

1. What does Youth and Young Adults (YYA) Homelessness look like in your community?

- providing shelter for the young people
- Struggling with mental health
- Couch surfing
- Family conflict
- Poverty
- Connecting with other YYA going through the same thing
- More questions than answers
- Substance use
- Unaccompanied
- YYA are often criminalized
- Neighborhood violence
- Intergenerational dysfunction within communities
- Commercial sexual exploitation and survival sex
- Domestic violence
- Family struggles
- Financial struggles and housing instability
- Disconnection from support systems
- Greater Lowell well supported
- Finance instability
- Housing
- Hidden problem
- Hidden in plain sight
- Limited opportunities
- Gentrification
- Disengaged from services
- Parent education
- Immigration issues
- Ineligibility for services
- Poor design of services for youth
- Mistrust- YYA feel shamed
- Limited access to housing designed for youth
- Limited access to beds in shelters
- School attendance

2. What programs for YYAs in your community are working well?

- Peer Housing Navigators
- CTI Youth Services - COOP - Recovery Cafe
- Connections to education community
- Transitional housing
- UTEC and Youthbuild
- Collaborations among providers
- College engagement program CTI and UML and MCC
- Project Kompass
- Youth Opportunity Center
- Food Pantry
- Masshire, temp agencies
- Caitie's Closet
- Flexible funding

What gaps in supports for YYAs exist in your community?

- Mental Health Counseling
- Awareness
- Difficulty finding therapist or person to connect with
- Affordable housing
- Not enough housing for homeless youth that is safe and stable
- Turnover in therapist, case management, etc. and inconsistency
- Lack of safe overnight shelters for young people
- Peer connections
- Access on sites to driver's education at no cost to the young people
- Mentorship
- More financial aid for college, childcare for young parents that still need to work
- Transportation
- Housing programs
- Transitional housing, shelter placement in Lawrence
- Affordable housing and Low-income housing
- Awareness of existing services
- Aging out of DCF/ falling through the cracks
- Outreach services
- Not a lot of services in other communities, transportation is an issue
- Prevention practices boosting early intervention via communication channels connecting providers to improve outreach to young people in need of support before it reaches a crisis level.
- Immediate shelter or housing
- Affordable permanent housing
- Shelters are full and not youth friendly
- Commercial sexual exploitation services
- Having a youth focused lens in all programs to build trust with providers
- Overwhelmed counselors at the school level leads to young people falling through the cracks
- Affordable health care and dental care
- Career guidance
- Car insurance hard to afford, difficult to get to work
- Financial advisor for YYA
- Community building - ways to connect to others & resources
- Safe space within schools to connect with others facing homelessness
- Legal issues
- Safe and stable housing and finances
- Financial education