



For Immediate Release

RAYNIER INSTITUTE & FOUNDATION COMMITS NEARLY \$8 MILLION IN GRANTS TO END CYCLE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Seattle Organizations YouthCare and ROOTS Benefit and Collaborate to Create Catalyst, a Model For Ending Youth Homelessness

Seattle (Feb. 4, 2010) – The Raynier Institute & Foundation, a private operating foundation that funds causes of a charitable nature, has awarded \$7.75 million to two Seattle-based organizations serving homeless youth. The grants will fill gaps in current services offered to Seattle’s homeless youth and fund *Catalyst For Change, a Model For Ending Youth Homelessness*, which was developed in collaboration with YouthCare, an organization serving homeless and at-risk youth, and ROOTS, an organization that delivers critical services to homeless young adults.

“With this investment the Raynier Institute & Foundation is focusing on providing the specialized interventions needed to create stability for homeless youth,” said Jeff Hauser, executive director of the Raynier Institute & Foundation. “Our founder, James Widener Ray, was passionate about supporting human services and we know he would be proud of our decision to help create a better future for Seattle’s young homeless population.”

YouthCare will receive \$2.1 million over three years to retire its mortgage on the Orion Center, the organization’s drop-in center for youth, which will soon be known as the James W. Ray Orion Center. In addition, the organization will receive \$1.5 million over five years to create 12 additional emergency shelter beds at the Orion Center. As a condition of the grants, beginning in 2011, YouthCare will allocate at least \$150,000 in its annual operating budget for the operation of the new emergency shelter.

“We’re excited about what these grants will mean to Seattle’s homeless youth,” said Melinda Giovengo, Ph.D, executive director of YouthCare. “It is our challenge to end their cycle of homelessness by providing shelter, educational support, life skills training and health care. With Raynier’s commitment to the cause, we are optimistic that we can help provide stability and positive outcomes to those who need it most.”

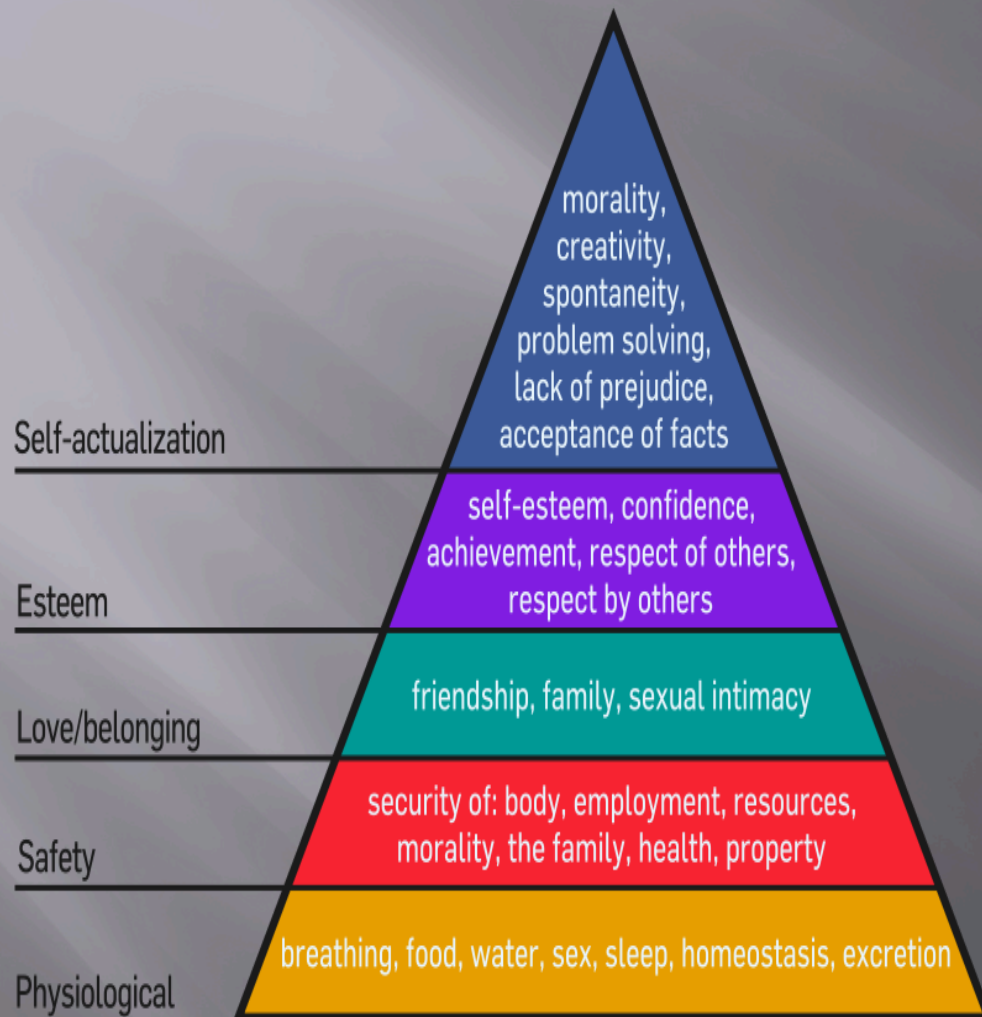
ROOTS, the only shelter in Seattle that exclusively serves young adults (age 18-25), will receive \$1.5 million over ten years. The grant will underwrite operation of the ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, allowing the program to continue operating its facility seven nights per week and to maintain a capacity of 25 beds for those in need. The grant also allows for capital improvements at its current location or for the funding of a new location, if needed.

