Youth Housing Report:

Stakeholder Summary

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I.   Executive Summary

As a result of abuse, neglect, and interaction with the criminal justice system, some NM youth become involved in large behavioral institutions such as foster care and Juvenile Justice. NMCAN (New Mexico Child Advocacy Network) serves this population of young people and youth who have experienced homelessness, to help them productively transition to adulthood. Under-resourced youths often leave institutional involvement with few resources and no social safety net, making them vulnerable to additional hardships and exploitation. Through supportive programs, mentoring, Youth Engagement Coordinators, and more, NMCAN helps youths meet a variety of needs from employment and education to relationship skills and community building. NMCAN also empowers young people to expand their horizons as leaders and advocates.

NMCAN partnered with Pivot Evaluation to further investigate its focus population's needs and resources regarding a central persistent need: housing. Pivot Evaluation prepared a Housing Report for NMCAN in fall 2020. This report summarizes findings of the Youth Housing Report: An Exploration and Evaluation of Central New Mexican Young People's Housing Needs and Resources. This Stakeholder Summary addresses issues brought up by and pertinent to stakeholders who contributed to the housing report, including NMCAN Youth Engagement Staff, NMCAN youth participants, and other community organizations. Stakeholders primarily contributed by participating in interviews about youth housing resources, needs, barriers, and opportunities.

This research focused on answering five main evaluation questions:
1. What housing resources function well for young people?
2. What housing needs pose persistent struggles for young people?
3. What kind of gaps in services/barriers to services hinder youth housing security?
4. In our current climate, how has the coronavirus pandemic affected youth housing experiences?
5. Finally, what future directions does this evaluation suggest for individuals and organizations?

Guided by these questions, this research examined the state of youth housing insecurity and homelessness in Central New Mexico. In addition to stakeholder interviews, evaluators reviewed academic literature and news media.

Interviewees reported resources that work well for young people, including stipends, vouchers, and youth staff who engage with warmth, authenticity, and accountability. Respondents also noted several challenging barriers to stable housing including:
- Unaffordable or unsuitable housing (evictions, pests, unsafe areas, etc. that prolonged youths' cycle in and out of housing insecurity)

- Lack of resources that are youth-specific, parent-friendly, low-barrier, non-restrictive, sustainable, and promote permanence in young people's lives
- Institutional barriers such as lack of statewide organizational communication, complicated paperwork and forms, and restrictions/inflexibility regarding funding and aid resources
- Barriers to follow-up including demands on service workers' time and difficulty in reaching young people who may not have stable contact info or access.

Both young people and service workers described how effective human relationships make up the heart of any successful network or program. On both sides of service provision, participants and providers strive to make human connections and work to find individual solutions in an impersonal system.
Interviews and literature review identified opportunities for progress, including:
- Coordinating youths' point of entry for housing resources and providing more youth-specific shelter and services
- Enhancing effective agency communication statewide
- Investing in innovative solutions such as intergenerational supportive housing, repurposed housing for young people, and housing linked to on-site services
- NMCAN involvement including housing education programs, community events, dedicated staff engagement, and contributions to community initiatives.

II. Stakeholders in Youth Housing

For a young person aging out of foster care, reacclimating from institutionalization in the juvenile justice system, or struggling with housing security, daily necessities such as housing, transportation, employment, and education can prove daunting. These young people often lack the stability, financial resources, and emotional support many people take for granted when they have a permanent family to rely on. Youths' involvement with institutions and ensuing social marginalization makes them vulnerable to additional setbacks such as dropping out of school, poverty, and homelessness. To help institutionalized youth recover, other institutions step in to take the place of missing family and community resources. These institutions, as well as the young people themselves, are stakeholders in youth housing as they have a vested interested in improving youth housing processes and outcomes.

Many entities constitute stakeholders in youth housing, from individuals and grassroots organizations to local and national government and private companies. The following youth housing stakeholders contributed to this research (for more details see Methods):
- **Young people** who have experienced institutions and/or housing insecurity, including:

- o Young people involved in NMCAN programming
    - o Youth Leaders trained and involved in NMCAN's Youth Leadership initiatives
- **Service providers** who work with young people who have experienced institutions or homelessness, including:
    - o NMCAN, which facilitates Youth Engagement Coordination, community engagement, and skill-building programs.
    - o New Day New Mexico (NDNM), which provides shelter and services for young people.
    - o The City of Albuquerque Department of Family and Community Services (CABQ), which coordinates with direct providers to promote community interests.
    - o The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP), which rapidly resources vulnerable youth and furthers advocacy on homelessness issues.
    - o The Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD), which engages youth throughout and following institutional involvement to support healthy development and transitions.
    - o The New Mexico Dream Center (NMDC), which offers services to youth who have experienced homelessness or trafficking and connects them with other resources.
    - o The Transgender Resource Center of NM (TGRCNM), which provides services for gender expansive youth and families, and recognizes the housing vulnerability of LGBTQ+ young people.

