



LIBERTY MUTUAL FOUNDATION

Request for Proposals: Ending Youth Homelessness

FOUNDATION MISSION:

To invest the expertise, leadership and the financial strength of Liberty Mutual Insurance and our employees to help our neighbors who are experiencing great vulnerability. To help those with the greatest of need—by providing security for men, women and children who are homeless; accessibility for people with disabilities, and educational opportunities for youth living in poverty.

For over a decade, Liberty Mutual Foundation has been addressing the needs of low-income individuals through its investments in Accessibility, Security and Opportunity. We make grants in the following focus areas:

- **Accessibility** (Accessibility & Inclusion): *To support people of all abilities--without restrictions or limitations--as they pursue their goals in education, health, employment and all other activities of daily life;*
- **Security** (Basic Services): *To deliver life-saving immediate needs and basic services to men, women, children and youth; and*
- **Opportunity** (Education): *To empower low-income, young people to follow a successful educational path by supporting learning opportunities that will allow them to reach their full potential.*

RFP Purpose:

For over four years Liberty Mutual has been intentionally investing in organizations to develop a continuum of services improving the living conditions for unstably housed youth and young adults. Liberty has contributed both time and funding to this effort, around the country-- but primarily in Boston, to define and address the complex life challenges facing youth experiencing homelessness. Previously, there was a point in time count for youth homelessness in Suffolk County; and we heard anecdotally about problems youth were facing from many of our community partners-- but now we have data.

Thanks to the important work of the University of Chicago researchers at Chapin Hall who authored the reports in the Voices of Youth Count Initiative (VoYC) <https://www.chapinhall.org/project/voices-of-youth-count/> we now know the scope of the problem locally and nationally. In the USA one in 10 young adults 18-25 and at least one in 30 adolescents ages 13-17 experience some form of solo housing crisis each year. In Suffolk County, 25-29% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ. Youth who had been in foster care (34%) or had experiences with the criminal justice system were more likely to have had housing instability. Unfortunately 22% of young adults experiencing homelessness had been involved with both state systems. Black, Multi-racial and Latinx youth were more likely to be overrepresented in the numbers of those who were unstably housed. Also 28% of females dealing with housing instability or homelessness reported being pregnant or parenting. Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (2017 September) Youth Homelessness in Suffolk County, MA. Findings from the youth count, brief youth survey and provider survey. Technical report from the Voices of Youth Count Initiative. . Another important

factor that emerged was Boston's plan to eradicate YYA homelessness. Like several cities around the country we used our momentum to plan and collaborate. With public and private funding, Boston developed a plan that successfully competed for a \$4.9 Million YHDP grant. We now have a plan and resources and it is important to Liberty that you our partners take advantage of this opportunity to plan proposals that are aligned to the local work. We want to thank the young adults from Boston's Youth Action Board for their time and effort-- and for personalizing the problem. Now when we see data your faces come to the fore, and society owes you access to a better life. We know that progress will happen when young people feel secure, and that means housing stability, food security, education and employment, and personal connections.

As a result the Foundation is issuing a one-year Request for Proposals (RFP) to address housing instability and other services for teens and young adults. This RFP will build upon the work of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, A Way Home America, the Recommendations of the City of Boston Plan, local Continuums of Care and other area alliances working collaboratively to make youth homelessness, rare brief and non-recurring. We have to positively impact the lives of those ages 14-25 years with this funding, by listening to young people and by forming collaborations between and among youth serving organizations. **Projects that are developed by more than one agency may be given extra priority in funding decisions.**

Applicants may find solutions for youth homelessness by working across various issue areas (education, workforce development, housing, health care, feeding programs, youth development or arts and culture) or by focusing on a single area as long as they tie goals and activities to the city's recommendations. Preference in funding will be given to organizations that have DIRECTLY consulted with young people in the planning of programs and services. Also programs and services that empower diverse groups of youth from varied racial and ethnic backgrounds, and identity groups (LGBTQ) including youth with disabilities will be given high priority for support.

Background:

Over the past four years Liberty Mutual has been making grants nationally to reduce youth homelessness. Since 2014, 57 organizations have received 125 grants totaling \$5.44 million to help address youth homelessness. A federal plan focused on preventing homelessness has been in place since 2010, it is now called "Home, Together", but of all populations that lack housing, youth homelessness has proven hardest to serve. For the past few years young people (ages 14-24) have been 9% of the overall homeless population (Source- the 2016 Housing and Urban Development "point-in-time" count). However, since teens and young adults often double-up or "couch – surf" the magnitude of the problem is hard to quantify; and the reasons for their housing insecurity may vary widely. Parents may be caught up in substance abuse, families may have fallen upon hard times and some family shelters will not allow those over age 16. Some youth age out of foster care without resources, and for other LGBTQ youth family life may be a difficult place in their teen years. However research confirms that interventions need to happen quickly before youth have been out of structured programs or on the streets for too long.

