NN4Y's Comprehensive Framework to End Youth Homelessness
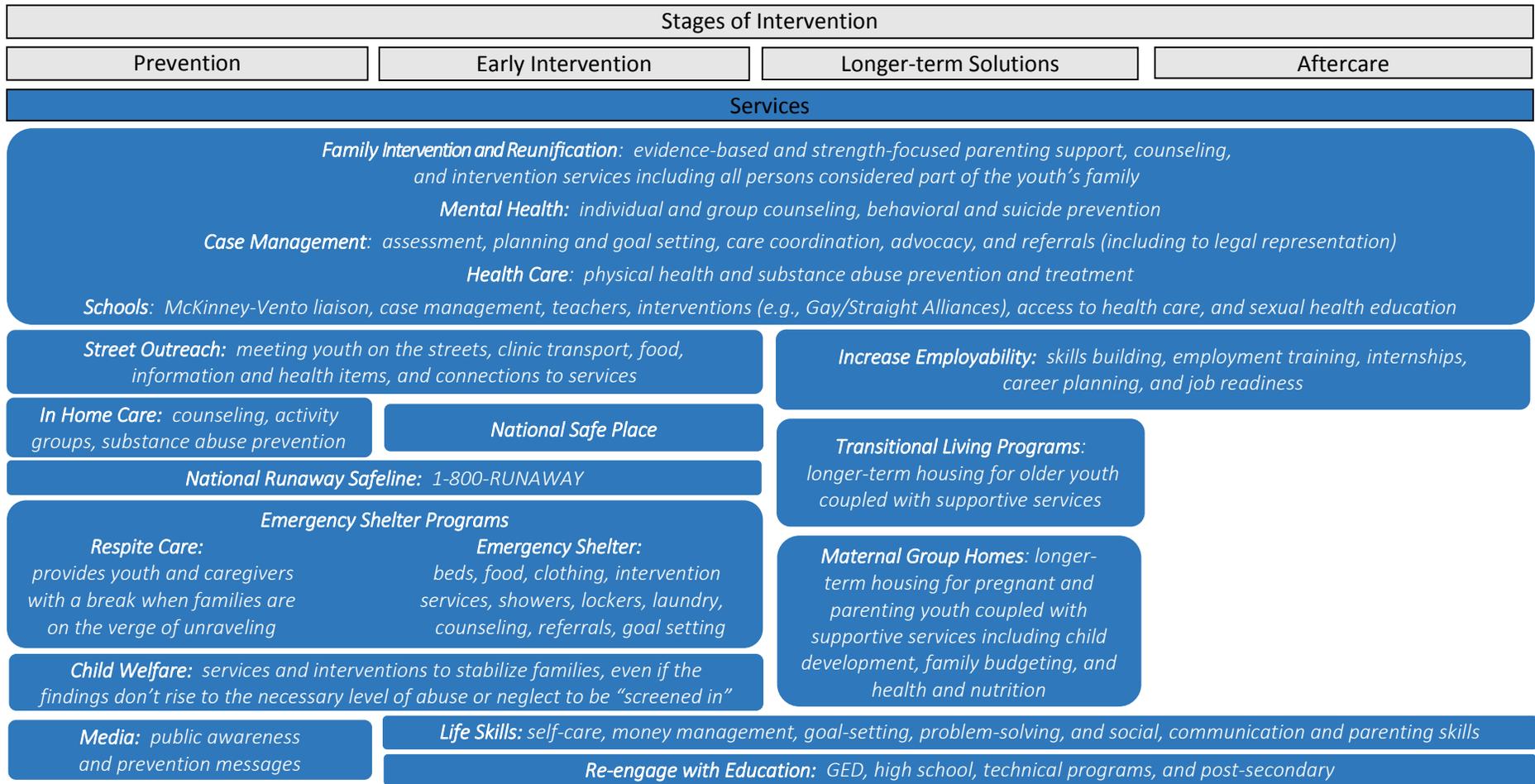
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Providing developmentally appropriate and readily accessible services is critical to addressing episodic or longer-term youth homelessness and is an essential component of any housing intervention. In light of the federal frameworks and collaborative strategies that have been published this year by federal agencies and U.S. Congress,[1] NN4Y is releasing this *Comprehensive Framework to End Youth Homelessness*. These four stages of intervention are not meant to depict a linear consumption of services, but instead seek to lay out the services, housing models, and goals that are necessary to have a fully functioning safety net for runaway and homeless youth, as well as those at risk. The first page details the services that should be available to runaway and homeless youth and their families at primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions. The second page shows the different housing models that all youth should have access to, since appropriate services cannot be provided if the youth and family are not first housed and stabilized. Finally, this framework states the goals, which can only be achieved when appropriate services and housing resources are available for the youth and family in-crisis. When these stages of interventions are scaled to capacity in a community, there is an effective safety net for these youth and their families.

