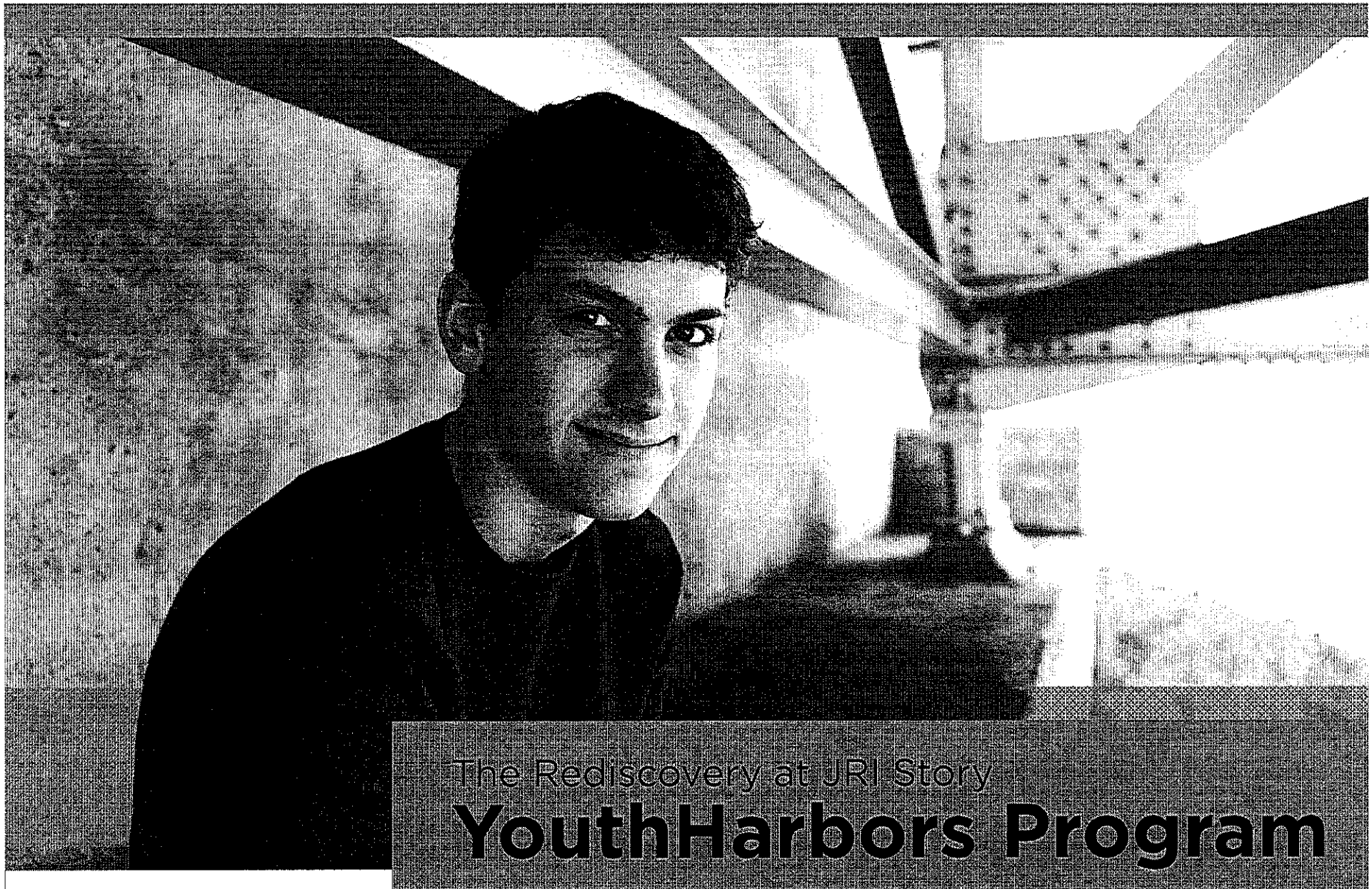


The Rediscovery at JRI Story

YouthHarbors Program

Helping Homeless and Alone Youth *Find Housing, Finish High School, Get Jobs* and *Live Productive Lives*

Mission

YouthHarbors offers a continuum of services to Massachusetts high school students who are unaccompanied and homeless, to ensure they graduate high school and successfully transition into adulthood.

