

Addressing the Housing Needs of Youth and Young Adults in Contact with the Justice System

Panelists:

Jasmine Hayes, Deputy Director, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Naomi Smoot, Senior Policy Associate, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Beth Holger-Ambrose, Executive Director, The Link

Moderator:

Emily Morgan, Senior Policy Analyst, CSG Justice Center

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

Corrections



Courts



Justice Reinvestment



Law Enforcement



Mental Health



Reentry



Substance Abuse



Youth



National nonprofit, nonpartisan membership association of state government officials

Represents all three branches of state government

Provides practical advice informed by the best available evidence



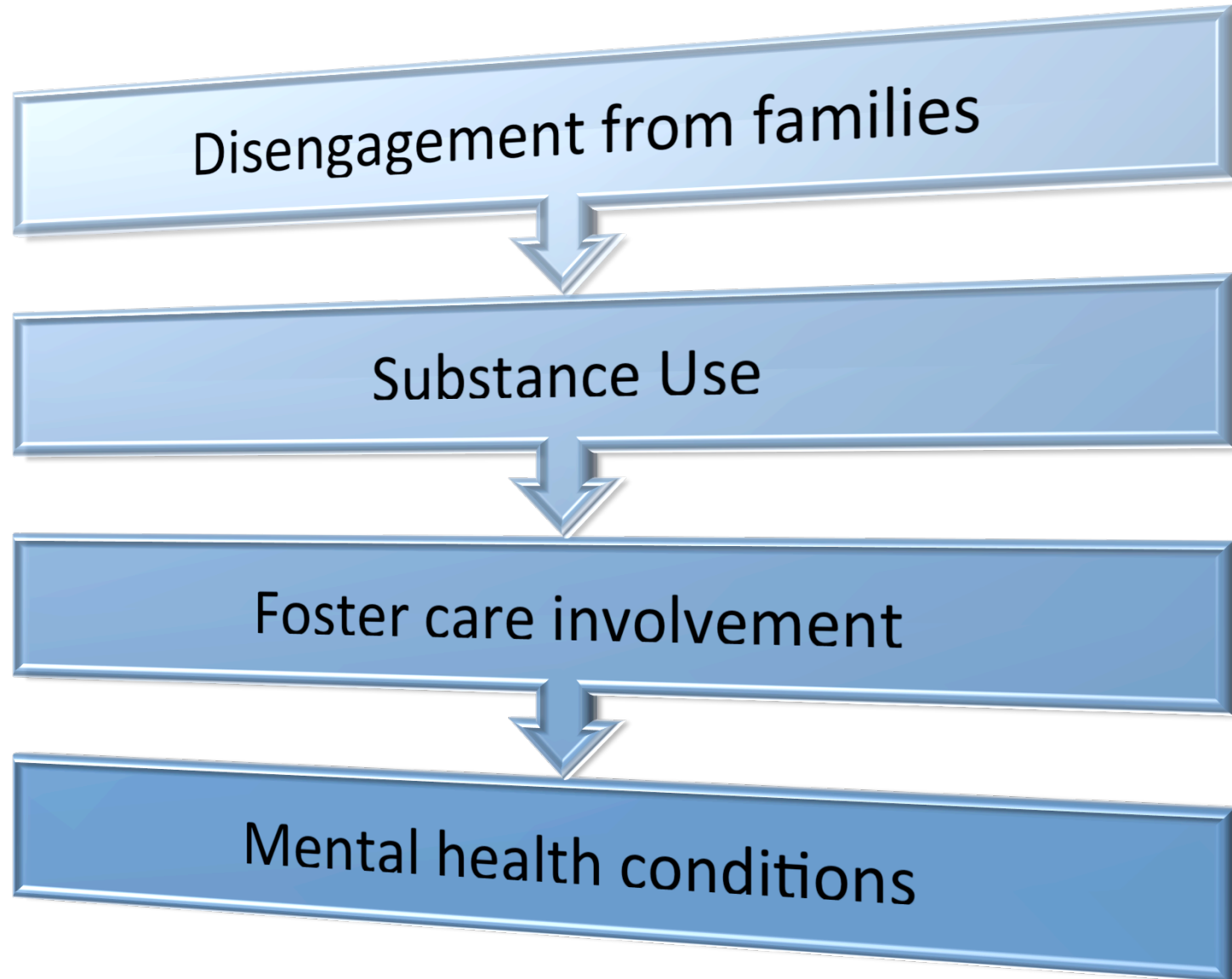
the NATIONAL REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER

