

# Homeless Youth Prevention Planning Grant



Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
&  
Illinois Collaboration on Youth



# Homelessness and Foster Care

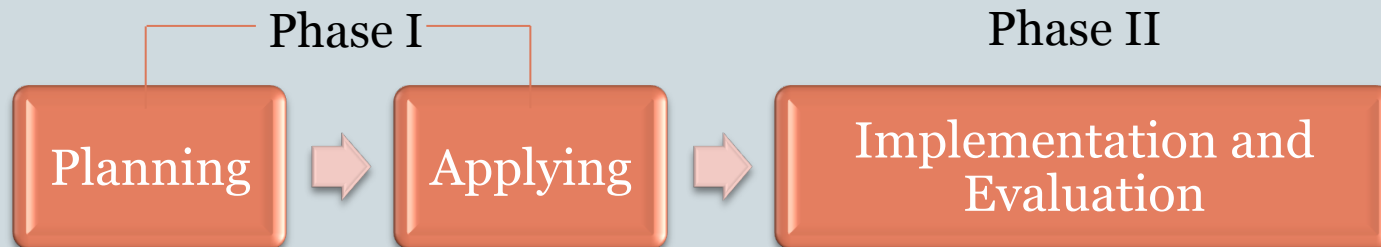


- According to the Midwest Study, 36% of participants had been homeless for at least one night by age 26 after aging out of care.
- Other studies have found ranges from 11-36% of youth who have aged out experience homelessness.
- Former foster youth are at a higher risk of becoming homeless, more more frequently, and are more likely to live in poor quality neighborhoods.
- Between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2012, approximately 5,000 youth aged out of care.

# Grant Overview



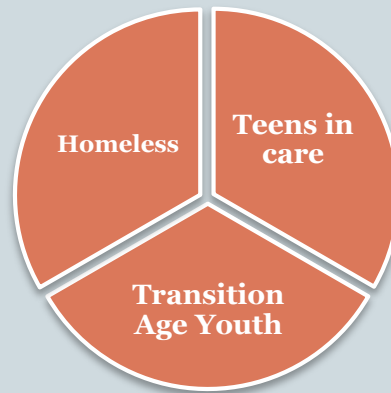
- ICOY is one of eighteen Phase I grantees to receive a two-year planning grant from the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families
- **Phase I:** Planning and applying for Phase II grant (2 years)
- **Phase II:** Implementation (5 years)—6 grantees anticipated



# Project Summary



- Plan comprehensive intervention model for serving youth at high-risk of homelessness:
  - 1) Youth who enter care between 14-17 years old
  - 2) Youth *aging out* of care
  - 3) Currently *homeless youth* up to age 21 who had been in care



# Project Summary (Cont.)



- Plans must use an approach to develop models of intervention to improve outcomes in four core areas:
  - 1) Stable housing
  - 2) Permanent connections
  - 3) Education and employment
  - 4) Social-emotional well-being



