

Housing Stability for Youth in Courts




“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.


What is H-SYNC?

Housing Stability for Youth in Courts

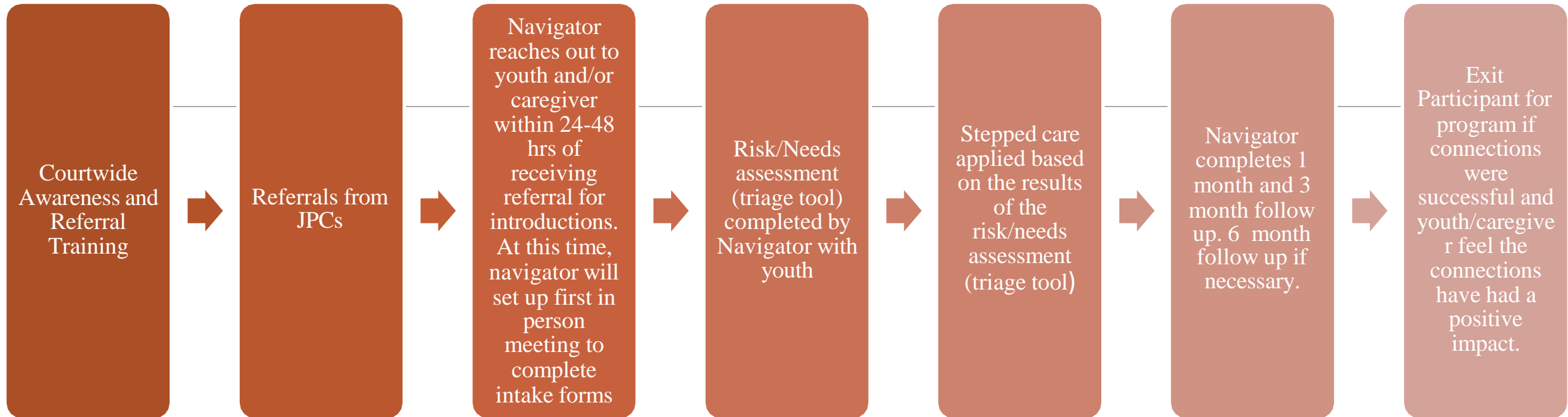
- Created by UW's CoLab in 2019.
 - Housing Stability for Youth in Courts (H-SYNC) is a prevention program that represents a state-wide partnership between juvenile courts and local social service providers. The goal of the program is to prevent youth homelessness by utilizing the juvenile court as a pivotal triage point to identify and refer youth and their families to appropriate supportive services, which can include family-based prevention services for those at risk of experiencing homelessness and for those currently experiencing homelessness.
 - In H-SYNC, families receive free support from a trained community services Navigator who has in-depth knowledge of resources in your area.
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Why H-SYNC?

Research shows that more than 75% of youth experiencing homelessness will have contact with the police, that more than 50% will be arrested, and that 40% of youth screened for court services had a history of housing instability. Thus, the H-SYNC prevention model aims to take advantage of this critical connection point, using routine data flags that already exist in court processes, to identify and automatically refer youth and their families to services tailored to their particular needs. Referrals based on data flags ensure that youth who are risk of homelessness, but who may not show obvious externalizing signs, don't fall through the cracks.



Process of the HS YNC Program



No Need	Low Need	Moderate Need	High Need	Currently Unhoused
*Close case	*Telehealth support services *Phone consultations *Parent coaching	*Selective preventative programs (e.g. Strengthening Families, Guiding Good Choices)	*In home interventions, (e.g. Family Functional Therapy, Multidisciplinary Wraparound Teams)	*McKinney Vento services *Foster care services *Coordinated care through local shelter agencies *Civil legal services