— A project of the CSG Justice Center —

- Authorized by the passage of the Second Chance Act in April 2008
- Launched by the Council of State Governments in October 2009
- Administered in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice
- The NRRC has provided technical assistance to over 600 juvenile and adult reentry grantees since inception



Youth Involved in the Justice System Face Significant Challenges to Securing Housing



Young Adults Face Particular Challenges

Transitioning to Independence

- Aging out of Foster Care
- Inexperience with independent living and life skills

Employment Challenges

- Few vocational skills and little job experience
- Difficulty securing steady source of income

Acute Behavioral Health Needs

- Certain mental health conditions emerge
- Substance use peaks

Collateral Consequences

- Ineligibility for housing due to criminal record

Issue Brief Provides Recommendations to Support Young Adults



Highlights how **young adults are distinct**

Identifies young adults' distinct needs and **summarizes available research** on what works to address these needs

Provides recommendations for steps states can take to improve outcomes for young adults

Addressing the Housing Needs of Youth and Young Adults in Contact with the Justice System

Jasmine Hayes, Deputy Director

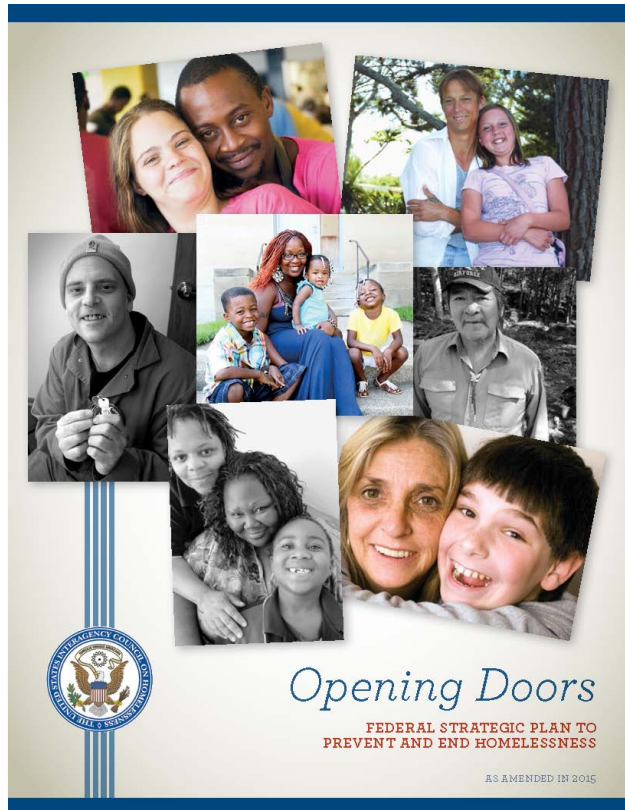
USICH

June 30, 2016





Advancing Opening Doors



Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness:

1. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
2. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017
3. **Prevent and end homelessness among families, children, and youth in 2020**
4. Set a path to end all types of homelessness



U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Leading the federal response to prevent and end homelessness

- Create and Lead a **Common Vision**
- Establish **Policy Priorities** and Align Strategic Actions
- Reduce Fragmentation and **Duplication**
- Drive the National Implementation of **Cost-Effective Solutions**



Youth Homelessness

Factors that contribute to youth homelessness

- Family problems
- Involvement with public systems such as child welfare and criminal justice
- Economic circumstances
- Behavioral health



Focus on Data

- HUD, HHS, ED data sets
- Point-in-Time Count
- HMIS/RHY-MIS Integration
- AHAR Part II