The Raynier Institute & Foundation has also granted the two organizations \$2.1 million over eight years toward a collaboration to develop, operate and evaluate *Catalyst For Change, a Model For Ending Youth Homelessness*, a local initiative designed to give stability and services to the most marginalized homeless youth and to prevent homeless young people from becoming chronically homeless adults. Conceptualized by ROOTS and operated by YouthCare, the *Catalyst for Change* program provides round-the-clock supervision, educational support, life skills training, mental health counseling and employment support. In March 2009, *Catalyst for Change* began providing medium-term (up to six months) transitional housing to high-need, high-barrier young adults, many of whom suffer from chemical dependency or untreated mental illness. The program currently operates out of YouthCare's Straley House in Seattle.

"Our shelter program expanded from three nights a week to seven nights in 2004, yet the number of beds available to serve the growing number of homeless youth has remained consistent," said Sinan Demirel, Ph.D., executive director of ROOTS. "We will have turned away more than 1,500 youth from our shelter this year alone, but with the grant from Raynier and the new collaboration with YouthCare, we expect that number to decrease substantially over the next eight years."

According to the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County, there are more than 400 youth and young adults living on the streets of King County at any given time, yet it is widely accepted that many homeless young people are not counted. Service providers estimate that approximately 2,000 young people experience homelessness in King County during the course of a year. A 2007 study conducted by the National Symposium on Homelessness Research determined that 93 percent of youth who received services during their experiences with homelessness were not homeless five years later, and 75 percent of youth who received emergency services for housing when first homeless returned to their homes. These figures demonstrate that early intervention can cost-effectively break the cycle of homelessness, but many homeless youth most in need of assistance are incompatible with traditional housing programs due to challenges that often include chemical dependency, untreated mental illness and histories of violence and abuse. For this reason, specialized interventions such as the *Catalyst* program that provide stability and intensive services for these youth are needed in order to allow them to access more traditional services in the long term.

