

Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, the undersigned Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that

RESIDENTIAL YOUTH SERVICES & EMPOWERMENT

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 12/16/2015 ; that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that, as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dated: December 01, 2025

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

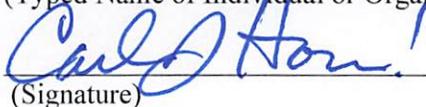
- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
 - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
 - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant.
- 2) If the applicant is an organization, the applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
 - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant is awarded shall be conducted or provided; and
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
 - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.
- 4) The use of grant-in-aid funding complies with all provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii (for example, pursuant to Article X, section 1, of the Constitution, the State cannot provide "... public funds ... for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution...").

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for grants used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant used for the acquisition of the land.

Further, the undersigned authorized representative certifies that this statement is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)


(Signature)


(Date)

Carla Houser

(Typed Name)

Executive Director

(Title)

Application for Grants

If any item is not applicable to the request, the applicant should enter "not applicable".

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1. Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)
If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2025.

Certificate of Vendor Compliance attached.

2. Declaration Statement

The applicant shall submit a declaration statement affirming its compliance with **Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes.**

Declaration Statement attached.

3. Public Purpose

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to **Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.**

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE) confirms that the requested grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

II. Background and Summary

This section shall clearly and concisely summarize and highlight the contents of the request in such a way as to provide the State Legislature with a broad understanding of the request. Please include the following:

1. A brief description of the applicant's background;

MISSION AND VISION

Founded in 2015 as Friends of Youth Outreach Hawai'i Foundation, our organization is dedicated to ending youth homelessness and supporting street-involved at-risk youth in building brighter futures. In July 2018, we rebranded as Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE) and launched the RYSE Emergency Shelter at the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center in Kailua, O'ahu.

PROGRAMS IN EFFECT

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE) provides youth, aged 14-24 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, wrap around support that includes behavioral health, education and employment, case management, diversion, housing, and outreach services. In addition to the emergency shelter, RYSE also operates seven housing programs that provide transitional and permanent housing, as well as independent housing vouchers for youth. RYSE has also recently opened a new drop in center in Waianae, to expand our reach on the west side of the island.

In early January 2026, RYSE finalized the purchase of a building formerly owned by Housing Solutions Inc (HSI) and managed by Mental Health Kokua (MHK) building located at 41 South Beretania Street (the Edwin Thomas Building). This property will be renovated and repurposed to a new Transitional Housing, Workforce Development, and Drop-in Center for youth experiencing homelessness - centrally located in downtown Honolulu.

BEYOND HOUSING

Beyond housing, RYSE provides comprehensive programs designed to address unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness. Our Street Outreach provides supplies and resources and as well as connects unsheltered youth to essential services. Education and Employment programs support youth in their educational journey, provide financial literacy services and developing vocational skills. The behavioral health department facilitate access to critical mental health and substance use care, providing on site therapeutic services and partnered psychiatric services. RYSE also offers Diversion resources to support youth in navigating judicial challenges and meeting court requirements, helping them move toward long-term stability and exit homelessness.

DEMONSTRATED IMPACT

Since 2017, RYSE has provided housing navigation and wraparound services to over 1,200 youth and young families. Our integrated case-management model ensures progress across four domains critical to self-sufficiency — housing stability, education, employment, and behavioral health. External evaluations by funders and contract monitors consistently note RYSE's strong data integrity, timely reporting, and above-target outcomes.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

RYSE programs are designed to provide youth experiencing homelessness ages 18-24 with essential services that aid recovery in two crucial problem areas that hinder youth from progressing to long-term success. These problem areas include: 1) a lack of affordable housing options; and 2) a lack of youth centric services and resources focused on specialized needs.

