



ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTIN, TX

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PRESENTED BY

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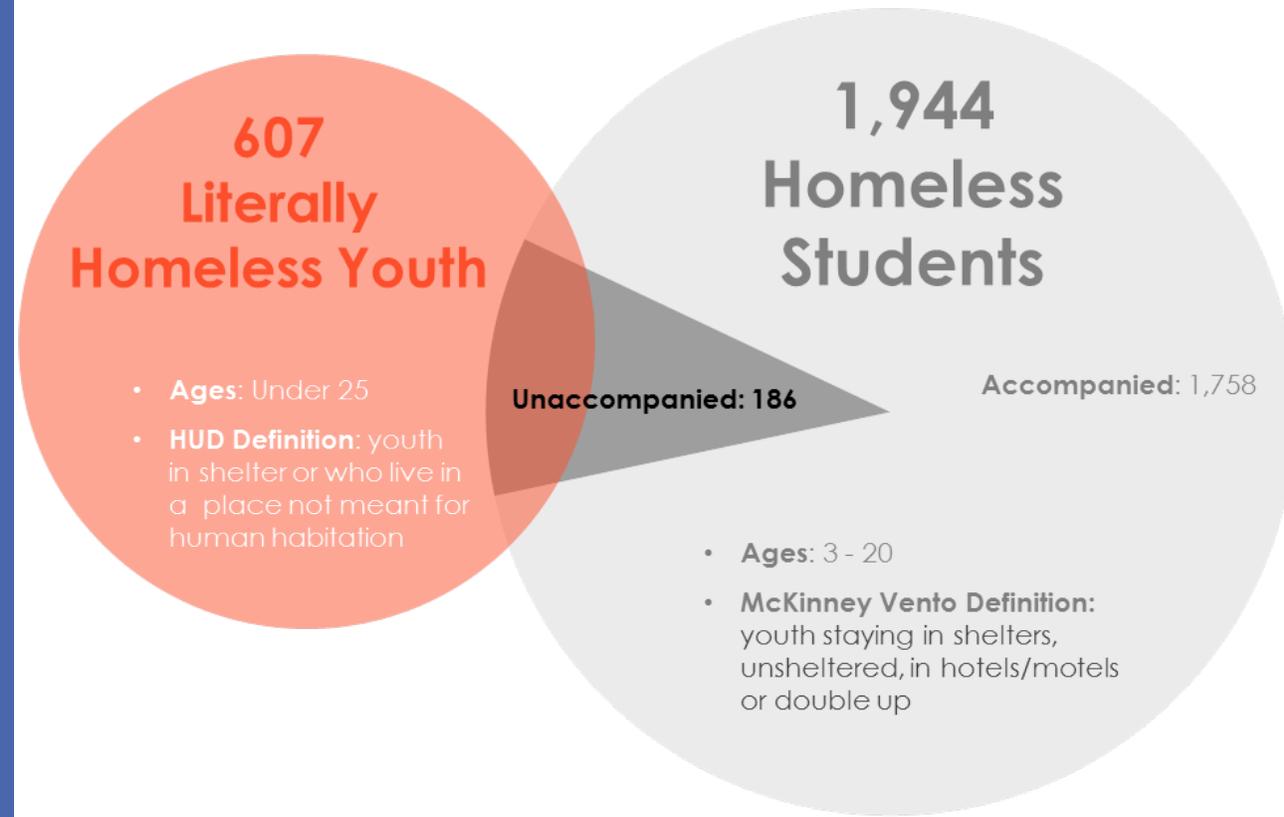
LIFEWORKS

WHAT IS THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM (YHDP)?

- In January 2017, Austin was awarded a transformative demonstration grant by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP).
- As part of this competitive opportunity, Austin joins nine other communities across the country to take on the bold task of creating a local coordinated community response to prevent and end homelessness for unaccompanied youth by 2020.

AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY DATA ON YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- At least 607 unaccompanied youth and young adults aged 18-24 experience literal homelessness in Austin/Travis County over the course of a year
- During the 2016-2017 school year, public schools in Travis County identified 1,944 homeless children and youth, 186 of them unaccompanied.



HOW ARE WE DEFINING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS?

