

CoC FL-507 Youth Workgroup

AGENDA
February 12, 2019

- I. Introductions
- II. Updates – Youth Action Society of Central Florida
- III. Updates
 - Point-in-Time Count
 - YHDP
 - February CoC Meeting presentation
- IV. Presentation – School-based Interventions
Cindy Sawyer, Orange County Public Schools
 - Geelong Project: <https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/using-an-idea-from-australia-seattle-could-try-to-end-youth-homelessness-before-it-begins/>
- V. Presentation – Host Home Program
Dawn Haynes, Community Resource Network
Leonard Bass, Valencia College
- VI. Future Meetings/Invites
 - *March – overlap with RRH for Youth Learning Collaborative*
 - Continue to identify potential collaborators/stakeholders, and reach out to include

Next meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2019 at 1 PM

Possible Homeless Intervention Topics for Strategy Research*:

1. Prevention
 - a. Family Resiliency
 - b. Supporting Foster Care Transitions
 - c. School-based ✓ *Cynthia Sawyer, Orange County Public Schools (2/12/19)*
 - d. Supporting Juvenile Justice, Adult Correctional Transitions
2. Identification and Early Intervention
 - a. Mobile Outreach
 - b. Drop-in Centers ✓ *Kristy Lukaszewski, CFL Commission on Homelessness (10/9/18)*
 - c. Family Preservation ✓ *Tina Morgan, DCF (11/13/18)*
3. Emergency & Crisis Response
 - a. Youth Shelters ✓ *Anne Lee, Covenant House Florida (12/11/18)*
 - b. Other Emergency Services
 - c. Host Homes ✓ *Gabriell Rush, Youth Action Society of Central Florida (8/10/18)*
 - d. Transitional Housing ✓ *Cheryl Distler, Faine House (12/11/18)*
 - e. Rapid Re-housing ✓ *Heather Wilkie, Zebra Coalition (11/13/18)*
 - f. Non-time-limited Supportive Housing

*From *Ending Youth Homelessness Guidebook Series: Promising Program Models*

CoC Youth Work Group

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 1pm at HSN

- Introductions: Angela Davies, Cynthia Sawyer, Dawn Haynes, Felipe Rodriguez, Heather Wilke, Heidi Sical, Jason Lietz, Katrese Hampton, Keri Flynn, Leonard Bass, Rebecca Leininger, Reggie Payne, Tina Morgan, Yulissa Santana, Eric Olin, Erica Astacio, Laura Mercado, Lisa Portelli, Danika Hansen, Alexia Guevara
- Updates from YAS: New meeting location, Business cards and logo created, lost one member and Gabby Rush on vacation from YAS
- Updates from PIT: Overall great work, new connections, updated maps, many volunteers across the region. Youth PIT: 10-11 volunteers, funding provided, learned a lot for next year
- Updates on YHDP: No update, application still not released
- February CoC Meeting Presentation (2/26)
 - Update on research, host home project, framework, sharing best practices, PIT, YHDP, development of YAS
 - Celebrate milestones
 - Update to CoC Board
 - Single presenter, YAS involvement, or group presentation??
- Unaccompanied Youth in OCPS by Cindy Sawyer
 - McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - Children who lack fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence
 - Guardianship issues alone is not homeless
 - Homeless youth have educational rights
 - Immediate enrollment, school stability and school selection
 - Free meals
 - Transportation
 - Educational services
 - Supplies, clothes, cap and gown fees, class fees, ACT/SAT waivers, verifications letter for Florida Tuition Fee waiver, Verification letter for Federal financial Aid
 - School attendance Incentive: attend school every day each month and student gets \$15.00 gift card for 11th and 12th grade.
 - Actually serves as incentive for youth to attend school!
 - Medical Care
 - Form that authorizes unaccompanied homeless youth age 16 and above to consent to: medical, dental, psychological, substance abuse, and surgical diagnosis and treatment.
 - Community Resources
 - Youth 16-18 may sign their own SSI application if:
 - They are mentally competent
 - Have no court appointed representative
 - Are not in the care of another person or institution
 - Unaccompanied Homeless Youth can apply for SNAP (food stamp) benefits.
 - Social Security Survivor Benefits- Direct payments can be made to a youth under 18 if:

- Living alone and supporting himself or herself
 - Capable of using the benefits to provide for his or her current needs and no qualified payee is available
 - Within 7 months of attaining age 18 and is initially filing an application for benefits
 - Benefits automatically transfer to youth on 18th birthday
- Pilot Project for Host Homes Program by Dawn Haynes and Leonard Bass
 - Providing short- term housing for unstably housed college students
 - Central Florida partnership between high education institutions and the faith community
 - PURPOSE: Connect unstably housed college students with families in the community willing to offer short- term accommodations-
 - ELIGIBILITY: precariously housed or homeless, 18-24 years old, must be able to maintain school enrollment while enrolled in the host homes program, students must maintain part- time work (20 hours), east orange campus, no more than 30 served at one time
 - GOALS: safe and stable housing, offer support services, create optimal learning environment, mobilize faith community, invest in our community through talent development, help student become productive members
 - CRN PROJECT ACTIVITIES: recruit coordinator, intake and assessment, matching strategy, recruit families, background checks, marketing, charter or terms of use, application
 - VALENCIA PROJECT ACTIVITIES: Counseling, Financial literacy, Savings Account, Coordinator, application, background check, website
 - YAS Feedback: Safety and well- being, Matching process is critical, Training or financial support, level of support, LGBTQ and “faith based” perception
 - Next Steps: MoU, create program plan, Steering committee, secure grant for 2 program positions: college coordinator and CRN coordinator
 - TARGET LAUNCH: Fall 2019
 - QUESTIONS: how long is short- term?
- Future Meeting/Invites
 - Tuesday 3/12/2019 at 1pm
 - City of Orlando Grant: Community investment program closes 3/29
 - Next meeting will be Q&A on host home program and conversation about Australia program that is coming to Seattle as pilot program.
 - Next meeting will end early and those who wish to participate in the following webinar:

RRH for Youth Learning Collaborative Webinar

<https://endhomelessness.org/youth-rapid-re-housing-rise-join-us-learn-2019/>



State Laws on Minor Consent for Housing and Related Services¹

Several state legislatures have recognized that unaccompanied homeless youth under age 18 need legal rights to access housing, shelter and other basic services. Below is a summary of such state laws, including recently enacted legislation in Wyoming.²

Laws Empowering Minors Experiencing Homelessness to Enter into Contracts

Missouri Rev Stat §431.056 (2000)

A youth age 16 or 17 who is homeless or a victim of domestic violence and who is self-supporting (without physical or financial support of a parent or legal guardian) can contract for housing, employment, purchase of an automobile, receipt of a student loan, admission to high school or postsecondary school, obtaining medical care, establishing a bank account, admission to a shelter, and receipt of services as a victim of domestic violence or sexual abuse, including but not limited to counseling, court advocacy, financial assistance, and other advocacy services. The youth's parent or legal guardian must have consented to the youth living independently, but consent can be implied by the simple act of forcing the youth out of the home, refusing to provide financial support to the youth, or abuse or neglect.

Oregon Rev. Stat. §109.697 (1993)

A youth age 16 or 17, or any youth who is pregnant or parenting and living with his or her child, can contract for a residential dwelling unit and utility services, if the youth is living apart from a parent or legal guardian.

Wyoming HB 159 (2017)

A youth age 16 or 17 who is homeless, managing his or her own financial affairs and living separate from parents can obtain his or her birth certificate and contract for housing, employment, purchase of a motor vehicle, receipt of a student loan, admission

¹ This document does not address consent for health care.

² Please contact Patricia Julianelle at patricia@schoolhouseconnection.org to share information about other state laws allowing minors to consent for housing or shelter.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

BARRIERS FOR YOUTH SEEKING TO OBTAIN ID (BY STATE)

