



Press Release

Youth Continuum Selects Architect for Grand Avenue Project, On Track to Open Doors by August 2024

New Haven, CT, April 5, 2023—Youth Continuum has selected Christopher Williams Architects as our architectural and design firm for our construction project at 924 Grand Avenue in New Haven. Construction begins this fall, and we aim to open our doors by August 2024!

This game-changing renovation includes a complete gutting and overhaul of the building that formerly housed Youth Continuum’s drop-in center, tripling the size of our space to 13,000 square feet. This will allow us to offer a full complement of intervention services for youth experiencing homelessness in a single location.

Our ground floor and lower level will include a significantly expanded drop-in center with laundry facilities, showers, and access to basic needs such as clothing, food and toiletries; medical and mental health services; a computer lab; a designated space for academic education, career exploration and workforce readiness skill development; and open space for recreation and social interaction.

Our second-floor addition will be the future home of Youth Continuum’s existing crisis housing program—the only such program in Greater New Haven—and will include 12 beds (featuring single and double occupancy bedrooms), four bathrooms, a dining/communal gathering area, and 24-hour, on-site wraparound services. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Y2Y Network—who created the nation’s first youth-led youth homeless shelter in Cambridge, Massachusetts—on a cutting-edge, hybrid service delivery model that combines the best of Y2Y’s peer-to-peer approach with the extensive expertise of Youth Continuum’s highly dedicated program staff.

Lastly, our building at 924 Grand Avenue will serve as ‘mission control’ for Youth Continuum’s referral site for unaccompanied youth in Greater New Haven who contact United Way’s 2-1-1 system for help. Callers are immediately referred to our Youth Navigators who conduct assessments and divert a full 30% of these young people away from homelessness via case management and linkages to other services.

Our original timeline was impacted by supply chain issues and re-design due to the pandemic, but good things come to those who wait! This state-of-the art facility will serve 550 youth each year, including 75-100 youth in our crisis housing, 150 youth via street outreach and 300 youth via our Youth Navigators.