Founded	2009
Staff	2 F-T, 4 P-T
Annual Budget	$400,000

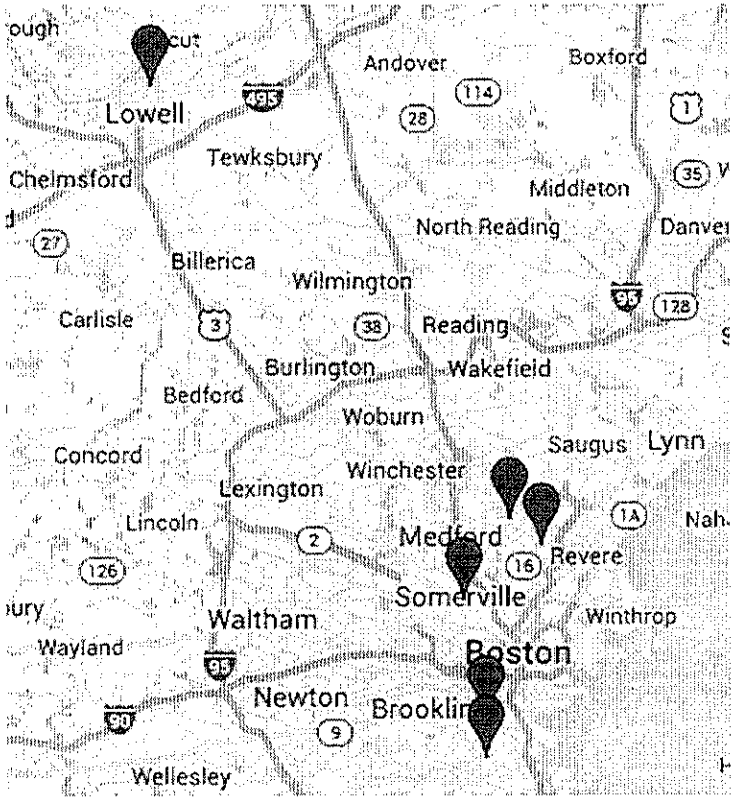
YouthHarbors

Housing. School. Success.

Who We Serve

17*-21 year old high school students who are homeless and without support from their family or are at-risk of becoming homeless without support from their family.

*Referrals to DCF and homelessness prevention services if screened out



- Malden High School (2009)
- Everett High School (2010)
- Boston Day and Evening Academy (2012)
- Somerville High School (2013)
- Jeremiah Burke H.S. (2015)
- Lowell High School (2015)

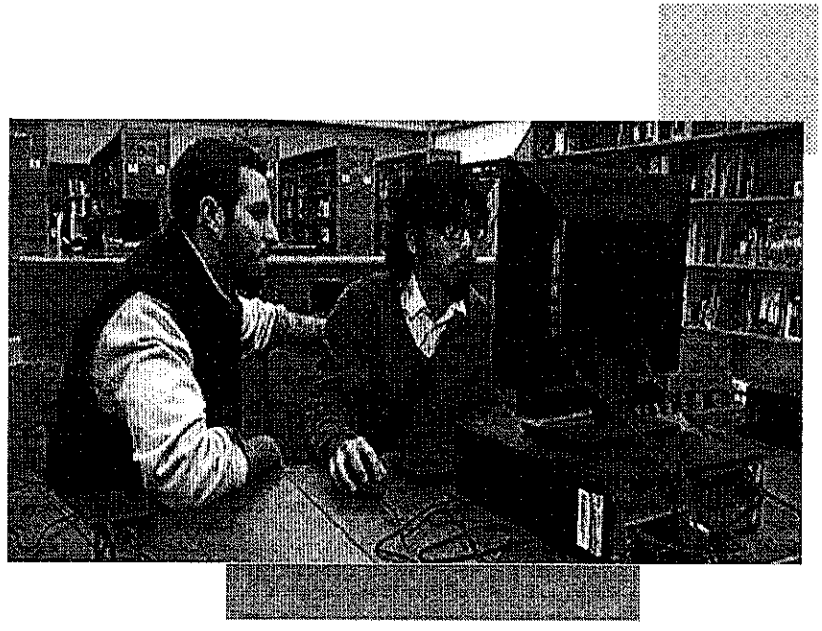
Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness in High School

5,000 High School Students Are Homeless and Alone Each Year in Massachusetts

(Four-year average of MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education data)

Homeless youth are 87% more likely to drop out of high school than their housed peers

Source: *America's Promise Alliance Center for Promise. (2014). Don't Call Them Dropouts: Understanding the experiences of young people who leave high school before graduation. A Report from America's Promise Alliance and its Center for Promise at Tufts University.*



