



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION **Youth Action Board Facilitator**

Posting Date: February 25, 2025

Response Submission Deadline: April 1, 2025

INTRODUCTION

In December 2024, the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) released a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) from qualified firms to serve as the Youth Action Board (YAB) Facilitator. While we consider issuing another RFP round to support the YAB and the Rhode Island Continuum of Care in its Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) implementation, we want to gather feedback on how the next RFP could potentially be edited to better meet the needs of the Youth Action Board (YAB) as it works to implement the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) initiative and funding within the Rhode Island Continuum of Care.

Through this Request for Information (“RFI”) RIHousing seeks external responses and information on YAB program design, interest, and general feedback from a range of respondents, including but not limited to, youth development organizations and youth homeless services provider agencies.

INSTRUCTIONS

Responses are to be submitted via email to: **Sarah Saint Laurent, RICO C Coordinator at ssaintlaurent@rihousing.com** no later than the submission deadline set forth above.

With your response, please provide a description of the organization you represent. Please also include the name, business telephone number and email of a representative of your organization authorized to discuss your response.

All questions regarding this RFI must be made in writing and submitted via email to Sarah Saint Laurent, RICO C Coordinator at ssaintlaurent@rihousing.com prior to the submission deadline.

NOTE TO RESPONDENTS:

Please be advised that **all** responses may be made available to the public on request pursuant to the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act, Chapter 2 of Title 38 of the Rhode Island General Laws (the “APRA”) upon award of a contract(s). Respondents are advised not to include information that they deem proprietary or confidential or that constitutes a trade secret.



RFP/RFQ Title: _____
Respondent Name: _____

Background:

In September 2021, the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RiCoC) was awarded \$3.5 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to design and fund a system to end youth homelessness in Rhode Island; this initiative is HUD’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP). In the RiCoC, nine non-profit organizations received YHDP funding to operate various projects intended to prevent and end youth homelessness.

An essential element of a YHDP community, like Rhode Island, is a strong YAB. Currently, Rhode Island’s YAB is a RiCoC Standing Committee consisting of leaders aged 13-24 who have experienced homelessness and housing instability. The YAB focuses on representing those most affected, including LGBTQIA+ youth, youth of color, individuals with child welfare backgrounds, and youth with disabilities. The YAB guides the RiCoC on policy, funding, advocacy, evaluation, and other priorities related to ending youth homelessness in Rhode Island. The YAB is responsible, in partnership with adult allies, for helping to drive programs, policy, funding, and practice decisions within the RiCoC aimed at eliminating youth homelessness, which extends beyond the scope of specific YHDP projects. In conjunction with supporting committees, the YAB takes responsibility for ongoing YHDP oversight, enhancement, community involvement, updating the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), and advancing policies supporting youth experiencing homelessness throughout the RiCoC and Rhode Island. Applicants can become more familiar with the current work of the YAB in the RiCoC by reading the CCP developed in collaboration with YAB members (which can be accessed [here](#)).

RIHousing serves as the Collaborative Applicant on behalf of the RiCoC and issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the fall of 2024 to support a YAB Facilitator agency to conduct ongoing development of youth leadership within the RiCoC and the YAB. A strong YAB Facilitator is dedicated to amplifying youth voices and creating opportunities for young people to engage in the community. They provide mentorship opportunities and help youth develop into leaders. The YAB Facilitator is also responsible for recruitment, outreach, agenda development, social media management, meeting facilitation, and networking for the YAB.

After having eight (8) participants attend the optional information session, we received zero (0) responses to this RFP. **In considering whether to release an RFP for this scope of work in the future, the YAB members and RIHousing wants to gather feedback to understand why organizations did not apply, if there were aspects of the RFP that could be improved upon or changed, and generally to determine that there is sufficient demand for this use of funds to support YAB facilitation.** Therefore, we are issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather this feedback.

Prior to responding to this RFI, we ask that respondents read the original RFP, which can be found [here](#).

Any future RFP will still require the youth development organization to support YAB members conducting YHDP required activities. We want community partners to tell us exactly what kind of support YAB members need, and how to best provide that support to them, in their response to this



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RFI. Alternative program designs that differ from the vision outlined by the YAB and RI Housing in its previous issuance will be considered.

Please note that this RFI is for our informational purposes only. The information contained in responses will be used for planning purposes and as such, your submission will not be considered a response to the December 2024 RFP nor to a future RFP.

Request for Information

In recent years, the Rhode Island Continuum of Care has been awarded and implemented Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funding. Supporting a Youth Action Board (YAB) is a core requirement of this funding. YAB members are young people with lived experience of housing instability and/or homelessness. The YAB is the Committee making recommendations directly to the RICoC for YHDP program implementation.

RI Housing, in its role as the Collaborative Applicant for the RICoC, has engaged multiple contractors to provide youth development support and technical assistance to the Youth Action Board. The current contract for this service ends April 30, 2025.

Below are prompted questions that RI Housing seeks specific feedback on; however, feedback on topics or ideas not specifically requested is welcome.

1. Is it beneficial for RI Housing to contract with a contractor to provide such support and technical assistance to the YAB?
 - If yes, what are some specific examples of supports and technical assistance that could be impactful for the RICoC to offer the YAB?
 - If no, please explain why you do not think it would be beneficial.
2. If you were eligible to submit a proposal under the initial RFP, but intentionally chose not to apply, could you share why?
3. If you were eligible to submit a proposal under the initial RFP and considered applying, could you share any feedback about the application process?
4. If an RFP with this same general use is released again, and you would be an eligible applicant, would you apply? Why or why not?
5. Did the RFP clearly explain the intention of the YAB Facilitator opportunity and what types of activities would be eligible for funding?
 - If not, in what areas would additional clarification be useful?
6. How many weeks would you need to prepare a proposal that meets the expectations outlined in the previously issued RFP?



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7. This RFP intentionally seeks an organization with Youth Development experience to partner with RIHousing to support the young leaders interested in ending youth homelessness; are there other models or program design that we should consider?
8. Please share any other suggested networks we should consider engaging with to further our outreach about this YAB Facilitator opportunity.
9. Is there other feedback you would like to share?