NMCAN as a stakeholder in Youth Housing

NMCAN's mission includes homeless youth among their service populations of focus, in addition to youth who have experienced foster care or Juvenile Justice. These populations have significant overlap, as youth aging out of foster care or exiting incarceration often find themselves homeless or housing insecure. Even if not living directly on the street, young people without stable housing may be forced to couch-surf, live out of cars, or live in undesirable or unsafe households.

As of January 2019, New Mexico measured just over 200 unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness (1). NMCEH writes, it is a tantalizingly manageable number (2). Yet achieving true sustainability in independent youth housing remains an ongoing challenge for all stakeholders. Even the best-intentioned interventions (such as transitional housing, family strengthening, individual counseling, case management, economic development, etc.) often lack formal evidence of effectiveness and have a hard time following up with participants (3). Sustainable housing depends on several

supportive factors (networking and connections, employment and financial security, childcare, mental health, etc.). Institution-involved youth transitioning to adult living may struggle with setting up one let alone multiple of these resources. Aging out of foster care (4) or other institutions puts young people at high risk for homelessness (5).

Due to the importance of housing needs NMCAN has thus far helped young people navigate housing resources via flexible engagement with Youth Coordinators, mentors, and community connections, though without having specific housing programs or staff. NMCAN's current programs include its Opportunity Passport financial literacy curriculum, Back on Track academic planning, one-on-one mentoring with community volunteers, and Youth Leadership policy advocacy platform. However, like many youth service organizations, NMCAN prioritizes building relationships with youth participants over specific program criteria or engagement. Young people can freely engage with any of the above programs, or none at all. Youth Engagement Coordinators work with young people where they're at on the issues they face, and community gatherings provide organic opportunities for young people to relax, connect, and simply enjoy normal teen social experiences. Youth may engage with NMCAN services through referrals from other service organizations (such as CYFD, Juvenile Justice, homeless shelter, etc.) or by reaching out to NMCAN directly. NMCAN also networks with other nonprofits and policymakers in Bernalillo county, engaging in ongoing outreach and collaboration.

III.   Youth Housing Evaluation Questions

NMCAN considered the following questions to better understand and serve the needs of their youth focus population. These questions guided NMCAN's and Pivot's research with the intention to validate young people and service providers' concerns and promote progress in youth housing security.

1. What housing resources function well for young people?
2. What housing needs pose persistent struggles for young people?
3. What kind of gaps in services/barriers to services hinder youth housing security?
4. How has the coronavirus pandemic affected youth housing experiences?
5. What future directions does this evaluation suggest for individuals and organizations?

IV.   Methods

To answer the evaluation questions, Pivot collaborated with NMCAN on the following data collection and analysis methods. For additional details on research methods, see Appendix.

1. Literature review.

Evaluators read and reflected on current academic and media literature concerning youth homelessness, including explorations of its negative impact and possible solutions, and its specific presence and priority in New Mexico.

2. Interviews with youth housing stakeholders.

   Evaluators developed four interviews in conjunction with NMCAN administrative staff, to conduct with members of the following four stakeholder groups:

   a. Young people affiliated with/participating in NMCAN's programming (n=4)
   b. Young people who have done leadership training and participate in NMCAN's programming and initiatives as Youth Leaders (n=3)
   c. NMCAN program staff who engage directly with young people (n=4)
   d. Community organizations with a shared vested interest in youth housing (n=6), including:
      i. New Day New Mexico (NDNM)
      ii. The City of Albuquerque Department of Family and Community Services (CABQ)
      iii. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)
      iv. The Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)
      v. The New Mexico Dream Center (NMDC)
      vi. The Transgender Resource Center of NM (TGRCNM)

   Pivot and NMCAN selected interview items specific to each stakeholder group based on relevancy, discussion, and the project's evaluation questions. Items focused on housing resources, barriers, and opportunities. Evaluators conducted interviews lasting roughly 30 minutes via video call. All interviews responses are voluntary and anonymous.

