

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Four Guiding Principles were identified as overarching throughout the Plan and the work associated with ending youth homelessness in Northwest Michigan. Those principles, along with the corresponding Action Plan will drive the Northwest Michigan Youth Plan and are listed below.

YOUTH DRIVEN

- ❖ Young people will be equal partners.
- ❖ Youth Advisory Board (YAB) will continue to be supported at its full capacity.
- ❖ Nothing about youth gets decided or acted upon without their active involvement.

PERMANENT CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Create long-term relationships for youth that are supportive and made up of community members that are not agency service providers.
- ❖ Increase the number of advocates in the community who listen, are consistent and can follow through.

EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT

- ❖ Expand existing support services in school setting.
- ❖ Increase the number of youth entering and achieving post-secondary options.
- ❖ Keep youth in jobs.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

- ❖ Services are provided in a respectful way that builds trust.
- ❖ Provide services with trauma-informed care.
- ❖ Increase access to appropriate behavioral and mental health services.
- ❖ Youth achieve age appropriate self-actualization, safely and with basic needs met, becoming the best version of themselves.

Guided by these principles, the following Action Plan was created for ending youth homelessness in Northwest Michigan.