Stages of Intervention

Prevention	Early Intervention	Longer-term Solutions	Aftercare

Services

Family Intervention and Reunification: *evidence-based and strength-focused parenting support, counseling, and intervention services including all persons considered part of the youth's family*

Mental Health: *individual and group counseling, behavioral and suicide prevention*

Case Management: *assessment, planning and goal setting, care coordination, advocacy, and referrals (including to legal representation)*

Health Care: *physical health and substance abuse prevention and treatment*

Schools: *McKinney-Vento liaison, case management, teachers, interventions (e.g., Gay/Straight Alliances), access to health care, and sexual health education*

Street Outreach: *meeting youth on the streets, clinic transport, food, information and health items, and connections to services*

Increase Employability: *skills building, employment training, internships, career planning, and job readiness*

In Home Care: *counseling, activity groups, substance abuse prevention*

National Safe Place

National Runaway Safeline: *1-800-RUNAWAY*

Transitional Living Programs: *longer-term housing for older youth coupled with supportive services*

Emergency Shelter Programs

Respite Care: *provides youth and caregivers with a break when families are on the verge of unraveling*

Emergency Shelter: *beds, food, clothing, intervention services, showers, lockers, laundry, counseling, referrals, goal setting*

Maternal Group Homes: *longer-term housing for pregnant and parenting youth coupled with supportive services including child development, family budgeting, and health and nutrition*

Child Welfare: *services and interventions to stabilize families, even if the findings don't rise to the necessary level of abuse or neglect to be "screened in"*

Media: *public awareness and prevention messages*

Life Skills: *self-care, money management, goal-setting, problem-solving, and social, communication and parenting skills*

Re-engage with Education: *GED, high school, technical programs, and post-secondary*

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[1] *USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness* (February 2013), *Pathways for Youth: Draft Strategic Plan for Federal Collaboration* (February 2013), *Advancing the Self-Sufficiency and Well-Being of At-Risk Youth: A Conceptual Framework* (March 2013), and *Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics and Programs* (Congressional Research Service, January 15, 2013).

Prevention	Early Intervention	Longer-term Solutions	Aftercare

Housing Models

Home with Family: *the youth remains living with their parent/caregiver(s) while the family and youth receive appropriate services*

Emergency Shelter Programs: *including Basic Center Programs for minors*

Host-Family Home: *homeless youth live with a family that provides safe and stable housing for the youth. This model has been effectively utilized in rural areas*

Transitional Living Apartment: *safe and stable housing for homeless youth*

Group Home: *community-based and adult-supervised transitional living; includes maternal group home for pregnant and/or parenting youth*

Host-Family Home

Permanent Supportive Housing: *HUD-funded housing for the small percentage of youth with severe needs*

Own Apartment/Roommates: *youth receive partial assistance with rent and basic life needs while pursuing education and vocational training*

Home with Family: *youth and their family continue to receive services and remain connected to the appropriate care needed to achieve the goals listed below*

Goals

Safety: engage the youth and family into services and meet their basic needs
Prevention: keep the young person out of the juvenile justice system, and prevent the youth from being victimized, exploited, or trafficked
Stability: reunify with family if possible, establish permanent connections, and support the ability to lead a sustainable and healthy life
Healing: through trauma-informed care, counseling, and supportive relationships the young person will have the opportunity to heal from the trauma they experienced
Reduce Risk Factors: establish community connections, increase resources, reduce conflict, and mitigate the effects of poverty
Increase Protective Factors: strength-based interpersonal skills building, self-care, and positive mentoring relationships
Tailored Services: meet the needs of the youth and family where they are at when accessing services and provide evidence-based services for street-involved, LGBTQ, pregnant and/or parenting, and trafficked youth

Prevent youth from running away

Prevent youth from being kicked out of their home

Prevent youth from running away

Prevent youth from being kicked out of their home