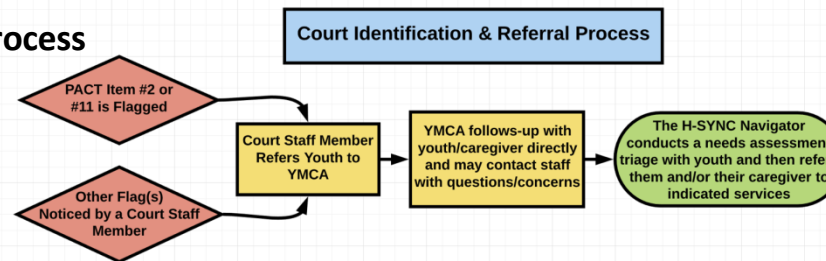


H-SYNC Court Staff Cheat Sheet

Overview of H-SYNC

H-SYNC is a prevention program that represents a state-wide partnership between juvenile courts, local social service providers, and the University of Washington. The goal of the program is to prevent youth homelessness by utilizing the juvenile court as a pivotal triage point to identify and refer youth and their families in need to appropriate services, including referrals to family-based prevention services for those *at risk of* experiencing homelessness as well as referrals for those *currently experiencing* homelessness.

Overview of youth identification and referral process



- a. The Navigator receives youth referrals directly from court staff (i.e. a JPC).
- b. Court staff members should refer all youth who are flagged based on two PACT items as well as any youth they think may be at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.
 - i. Referrals can be made by sending a completed referral form via e-mail, by calling the Navigator, or by meeting with the Navigator in person (see contact information above). A referral sheet is needed for all youth.
 - ii. **NOTE: Referrals should be made within 24 hours of identification**, but referrals can be made throughout the youth's court involvement.
- a. Navigator will follow-up directly with the youth and may contact court staff for follow-up questions/concerns.



PACT responses that should always result in a referral

<p>2. History of running away or getting kicked out of home: Include times the minor did not voluntarily return within 24 hours, and include incidents not reported by or to law enforcement.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No history of running away or being kicked out</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> 1 instance of running away/kicked out</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 2 to 3 instances of running away/kicked out</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 4 to 5 instances of running away/kicked out</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Over 5 instances of running away/kicked out</p>
<p>11. Level of conflict between parents, between minor and parents, among siblings:</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Some conflict that is well managed</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Verbal intimidation, yelling, heated arguments</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Threats of physical abuse</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Domestic violence: physical/sexual abuse</p>

Other flags we strongly encourage court staff to refer based on

- a. If a youth complains of the level of fighting or hostility in the home.
- b. If you learn a youth is *currently unhoused* or is unstably housed outside of the PACT
 - i. **Examples:** You find out the youth is living with a friend or family member that is not their immediate guardian, living on the street, living in a homeless shelter, living in a temporary treatment facility, has no current address, etc.
- c. If you learn a youth is *at risk of becoming unhoused* or unstably housed outside of the PACT
 - i. **Examples:** Youth has high interpersonal conflict in their family, family is about to be evicted, etc.



H-SYNC Navigator Court Referral Form – YMCA of Greater Seattle

Navigator Contact: Sheala Anderson | shealaanderson@seattleyymca.org |

Instructions: Fill out the below referral sheet for each youth and email document to: shealaanderson@seattleyymca.org

Name of Youth	Contact Information for Youth (phone #, email, Facebook, address, etc.)	Preferred Contact Method	Date of Birth	ROI on File
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Name of Guardian	Contact Information for Guardian (phone #, Facebook, address, etc.)	Name/Contact of Referral Source	JUV#	Comments
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Reason for Referral - Check all that apply as reported by youth or discovered during interviews/interactions:

- Youth is being referred due to PACT flag.
- Youth is being restricted from home by a guardian (kicked out).
- Conflict, violence, and or abuse between two or more people living in the home (may or may not involve criminal charges).
- Youth or siblings are living with friends/relatives who are not guardians (couch surfing).
- Youth or family is unhoused (on the streets, in a car, in a shelter, etc...).
- Family is at risk of eviction.
- Youth is releasing from detention and caregivers unable/unwilling to pick up.
- Youth has a history of running away.
- Other:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Comments:
Click or tap here to enter text.

- **If yes, is it ok to text or leave a voicemail?** Yes to both No to both Only text is ok Only voicemail is ok