Youth Homelessness and Child Welfare

- Annually, approximately 23,000 youth 'age out' of foster care
- [National Youth in Transition Database \(NYTD\)](#) survey of youth transitioning out of foster care:
 - **19% of 19-year-olds** reported having been homeless at some point within the past two years, the vast majority (80%) of whom were no longer in foster care
- [Housing for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care \(2014\)](#): Youth who age out of the child welfare system are at particularly high risk for homelessness
 - **11-37% experiencing homelessness** after leaving foster care
 - **20-50% in precarious housing** situations



Youth Homelessness and Juvenile Justice

- Runaway and homeless youth have higher rates of involvement with the juvenile justice system
- Midwest study: over half RHY arrested at least one time since they first ran away
- Reentry challenges: community, home, and school/work force
 - Unstable home settings
 - Lack of family support
 - Struggle to remain in school, lack the skills needed for employment
 - Gap in behavioral health services.
 - Policies that may prohibit convicted offenders from living in Section 8 housing



Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

- Approx. one in four youth who age out of foster care will be involved in the justice system **within two years** of leaving the foster care system
- Multi-System Involved Youth
 - Disproportionately children of color
 - Majority are male; proportion of females is greater than in general delinquency populations
 - Majority have special education issues, problems at school, and mental health and/or drug use problems
 - Trauma history: exposed to domestic violence; parental involvement with criminal justice system; mental health problems; and/or, substance abuse problems
 - Extended involvement with the child welfare system



Addressing and Preventing Youth Homelessness

- Individualized, goal-based service planning
- Stability, safety, and connections with families (when appropriate)
- Housing
- Ongoing support services connected to mainstream resources
- Independent living skills training
- Employment and education
- Connection to supportive and trustworthy adults



Federal Vision: Coordinated Community Response

#1 - Build the **foundation** for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

#2 - Build the **capacity of local communities** to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response

Learn more: [Coordinated Community Response to Youth Homelessness](#)

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness A Coordinated Community Response



In *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, we set a national goal to prevent and end youth homelessness in 2020. To get there, it will take all of us—government, non-profits, business, and philanthropy—to make sure every community has the capacity to achieve the goal.

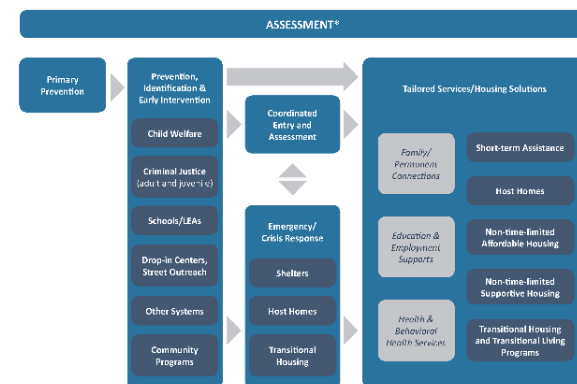
Our understanding of the scope and dynamics of youth homelessness is growing. While we continue to learn more every day, we must act now to build the comprehensive and coordinated response that young people need to end their homelessness forever.

This document provides a preliminary vision for such a response. It draws upon what we know works to end homelessness for other populations, along with strategies that support the unique needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25.

We hope you'll use this document to advance discussions in your communities and build upon the work already underway. To receive additional tools and resources that will be developed to support the implementation of this response, [sign up for our newsletter](#).

Our Preliminary Vision for a Community Response

The Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness has developed a shared vision for the community response that will be necessary to prevent and end youth homelessness, illustrated here and described in more detail below.



**Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.*

Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness
Co-Chairs:
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Members:
Department of Education
Department of Justice
Social Security Administration
Department of Labor



Strategic Action Area #1

Build the foundation for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

- **Shared understanding** – what it means to end youth homelessness
 - Common vocabulary
 - Inventory of Federal programs
- **Metrics** – measure progress toward the 2020 goal
 - Identifying system and program level measures
- **Technical Assistance** – provide TA resources to refine community response



Strategic Action Area #2

Build the capacity of local communities to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response

- **Prevention, Identification and Early Intervention**
 - Promote coordination with CoC's and mainstream systems
 - TA resources to identify youth under 18
 - Agency guidance for competitive grants and services
 - Prevention strategy
 - Guidance on transitioning from child welfare and criminal justice systems
 - Reentry Toolkit (OJJDP)
 - Engaging at-risk youth
 - ACYF and HUD demos



Strategic Action Area #2

- **Coordinated Entry and Assessment**
 - HUD guidance for documentation requirements
 - Trafficking screening tools
- **Emergency and Crisis Response**
 - Guidance and TA
 - Documentation
 - Family Separation
 - Emergency services for LGBTQ Youth
- **Tailored Services and Housing Supports**
 - Trauma informed
 - Developmentally and age appropriate
 - Range of supportive services and housing interventions



Reentry and Juvenile Justice

- Coordination and collaboration between agencies and across services and supports throughout reentry phases:
 - Entry
 - Placement
 - Transitional
 - Community-based aftercare
- Critical factors:
 - Family
 - Substance abuse
 - Peer association/friends
 - School conflict and achievement
 - Mental, behavioral, and physical health



Priority Actions (a snapshot)

Driving Policy

- USICH Report to Congress
- A Way Home America
- HHS Youth at-Risk of Homelessness Grants Phase II
- HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
- Data sharing

Guiding the Field

- Coordinated entry
- Screening and assessment inventory
- Family intervention strategies
- Reentry Toolkit (forthcoming)



Jasmine Hayes, Deputy Director

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Jasmine.Hayes@usich.gov

Juvenile Justice and Homelessness



Juvenile Justice Involved Youth and Homelessness

654
youth

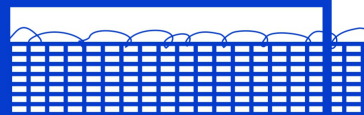
Interviews of **654** runaway and homeless youth in 11 U.S. cities conducted for the U.S. Administration for Children Youth and Families found that, at some point in their lives:



11
U.S. cities

NEARLY
44 %

had stayed in a jail, prison or juvenile detention center



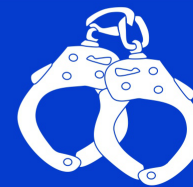
ALMOST
78 %

had at least one interaction with the police



NEARLY
62 %

had been arrested



Commonalities

There are commonalities that exist among justice system involved youth and homeless youth:

- Disproportionately more likely to be youth of color;
- Disproportionately likely to be LGBT youth.



Juvenile justice and homelessness

- Some young people are homeless before they enter the system. This can include children who ran away from home or were forced out by their parents.
- Some youth are forced out by parents as a result of system involvement.
- Some are not picked up when they are released from incarceration.
- Thorough and well-developed transition plans and family-based services are essential to helping make sure youth exit the justice system with a safe, secure, and accessible place to live.

Other links with juvenile justice and homelessness

- There are other ways that juvenile justice and homelessness intersect:
 - “Quality of Life” Ordinances: prohibition on being in public parks, etc. after dark.
 - Survival Crimes: Shoplifting, trespassing, human trafficking
 - Family Violence
 - Behavioral Health
 - Collateral Consequences: limitation of housing options

Status Offenses

- Status offenses are behaviors that violate the law, but **would not be an offense if committed by an adult.**
- Common examples include **truancy, running away, curfew** and liquor law violations and **being beyond their parents' control.**
- Can be called PINS, FINS, CHINS, etc., but implications are still the same.



State and Federal Laws

- Children in need of services are primarily governed by state law; also through Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
- The JJDPDA has four core requirements:
 - Site and sound separation
 - Jail removal
 - Disproportionate Minority Contact
 - **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenses.**
- JJDPDA was last reauthorized in 2002.
- Current bill to reauthorize JJDPDA: S. 1169.
 - **Would require states to phase out the use of incarceration for children in need of services.**

Children in Need of Services

- An estimated **109,000 child in need of services cases** were petitioned in juvenile courts in 2013.
- Of these, **7,300 involved detention.**
- The National Census of Youth in Residential Placement found that in 2011 alone, more than 2,000 children were estimated to be incarcerated each day for behaviors such as running away from home, skipping school, or coming home after curfew.



