and the multiple disparities rural communities face with the lack of infrastructure, affordable public transportation, and the lack of



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access to health care. CS believes that housing is health care and that housing, as a structural intervention, has the potential to stabilize a household through a safe, decent, and affordable home, which in turn allows that household to thrive with positive health outcomes, gainful employment, economic security, and overall greater wellbeing.

The RSHI has two primary goals. The first is to improve and increase permanent supportive housing (PSH) for vulnerable populations in rural communities across the U.S. We focus on PSH because we believe this intervention will have the most significant impact on stabilizing vulnerable individuals in these regions. The second goal is to support the creation of sound comprehensive affordable housing policy that supports permanent supportive housing opportunities in the rural U.S.

Timeline and Activities:

The Youth Peer Network will be piloted in three phases:

Phase	Focus	Activities	Participants
Phase I: November 2016 – February 2017	Youth Point In Time Count	Monthly remote convening and peer learning	Rural and BOS CoCs from across the U.S.
Phase II: April 2017 – September 2017	Building Community and Provider Capacity and Partnerships	Monthly convening, (2 in person, 4 remote)	Providers located in CoCs in Phase I and providers interested in developing supportive housing for youth
Phase III: October 2017 – March 2018	Designing non-time-limited supportive housing projects for youth	Rural Supportive Housing Institute, 6 month intensive training and individualized assistance resulting in a project ready for financing	Providers from Phase II

Application Process:

We are currently accepting applications for Phase I of the Peer Network. To apply for this opportunity, please complete the application and submit via email to Jillian Fox at jillian.fox@csh.org by **Friday, November 1, 2016**. Application submission does not guarantee acceptance into the peer network.

Who can apply?

- Collaborative Applicants/Lead Agencies from Rural and Balance of State CoCs that have geographic areas within the CoC with populations of less than 50,000.
- For Balance of State CoCs, a lead agency serving a community within the BOS CoC can submit an application, but must demonstrate support from the Lead agency of the BOS CoC.

Questions?

Contact Jillian Fox, CSH at 646.937.3642 or via email at jillian.fox@csh.org.



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Rural Youth Peer Network Phase I Application

Please provide the following information in **no more than 2 pages** and email by **11/1/2016** to jillian.fox@csh.org.

<u>CoC Name and Number:</u>
<u>Organization Submitting this Application:</u>
<u>Contact Person (Name and Title):</u>
<u>Mailing Address:</u>
<u>Telephone:</u>
<u>Email:</u>
<u>CoC Collaborative Applicant (If different from above):</u>
<u>Name and Email of Contact for CoC Collaborative Applicant (If different from person submitting):</u>
<u>If your organization is not the CoC Collaborative Applicant, describe the role of the organization in the CoC:</u>

<u>Briefly describe any current CoC plans and efforts to address youth homelessness:</u>
<u>Do you currently have youth serving providers or agencies participating in your CoC? If so, how do they participate (i.e. direct service, participate in planning, serve on committees, etc.) ?</u>
<u>Briefly describe your 2016 PIT efforts to count youth, including methodology, outreach, and final numbers of persons aged 18-24:</u>
<u>Phase I of the Youth Peer Network will include monthly, remote meetings through online platforms, such as WebEx. We estimate that participation in this Peer Network will be between 7-10 hours over the 5 month period. Do you have the capacity to participate?</u>