# Planning Process



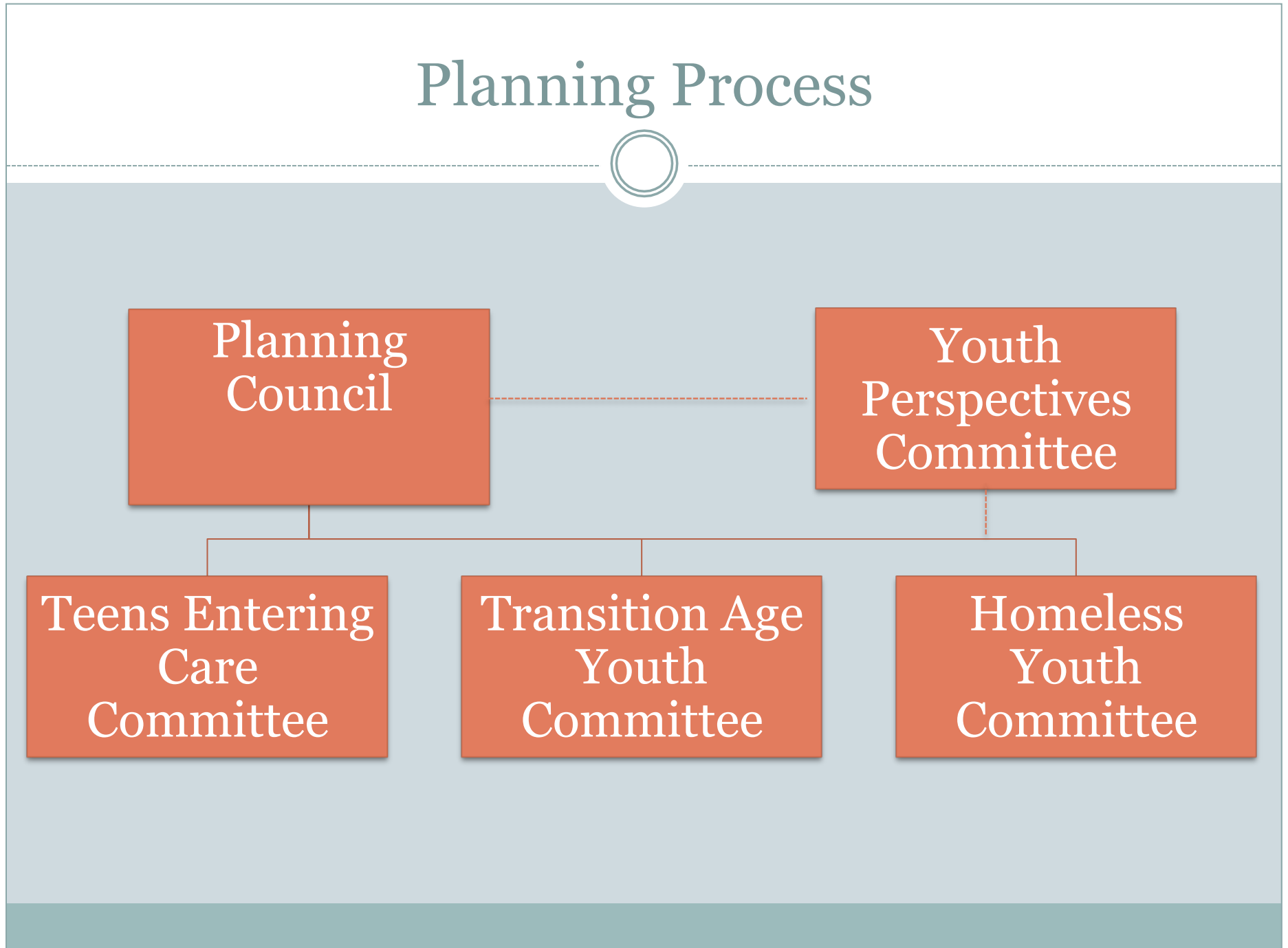
Planning  
Council

Youth  
Perspectives  
Committee

Teens Entering  
Care  
Committee

Transition Age  
Youth  
Committee

Homeless  
Youth  
Committee



# Planning Activities



- **The Planning Council and committees have:**
  - Reviewed available DCFS administrative data to identify risk and protective factors
  - Gathered information about existing services and conducted gap analysis
  - Developed and conducted focus groups with youth
  - Reviewed current use of federal funds in Illinois
  - Review screening and assessment tools

# Planning Activities con't



- **Data sharing agreements established with:**
  - The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice;
  - The Illinois Department of Human Services for both homeless youth data, and TANF/SNAP data;
  - The Illinois Department of Employment Securities for quarterly wage data;
  - Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County—in process



# Intervention design



- Since July, the committees and Planning Council have been developing the intervention
  - Based on the Midwest Study and analysis of administrative data, we believe that youth who run from care, and youth who change placements frequently, are at the highest risk of later homelessness
  - Our intervention model will focus on stabilizing youth in their placements in order to focus on relationship building
- Next month, planning members, DCFS and DHS leadership, and research experts will convene to finalize intervention design

# Questions



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