



NEWS RELEASE

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TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TO HELP HOMELESS YOUTH

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is awarding more than \$4.55 million to help end youth homelessness in Tucson and throughout Pima County. The award is part of a nationwide \$75 million grant program to 23 communities across the country, including eight rural areas.

Recipients will use this funding to support a variety of housing options for young people under the age of 25 who are experiencing homelessness. The Tucson/Pima Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) will also support youth-focused performance measurement and coordinated entry systems to quickly connect young people with other services and systems of care.

The award will be run through the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH), a coalition of local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, community volunteers, and local residents who have experienced homelessness. More than 1,200 homeless youth sought help through the coalition between 2017 and 2018. The City of Tucson's Housing and Community Development department is the lead agency for TPCH and will partner closely with Our Family Services, the local organization selected to coordinate the project.

"We are thrilled to partner with TPCH and the City of Tucson to lead this initiative," said Beth Morrison, CEO of Our Family Services. "Ending youth homelessness is central to our mission at Our Family. For years, our community has imagined what it might look like to have no young people living on the streets. For the first time, we will have the resources we need to make that vision a reality."

Over the next several months, TPCH will work with local youth who have experienced homelessness, child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations, schools, workforce programs, local businesses, and other community partners to create a comprehensive community plan to end youth homelessness in Tucson and throughout Pima County. Within 12 months, the project will launch additional housing services for homeless youth throughout Pima County. The coalition also will participate in a program evaluation to inform the federal effort to prevent and end youth homelessness and will serve as leaders in the nation on the work to end homelessness among young people.

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