



Calvert - Charles - St. Mary's

Continuum of Care

Dedicated to ending homelessness.

August 23, 2019

Department of Legislative Services
Office of Policy Analysis
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

To Whom It May Concern:

The Calvert-Charles-St. Mary's Continuum of Care works in a collaborative manner to provide housing resources and linkages to available services throughout Southern Maryland. We have been tasked to provide information regarding how our community addresses the specific needs of unaccompanied homeless minors (UHM). Please see below the responses to your questions:

While this challenge exists for most homeless individuals, it is especially challenging when persons are homeless minors as there are fewer resources targeting this population. Research has confirmed that homeless minors face a higher risk for sex trafficking due to limited housing options, increased interaction with the criminal justice systems and at higher risks for undiagnosed and untreated mental health and addiction needs.

1. **The unique needs of unaccompanied homeless minors:** UHM have some of the following unique needs: (a) ability to access resources without the authority to sign any documents for services; (b) multitude of agencies who can aid with varying eligibility requirements, often conflicting, due to funding sources; (c) person-centered and culturally competent services, particularly focusing on LGBTQ youth (40% of the rural homeless youth population); and, (d) free and flexible transportation options to allow them to get to appointments, work and school.
2. **The public and private-sector programs and resources available to meet those needs:** Southern Maryland needs the following to meet the needs: (a) Flexible funding that can provide gap funding where other sources cannot, i.e., subsidies, paid internships, transportation; (b) greater collaboration with non-custodial family or friends who can take them in but need financial and therapeutic support to maintain support of the minor.



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3. **The gaps in public and private sector programs and resources available to meet the needs of this population:** Southern Maryland is located in a sub-rural area where there are barriers to accessing services due to limited transportation resources and limited affordable housing stock. We also do not have a designated “day program” specific to this population. While there are existing “day programs” available in each county that target those that are homeless, unaccompanied homeless minors may not feel as comfortable as somewhere that is specifically designed for them. The region is open to considering “host home” programs or other innovative ways to provide housing and supportive services for this population. There also needs to be a strong focus on reunification with families as appropriate.
4. **The barriers to access safe shelter for unaccompanied homeless minors:** There needs to be clear policies for shelter and housing providers that allow for the ability to house an UHM. Without the legal authority to sign any documentation or to receive certain public benefits, it makes it difficult to not only provide shelter services, but also if we are to assist them in obtaining permanent housing due to their inability to sign any documents.

Also, please see below the available federal, state and local funds that our CoC receives that can be used to serve UHM. We currently do not have funders in the CoC that directly provide funding to local agencies.



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AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINORS IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Funding Source	Agency Provider	Allowable Uses	Restrictions/Barriers	Statute that Governs Funding Administration
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (SAMHSA)	Calvert County Health Department (Calvert); Southern Maryland Community Network (Charles); Three Oaks (St. Mary's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach services ▪ Case management ▪ Screening and diagnostic treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons must be connected with behavioral health services 	H.R.34 - 21st Century Cures Act
Calvert County Family Network/Charles County Human Services Partnership/Governor's Office on Children/MD State DJS/Anne Arundel Mental Health Authority	Center for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family functional therapy services that support ages 10 – 18 ▪ Healthy Family program supports teen parents ▪ Case management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accept only public insurance ▪ Would need parental/guardian authorization 	Not confirmed
	Departments of Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family reunification support ▪ Foster care services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	Not confirmed
DHCD's Homelessness Solutions Program	LifeStyles (Charles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Street outreach ▪ Connections with transportation and housing services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons should be connected with coordinated entry system 	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, As Amended by S. 896 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009



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Funding Source	Agency Provider	Allowable Uses	Restrictions/Barriers	Statute that Governs Funding Administration
Medicaid	Pathways' Transitional Age Youth (TAY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transitional housing ▪ Psychiatric rehabilitation ▪ Life skills support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons must be ages 17 – 21 for supportive services ▪ Persons must be a minimum of 17 and 9 months to receive residential housing through TAY ▪ Accept only Medicaid ▪ Person must have mental health diagnosis 	Not confirmed
U.S. Department of Education	Public Schools' McKinney-Vento programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public education services ▪ Transportation services to attend school of origin ▪ Clothing ▪ Tutoring ▪ School supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons must be enrolled in public education system 	101 Stat. 482, 42 U.S.C. § 11301
Medicaid/Local Behavioral Health Authority/Private Grant funding	Southern Maryland Community Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Thrive Plus Work job development program ▪ Targeted case management ▪ Psychiatric rehabilitation program ▪ Supported employment ▪ In-Home Intensive Prevention (IHIP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serve ages 16 – 24 for Youth Thrive program only in Calvert County ▪ Persons must have mental health diagnosis ▪ Persons must have public insurance 	Not confirmed
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's Continuum of Care	Three Oaks Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing search & placement ▪ Security deposit ▪ Short-term rental assistance ▪ Case management support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Person must be literally homeless ▪ Referrals come from the Department of Social 	24 CFR part 578



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Notice of Funding Availability			<p>Services as single point of entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be on CoC's byname list through coordinated entry ▪ Housing located in Southern Maryland 	
Funding Source	Agency Provider	Allowable Uses	Restrictions/Barriers	Statute that Governs Funding Administration
US Department of Labor	Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summer employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	20 CFR § 683.120
Maryland Governor's Office for Children	Tri-County Youth Services Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mental health counseling ▪ Anger management ▪ Victim awareness ▪ Social Skills training ▪ Social Emotional Development services ▪ Ready for Life ▪ After-Hours for Opportunity Youth (AHOY) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transportation to access resources ▪ AHOY program specific to Charles County and have to be age 18+ ▪ Family reunification challenges 	Article 83C, #2-122, Annotated Code of Maryland, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 16.04.01
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Runaway & Homeless Youth (Basic Center Program)	YESS! Of Charles County/Sonya's House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency shelter up to 21 days ▪ Food, clothing ▪ Crisis intervention ▪ Aftercare support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited to females ▪ Housing services stop when participant turns 18 	34 USC Subtitle I, Chapter 111, Subchapter III: Runaway and Homeless Youth
Not confirmed	Walden-Pyramid-Cove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentoring ▪ Life skills training ▪ Academic support ▪ Support group ▪ Recreational activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serves ages 12-17 ▪ Personal or family-related concerns related to substance misuse 	Not confirmed



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Assist in location of behavioral health treatment services | | |
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