GOAL: BUILDING A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HOUSING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

- The primary goal of this CIP request is to assist RYSE with the capital renovation of a new Transitional Housing, Workforce Development, and Drop-In Center – that serves 150 youth annually.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Completion of the renovation of the new Beretania Drop-In Center and Transitional Housing facility by Summer 2027 will be achieved through the following deliverables and key activities:

- Project Goals During Grant Period

- 1) Completion of Drop-In Center space to meet City & County CDBG requirements immediately
- 2) Completion of the workforce development and staff office spaces
- 3) Completion of one Transitional Housing floor (17 rooms)
- 4) Grand Opening of Transitional Housing program in Summer 2027

- Key Activities

- Phase 1 — Mobilization (0 to Day 90): Hire project director and licensed contractors to address and prioritize construction needs for fire system, electrical, HVAC, elevator inspection, boiler & water heater, and plumbing needs.
- Phase 2 — Renovations (Month 3-8): 4th floor renovations (4–5 months), 3rd floor renovations (6–7 months), electrical and plumbing repairs ongoing.
- Phase 3 — Commissioning & Closeout: Safety system testing, final electrical and plumbing inspections, HVAC system balancing, elevator certification.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

COMMUNITY NEED: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

Youth homelessness remains one of O‘ahu’s most urgent and complex social challenges. According to Partners in Care O‘ahu (O‘ahu CoC)’s 2024 “Point in Time Count” report, there were 217 (up from 130 in 2023) unaccompanied youth (ages 18–24) experiencing homelessness on any given night. This represents roughly 8% of the island’s unsheltered population. Nationally, Hawaii continues to rank among the top five states for youth homelessness per capita, with a particularly high rate of unsheltered youth (HUD 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report).

Youth experiencing homelessness (YEH) face unique risks distinct from adults. Many have histories of childhood trauma, abuse, neglect, and foster care involvement, and lack family or community support systems. At the same time, they are at a critical developmental stage where stable and appropriate housing, education, and employment are essential to achieving self-sufficiency.

A COMMUNITY PRIORITY

The O'ahu Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to End Youth Homelessness identifies YEH as one of the County's highest-priority populations for targeted intervention. The CCP highlights that homeless youth "require developmentally appropriate services to foster stability, healthy relationships, and pathways to independence." These services include trauma-informed care, access to vital documents, education and job training, and safe transitional housing - all hallmarks of RYSE's model.

INTERSECTIONS WITH HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TRAUMA

Hawai'i's youth homelessness is intertwined with deep systemic and historical issues. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth are overrepresented in foster care, juvenile justice, and homeless populations due to intergenerational trauma, displacement, and the erosion of 'ohana support networks.

The 2022 Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness report identifies these groups as requiring culturally responsive, trauma-informed care. RYSE addresses these needs through a Hawaiian values-based framework centered on belonging, kuleana (responsibility), and healing - empowering youth to rebuild trust and identity as they transition toward stability.

RYSE'S ROLE IN MEETING THE NEED

Since opening the Kawaihoa Emergency Shelter in Kailua in 2018, RYSE has served more than 1,200 youth, providing emergency shelter, case management, education and employment programs, and behavioral-health supports.

In 2024 alone, RYSE:

- Provided emergency shelter for 107 youth and 118 youth utilized drop in services
- Housed 119 youth in RYSE sponsored housing programs
- Enrolled 58 youth in education services (high school, GED, college, trade school)
- Connected 140 youth to employment and workforce development services
- Linked 140 youth to behavioral health services

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Homelessness among young adults has ripple effects that extend far beyond the individual. Youth who achieve stable housing and employment are less likely to re-enter homelessness, reducing future demand on public systems. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (2023), each chronically homeless individual costs taxpayers an average of \$35,000–\$50,000 annually in emergency and institutional services. By comparison, RYSE's model costs roughly \$80 per day per youth, making it both a compassionate and cost-effective solution.

CALL TO ACTION

Youth homelessness is a critical public-health, social-equity, and economic issue for Honolulu. Without targeted intervention, these young adults risk becoming chronically homeless adults. Each success story represents a turning point for a young person who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

4. Describe the target population to be served;

VULNERABILITY OF HAWAI'I'S STREET YOUTH

RYSE serves one of the most vulnerable and underserved populations in Hawai'i — youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. A significant proportion of these individuals have endured extensive trauma, including physical and emotional abuse, sexual exploitation, family abandonment, poverty, and systemic inequities.

YEH are not only vulnerable but often invisible. Many couch surf, stay in unsafe or exploitative relationships, or trade sex or labor for basic survival. Without early intervention, youth homelessness frequently becomes chronic adult homelessness, perpetuating cycles of poverty, victimization, and high public cost in healthcare, law enforcement, and social services.