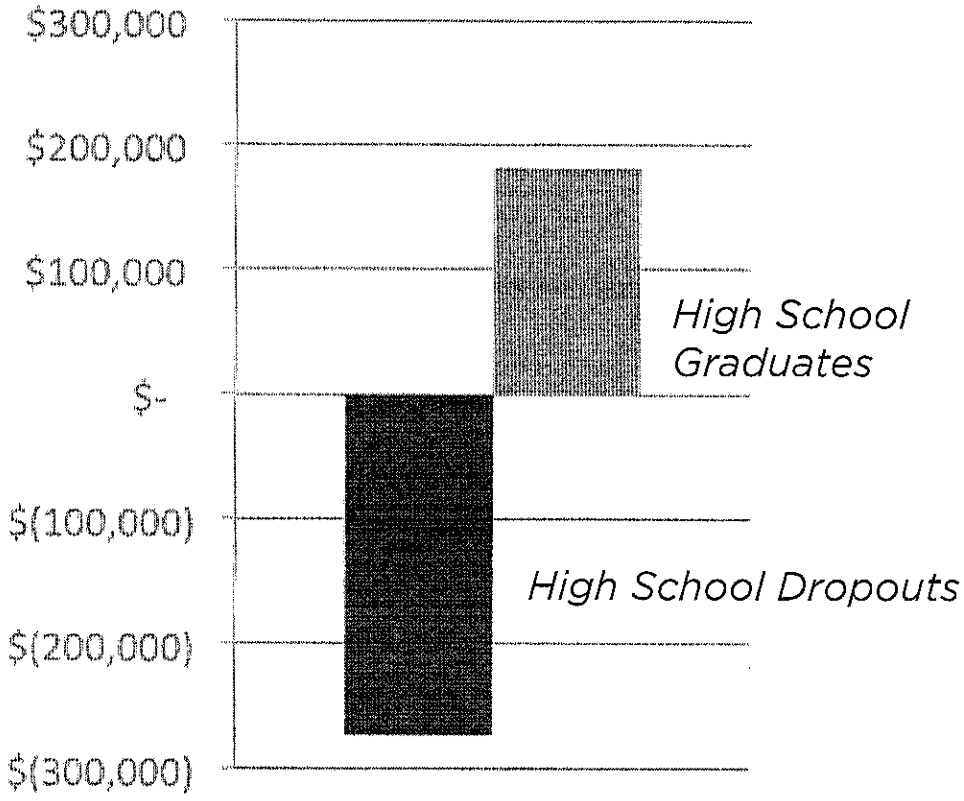
Consequences of Youth Homelessness

	Homeless	Housed
Members of a gang	28%	6%
Had alcohol in the past 30 days	53%	35%
Used marijuana in the past month	49%	24%
Felt sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks	35%	21%
Made a suicide attempt that resulted in injury	8%	2%
Had sexual contact against their will	19%	8%
Ever been or gotten someone pregnant	19%	2%

Source: *Homelessness in Massachusetts Public Schools*, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2014

Cost of a High School Dropout

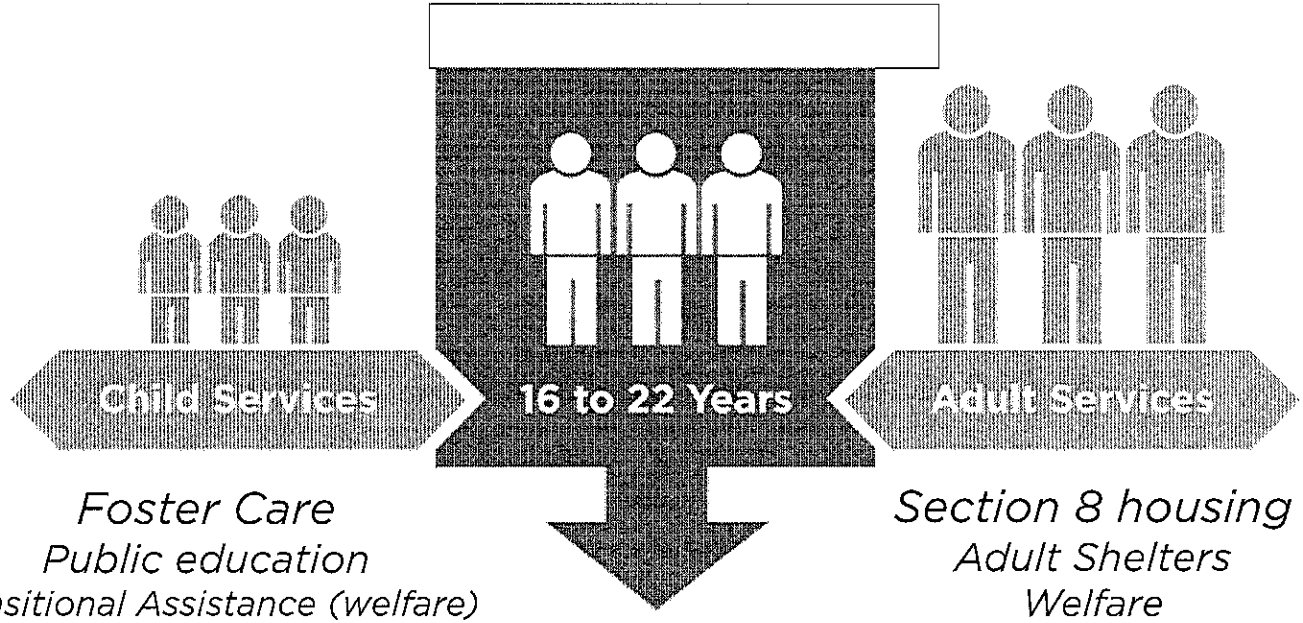
Net Fiscal Impact of High School Graduation *Massachusetts 2002-2004*



