



# LOCAL CROSS-SYSTEM COLLABORATIVES (LCSC)

*a project of the National Network for Youth*

## MONTANA (STATE)

### WHO IS INVOLVED?

- Montana has established a statewide LCSC, the Montana Youth Homelessness Interagency Collaborative (MYHIC) to focus statewide efforts on youth homelessness.
- MYHIC includes representatives from school districts, youth service programs, foundations, the CoC, and child welfare agencies. MYHIC is also supporting the creation of a statewide Youth Action Board (YAB), as well as regional YABs throughout the state.

### CHALLENGES THEY ARE EAGER TO TACKLE:

- MYHIC and stakeholders identified a need for more youth-centric shelters for both 12-17 and 18-24 year-olds (including emergency shelters, transitional living programs, and host homes); they also noted that rapid rehousing and other forms of rental assistance (such as permanent supportive housing) are not as much of a need or priority, given the ways that young people in the rural state experience homelessness, and the barriers to their ability to contract for housing.
- Other areas Montana identified as having gaps in services for young people included: mental health and substance abuse treatment, drop-in centers or other safe places to go during the day, mentors, access to showers, access to transportation, as well as training and employment outside of the school setting.
  - Among the most frequently seen barriers for either age group were a general shortage of services and transportation.
  - Barriers for minors experiencing homelessness include: requirements for parental consent to access services (including housing and medical), available services are not youth-appropriate, minors are too young to access many of the available services, and fear of child welfare or law enforcement involvement.
  - Barriers for young adults experiencing homelessness include: lack of access to vital documents or inability to provide documents, and YYA cannot or will not provide necessary eligibility

### COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Population: **1.05** million  
Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness\*: **655**  
Youth and Young Adult Population Experiencing Homelessness\*\*: **127**  
Youth Service Providers:

**Tumbleweed Runaway Program**  
Billings, MT  
[www.tumbleweedprogram.org](http://www.tumbleweedprogram.org)

**District 7 Human Resources Development**  
Council Billings, MT  
[hrdc7.org](http://hrdc7.org)