Data from RYSE's 2023 annual report and internal tracking show that among youth served:

- 51% identified as Native Hawaiian
- 36% reported foster care involvement
- 54% were homeless before age 18
- 58% experienced domestic violence
- 20% engaged in "survival sex" or sex work
- 13% identified as LGBTQ+
- 68% reported drug use, compared to 44% who reported alcohol use
- Only 25% entered the shelter with employment

These youth are at exceptionally high risk for victimization, exploitation, and poor health outcomes. Nearly one in two RYSE participants self-identified as victims of crime. YEH experience disproportionately high rates of depression, suicidal ideation, and chronic stress - reporting five times more physically unhealthy days and three times more mentally unhealthy days per month than Hawai'i's youth average (Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2023).

POPULATION: EDWIN THOMAS BUILDING PROJECT

Through this project, RYSE will exclusively serve homeless persons OR require information on household size and income so that it is evident that at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the clientele are persons whose income does not exceed the LMI limit.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Located in Downtown Honolulu, the new Chinatown location is situated in a prime, centralized location that allows a broad geographic population of youth to access services with minimal barriers. Being a dedicated youth drop-in center, this site functions as a critical access point for youth experiencing homelessness across O'ahu.

A significant proportion of RYSE participants originate from the Urban Honolulu area, where many youth already congregate and seek resources, making the location especially responsive to demonstrated need. The Edwin Thomas Building setting offers convenient access to public transportation, resources, and community partners, reducing the burden on youth who would otherwise need to travel long distances—such as to Kailua—to receive essential support and services.

In 2024, RYSE outreach department provided nearly 300 total encounters with homeless youth in Districts 1, 6, and 7, showing the need for a centralized location in Downtown Honolulu, that youth can access. Our diversion team, who in 2024 served 72 unduplicated justice involved youth, often occupancies our youth to court or to see their probation/parole officers in the Downtown Honolulu area.

II. Service Summary and Outcomes

The Service Summary shall include a detailed discussion of the applicant's approach to the request. The applicant shall clearly and concisely specify the results, outcomes, and measures of effectiveness from this request. The applicant shall:

1. Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;

RYSE purchased the building in January 2026 to create and operate the Edwin Thomas Building Workforce Development and Transitional Housing Program. For the first five years, RYSE will operate the facility as a CDBG-funded activity and, at contract end, will continue to operate the facility as a Workforce Development and Transitional Housing Program.

RYSE shall maintain and operate the project as follows:

- Thirty (30) residential rooms shall be maintained and operated as a rental housing activity in accordance with 24 CFR 570.208(a)(3).
- Single room occupancy rental units shall be reserved for homeless or at-risk of homeless youth.
- Rental units shall be occupied by low- and moderate-income (LMI) households. 100% of the rental units will be occupied by LMI households. Rental units must be provided at affordable rents. RYSE shall comply with income definitions at 24 CFR § 570.3. All households will be fully income certified to qualify to live in the rental units.
 - Income limits. Subrecipient will utilize maximum income limits for households at or below eighty percent (80%) of the area median income adjusted for family size as released annually by HUD.
 - Rent limits. Rents charged will be affordable and in line with the target population served. The maximum rent that may be charged is the Fair Market Rent (FMR)

according to unit size for the Urban Honolulu Metropolitan Statistical Area as provided annually by HUD plus any utility allowance.

- The project’s lower levels shall be maintained and operated as a limited clientele activity in accordance with 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(i)(A) as a youth drop-in center for homeless or at-risk of homeless youth to provide services including counseling, job training, or other support services.
- The programs commercial kitchen/restaurant space will be developed as workforce development program to address the needs for living wage career pathways.

The City and RYSE acknowledge that repairs to the project are required before RYSE may operate the project. RYSE is responsible for completing all necessary repairs and for securing funding necessary to complete repairs to the building.

Project scope includes comprehensive facility maintenance, system upgrades, and interior renovations, including: drainage pipe repairs and replacement; basement leak mitigation, drainage improvements, and associated piping repairs; fire safety system upgrades; electrical system upgrades; HVAC planning and installation; elevator inspection and testing; plumbing system improvements; boiler and water heater repair or replacement; renovation of 30 bedrooms; construction and full renovation of bathrooms on both floors, including water drainage and piping, electrical work, installation of full bathroom fixtures (showers, toilets, sinks, mirrors, and privacy dividers), and complete wall and floor tiling.