- 6 times more likely to be incarcerated
- 3 times more likely to be unemployed
- Lifetime cost to Massachusetts is **$467,023**
- Lifetime cost to the U.S. is **$306,096**

Source
Andrew Sum, et al. From Center for Labor Market Studies Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts.
The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School, October 2009

The Youth Chasm



Foster Care
Public education
Transitional Assistance (welfare)
School based health centers
Free health insurance programs
School meals programs
Youth violence prevention
Teen pregnancy prevention
Free legal services
Youth and community centers
Special education
Teen parent programs
Youth violence prevention

Section 8 housing
Adult Shelters
Welfare
Medicaid

The most *underserved* segment of the population

Homelessness, Unemployment,
Drop out, Crime, Drugs, Prostitution

YouthHarbors

How it works

- Outreach workers inside each school
- Housing is found within the same community as the high school
- Housing is available to female and male students
- Funding for housing is available when needed
- Housing is coordinated by a team of resources, including
  - The YouthHarbors outreach worker at the high school
  - Landlords, roommates and potential host families in the community
  - School and DESE administrators
  - Clothing and food resources

YouthHarbors Housing Options

Avoiding Adult Homeless Shelter System

Prevention

- Family preservation model – mediation
- What is the cause of homelessness?

Interventions – matching youth needs to housing

- Extended family advocacy
- Long-term friend placements
- Host-Family Agreements
- Room Rentals