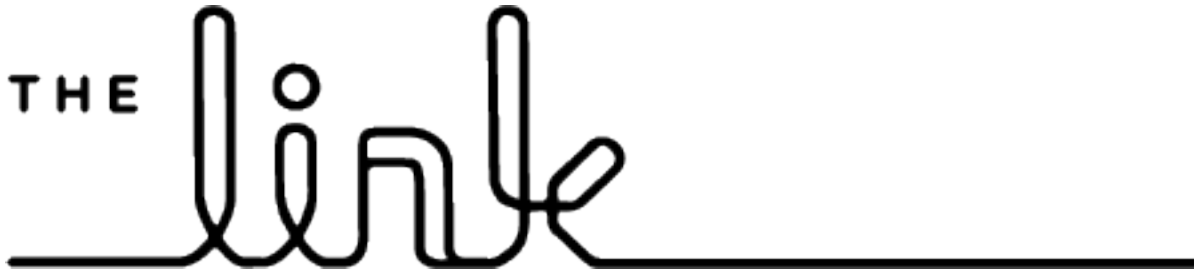
How can we address these challenges?



Contact Information

Naomi Smoot
Senior Policy Associate
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
smoot@juvjustice.org
(202) 467-0864 ext. 109
www.juvjustice.org





Housing Program Models for Youth Experiencing Homelessness and Exiting the Juvenile Justice System

Beth Holger-Ambrose

The Link

Overview of Link Programs

Juvenile Justice Division (Juvenile Supervision Center, Evening Reporting Centers, P.O.W.E.R., The Parent Support Program and School Matters)

Housing & Homeless Youth Services Division (7 Supportive Housing Programs, C.O.R.E. Drop-In Center and the Street Outreach Program)

Safe Harbor Division (Passageways, West Metro Regional Navigator and Safe Harbor Supportive Services)

The Link's Leadership is provided by a 14 Member Board of Directors and three Youth Advisory Committees as well as an internal Executive and Program Leadership Team.

Juvenile Justice:

Juvenile Supervision Center City Hall, Minneapolis



The Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC) is a 24/7 safe and supervised space for youth ages 10-17 who have been picked up for status or low level offenses by law enforcement in Hennepin County. Sexually exploited youth can also be dropped off at the JSC and connected here with the West Metro Regional Navigator. Youth are assessed for strengths and risk factors, connected to resources, returned to school or home, and given follow-up services when appropriate (including crisis intervention or case management).

The JSC provides an immediate intervention, preventing youth from becoming the victims of violent crimes, offering them a positive alternative to incarceration and allowing police to be more present in the community by providing a place for youth to be dropped off.

Juvenile Justice:

Evening Reporting Centers and POWER Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park and Richfield, MN



The ERCs are a partnership between The Link and Hennepin County to create opportunities and lend support to youth ages 10-17 who have entered into the juvenile justice system for higher level offenses than those being dropped off at the JSC (mainly higher degree assault, drug or gun possession charges). The Evening Reporting Centers (ERC) are part of Hennepin County's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, which was created to provide a path away from detention, further court involvement and out-of-home placement.

POWER (Positive Opportunities for Women of Every Race) is a gender specific program for girls on juvenile probation. The program provides restorative justice and strength based programming through gender specific assessments, case management and groups.

Juvenile Justice:

School Matters Minneapolis, MN



The School Matters program helps youth get back to regularly attending school and prevents them from dropping out. Our goal is to increase graduation rates for truant youth between the ages of 12 and 17. The program provides Hennepin County youth with intensive one-on-one case management to identify and eliminate barriers to school attendance. Youth are referred to The Link once they have seven or more unexcused absences from school.

Case managers use a strength-based approach to work with them and their families to re-engage youth with their education as quickly as possible through individualized action plans and client driven goal setting.