2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service;

Projected Timing	Task	Duration	Notes
Feb-Apr 2026	Bid and hire licensed contractor to assess and prioritize construction needs	2–3 weeks	Critical path start
Feb-Apr 2026	Bid and hire key vendors: plumbing, fire system, electrician, HVAC	By Day 90	Mobilization
Feb-Apr 2026	Elevator inspection & certification	By Day 90	Schedule corrective work if needed
May 2026	Boiler & water heater inspection & plan	1–2 weeks	After pipe repair mobilization
Jul-Dec 2026	Electrical repairs	6–8 months	Parallel to renovations
Jan-Jun 2027	3 rd and 4th floor renovations	4–5 months	Start once utilities stable

3. Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request. Specify how applicant plans to monitor, evaluate, improve their results;

RYSE will implement a comprehensive quality assurance and evaluation plan that emphasizes accountability, safety, and continuous improvement throughout all phases of the project. A dedicated Project Director will be contracted to oversee planning, coordination, and execution in close collaboration with the RYSE Facilities Manager, ensuring alignment with organizational standards, operational needs, and long-term maintenance planning. Together, they will serve as key points of contact between RYSE leadership, contractors, and regulatory entities.

Licensed and qualified contractors, including mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and general construction professionals, will be procured to complete all renovations and system upgrades in compliance with local building codes, safety regulations, and funder requirements. Quality assurance will be maintained through regular progress meetings, documented inspections, and milestone-based reviews to monitor timelines, budgets, and workmanship. The Project Director, in partnership with the Facilities Manager, will conduct ongoing site evaluations to verify that work is completed according to approved plans and specifications, with third-party inspections utilized as needed to confirm code compliance and system functionality.

Evaluation of project outcomes will extend beyond construction completion to include operational readiness and sustainability. Upon project completion, RYSE will assess the building's ability to safely and effectively support program operations, including accessibility, system reliability, and adaptability to service demands. Feedback from facilities staff and program leadership will inform final adjustments, preventative maintenance plans, and future capital improvements. This collaborative and data-informed approach ensures continuous improvement and strengthens RYSE's capacity to deliver high-quality, safe, and reliable services to youth experiencing homelessness.

4. List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency). The measure(s) will provide a standard and objective way for the State to assess the program's achievement or accomplishment. Please note that if the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application that the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

The measures of effectiveness for the FY2027 State grant funds will include:

- 1) Completion of renovations for the Youth Drop-In Center (Ground Floor) - estimated by Summer 2026 (as measured by receipt of Partial Certificate of Occupancy for ground floor)
- 2) Completion of renovations for the Outreach/Diversion offices (Basement) – estimated Spring 2027 (as measured by receipt of Partial Certificate of Occupancy for basement)

- 3) Completion of renovations for the initial 17 Individual Housing Units (3rd Floor) – estimated Summer 2027 (as measured by receipt of Partial Certificate of Occupancy for 3rd floor)

The remainder of renovations will be accomplished after the grant period (for the final floor of individual housing units), which will be completed through additional funding raised; RYSE will not request additional State GIA funding for construction.

IV. Financial

Budget

1. **The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.**
 - a. **Budget request by source of funds**
 - b. **Personnel salaries and wages**
 - c. **Equipment and motor vehicles**
 - d. **Capital project details**
 - e. **Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid**

RYSE is requesting \$500,000 from the State of Hawai'i GIA to cover the construction costs of repairing the existing facilities' plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and basement water leaks.

Budgets attached.

2. **The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2027.**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$500,000

3. **The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2027.**

Source	Amount
State GIA	\$500,000
McInerney Foundation	\$400,000
Bolger Foundation	\$200,000
Atherton Family Foundation	\$200,000
William G. Irwin Foundation	\$150,000
RYSE Unrestricted Funding	\$150,000 or remaining needs (investment account)

- 4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.**

Not applicable.

- 5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2027 for program funding.**

See attached.

- 6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2025.**

The balance of unrestricted current assets of December 31, 2025 is \$1,800,000.