Model of Care Based on Developmental Needs



**Maslow Hierarchy of
Needs**

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE HOUSING
Trusted in community, opportunity to grow toward independence

LONG TERM TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
Creates an external sense of order through rules and expectations, ability to be successful and feel competent

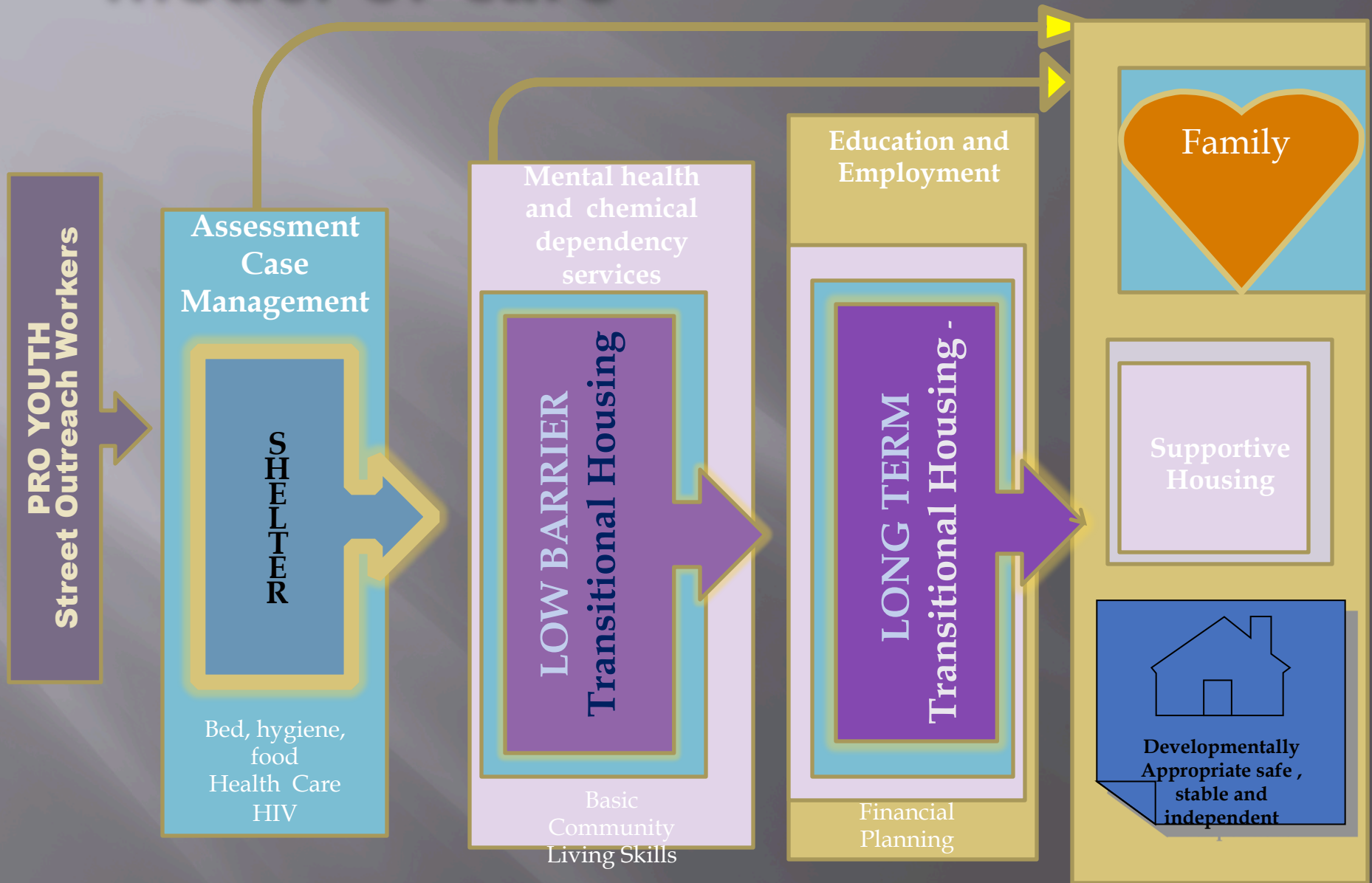
LOW BARRIER TRANSITIONAL
Living with peers, group rule setting. Group process on house management, negotiation of living spaces, ability to make friends and overcome differences, support to negotiate family relationships

SHELTER
Basic health care, ability to earn small amounts of income, ability to collect and own things (like clothes, shoes, CD players)

