

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project
Invitation for Innovative Proposals
FAQ

1. Can a waiver for a renewable project be for waiving the HEARTH Act definition and instead utilizing the McKinney/Vento homelessness definition for projects which serve pregnant and/or parenting youth?

Using the McKinney Education definition is possible, but we would need HUD permission

Communities can use up to 10% of the YHDP award to serve youth under Category 3 homelessness (in your case, McKinney Education), but only with HUD permission. The choice to use Category 3 has to be described in the Coordinated Community Plan and your project request would have to demonstrate that serving Category 3 is equally or more effective at helping us meet the goals of the coordinated community plan. I had a look at our plan, and the only place we describe using the McKinney Education definition is under the Integrated Services Team project, p. 84, where we say "Eligible participants will include youth who are imminently at risk of homelessness (HUD COC definition) and youth who are defined as homeless under other applicable statutes, such as McKinney-Vento. Activities specifically focused on prevention will be funded through non- HUD dollars." Although this language doesn't address your project type, it would not hurt to ask HUD.

There is an FAQ about this within the following:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/YHDP-FAQs.pdf>.

2. Does documentation status affect RRH projects and/or rental assistance amounts, if so can those be waived?

CoC and ESG funded ES, TH and RRH are actually not allowed to turn undocumented individuals away from programs.

Here's a HUD resource:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

3. Is the age limitation set for age at entry? Would we be able to continue serving a participant who met the age requirement at entry but exceeded the limit during program participation?

Programs can continue to serve participants after they turn 25, although they should ensure that the service package provided continues to be appropriate to their needs. Language from HUD is here:

an individual would maintain eligibility throughout the duration of the RRH project if he or she entered into the RRH project prior to turning 25. So long as the homeless status was confirmed upon entry into the program, any subsequent change in the household composition or age would not disqualify a program participant's ongoing eligibility for the program.

When an individual turns 25, HUD would not expect the individual to be removed from the project if he or she wishes to continue residing in the unit. However, if the project targets youth, and the service package is no longer appropriate for the individual, then the project could consider transferring him or her to another project within the Continuum of Care that has a more appropriate service package.