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

The applicant shall demonstrate that it has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to the request. State your experience and appropriateness for providing the service proposed in this application. The applicant shall also provide a listing of verifiable experience of related projects or contracts for the most recent three years that are pertinent to the request.

EXPERIENCE: SERVING HOMELESS YOUTH

RYSE operates seven housing institutions for transitional-aged youth 18-24 who need transitional or permanent housing and/or specialized care. These programs provide various options supplemented via housing vouchers and/or affordable rates.

RYSE current Housing Programs include:

- Kawailoa Youth Access Center: 20-bed, 24/7 low-barrier shelter providing food, showers, laundry, case management, GED classes, medical care, behavioral-health counseling
- Puhina House: 6-bed, transitional housing program for youth who identify as victims of crime
- Hale'iwa Project: 15-bed housing collective serving youth and young families
- Makiki House: 8-bed home transitional housing program in Honolulu
- Raphael House: Transitional 8-bedroom housing program in Waianae

- Rycroft House: 5-bed permanent supportive housing (PSH) program for youth with a severe mental illness diagnosis
- Manu o Ku: 6-bed, permanent housing program for youth who meet the criteria of being chronically homeless and have a disability
- The Birch Street Housing: 12-bed/10-bath affordable housing, single/family occupancy (opening in 2026)
- Umeke: Drop in center in Waianae that provides food, case management, and education and employment services

Proven Results (2024):

- 107 unduplicated youth sheltered overnight at Kawaihoa Shelter, received housing, case management, and stabilization supports
- Housed 119 youth in RYSE sponsored housing programs
- 118 additional youth accessed day drop-in services (6 a.m.–6 p.m.), receiving meals, showers, and case management
- 43 percent of youth exiting the shelter transitioned to safe, stable housing—demonstrating strong housing-placement outcomes
- 58 youth enrolled in education services (high school, GED, college, trade school)
- Connected 140 youth to employment and workforce development training/services
- 72 justice-involved youth received diversion services
- 140 youth received behavioral-health services, through counseling and care coordination

EXPERIENCE: RENOVATION OF FACILITIES

RYSE has extensive, hands-on experience renovating and maintaining facilities that support youth housing and shelter operations, with a strong emphasis on compliance, safety, and program continuity. Across its shelter programs, RYSE has completed targeted renovation projects such as full kitchen upgrades, including replacement of commercial appliances, cabinetry, flooring, plumbing, and electrical systems to meet health, safety, and operational standards. These improvements have strengthened food service capacity while ensuring compliance with local health regulations and funder expectations.

Within its housing programs, RYSE routinely completes renovations and capital improvements required to maintain compliance with Section 8 and HUD Housing Quality Standards (HQS). This includes unit turnarounds, accessibility modifications, life-safety upgrades, and ongoing maintenance related to plumbing, electrical, ventilation, and structural integrity. RYSE works closely with licensed contractors to address inspection findings promptly, ensuring housing units remain habitable, safe, and eligible for continued rental assistance funding.

In addition to professional contractor partnerships, RYSE regularly mobilizes volunteers to support renovation efforts such as painting, minor repairs, landscaping, furnishing, and common-area improvements across shelter and housing sites. Volunteer projects are strategically coordinated to complement licensed construction work, allowing RYSE

to stretch resources while maintaining quality oversight. Collectively, these experiences, paired with RYSE's ongoing collaboration with contractors on larger initiatives such as the Makaha project, demonstrate the organization's proven capacity to manage renovations of varying scale while upholding HUD standards, regulatory compliance, and best practices in youth housing and shelter environments.

RYSE is currently in the permitting phase for a 2-acre Kauhale program in Makaha. RYSE will be breaking ground in Quarter 3 of 2026. RYSE has worked in the design and planning phase with architect AHL and accomplished general contractor and affordable housing developer Geena Thielen of Complete Construction Services. This project is being built with congressionally directed funding to HUD standards.

2. Facilities

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities.

RYSE has purchased an existing commercial building to operate a mixed-use facility that includes thirty (30) residential rooms to house homeless families and individuals on a temporary basis, and approximately 4,400 square feet of commercial space.

The Edwin Thomas building is located at 41 South Beretania Street, Honolulu HI 96813 (Tax Map Key No: (1) 2-1-003:006). The building was originally purchased under a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); thus RYSE has entered into a Subrecipient Agreement with the City & County of Honolulu to use the property in a manner consistent with CDBG program use and affordability requirements for 5 years, then RYSE will continue to own and operate the facility ongoing thereafter.