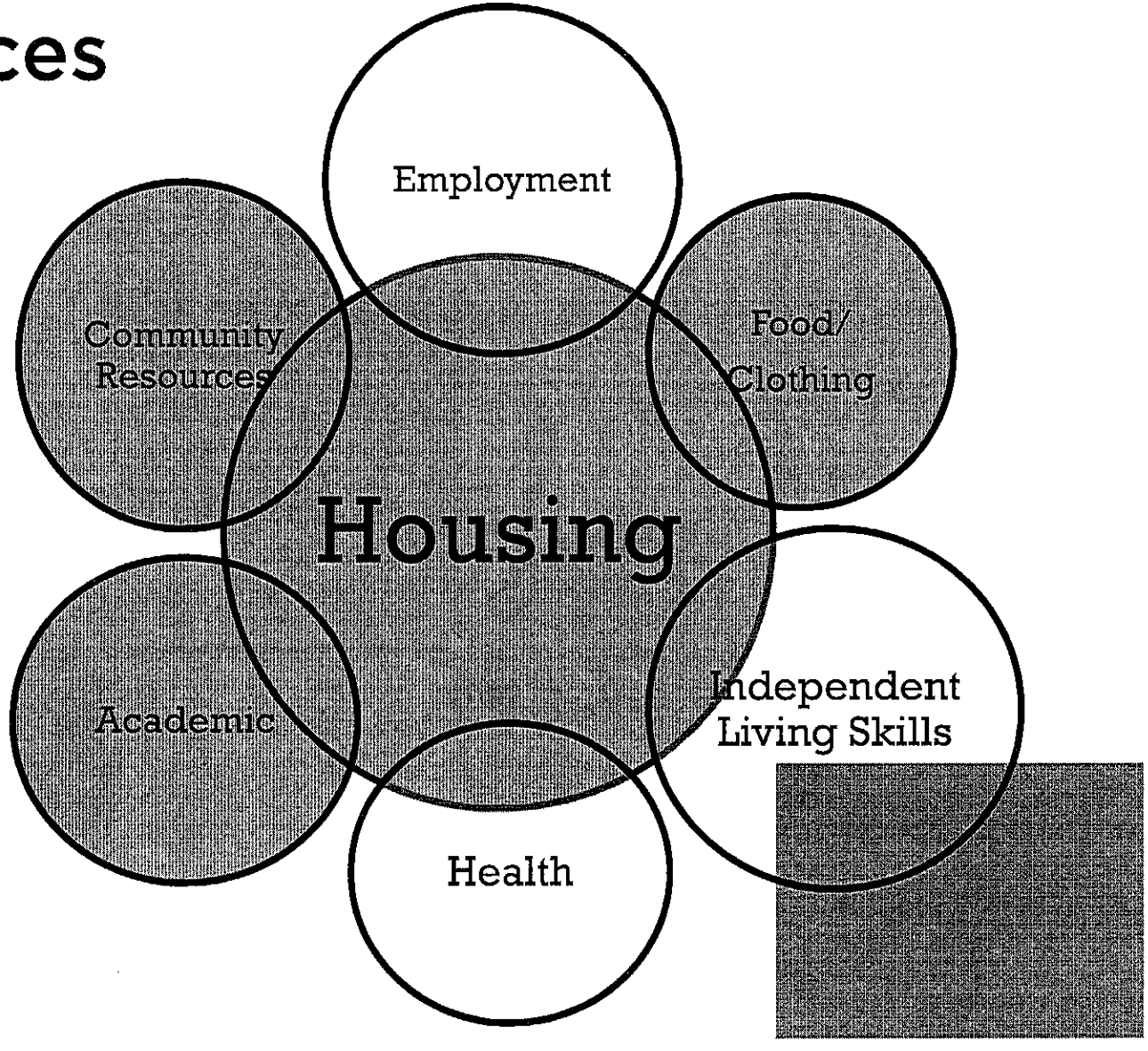
Emergency

- Partnerships with local youth-specific emergency shelter

YouthHarbors' Goals

- To prevent homelessness
- To increase graduation rates
- To increase access to secondary education
- To increase employment
- To increase successful transition to adulthood
- To prevent incarceration
- To prevent increased risk factors that may lead to
  - Sexual exploitation
  - Substance abuse
  - Death