- Unaccompanied youth: 24 years and younger, who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian during homelessness episode and parenting youth
- Sub-populations of interest
 - LGBTQ youth
 - Youth under the age of 18
 - Former foster youth
 - Pregnant and parenting youth
 - Victims of human trafficking
 - Youth who are doubled-up

OUR JOURNEY ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- ✓ December 2014-August 2016-Austin implements and achieves an effective end to veteran homelessness-provides key framework
- ✓ June 2016-Austin participates in Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count
- ✓ July 2016-Participates in the A Way Home America 100 Day Challenge to house 53 young people
- ✓ January 2017, Austin is selected as one of 10 communities nationwide to serve as HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program site
- ✓ July 2017-Austin submits coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness.
- ✓ November 2017 – HUD approves the community plan.
- ✓ March 2018 – ECHO awards 3 grants to community partners to implement priority strategies.
- ✓ April 2018 Austin City Council endorses plan as part of overall community plan to end homelessness.
- ✓ October 2018 – Launch of priority strategies.



HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTIN'S YHDP PLANNING EFFORT

OUR COMMUNITY VALUES

- ***Youth Voice***
- ***Embracing Respect and Change***
- ***Addressing Disparities***
- ***Data-driven decision making***

CREATE A YOUTH-CENTERED APPROACH TO SYSTEM PLANNING



- In November 2016, Austin/Travis County CoC formed Youth Action Board
- Local lead youth service agency, LifeWorks provides staff liaison to support youth leadership
- True Colors Fund provides technical assistance to young leaders and adults working with youth
- As of April 2017, Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness has 2 voting seats on CoC Board and are apart of all planning and decision-making

AUSTIN YOUTH COLLECTIVE TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

<http://austinyouthcollective.org/>

#HAVEYOUSEENUS

@AYCTEH



The Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness. Back row: Gage, Chante, Taylor, Rhie, Lyric, Alex. Front: Franklin, Jimmy. CONTRIBUTED

GIVING CITY AUSTIN
This article is published through a partnership with Giving City Austin, which reports on the area's nonprofit community. Read more Giving City stories at GivingCityAustin.com.

"It really made us look at ourselves as individual agencies to see where could we work more closely together," said McDowell. "It allowed us to work as a system rather than in our individual silos."
On the heels of that success, Austin was one of 10 communities across the

plan that also includes diverting youths at risk of homelessness and creating an emergency shelter specifically for this age group. A distinguishing element of the efforts to end youth homelessness is the Austin Youth Collective, a group of formerly homeless young people whose direct input helped form some of the driving principles of the project. "The project is informed by data," said McDowell, "but also informed by youth who have actually lived through the problem we're trying to solve for."
Lyric Wardlow, a member of the collective and a student at ACC Northridge, said being able to advise on programming has helped give value to her experience. "There have been times when we talk about shelters, and they have a dif-

#HAVEYOUSEENUS

END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



BENEFIT

thursday, oct 4th
6pm-10pm
buzz mill
1505 town creek dr



MUSIC, YOUTH STORIES, AND MORE

HEADLINER:
THE HUMAN CIRCUIT

DEMONSTRATION

saturday, oct 6th
1pm-3pm
corner of
lamar & barton springs



AUSTINYOUTHCOLLECTIVE.ORG

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Local Youth Advisory Board
Child Welfare Agency
Juvenile and Adult Criminal Justice
Homeless Youth-Serving Organizations (RHY Funded, etc)
Continuum of Care
Human Trafficking
Local Mental Health Authority

Health Care
School District (Especially McKinney Vento Liaison)
Adult Homeless Service Providers
Local Colleges
Faith-based Outreach Programs
Affordable Housing Partners
Youth Legal/Policy Entities

LEVERAGE NATIONAL MOMENTUM AND RESOURCES

- A Way Home America
- Rapid Results Institute-100 Day Challenges
- True Colors Fund
- HUD and other Technical Assistance

CREATE A CLEAR DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE TO DRIVE EFFORT



COMMUNITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **Goal 1** – The community has a system in place to identify all unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness and/or are unsafe and at-risk of becoming homeless
- **Goal 2** – The community continues to implement a Coordinated Entry and Triage system that effectively links youth to housing and services that are youth focused and driven by youth choice
- **Goal 3** - The community offers an array of program options available for youth and young adults to best meet their needs
- **Goal 4** - The community maintains the system and programs, working towards sustainability, and makes improvements as needed



PRIORITY STRATEGIES



IN 2018 YHDP FUNDS WILL EXPAND OUR CONTINUUM

Diversion – **RARE** – LifeWorks will work within Child Protective Services, State and County Juvenile Justice, and local school districts to create housing pathways for youth in transition so they do not fall into homelessness.

Permanency Through Outreach and Rapid Transitions (PORT)- **BRIEF** - A transitional facility with rapid links to Rapid Re-Housing that will divert youth from downtown adult shelters and put them on the fast track (less than 30 days) to Rapid Re-Housing.

Rapid Re-Housing – **NON-RECURRING** – Scale a model that provides temporary assistance, apartment location, and workforce support so youth access permanent housing and the skills/income to sustain it.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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LifeWorks

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