In order for the facility to be operational, significant construction must be completed, including main pipe repair, boiler and water heater inspections, electrical repairs, elevator inspection and certification, fire system assessment, basement leak mitigation, bedroom and shared bathrooms construction, HCAC setup, and more.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The applicant shall describe the proposed staffing pattern and proposed service capacity appropriate for the viability of the request. The applicant shall provide the qualifications and experience of personnel for the request and shall describe its ability to supervise, train and provide administrative direction relative to the request.

The organization is led by Executive Director, Carla Houser, MSW, along with 14 community leaders serving as board members, and supported by 35 on-site staff and an active advisory council.

The skilled staff consists of program managers, case managers, behavioral health, diversion, outreach, education and employment, and youth care counselors. RYSE prioritizes hiring individuals who are not only passionate about aiding those in need but also committed to leading alongside them.

RYSE's staff are its greatest asset bringing lived experience or represent the same underserved populations they serve. All staff receive ongoing training in Positive Youth Development, Trauma-Informed Care, Cultural Responsiveness, and Motivational Interviewing to maintain fidelity to evidence-based practices.

➤ **Executive Director**

Carla Houser is the Executive Director of RYSE, where she leads efforts to support youth experiencing homelessness through housing, outreach, and empowerment programs. With over two decades of experience in social work—including roles in Los Angeles and as Program Manager for Waikiki Health's Youth Outreach program—she brings a deep commitment to youth advocacy. Houser holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from UCLA and a Master of Social Work from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. In 2021, she was honored with PBN's *Women Who Mean Business Award* for her impactful leadership. Carla oversees day-to-day operations and contracts totaling more than \$5 million annually, with a long record of managing federal, state, and city awards.

➤ **Behavioral Health**

Anastasha Schielzeth is the Licensed Mental Health Counselor at RYSE, with extensive experience supporting at-risk and homeless youth in Hawai'i. She specializes in trauma-informed care, clinical assessment, and therapeutic intervention. As a certified Licensed Mental Health Counselor in Hawai'i, Anastasha combines clinical expertise with community engagement to empower vulnerable youth.

➤ **Education & Employment**

Rebecca Klein is the Education & Employment Program Manager at RYSE. In this role, she directs initiatives that connect youth experiencing homelessness to educational pathways and job opportunities. Rebecca earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from DePaul University, Chicago, and her Master of Public Health degree from Hawai'i Pacific University.

➤ **Finance**

Kim Nakamura is the Director of Finance at RYSE, where she oversees budgeting, accounting, and financial compliance. She earned her MBA from the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business. With experience as a budget analyst at Partners In Development and a seasoned accountant, she brings strong nonprofit financial management skills to the organization.

➤ **Administration**

Liz Hamasu is the Director of Administration at RYSE, responsible for operational strategy and supporting programs that empower youth. With a strong background in nonprofit administration and youth services, she plays a pivotal role in enhancing organizational efficiency and community impact.

➤ **Diversion and Outreach**

Nick Thompson is the Diversion & Outreach Program Manager. He leads a team of outreach and diversion staff who, guided by evidence-based and trauma-informed principles, engage daily with youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Nick is a transformational leader with proven experience working with high-risk youth and improving residential facilities to make a profound impact.

➤ **Housing**

Ana Eykel is the Director of Housing Services, overseeing RYSE’s housing development initiatives, ensuring compliance with federal housing programs, and managing staff and budgets to maximize impact. With a background in trauma-informed approaches to serving underserved populations, she holds a Master of Science in Counseling with a specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy.

2. Organization Chart

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility /supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

See attached.

3. Compensation

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

Executive Director	\$92,000 to \$100,000
Director of Housing Services	\$80,000 to \$85,000
Program Manager Behavioral Health	\$62,000 to \$70,000

VII. Other

1. Litigation

The applicant shall disclose any pending litigation to which they are a party, including the disclosure of any outstanding judgement. If applicable, please explain.

RYSE has no pending litigation or outstanding judgments.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

The applicant shall specify any special qualifications, including but not limited to licensure or accreditation that the applicant possesses relevant to this request.