3. Housing item survey analysis.

   NMCAN had archived survey responses including some items pertaining to youth housing (such as youths' judgements on housing prices, security, and issues). Evaluators analyzed NMCAN's housing survey items to provide additional insight and context for youth housing as a local priority.

V.   Findings

Housing as a priority for institution-involved youth.

In addition to addressing the above evaluation questions, this report sought to contextualize housing as an issue among other needs for vulnerable young people. Pivot included items on interviews with young people and NMCAN direct service staff to explore the significance of housing in relation to young people's other concerns. All interviewees responded that housing is by far the most important need for institution-

involved young people, and drives all other concerns and progress. Evaluators planned to elicit a range of response by giving interviewees examples, though because of the nature of the questions, respondents may have inferred the purpose of the questioning. Nevertheless, interviewees did not identify any counterfactual data (i.e. results that would contradict housing as a priority). Respondents' prioritization of housing affirms its significance and the relevance of stakeholders' efforts to improve understanding, communication, and resources regarding youth housing needs and resources.

1. What housing resources function well for young people?

Young people benefit from working with service organizations, especially regarding Section 8 housing assistance vouchers and stipends, and youth coordinator engagement. Young people also value staff interpersonal skills when working with service providers, such as active listening, warmth, authenticity, and follow-through.

Regarding service provision, young people benefit from the tangible results of working with service organizations, especially Section 8 housing assistance vouchers and stipends. Young people also discussed the importance of staff interpersonal skills when working with service providers. Though the value of warmth and listening may seem obvious, service organizations may unintentionally undermine the importance of interpersonal skills in favor of providing tangible resources. Results indicate that both are important for young people, and that youth acutely feel the lack of interpersonal connection when it is absent from service provision. Service organizations do well to consider both tangible and intangible resources as intentional and valuable. After all, even when organizations do not provide a certain type of material resource, they can always support young people by using interpersonal skills. Conversely, providing tangible resources alone—while neglecting social skills and relationship building—does a disservice to the focus population and takes away from the resources' positive impact.

Regarding service providers, youth found the following skills helpful and meaningful when exercised by staff:
- Active listening (paying attention, acknowledging the young person's points, asking clarifying questions)
- Warmth (a genuine desire to help, expressed through friendliness, engagement, resourcefulness, and persistence)
- Authenticity (relating to young people in a personable, flexible, and non-authoritarian way)
- Follow-up/follow-through (following through on doing what one says, following up with new information as applicable, remaining available/reachable to the young person via email/phone/etc.)

2. **What housing needs pose persistent struggles for young people?**

In addition to struggling with housing issues such as compliance, retention, and eviction, young people cited needs around adjacent issues that affect housing, including job security, childcare, and healthcare (especially mental health). Young people are often working on long-term goals and planning that benefit from resources and supportive relationships. Social stigmas (such as negative feelings about getting help with goals) can present barriers that service workers help recontextualize as strengths and strategies instead of weakness.

Young people expressed permanence as a main housing concern, especially after dealing with situations that may not provide stability such as foster placements or homelessness. Many co-occurring challenges that can destabilize housing, including:

- Housing compliance (concerns over losing housing/losing lease)
- Job security (recently lost job)
- Childcare (difficult to find quality childcare during COVID)
- Healthcare (specifically mental healthcare and resources)

Regarding young people and service providers, in describing their experiences young people's interviews also illuminated the "invisible" barrier of social pressures and stigma. In addition to more apparent issues like finances and transportation, young people described how social pressures against using aid and support can set back goals and achievements, presenting yet another barrier to overcome. All youth discussed how hard it was to accept advice and aid in a culture that often characterizes getting help as weak and not independent. Youth also acknowledged that they were grateful when they did accept help—and that it really does "take a village". Consumer culture also encourages people to buy everything they can whenever they can, perpetuating cycles of financial insecurity.

Service providers can use the behavioral skills discussed above (active listening, authentic warmth, consistent follow-up, etc.) to develop supportive relationships with youth and help them contextualize unhelpful social patterns. Understanding the influence of social norms raises young people's awareness and gives them the power to choose behaviors intentionally instead of acting mindlessly or automatically. Having agency and options, what some refer to as "voice and choice," is especially important for young people who have had no control over their involvement with institutions. Simply considering different ways of looking at a challenging situation with a safe adult ("framing"/ "reframing") can transform a young person's experience. For example, a provider might collaborate on the following perspectives with young people to help reframe their experiences with services and savings:

- Using resources and accepting assistance is a strategic investment in yourself. Working with others helps you become your best self and show up better for

others/the community. It's not a permanent victim mentality but a steppingstone to greater agency.

