

YSB Community Services

Housing and homelessness

It is estimated that there are **65,000 homeless youth** across Canada, although this number could be higher since many youth are not counted. Last year, **YSB served over 1500 youth who are homeless** or at risk of being homeless and had 900 youth registered at its Drop-in Centre.

YSB operates two emergency shelters, one for young women and one for young men. Staff at the shelters work with youth to help them meet their immediate needs. Once these needs are met, staff will work with youth while they're in transition for up to a year. During that time, youth are able to live in transitional housing where a healthy, non-judgmental environment and access to various programs can help them to develop independence and life skills.

Housing Services

The Young Men's Emergency and Transitional Housing Program and Young Women's Emergency and Transitional Housing Program operate from two centrally located 30-unit buildings. Each building has 12 emergency beds, 12 transitional beds and 6 swing beds that can be used for either emergency or transitional purposes. Residents have access to meals and food banks, as well as community services, crisis counselling and much more.

YSB also addresses youth homelessness by offering affordable housing. This includes studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units in four apartment buildings, in different parts of Ottawa near bus routes. Some of these units are open to single parents and children. Rent is kept affordable.

YSB's Youth Shelter Diversion program provides immediate, youth-centred support to people aged 16 to 24 experiencing housing instability. The program is designed to help young people avoid entering the shelter system by first exploring safe, alternative solutions tailored to their unique situations.

The YSB Housing Continuum is about much more than a place to live. The housing programs connect young people who lack family support with youth workers who will help them develop a full "community plan" to get the skills they need to live independently. The shelters also help young people remain healthy by offering information on sexual health and addictions, within a safe, healthy and non-judgmental environment.

Downtown Services and Drop-in

YSB also offers services for street-involved youth at its Downtown Services & Drop-In facility centrally located at 147 Besserer Street. Open every day of the year, it offers a safe place for young people with complex needs. This centre offers daily lunches, a place to shower and wash clothes, health care, crisis intervention and needs assessment, as well as other services.

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