Not applicable.

3. Private Educational Institutions

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution. Please see Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution for the relevance of this question.

This grant will not benefit a sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2027 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2027, but**
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.**

FISCAL RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE

RYSE's operating budget has grown steadily through diversified revenue streams—city and state contracts, HUD funding, private foundations, and individual donors. Our fiscal systems meet federal Uniform Guidance standards, with regular audits confirming compliance and financial integrity.

RYSE's sustainability strategy is built on collaboration, diversification, and data-driven growth. By leveraging strong partnerships with government, nonprofit, and private-sector allies, RYSE ensures that successful programs and services continue well beyond the grant term.

➤ Collaborative Partnerships

Our partnerships with agencies such as the City & County of Honolulu, HUD, the Hawai'i Department of Health, and community nonprofits create shared funding, aligned objectives, and reduced duplication of services. These joint efforts expand our reach, increase access to new resources, and enhance credibility with funders and policymakers.

➤ Diversified Funding Model

RYSE maintains a balanced portfolio of city, state, and federal contracts (e.g., HUD YHDP, VOCA), foundation support, and individual donors. This diversification cushions the organization against shifts in any single funding source. We continually pursue new opportunities for multi-year and capacity-building grants and have demonstrated success meeting match and leverage requirements for federal awards.

➤ **Strategic Communication & Advocacy**

Through consistent outreach, reporting, and storytelling, RYSE engages funders, advocates, and the public. Annual data reports and youth success stories demonstrate tangible community impact, while advocacy at the state and local level promotes sustained investment in youth homelessness solutions.

➤ **Operational Efficiencies**

Shared facilities, cost-recovery partnerships, and volunteer engagement reduce expenses and expand service capacity. Data integration across systems such as HMIS enhances efficiency and strengthens evaluation.

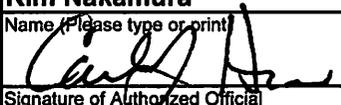
➤ **Long-Term Community Benefit**

By sustaining wraparound services for youth transitioning out of homelessness, RYSE helps reduce chronic homelessness, improve workforce participation, and strengthen neighborhood well-being. Each youth who achieves stability contributes to a healthier, safer, and more economically resilient Hawai'i.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: **Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)**

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	0	0	0	0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0	0	0	0
3. Fringe Benefits	0	0	0	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	0	0	0	0
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0	0	0	0
2. Insurance	0	0	0	0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0	0	0	0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0	0	0	0
5. Staff Training	0	0	0	0
6. Supplies	0	0	0	0
7. Telecommunication	0	0	0	0
8. Utilities	0	0	0	0
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	0	0	0	0
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
E. CAPITAL	500,000	0	0	1,000,000
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	500,000	0	0	1,000,000
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	500,000	Kim Nakamura		808-498-5180
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0			1/15/2026
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	1,000,000			Signature of Authorized Official Date
TOTAL BUDGET	1,500,000	Carla Houser, Executive Director Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
None			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				
Not applicable				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
None			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				
Not applicable				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: **Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)**

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED						
TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026	FY:2026-2027	FY:2026-2027	FY:2027-2028	FY:2028-2029
PLANS	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0	0	0	0	0
DESIGN	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	0	0	500,000	1,000,000	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	500,000	1,000,000	0	0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						
<p><u>Renovation of the Beretania Street Transitional Housing and Drop-In Center for Houseless Youth</u>: Project scope includes comprehensive facility maintenance, system upgrades, and interior renovations, including: drainage pipe repairs and replacement; basement leak mitigation, drainage improvements, and associated piping repairs; fire safety system upgrades; electrical system upgrades; HVAC planning and installation; elevator inspection and testing; plumbing system improvements; boiler and water heater repair or replacement; renovation of 30 bedrooms; construction and full renovation of bathrooms on both floors, including water drainage and piping, electrical work, installation of full bathroom fixtures (showers, toilets, sinks, mirrors, and privacy dividers), and complete wall and floor tiling.</p>						