YouthHarbors Continuum of Services



Community Partnership Model

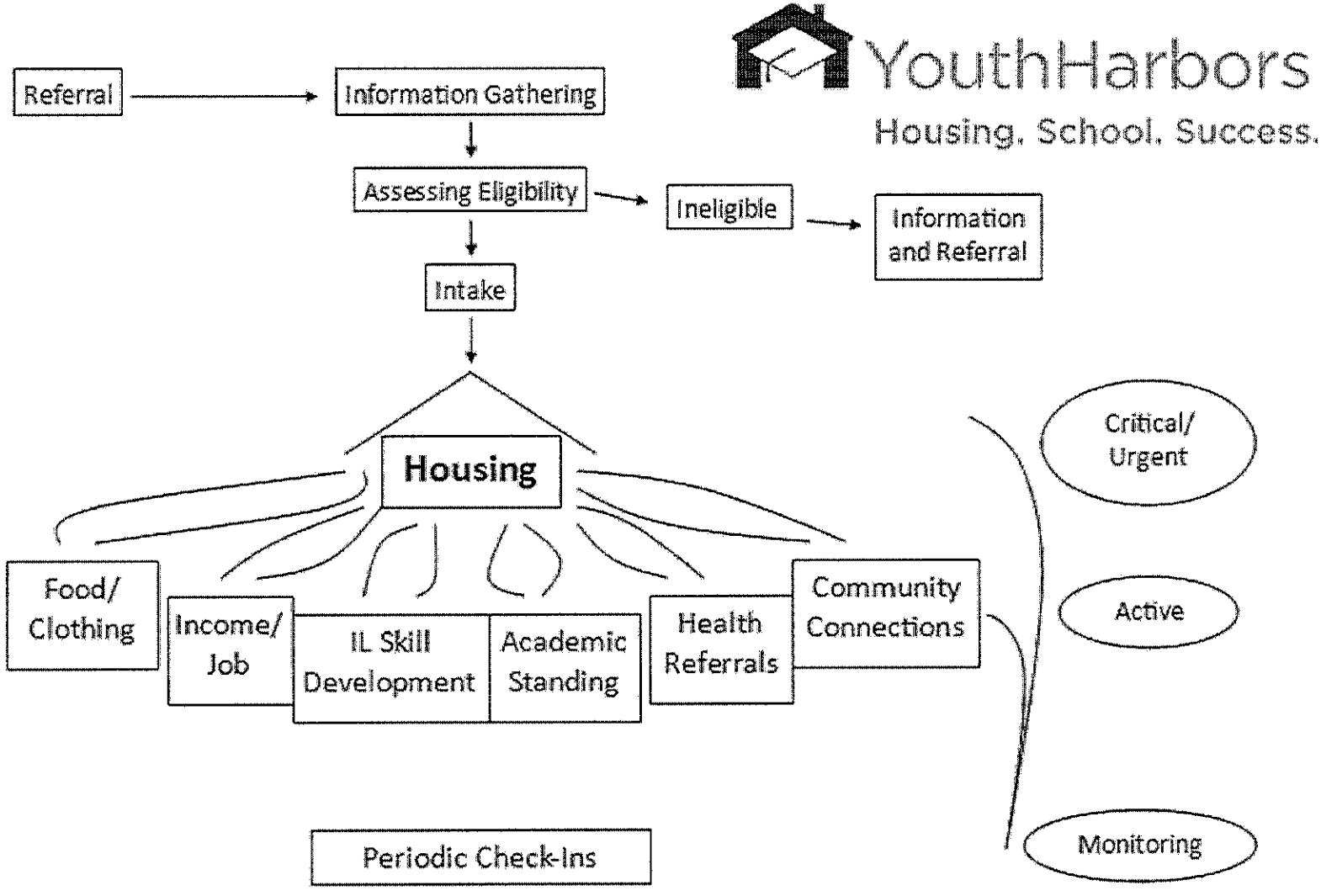
School Partnerships

- School often becomes the "Home"
- Identification of invisible population

Community Partnerships

- Education of local stakeholders, funders, and partner organizations
- Continuums of Care, HYPET, community health coalitions
- Building community capacity

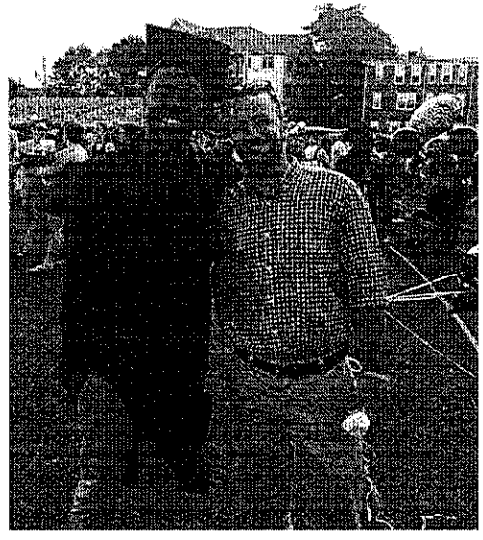
YouthHarbors' Model



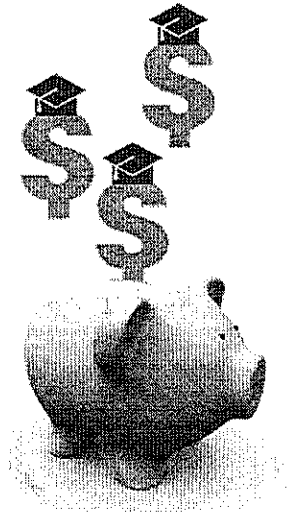
YouthHarbors' "Wraparound" Services Help Homeless Youth Successfully Transition to Adulthood

- Services are "wrapped" around each client to assure individual client attention and success
- As a result
  - Fewer students drop out of high school
    - High school graduates are more likely to acquire and retain employment than non-graduates
  - Rediscovery alumni are less likely to require state aid

YouthHarbors Report Card



At the end of 5 school years,
YouthHarbors' outcomes:

- ☑ **136** YouthHarbors students served
- ☑ **94%** of youth are housed
- ☑ **97%** graduated or are on-track to graduate
- ☑ **75+** ineligible referrals connected to services

Every program graduate not requiring aid saves the state an estimated $467,000 over his/her lifetime.