

Good morning,

Please see below/attached for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- 2026 Paving the Way to Educational Success Conference
- Introducing Act 1 Graduation Plan Toolkit: A Framework for Timely Graduation (virtual)
- 2026 ELECT (Education Leading to Employment and Career Training) Conference
- Partnership Primer: Strengthening Collaboration Across Roles and Experiences to Improve Child Welfare



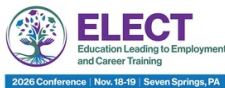
[2026 Paving the Way to Educational Success Conference](#)

Oct. 6-7 | Lancaster, PA



[Introducing the Act 1 Graduation Plan Toolkit: A Framework for Timely Graduation](#)

Oct. 14 | Virtual



[2026 ELECT Conference](#)

Nov. 18-19 | Seven Springs, PA

Partnership Primer: Strengthening Collaboration Across Roles and Experiences to Improve Child Welfare:

True collaboration in child welfare begins with an intentional shift in how we share power, value expertise, and listen to one another.

The **Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency (QIC-EY)** is proud to release our newest resource: *Partnership Primer: Strengthening Collaboration Across Roles and Experiences to Improve Child Welfare*.



This field-tested primer moves past symbolic inclusion and performative box-checking. It provides a practical blueprint designed to equip system leaders, child welfare professionals, and individuals with lived experience to work alongside each other to drive deep, lasting systems change.

What You'll Find Inside:

Establishing a Common Language

Standardizing key terms like authentic engagement, co-design, and shared decision-making.

Clarity on Engagement

Strategies for fair compensation, intentional recruitment, and onboarding.

Conditions for Partnership

Practical guidance on establishing psychological safety, building trust, and actively navigating power dynamics.

Sustaining the Work

Tools for ongoing engagement, data utilization, and navigating transitions with care.

Whether you are a professional working to refine your organizational practices or an individual with lived experience seeking a framework to advocate for your sustainable involvement, this primer is built for you.

Explore the QIC-EY Partnership Primer

To learn more about implementing these frameworks or to connect with our team for additional guidance, visit us at QIC-EY.org.

With gratitude,
The QIC-EY Team

Resource for Youth Homelessness Service Providers to Inform Their Suicide Prevention Strategy:

Thursday, September 10, 2026



Was this email forwarded to you? Stay up to date on youth homelessness by [signing up for our listserv](#).

New NN4Y Practice Resource for Youth Homelessness Service Providers to Inform Their Suicide Prevention Strategy

This information is also published as a [blog post](#) on our website.

Content Warning: *This resource discusses suicide, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, and mental health crises. Please take care while reading. If you need immediate support, call or text 988 in the United States to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.*

Young people experiencing homelessness face elevated risks of suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts. This World Suicide Prevention Day, we are publishing a new resource that offers practical strategies for providers serving youth, young adults, and young parent families experiencing homelessness to strengthen protective factors, recognize warning signs, and support young people before, during, and after a mental health crisis.

You do not have to be a mental health professional to help prevent suicide. Every person who works with young people experiencing homelessness can play a role in preventing suicide.

Below is an excerpt of this new resource.

[Complete Resource](#)

Focusing on Suicide Prevention is Critical for Those Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The needs of youth experiencing homelessness facing suicidal thoughts are too often overlooked in broader suicide prevention efforts.

Research is sobering. Suicide is the [second leading cause of death](#) among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34. Studies have found that [between 20% and 68%](#) of young adults experiencing homelessness report having attempted suicide during their lifetime. Young people experiencing homelessness may also experience trauma, family conflict or rejection, violence, substance use, isolation, and significant mental health needs—often while navigating systems that can be fragmented, difficult to access, or poorly tailored to their unique needs.

Homelessness itself can compound risk. A young person sleeping outside, moving between couches, staying in a shelter, or cycling through systems often struggles to access consistent health care or maintain relationships with trusted providers. Even when a young person wants help, barriers such as transportation, insurance, cost, identification requirements, immigration status, and long wait times can stand in the way.

However, **experiencing homelessness or having specific risk factors for suicide doesn't mean an individual will attempt suicide.** Risk factors can increase an individual's vulnerability, but they don't determine what will happen. There is no definitive way to predict if someone will attempt suicide. Instead, understanding these risks can help providers identify which young people may need additional support, either from the provider or a separate mental health care professional.

10 Practices for Preventing Suicide Among Young People Experiencing Homelessness

This [resource](#) outlines ten distinct practices across four areas.

- **Strengthening Protective Factors**
 - Build Belonging and Supportive Connections
 - Look Beyond Suicide Risk in Isolation
- **Recognizing the Warning Signs**
 - Make Suicide Prevention Part of Everyday Practice
 - Train Staff at Every Level
- **Helping Someone Who is Considering Suicide**
 - Create a Clear Response Plan and Practice It
 - Ask Directly and Listen with Compassion
 - Develop Safety Plans with, not for, Young People
 - Know Your Community Resources Before a Crisis Happens
- **Developing a Plan for Support After a Mental Health Crisis**
 - Establish a Plan for Someone Re-Entering Services After a Suicide Attempt or Other Mental Health Crisis
 - Supporting the Community After Someone Dies by Suicide

Moving from Awareness to Action

Suicide prevention happens every day, not just before, during, and after a crisis. As people who work closely with a young person, service providers are more attuned and can notice changes in thoughts, behaviors, feelings, and appearance. Changes on their own may not be a warning sign, so it is important to talk to that young person to learn more about what they are experiencing. This, combined with considering the frequency, duration, and impact of the changes, will help a provider understand if they should provide additional support.

Providers can keep a list of potential warning signs to recognize and track in case they begin having a larger negative impact on a young person. They can also incorporate conversations about mental health and well-being into intake, case management, outreach, drop-in services, and ongoing relationships with young people to help normalize this type of support.

There is no single tool that will work in every setting. What matters is developing a clear process with youth for when and how staff screen, what happens when concerns are identified, who responds, how young people are connected to ongoing support, and how to respond after a suicide death or attempt.

[Complete Resource](#)

Stay Connected

This resource was developed with feedback from youth homelessness service providers about the wide range of practices they use. We will continue to evolve this work as we receive new feedback.

If you would like to share your experience with suicide prevention, please let us know by completing the form at the bottom of the [blog post](#)!

Become a Member

Ending youth homelessness takes all of us. At the National Network for Youth, membership means more than resources. It's a safe space to learn, grow, and fight together for the future of youth, young adults, and young parent families experiencing homelessness.

We offer tiered membership fees to ensure our membership is affordable for organizations of all sizes, as well as passionate individuals. **In recognition of the challenges our members face, any organization that has lost an RHYA or other federal grant can receive a 3-month discount on 2026 membership.**

Become a Member

Stay informed on efforts to combat youth homelessness with our newsletter! Get updates on policies, fresh resources, upcoming events, and funding opportunities.

Subscribe to the NN4Y
Newsletter

📍 Support

📞 Vital Document Hotline



National Network for Youth
741 8th Street SE | Washington, District of Columbia 20003
202-783-7949 | nn4youth@nn4youth.org
National Network For Youth
741 8th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
United States
[unsubscribe](#)

Have a great weekend.

Thank you!

Meghan O'Hare, MSW

