

The Front Door Agency's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program – Redefining the Lives of Young Adults in Greater Nashua

Nashua NH (10/16/2025)- What is the definition of homelessness? Is it as simple as the state of living on the street or in a car? Or as complex as having no choice, but to stay with friends or even strangers?

Homelessness can have many faces, and for a staggering number of young people living in Greater Nashua, they learn this firsthand.

The Front Door Agency's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) aims to help young adults aged 18-24 living in situations of homelessness in Greater Nashua. By providing safe, communal, short-term living, youth are given the resources they need to get back on their feet and onto a path of success. Outside of Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing, assistive services such as case management, phone payments, bill coverage, and grocery funds are provided to other struggling youth in the community who are struggling to maintain their housing situation.

According to the 2024 annual report produced by the New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness, "the number of youth (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness has nearly doubled since 2019, increasing by 87.4%". Only with programs that have targeted this demographic of homeless individuals has the state of New Hampshire begun to document these numbers and discover the widespread crisis of youth in the community.

The idea for the YHDP came from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. They noticed the rising number of youth and young adults living in situations of homelessness in Greater Nashua and reached out to various non-profits to address this overlooked issue. The Front Door was recognized as a leading organization in supporting this demographic and was invited to provide their expertise. Through collaboration and multiple sources of generous grant funding, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program was then born.

When looking across state programs, the Front Door's YHDP is already creating an impact. The structure of Transitional Housing in the program not only guarantees a safe, stable place to live, but provides groundwork for success after the completion of the program. But what exactly does becoming a participant of the Transitional Housing portion of the YHDP mean? This is the breakdown:

Short-Term Housing

- The Front Door provides a safe place to stay for 3–8 months while youth get back on their feet

Help Finding Future Living

- The Front Door helps move participating youth into affordable housing and will support them for up to 2 years afterwards

Support Services Beyond Housing Include:

- Financial literacy & “Ready to Rent” program
- Health & recovery referrals
- Peer support
- Opportunities for higher education & job skill training

These services and opportunities were put together by the Front Door with the goal of arming young adults with skills and tools to craft a better future through a judgement free, supportive network. The Front Door Agency doesn’t just strive to create temporary living situations for youth but puts in motion a chain of events that leads to long-term positive change in their lives.

A standout moment of our YHDP program is the story of Lex:

Lex stayed with friends as long as they were welcome and spent their time continuously moving from couch to couch and home to home as they were unable to afford a place of their own due to a lack of family support and high rental prices. Even while working full time, their lack of reliable transportation and unstable living situation made it impossible to move forward. Lex connected with FDA for several months before officially starting YHDP. Since joining the program, Lex has had multiple promotions at work and is on their way to earning their driver license. We were also able to connect them with our community partners, MyTURN, so that they are able to take some time to assess what they want to do for a long-term, sustainable career, ensuring that they will cultivate success.

Currently, there are 7 youth enrolled and living in the Agency’s Transitional Living Program and 6 youth living independently, in the Rapid Re-Housing Program. The youth in these programs come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, and each have inspiring ideas about where they might want to go on their journey in life. The Front Door

hopes that this housing opportunity gives them the stability to truly chase their dreams and goals.

As it's often said, the youth are our future. A future that the Front Door Agency's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program is determined to make bright.

About the Front Door Agency

The Front Door Agency, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that invests in New Hampshire individuals and families as they transition from crisis to self-sufficiency by providing a hands-up opportunity to those at risk of homelessness. Through our four core programs, we invest in those who need assistance with basic needs by providing direction and educational opportunities as they transition from crisis to sustainable independence. To learn more, visit www.frontdooragency.org.