Supportive Housing Programs-an Important Piece of Re-Entry

Lindquist Apartments
North Minneapolis



Lincoln Place
Eagan, MN Dakota County



- Lindquist Apartments
- Lincoln Place
- Housing First
- Rapid Rehousing
- Suburban Rapid Rehousing
- The Young Families Program
- Project Live Out Loud
- Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program

The Link Housing Programs

Site Based Supportive Housing

- Lindquist Apartments-24 Unit Building in Minneapolis
- Lincoln Place-24 Unit Building in Eagan (suburb of Mpls.)
- Passageways Housing Program-5 Units for Sex Trafficked Youth
- Working on a 3rd for Young Families in 2018

Scattered Site Supportive Housing

- Rapid Rehousing-30 units through Twin Cities Metro
- Suburban Rapid Rehousing-30 units throughout Suburbs
- The Young Families Program-27 units in Hennepin County
- Project Live Out Loud-15 units in Minneapolis for LGBTQ Youth
- Housing First-32 units in Hennepin County

Total Housing Programs: 7 Total Housing Units: 187

Importance of Youth Led Programming

- Youth the true “experts”
- Programs are more successful when co-designed by youth
- Providing opportunities for Youth Leadership and Career Development Skills
- The Link Examples: Youth Advisory Committees and Staff Positions

High Quality Staff

- Recruit Strategically & Diversely
- Have youth involved in the interview process and hiring decisions, Ask Scenario Questions
- Hire based on experience (professional and/or life) prioritized over academic degrees (although these are of course great to have too)
- Hire staff that are grounded and experienced in Housing First, Harm Reduction, Trauma Informed Care, Positive Youth Development

Strength Based Supportive Services

- Individualized Case Management and Goal Planning
- Triage/Coordination with Youth's P.O.
- Supporting youth on Conditions of Parole
- Access to Legal Services and Court Advocacy
- Mental Health Therapy
- Chemical Dependency Treatment
- Parenting Supports
- Early Childhood Assessments and Programming
- Culturally Specific Activities and Programming
- Life Skills
- Support on how to Maintain Housing

Site Based Programs

Benefits:

- Better fit for youth with higher barriers (mental health, chemical dependency, etc.)
- Good fit for youth with Domestic Violence or Former Gang-Involved Youth
- Can monitor for General Safety Better
- On-Site Supportive Services and Activities
- Easier (typically) to get youth into

Challenges:

- 24/7 Staffing is more expensive
- Property Upkeep and Maintenance (if owned)
- Partnering with Property Owners/Developers

Scattered Site Programs

Benefits:

- Youth can transition in place if they would like too
- Youth are able to learn how to be a good renter, tenant rights and how to take care of their apartment while they are living there
- More funding seems to be becoming available for rental assistance which works well with scattered site programs
- Do not have to deal with scheduling / staffing a 24/7 program

Challenges:

- Can be difficult to find market rate land-lords to rent to youth without or with poor credit and rental histories, criminal backgrounds or other barriers
- Time and resources spent on re-housing youth if land-lord wants to terminate lease/evict youth
- Not a good fit for youth dealing with domestic violence or leaving gangs

Pros and Cons of Master Leasing

Pros:

- Cost effective
- Much easier to house youth with high barriers in
- Secured set number of housing units (not having to rely on vacancies with market rate landlords)

Cons:

- Responsible for maintenance and upkeep (except for large machinery typically)
- Sometimes might be difficult to find a property investment company that is willing to work with non-profits

Contact Information

Beth Holger-Ambrose

Executive Director

The Link

(612)767-4467

bholger-ambrose@thelinkmn.org

Thank You

Join our distribution list to receive
CSG Justice Center project updates!

www.csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe

For more information, contact Emily Morgan, emorgan@csg.org



The presentation was developed by members of the Council of State Governments Justice Center staff. The statements made reflect the views of the authors, and should not be considered the official position of the Justice Center, the members of the Council of State Governments, or the funding agency supporting the work. Citations available for statistics presented in preceding slides available on CSG Justice Center web site.