- Consumer culture is intentional, powerful, and everywhere—and consumerism makes it harder to prioritize and save money. However, managing money can lead to more freedom and peace of mind than impulsive purchases and instant gratification.

In interviews, all young people suggested useful and compassionate ideas when asked what advice they would give their "past self." Asking that question in the context of trusted service provider relationships, as well as asking what one's "future self" would thank you for doing today, can help recontextualize present challenges. This approach also relies on youths' own strengths and wisdom, reinforcing self-awareness and self-trust (and remains a good exercise for adult providers as well!).

In the same way that resources can be tangible (such as vouchers) or intangible (such as good listening in a provider relationship), providers do well to consider both the material and immaterial barriers young people face when engaging with services. Recognizing and remedying stigmas in young people's lives can help providers increase their own awareness and effectiveness, improving goodwill and good outcomes with young people.

3. **What kind of gaps/ barriers to services hinder youth housing security?**

Young people face gaps including lack of youth-specific services (especially shelter) and housing/shelter options, lack of resources for pregnant and parenting youth, restrictive housing requirements and policies, and lack of affordable housing/eviction protection. Young people also face administrative barriers including paperwork, lack of permanent solutions, lack of inter-agency communication, and cumbersome data collection/management that does not support intended outcomes.

Young people and service providers identified the following gaps and barriers:
- **Lack of sufficient accessible youth-specific resources, especially shelter.** As described previously, adult shelters and services do not consistently feel safe or comfortable for young people or meet their unique needs. All stakeholders concurred that youth need separate shelter and emergency services designed specifically for them. Transition-aged youth remain especially vulnerable to falling through the crack between child and adult homelessness services. Some youth-specific services already exist (such as New Day's youth shelter and programming) but the need for more sites and services across the metro area persists.

- **Complicated and inaccessible resources and applications.**
  Service providers often require young people to complete extensive and difficult forms and applications to access resources. Interventions and programs inundate young people with paperwork that even adult providers struggle to complete correctly and that require cumbersome procedures such as faxing. Of course, it is understandable that providers do their best to promote accessibility and have to adhere to funder and bureaucratic requirements as well. However, the reality remains that young people may not receive beneficial services due to this barrier.
- **Lack of permanence in youth housing.**
  When well-intentioned community organizations experience high turnover or go out of business, they exacerbate the instability of youth seeking services. Individuals and organizations wishing to support housing-insecure youth do well to prioritize sustainability in their services, and consider alternatives to starting new initiatives, such as supporting or expanding established programs. Housing services can likewise prioritize sustainability in their focus populations' outcomes. Youth desire and require solutions for lasting permanence, albeit harder to achieve than short-term aid.
- **Lack of shelter and intermediate housing options.**
  Interviewees noted insufficient options for young people working toward housing permanence in the near future who need somewhere temporary to go in the meantime. Options could include emergency shelter, temporary home sharing options, and transitional housing. Youth expressed the desire for home shares instead of more institutionalized options.
  Stakeholders cite the need for innovative housing policies, such as:
    o Young people living in independent housing units in a complex only for youths or youth parents.
    o Young people living in a co-op or apartment building with supportive staff also living on site.
    o Young people being placed in vacant student housing dorm units.
    o A combined housing project for young people and retirees.
  As stakeholders described in their responses a few cities across the US have already made some of these ideas a reality, such as combining youth and retiree housing. However, little evidence exists so far about the long-term sustainability, benefits, and risks of such endeavors. New housing ideas may sound appealing to the public, but stakeholders often remain reluctant to put money and resources into largely untested initiatives. Investors may worry that what worked in another city might not work in theirs. Partner stakeholders therefore have to pull together to make new large-scale projects a reality. For example, a housing developer might partner with local government, state organizations,

nonprofits, and utility providers to generate sufficient support for the success of a youth housing complex.

