



HOUSING STABILITY FOR YOUTH IN COURTS

ELIGIBILITY & INTAKE

Youth must be between the ages of 12 – 17.5 y/o at intake, and referred by a Juvenile Probation Counselor. The Housing Navigator will work with the participants to complete the Triage Tool and determine client and/or family goals. Once the risk/need level is determined by the Triage Tool, the Housing Navigator reviews the results with the family and can direct the family towards determined and discussed goals.



Using the Courts as a Pivotal Identification Point

Research shows that more than 75% of youth experiencing homelessness will have contact with the police, that more than 50% will be arrested, and that 40% of youth screened for court services had a history of housing instability. Thus, the H-SYNC prevention model aims to take advantage of this critical connection point, using routine data flags that already exist in court processes, to identify and automatically refer youth and their families to services tailored to their particular needs. Referrals based on data flags ensure that youth who are risk of homelessness, but who may not show obvious externalizing signs, don't fall through the cracks.

Program Summary

Housing Stability for Youth in Courts (H-SYNC) is a prevention program that represents a state-wide partnership between juvenile courts and local social service providers. The goal of the program is to prevent youth homelessness by utilizing the juvenile court as a pivotal triage point to identify and refer youth and their families to appropriate, supportive services, which include family-based prevention services for those *at risk of* experiencing homelessness and for those *currently experiencing* homelessness.

Big Takeaways of H-SYNC: A Tiered Prevention Model

Though H-SYNC provides referrals for youth currently experiencing homelessness, the program primarily functions as a prevention tool. Our goal is to reach youth and their families, who touch the juvenile justice system, before a youth becomes homeless. H-SYNC also maximizes existing community resources by using a tiered triage system, wherein youth most in need are offered a greater menu of services. Once the resources are determined and the connection is made, the H-SYNC Navigator continues to follow up during a 3 month period to ensure that the youth and their family is receiving the care they need.