		Parent/Guardian consent required (under 18 unless noted)	Does not offer fee waivers for individuals experiencing homelessness	School-issued documents not accepted as Proof of Identity or Proof of Residency	Proof of Residency required	Requires Photo ID to Obtain Birth Certificate	Age Restriction to Apply for Birth Certificate (18+ unless otherwise noted)
Alabama	AL		•				
Alaska	AK		•		•	•	
Arizona	AZ	•				•	•
Arkansas	AR	•	•			•	
California	CA			•		•	
Colorado	CO	•	•	•	•	•	
Connecticut	CT				•	•	•
Delaware	DE	•	•		•	•	
District of Columbia	DC				•	•	
Florida	FL				•	•	•
Georgia	GA	•			•	•	
Hawai'i	HI	•			•	•	
Idaho	ID		•		•	•	
Illinois	IL				•	•	•
Indiana	IN		•	•	•	•	•
Iowa	IA	•	•		•	•	•
Kansas	KS	•	•		•	•	•
Kentucky	KY	•	•	•	•		
Louisiana	LA	•	•			•	
Maine	ME		•		•	•	
Maryland	MD	•			•	•	
Massachusetts	MA	•	•			•	
Michigan	MI				•	•	•
Minnesota	MN		•		•	•	
Mississippi	MS		•	•	•	•	

Non-photo ID also accepted. See application for list of allowable ID.

TRAFFIC ALERT
City Metro running more bus routes today – but not every route

a from Australia, Seattle could try to end youth homelessness before it begins

December 31, 2018 at 5:00 am *Updated December 31, 2018 at 4:13 pm*

Importing the Geelong Project

Starting next fall, Seattle may replicate a program from the Australian city of Geelong that aims to prevent students from ever becoming homeless. In Geelong, the program reduced the number of students entering the homeless system by 40 percent.



Source: Esri

EMILY M. ENG / THE SEATTLE TIMES

In response to rising youth homelessness across the Puget Sound region, Seattle may soon import a program from Australia that in one city reduced the number of students entering the homeless system by 40 percent.



By [Neal Morton](#) 

Seattle Times staff reporter

What if, instead of trying to end [youth homelessness](#), we could prevent it from ever happening?

A new approach that starts with that question to tackle a growing and ubiquitous problem in the Puget Sound region could soon come to Seattle, making it one of the first U.S. cities to import this idea from Australia.

The tactic comes from Geelong (pronounced Jee-long), an Australian city about an hour southwest of Melbourne. Starting in 2013, a trio of schools there have screened all students for their risk of entering the homeless system or leaving school before 12th grade. The schools then connected students at greater risk with the public and nonprofit agencies that could provide services — rental assistance, mentorship, counseling — to keep them and their families housed, and out of streets, tents and shelters.



[Education Lab](#) is a Seattle Times project that spotlights promising approaches to persistent challenges in public education. It is produced in partnership with the [Solutions Journalism Network](#) and is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and City University of Seattle.

• [Find out more about Education Lab](#) 

Backed by a [\\$1.2 million seed grant](#), the so-called Geelong Project has since reduced the number of youth entering the homeless system there by 40 percent, according to [an interim report](#) issued earlier this year. The number of students leaving school before the 12th grade dropped at the three pilot schools by 20 percent.

Now, the Raikes Foundation — a [Seattle-based nonprofit](#) dedicated to ending youth homelessness — recently approved a roughly \$160,000 grant to study what it would take for the Emerald City to host one of the first sites for the Geelong Project's expansion to the U.S.

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EMILY M. ENG / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Across Washington state, the number of students living without stable housing climbed [nearly 34 percent](#) between 2012 and 2017. At 81 percent, the rise in student homelessness was even starker in Seattle Public Schools.

Casey Trupin, program officer for the Raikes Foundation’s youth homelessness strategy, said it would be “a game-changer, nationally,” if Seattle could test a pilot of the Geelong Project.

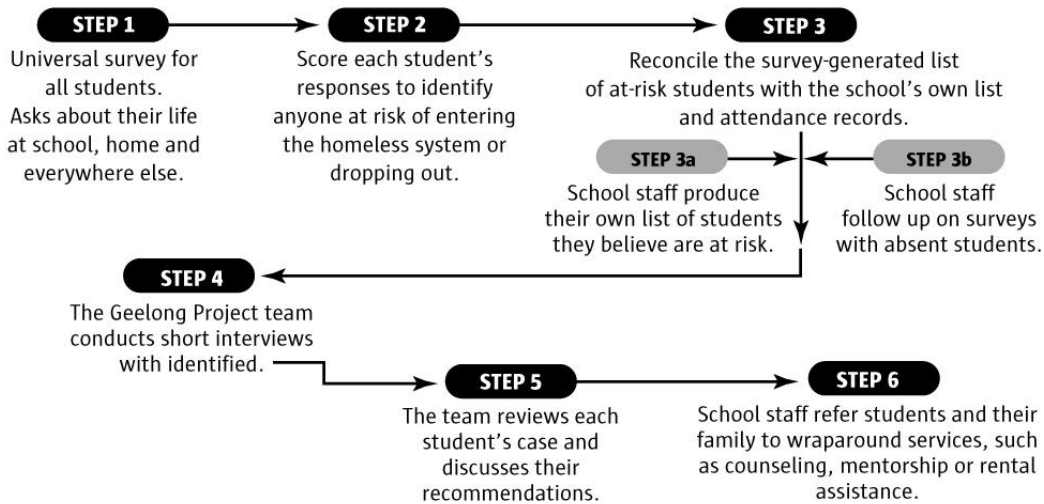
“We strongly believe that we’re not going to end youth homelessness without actually keeping young people from coming into homelessness in the first place,” Trupin said in a phone interview.