Liberty has been meeting with other funders, activists (such as Funders Together to End Homelessness and A Way Home America) and researchers such as the Chapin Hall staff from Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) to gather data and approaches that will inform local solutions. Fortunately we have a local consulting team Y5 that headed a momentous effort and brought in the voices of young adults with lived experience in the issue. There are statewide and national models centered on preventing youth homelessness in a comprehensive holistic fashion. We are eager to support existing systemic solutions as opposed to funding numerous single approaches.

Based upon the success of last year's funding through this RFP which supported projects in education, housing, job training, education and leadership development, Liberty remains committed to sustainable programming for youth who are experiencing homeless or are unstably housed. Proposed programs and services developed for young people who are in or out-of-school may apply.

Eligibility:

Organizations must be incorporated as 501c3 entities recognized by the Internal Revenue Service or operating under the auspices of a fiscal sponsor. ***For this RFP we are focusing on groups that are located in and are providing services within the City of Boston.***

Organizations that received funding through the Youth Homelessness Prevention RFP issued in December, 2017 must complete a final report for their previous grant by the RFP deadline (see below) in order to be considered for new funding.

Organizations that have already received funding from the Liberty Mutual Foundation in 2018 are not eligible to apply.

Funding and Funding Cycle:

Liberty Mutual Foundation is not limiting the size of requests; however, we anticipate funding up to twenty proposals at an average grant size of \$30,000. Capital grants may be considered but relatively few will be made given the demand on funds. The amount awarded per proposal will depend upon the type, number, and quality of proposals received. Résumés of the two most relevant staff should be uploaded as part of the CyberGrants application process, or emailed to Foundation@LibertyMutual.com.

Due to limited Foundation resources, proposed services and activities may be stronger when they complement existing work of the applicant organization.

Information pertaining to RFP distribution and proposal submission may be found immediately at www.libertymutualfoundation.org.

Selection Criteria:

Organizations will be funded based upon:

1. Alignment of the proposed work with existing recommendations and planning underway in the City of Boston;
2. Clarity of concept and budget alignment, as well as accurate budget information;
3. Managerial track record and ability to implement proposed work (taking into account Impact Reports for prior funded partners);
4. Quality of board and staff;
5. Ability to work with diverse youth, young adults who are LGBTQ, youth with disabilities, low-income and multi-lingual youth;
6. Evidence of a sound plan to meet proposed metrics as defined by one year's activities and to evaluate the work; and
7. Appreciation of the urgency of the work, and strong inclusion of youth voice in planning and execution.

Reporting Requirements:

Funded organizations must complete a "Metrics Verification Report" through CyberGrants soon after grant selection. This report is your opportunity to verify your target metrics and proposal benchmarks; it has a quick turn-around and should only take 30-45 minutes to complete.

- a. Electronic notification about access to the "Impact Report" (or final report) will be made to the grant writer through CyberGrants at about the 11 month mark of the project, before the grant is completed. This final Impact Report should be submitted no later than the deadline noted.

- b. We ask that you acknowledge support from Liberty Mutual in your publicity and public communications; for more in-depth instruction about this facet, and/or to use the Liberty logo please contact the Foundation offices. If using social media, you may use @LibertyMutual.

Key Dates:

- 1) Proposals are due by electronic submission no later than **November 15, 2018 -- 5:00 pm EST**. (please no exceptions as the web site will close).
- 2) The Foundation will hold a conference call on **October 29, 2018 at 1:00 pm EST** to answer any questions.

A separate calendar invitation will be sent with dial-in information and to confirm your attendance

Please click the link in the calendar invitation to the join the call or dial in to:

855-313-5500 (Toll Free) / Conference ID: 6169638

- 3) Funded organizations will be notified no later than **December 15, 2018**.

To Apply:

Organizations must apply through the Liberty Mutual Foundation at www.libertymutualfoundation.org and “Apply for a Grant” using CyberGrants.

RFP applicants must use the invitation code Youth2019.

Questions:

Questions about this request for proposals should be directed to Foundation@LibertyMutual.com