- **Restrictive housing requirements/lack of options for youth dealing with additional issues.**
  Youth must often meet extensive requirements to get into/stay in assisted housing, and can face exclusion and eviction for using drugs or alcohol, having people over, making noise or fighting, etc. Though naturally housing services want to promote a healthy environment, kicking out youth dealing with these co-occurring issues only perpetuates the cycle of housing insecurity and exacerbates other problems including exploitation risk. Restrictive policies go against the Housing First principle, which holds housing as a primary human right that one should not have to "earn" through specific behavior.
  Conversely however, some interviewees expressed concern about over-inclusive assisted housing being non-restrictive to the point of facilitating an unhealthy or unsafe environment. Evidently, no simple solution emerges to moderating housing requirements/restrictions. Instead, service providers may address individuals' needs on a case-by-case basis to resolve issues and facilitate compromise where possible.

- **Lack of resources for pregnant youth, young parents, and youth families.**
  Some service facilities do not serve pregnant young people or new parents due to a lack of capacity (lack of knowledge/skills/resources to serve this population). Arguably, any services are better than no services for young parents, but organizations face liability if they cannot guarantee the appropriateness of their facility for babies. Interviewees also expressed that transitional/ assisted housing facilities are not family-friendly, in that they often discourage or restrict outright men (fathers) from visiting or living with partners. Finally, young parents in general struggle to meet their additional needs (such as children's food, childcare, child healthcare, transportation for children's activities, etc.) due to service gaps and shortages. Stakeholders state that supportive housing must include wrap-around services for young adult parents and should include Home Visiting, Early Intervention Services, and Parenting Supports such as Medicaid and WIC enrollment.

- **Siloed services and lack of integration/communication, especially at the state level.**
  All stakeholders voiced concern over the segregation of different services and lack of a consolidated system/ network for youth housing. Furthermore, to manifest more collaboration in NM would require achieving a new level of statewide communication beyond what has historically occurred. Integrating disparate systems would also mean agreeing on common definitions of "youth" (what ages), "homelessness," etc., an ongoing challenge across agencies (see

Appendix). Ideally, shared definitions should remain "fuzzy" around the edges, meaning that they retain enough flexibility to include populations or situations that are hard to define, do not fit neatly into strict categories, or suffer from chronic systemic exclusion. For example, the operational definition of "homeless" should be flexible enough to include people living in housed but unsafe or unsustainable situations, such as women fleeing abusive partners or young people couch-surfing.

- **Lack of affordable housing and eviction protection.**
Stakeholders confirm that there is simply not enough affordable housing to meet demand in the NM metro area. Many New Mexicans need less expensive housing options (significantly below market value) to transition from homelessness or avoid it in the first place. Housing advocates can help by identifying low-cost housing options with young people and assisting with creative solutions such as home shares.

- **Challenging data systems (data collection, data management).**
Stakeholders remain concerned about gathering accurate and meaningful youth data and putting it to practical use. Providers struggle with aggregated youth data, which doesn't capture information on young people who are not already connected to services. NMCEH's Coordinated Entry System will collect more data when used to its full extent, especially with youth and youth-serving organizations. Some agencies use outdated data collection systems in need of revisions to make the most of their benefits and utility to insights and problem-solving. All stakeholders agree that gathering information and managing it effectively allows for systemic improvements.

4. **How has the coronavirus pandemic affected youth housing experiences?**

The pandemic has made all aspects of youth housing more challenging, disrupting plans, leases, jobs, childcare, transportation, the functionality of preexisting resources, and in-person social support. Amidst this upheaval providers support youth by removing barriers where possible, helping with phone and internet connectivity issues, job searching and retention, transportation solutions, and accessing aid (stimulus and stipend money, food boxes, telehealth, distance learning, etc.).

The coronavirus has especially strained underline homeless people's health and resources (6) and underline limited care (7).

Service providers may remember that while pandemic restrictions will hopefully lift in 2021, youth may experience long-term effects on finances, housing, and health. Many pandemic-initiated problems are not quickly or easily resolved, such as losing employment or housing, depleting savings, experiencing chronic effects of illness, negative impacts on mental health, coping with stress and grieving, etc.

Young people whose vulnerable experiences were exacerbated during the pandemic may benefit from additional ongoing support (such as stipends and vouchers as well as compassionate support and patience for oneself and others). Young people also reported exhaustion with digital communications (video calls, messaging, etc.) and may benefit more from in-person interactions and activities once personal contact is safe.