(The Raikes Foundation provides financial support for [the Project Homeless initiative](#) at The Seattle Times.)

In Geelong, the questionnaire used at the three pilot schools surveys each student about their home life, including where they slept the previous night; how many times, if ever, they have left home to stay with friends or relatives; if they feel happy or safe at home; and whether they or their families had enough money to buy food. Each student’s responses are then scored for relative risk of becoming homeless or dropping out. Students with greater risk are interviewed and referred to wraparound services if needed.

Preventing student homelessness before it begins

In the Australian city of Geelong, three schools survey every student to gauge their risk of entering the homeless system or dropping out. A team then interviews the students most at risk and refers them to wraparound services if needed.



Source: The Geelong Project

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

ADVERTISING



Already, four schools in Ontario, Canada, have imported the Geelong model in a pilot that officials there dubbed [the Upstream Project](#). Early screenings found 3 percent of more than 2,600 participating students are at risk of entering Ontario's homeless system last school year.

At least one other city in the U.S. has expressed interest in the Geelong Project and will likely start using the survey at two to four schools this academic year, according to Matt Morton, a [research fellow with Chapin Hall](#) at the University of Chicago. As part of the Raikes Foundation grant, Morton will oversee the planning phase in Seattle over the next 10 months.

Ultimately, he'll study whether the Seattle school district's and the city's wide array of public agencies and homeless-service providers have the ability and financial backing to fully support a pilot of the Geelong Project starting next school year.

Morton said Seattle already has a lot going for it, at least in terms of the resources the community provides around youth homelessness. What's missing, he said, is a centralized network to connect youth at risk of entering the homeless system with those services they need to avoid that trauma.

"It really does shift the way we talk about addressing this challenge in a very substantive way," Morton said. "It's amazing that Seattle is going to be a front-runner in shifting that paradigm."

Daniel Zavala oversees policy and strategic communications for [Building Changes](#), a Seattle-based nonprofit that works to reduce youth and family homelessness in Washington state. (Building Changes receives financial support from the Raikes Foundation, as well as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which supports Education Lab).

While Zavala said it's too early to tell whether the Geelong Project would work in Seattle, Zavala said there's likely local support to try something on the front end to reduce [student homelessness here](#).

"It's not an issue that's going to go away on its own," Zavala said.

"Right now we have the public appetite and political will around the issue, but we also happen to have the funding available," he said, referencing the wide margin of support in [last month's election](#) for the city of Seattle's new education levy. That levy will provide [about \\$4.2 million](#) to address the rising number of homeless students in Seattle.

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Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Cindy Sawyer, LCSW

2-12-19



**Orange County
Public Schools**

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

Fixed (*stationary, permanent, not subject to change*)

Regular (*predictable, routine, nightly basis*)

Adequate (*sufficient to meet physical and psychological needs*)

