



## Youth Services Network (YSN) 2026 Legislative Agenda

- 1. Emergency funding in the amount of \$8.5 million added to the Homeless Youth Act.**

This funding request is to replace the loss of \$8.5 million annually in federally funds to homeless youth shelter and housing providers across the state. These emergency replacement funds would help to sustain the critically needed supportive services, emergency shelter and housing programs for youth experiencing homelessness.
  
- 2. Ensuring access to shelter and housing for young families and youth experiencing homelessness**

Remove barriers put in place by local units of government for young families and youth accessing emergency shelter and housing programs which include the following specific changes:

  - All local units of government must utilize the State of Minnesota Homeless Youth Act’s definition of “homeless youth” and “homeless young family” and not create more narrow and restrictive definitions that prevent youth and young families from accessing services, emergency shelter and housing.
  - Local units of government cannot prevent youth and young families from accessing emergency shelter or housing for the following reasons: 1) “diversion” has not been completed or participated in; 2) be open in county benefits (and / or open in county benefits for any specific length of time
  - Local units of government may not prevent young families from accessing family shelter or housing together as a family if they are not able to provide a copy of their child’s birth certificate, MFIP case or marriage certificate.
  
- 3. Bonding request for Emergency Shelter and Supportive Housing for Young Families**

\$47 million requested.
  
- 4. Safe Harbor Regional Navigator**

Additional funding to add capacity for Regional Navigators especially in rural and tribal communities.

**For questions please contact the YSN Policy Subcommittee Chairs:** Katherine Meerse at [kmeerse@avenuesforyouth.org](mailto:kmeerse@avenuesforyouth.org) or Beth Holger at [bholger@thelinkmn.org](mailto:bholger@thelinkmn.org).