5. **What future directions does this evaluation suggest for individuals and organizations?**

This research suggests several directions for NMCAN, partner organizations, and youth participants. Opportunities include inter-agency communication and legislative advocacy against the barriers listed above and in favor of innovative housing solutions such as intergenerational housing and repurposing existing structures and resources (hotels, dorm rooms, etc.).

Stakeholders can advocate for and collaborate on these community policies and initiatives:

- Affordable housing (more housing available significantly below market price).
- More separate housing services and resources for unaccompanied youth (as opposed to being grouped with older adults). Multiple young people and stakeholders expressed the desire/need for additional separate youth services to accommodate unique youth needs and approaches. Some resources already exist, such as New Day's youth shelter and services and New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness' Youth Homeless Demonstration Program.
- More programs for young parents. Many youths who become young parents need additional resources and have different needs than older adults. Examples include:
  - Parenting-focused counseling and education.
  - Childcare options.
  - Extra support from CYFD for concerns of child abuse or neglect.
- Decreased barriers, restrictions, and requirements. All interviewees expressed concern over the following challenges:
  - Inaccessible paperwork, forms, and applications that remain lengthy, complicated, and not tech friendly. Organizations can aim to make their forms easy to fill out online without the help of a youth service worker.
  - Restrictions that discriminate against young people who struggle with substance use or who want to include friends and partners in their lifestyle. Requirements that young people participate in certain programs to keep housing (such as therapy or education). Per Housing First practices, housing should be guaranteed independent of behavior whenever possible.

- Support for community-based needs assessment. [The Homeless Coordinating Council's report on homelessness](#) in the metro area suggests that UNM spearhead a $114,000 youth housing community needs assessment. If conducted, stakeholders could offer support in the following areas:
  - Help needs assessment staff effectively understand and engage with focus populations of homeless and housing-insecure youth.
  - Help ensure that the needs assessment includes input from all key community stakeholders and organizations.
  - Help collaborate on needs assessment methods.

All of the above examples are opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate, coming together to tackle issues that are larger than any one organization's scope. Evaluators also provided additional specific recommendations to NMCAN regarding their internal operations' further support of these goals.

Service providers may bear in mind that in the same way many interrelated challenges can hinder housing security (such as employment, childcare, mental health, etc.), once young people engage in supportive housing services they tend to be able to make progress across multiple domains. Service providers striving to engage more vulnerable young people in services, especially those who have previously fallen through the cracks, continues to improve youth outcomes. Stakeholders can do this by collaborating to reduce service barriers for young people, making housing resources ever more available, appropriate, and accessible for all vulnerable youth in NM.

VI.   Conclusion

As these research results have discussed, housing is a primary need, that once met provides the necessary foundation for many kinds of growth in a young person's life. For this reason youth housing security, and above all sustainable housing that promotes permanence, remains an inherent priority for youth-serving organizations across the board. With a shared vision for housing security, diverse stakeholders including government, educational institutions, service providers, and young people can come together to get behind high-impact ideas for better housing outcomes. By collaborating on housing research with stakeholders and communicating results, NMCAN seeks to facilitate necessary conversations, elevate youth and partner voices, and promote the teamwork necessary to bring effective and innovative solutions to life.

VII. Resources

The original housing report included the following citations.

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VIII.   Appendix

Key Term Definitions for the Purpose of this Report

a. **Youth/Young Person**: "transition-aged" youth in the process of transitioning from living as minor dependents to independent adults. This report considers young people from ages 16 to 24, going through various stages of independent living including preparation (age 16 to 18), initiation (age 18-20), or maintenance (age 20-24).

b. **Vulnerable**: youth who have experienced significant adverse events that challenge their fundamental relationships, health, financial/housing security, educational attainment, etc. All homeless, institution-involved, and NMCAN-involved young people are considered vulnerable for the purposes of this report.

c. **Homelessness**: being without physical shelter for the purposes of storing one's belongings, sleeping overnight, and managing essential needs around food and personal hygiene. While not all housing insecure individuals are homeless, all homeless people are housing insecure.

d. **Housing Insecurity**: having unsafe, unstable, or unsustainable physical shelter (such as living out of a car or tent, transient traveling, couch surfing, living with an abuser, or being at imminent risk of losing one's housing).

e. **Stakeholder**: anyone who has a vested interest in/commitment to youth housing outcomes. Stakeholders include NMCAN and other youth-serving nonprofits (even if not explicitly housing-oriented), CYFD and other institutions responsible for young people's safety, homeless shelters, law enforcement, local government, and of course young people themselves.