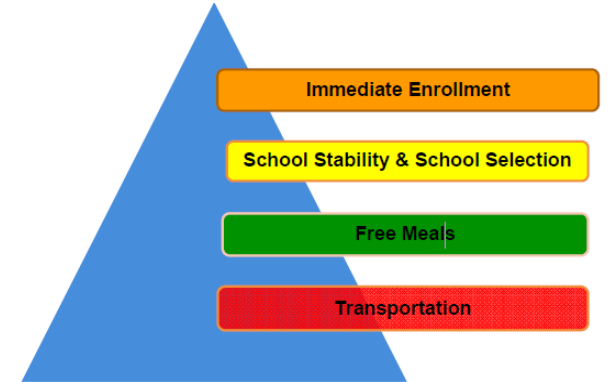
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- For any child or youth, including an unaccompanied child or youth, to be eligible for McKinney-Vento services, his/her living arrangement must meet the McKinney-Vento definition of *homeless*
- **Unaccompanied:** The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a **homeless child or youth** not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Pub. L. No. 114-95, § 9105(a)(3), 129 Stat. 2137
- A guardianship issue alone (without homelessness) does not convey McKinney-Vento eligibility



Educational Rights

- **Immediate Enrollment**
 - Even if missing documentation
- **School Stability and School Selection**
 - School of origin or zoned school
- **Free Meals**
 - Even without a meals application
- **Transportation**
 - To the school of origin; 2 or more miles





Educational Services



- Transportation to school of origin or zoned school if more than 2 miles.
- School Supplies
- School Clothing through the Kids' Closet
- Cap/Gown Fees
- Class Fees
- ACT/SAT Fee Waivers
- Verification Letter for Federal Financial Aid
- Verification Letter for Florida Tuition Fee waiver



School Attendance Incentive

- Pre-Identified 11th and 12th grade homeless unaccompanied youth
- Attend school everyday each month
- Student earns gift card





Medical Care



- CS/SB-260- (Effective July 1, 2014) Florida
- Authorizing unaccompanied homeless youths age 16 and above to consent to: - medical, dental, psychological, substance abuse, and surgical diagnosis and treatment.



Community Resources

- As of July 1, 2012 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth ages 16-18 can apply for their Florida birth certificate without their parent's consent.
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth can apply for SNAP (food stamp) benefits.
- Youth 16-18 may sign their own SSI application if:
 - They are mentally competent
 - Have no court appointed representative
 - Are not in the care of another person or institution.

Community Resources

- Social Security Survivor Benefits- Direct payments can be made to a youth under 18 if:
 - Living alone and supporting himself or herself
 - Capable of using the benefits to provide for his or her current needs and no qualified payee is available
 - Within 7 months of attaining age 18 and is initially filing an application for benefits
 - Benefits automatically transfer to youth on 18th birthday

Resources

National Center for Homeless Education

www.serve.org/nche

School House Connection

www.schoolhouseconnection.org

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

www.naehcy.org

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

www.nlchp.org

Orange County Public Schools McKinney-Vento Program

www.homeless.ocps.net

National Network for Youth

www.nn4youth.org



COMMUNITY RESOURCE
NETWORK

VALENCIA COLLEGE

Host Homes Pilot Project

Continuum of Care Meeting

Presenters: Dawn Haynes & Leonard Bass

February 12, 2019





Providing short-term housing for unstably housed college students.

A Central Florida partnership between higher education institutions and the faith community.



Addressing a critical need in our community

Overall situation in Central Florida:

- Families: 2018 ALICE Report: tri-county families poverty + ALICE:
Total: 341,160 households (220,202 + 55,614 + 65,344).
- School children: 2017-18 school year tri-country schools data:
 - almost 10,000 students self-reported as homeless.
 - 501 self-reported as unaccompanied youth.
- Youth: 2017 Voices of Youth Count: 268 youth / one night.



Addressing a critical need in our community

2018 Wisconsin Hope Lab study is the largest national survey assessing the basic needs security of college students. The report included:

- 43,000 students at 66 institutions.
- In 20 states and the District of Columbia.
- Including over 20,000 students at 35 4-year colleges and universities, as well as students at community colleges.

Findings:

1. 36% of university students were food insecure in the 30 days preceding the survey. This year's estimate for community college students is 42%, but our larger study last year found 56%.
2. 36% of university students were housing insecure in the last year. Housing insecurity affected 51% of community college students in last year's study, and 46% in this year's study. 9% of university students were homeless in the last year.
3. In comparison, 12% of community college students were homeless in this year's survey, and 14% in last year's survey (2017).



Addressing a critical need in our community

Valencia College

- At Valencia College, between 300-400 students annually report a homeless status, but only approximately 50 are able to provide the mandated federal and state documentation required to receive financial support.
- Valencia does not currently offer residential services to its students.
- College is seeing an increase in the number of unstably housed students – strategic partnerships with Covenant House / Central-Care Mission, etc. illustrate community partnership.