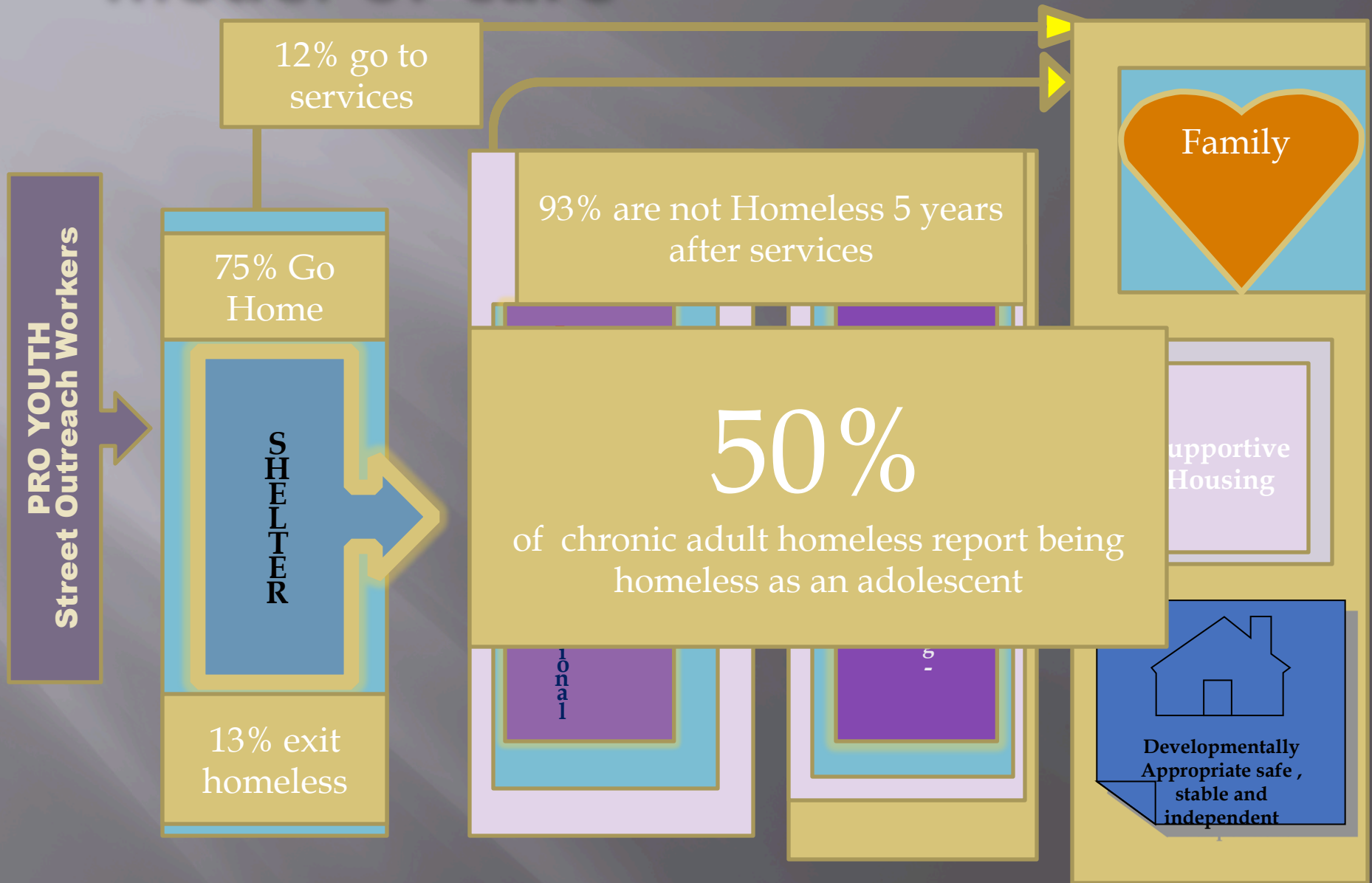
OUTREACH
Targets high-barrier youth: provides basic physical needs (a bed, bathroom, food and clothing)

