



# OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES

## 2019 SNAPSHOT



**COLORADO**  
Department of Local Affairs  
Division of Housing

The **Office of Homeless Youth Services** within the Department of Local Affairs Division of Housing facilitates the Advisory Council for Homeless Youth Services (**ACHY**), Youth Supplemental Survey (in conjunction with the Continuum of Care Regions), provides technical assistance and coordination of stakeholders, and resources for infrastructure for youth experiencing homelessness. OHYS collaborates with leaders from state and local government, private nonprofit organizations, federal departments, homeless and formerly homeless youth to address local and state needs surrounding youth homelessness.

Led by OHYS, ACHY assists with the implementation of the Homeless Youth Services Act and is made up of key stakeholders who represent federal, state and local governments, non-profit service agencies, faith based organizations, foundations, and homeless/formerly homeless youth to coordinate youth services and drive statewide policies to end youth homelessness.

This 2019 OHYS Snapshot is intended to highlight the accomplishments and efforts across the state of Colorado in addressing youth homelessness. The information presented in this truncated version of a 2019 OHYS Annual report is due the impacts of COVID-19. A full 2020 OHYS Annual Report will be released in January of 2021.

# 2019 GOALS & HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, OHYS in partnership with ACHY members, built upon the four goals and benchmarks set in the 2018 Call to Action meeting by accomplishing the following:

## **GOAL #1** Develop a comprehensive inventory of youth-specific resources:

- [Youth-Specific Housing Options in Colorado Resource List](#)
- [2019 Point in Time Youth Supplemental Survey Report](#)

## **GOAL #2** Identify and replicate non-voucher programs:

- In March 2019, for the first time and using state funds, OHYS was able to fund six homeless youth housing programs. Five of these new housing programs utilized innovative housing models to address youth homelessness such as Host Homes and Rapid Rehousing for Youth. This includes:

- 40 Host Home opportunities
- 97 Rapid Rehousing opportunities

## **GOAL #3** Use data to identify gaps in resources:

- The Point in Time (PIT) count is a survey required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The PIT count estimates the number of people experiencing homelessness on one date each year. OHYS coordinates with Continuum of Care (CoCs) partners and the PIT count to complete a Youth Supplemental Survey (YSS) report that emphasizes youth.

- According to the [2019 PIT YSS report](#), 595 youth were surveyed throughout the state. However, the PIT YSS provides a baseline of data and is considered an undercount of all youth experiencing homelessness in Colorado.

- 2019 PIT YSS Report was the first time Colorado Department of Education McKinney-Vento data was used in alignment with YSS data.

## **GOAL #4** Increase youth-specific Supportive Housing (SH) units:

- The newly awarded OHYS homeless youth housing programs also included 25 Supportive Housing vouchers.

- As of 2019, DOH and the OHYS have supported the creation of 130 Supportive Housing project-based units and 35 Supportive Housing tenant-based units.

- Additional Supportive Housing projects are in various stages of pre-development that will continue to increase the number of units in the coming years

**40**  
HOST  
HOMES

**595**  
HOMELESS  
YOUTH

**190**  
SUPPORTIVE  
HOUSING  
UNITS