Purpose

Connect unstably housed college students with families in the community willing to offer short-term accommodations.



Eligibility

- Precariously housed or homeless students. Students enrolled at Valencia, either full-time / part-time, credit-bearing or technical programs.
- Age eligibility would be 18-24 (unaccompanied youth).
- Must be able to maintain enrollment while enrolled in the Host Homes program.
- Students must have a minimum of part-time employment (20 hours/wk).
- Number of students served will not exceed 30 for the pilot program.



Project goals

- Provide safe and stable housing for college students in Central Florida.
- Offer support services to ensure degree completion.
- Create optimal learning environment in local colleges.
- Address issues of economic insecurity.
- Mobilize the faith community to help break the cycle of poverty for disadvantaged students in Central Florida.
- Invest in our community through talent development.
- Help students become productive members of society.



Project activities

Community Resource Network (CRN)

- Identify and **recruit Coordinator** for CRN for the Host Homes program.
- Create **intake and assessment** forms for families and students.
- Develop a **matching strategy** and process for families and students.
- **Recruit families** to participate in the Host Homes program.
- Conduct **background checks** for families.
- **Marketing** to the Faith Community to scale Host Homes program.
- Create a **charter** for the families and students interested in participating in the program; outlining expectations of each.
- Create **application** for host families.



Project activities

Valencia College

- **Counseling support:** assigned to an academic / counselor for monitoring and mentoring.
- Enroll, attend and complete a **Financial Literacy course** with a "C" or higher.
- Establish a **Savings Account** (possible CFE Partnership).
- Identify and recruit a **Coordinator** for college activities for the Host Homes program.
- Create **application** form for students.
- Conduct **background** checks for students.
- Launch **website** for students to apply for the Host Homes program.
- Match/pair eligible students with host families through CRN.



YAS feedback

- The **safety and well-being** of students and families main priority/concern.
 - Thorough **screening** of **host families, and students** prior to placement.
 - **Regular wellness checks** should be completed for families and students.
 - Conduct a **mental health evaluation** to ensure students are not a threat to themselves and others.
 - Look for potential “triggers caused by family dynamics”.
- **Matching process** is critical. Should include:
 - Thorough pairing criteria.
 - Pre-meeting of families/students.
 - Setting of expectations.
 - Rules of engagement; guidelines for participation for both parties.
- What level of **training or financial support** is being offered to the family?
 - Families will receive appropriate education from CRN.
 - No monetary compensation is being offered.



YAS feedback (cont'd)

- What level of support is being offered to students:
 - Students will receive supportive services from the College (i.e. transportation vouchers, learning support, counseling, financial aid, etc.).
- Concern was raised about students identifying as LGBTQ. Describing the host families as “faith-based” may dissuade students from the LGBTQ community from participating. YAS was advised CRN’s definition of “faith” includes all faiths, including agnostic and atheist.
- The selection criteria was also discussed:
 - Program is designed to assist currently enrolled students whose main challenge to degree completion is unstable housing.
 - Homeless youth with extensive needs (mental health, addiction, pregnancy etc.) will be directed to agencies equipped with resources to assist.
 - Matching will drive placement.
 - Faculty/staff/peers should direct eligible students to a website to apply:
 - Do not “out” students.
 - Refrain from submitting referrals or applying on behalf of the student.



Next steps

- Create MoU for pilot project participants (i.e. CRN / Valencia College).
- Create program plan (College Workplan) and follow college approval process.
- Secure Grant to fund (2) Project Coordinators for program support
 - College Coordinator
 - CRN Coordinator
- Develop Steering Committee to guide and inform program (i.e. Student Affairs, and Academic Affairs).
- Valencia College to establish support services for participants in the Host Homes pilot.
- Identify Faculty/Staff partners, and other key stakeholders to create a support network for Project Coordinators.
- Develop website for student recruitment.
- Create application for students and families (students will submit an academic/economic plan prior to placement).
- Research, design and implement education program for families.
- Research, develop and utilize matching process for students and families.



For more information

Project Development Team

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- **Leonard Bass, Dean** – Valencia College East/Winter Park Campus
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 - 701 N. Econlockhatchee Tr. Orlando, FL 32825