**Model of Care to End Youth
Homelessness**

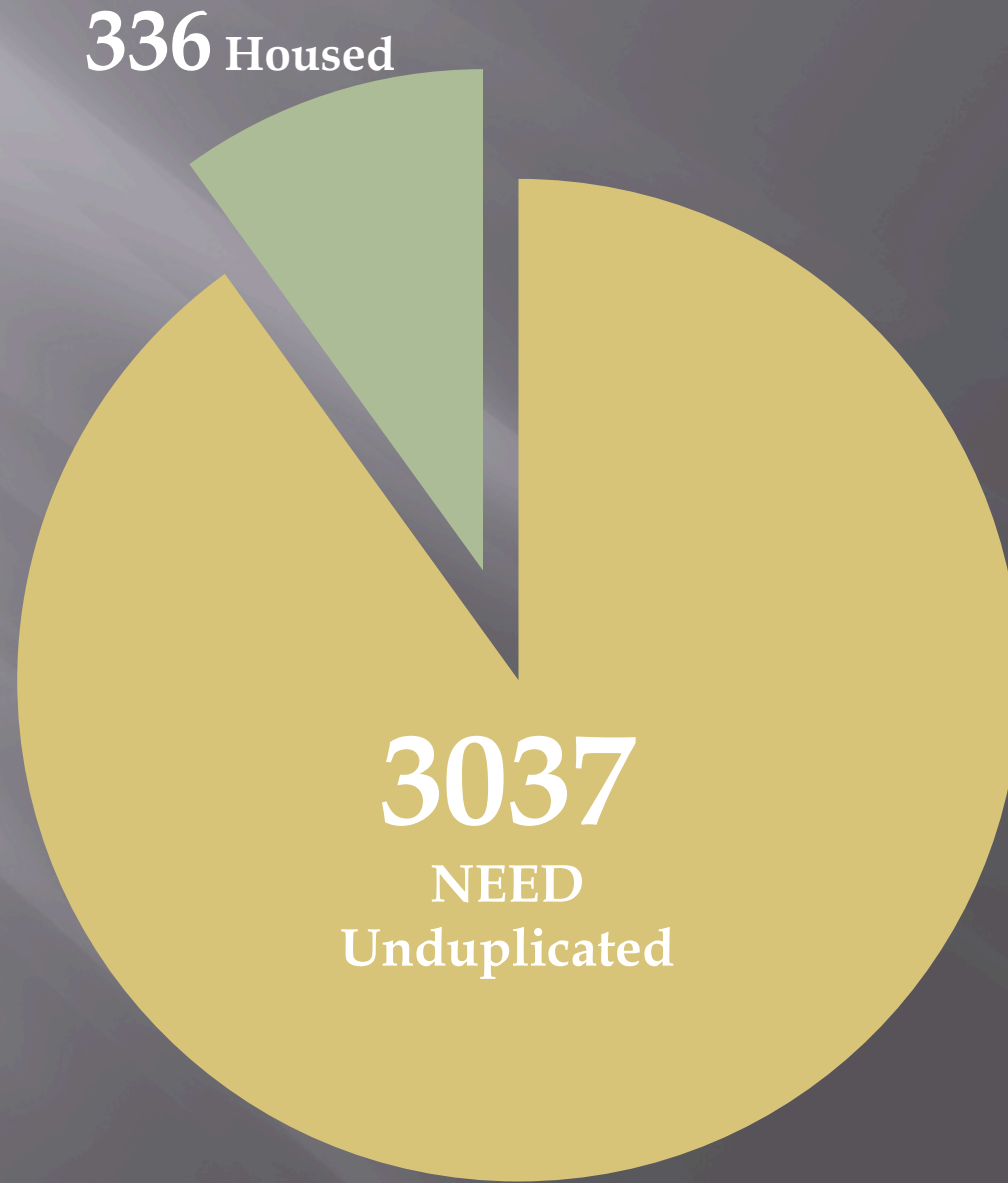
model of care



model of care



UNMET NEED YouthCare 2009



ROOTS

443 unduplicated young adults served in 2009

1761 Turn Aways