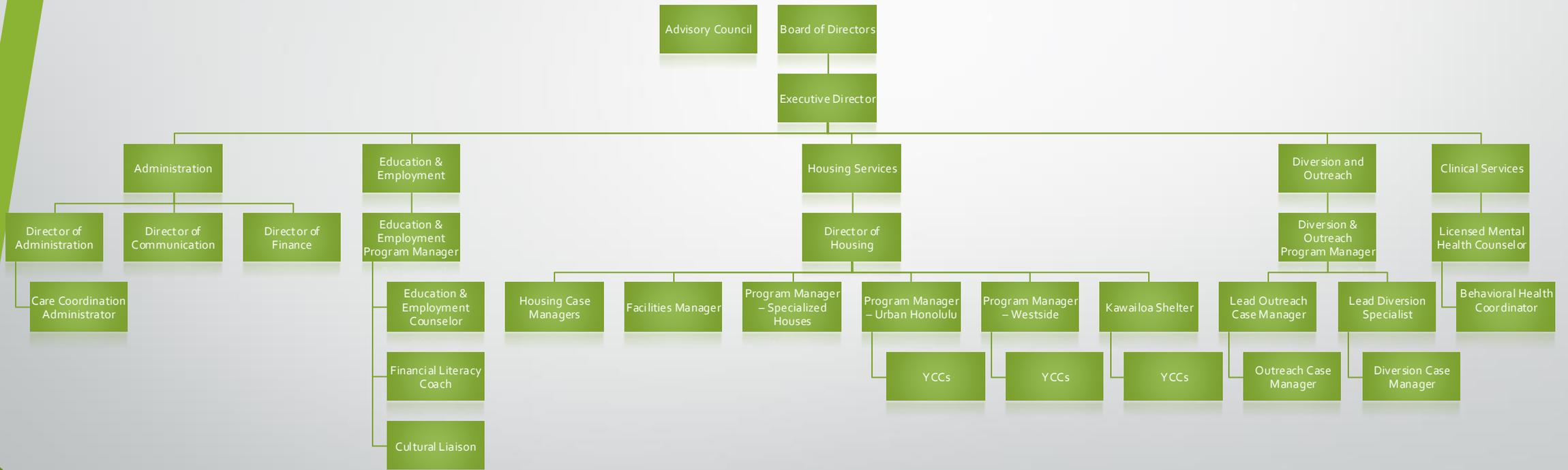
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: **Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)**

Contracts Total: 7,404,126

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY	CONTRACT VALUE
1	City & County of HNL GIA	9/15/25 - 8/31/26	City & County of HNL	Honolulu	150,000
2	ESG - FY 26	2/1/25 - 1/31/26	City & County of HNL	Honolulu	100,000
3	State ADAD - Substance Use Prevention	10/1/26 - 9/30/29	State Dept of Health	Hawaii	630,000
4	VOCA - Transitional Housing	7/1/25 - 6/30/27	Dept of Attorney General	US	500,000
5	YHDP - Diversion	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	HUD	US	248,750
6	YHDP - Mobile Crisis	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	HUD	US	290,501
7	YHDP - Guide on the Side	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	HUD	US	259,129
8	YHDP - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	HUD	US	532,458
9	YHDP - Transitional Housing/RRH	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	HUD	US	193,317
10	COC - Permanent Housing (Youth PH)	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	HUD	US	200,905
11	COC - Rapid Rehousing (Youth RRH)	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	HUD	US	464,066
12	OJJDP - Supporting At-Risk Youth/Foster Care	10/1/22 - 9/30/26	Office of Justice Programs	US	600,000
13	HUD - Makaha Emergency Housing	8/31/24 - 8/31/32	HUD	US	3,000,000
14	State Office On Homelessness and Housing Solutions	8/1/24 - 7/31/26	Sate Office On Homelessness and Housing Solutions	Hawaii	235,000

RYSE



Application Submittal Checklist

The following items are required for submittal of the grant application. Please verify and check off that the items have been included in the application packet.

- 1) Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)
- 2) Declaration Statement
- 3) Verify that grant shall be used for a public purpose
- 4) Background and Summary
- 5) Service Summary and Outcomes
- 6) Budget
 - a) Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))
 - b) Personnel salaries and wages ([Link](#))
 - c) Equipment and motor vehicles ([Link](#))
 - d) Capital project details ([Link](#))
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))
- 7) Experience and Capability
- 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Carla Houser, Executive Director

PRINT NAME AND TITLE


DATE