
ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTIN BY 2020

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



HISTORY

- Opening Doors
- Veterans Homelessness (achieved by Austin in 2016)
- Chronic Homelessness
- Youth and Family Homelessness

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

NUMBER OF YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN A GIVEN YEAR



WHAT DOES ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MEAN?

- Rare – Very few youth experience homelessness.
- Brief – Youth are moved quickly to appropriate housing and support services.
- Nonrecurring – Youth sustain housing.

This success of this effort involves **BOTH** expansion of housing and service options **AND** the systemic coordination of all nonprofits and public systems that serve youth at risk of homelessness.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE SUCCEEDED?

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Criteria:

- The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.
- The community uses prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.
- The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.
- The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.
- The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.

MOMENTUM TOWARDS 2020

- Voices of Youth Count (20 cities)
- 100 Day Challenge (3 cities)
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Projects (10 projects)

NATIONAL PARTNERS

- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- A Way Home America (www.awayhomeamerica.org)
- Funders Together to End Homelessness (includes Raikes Foundation, Melville Charitable Trust, Annie E. Casey Foundation)
- Chapin Hall (University of Chicago)

LOCAL PARTNERS

LifeWorks and Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) have partnered as planning co-leads.

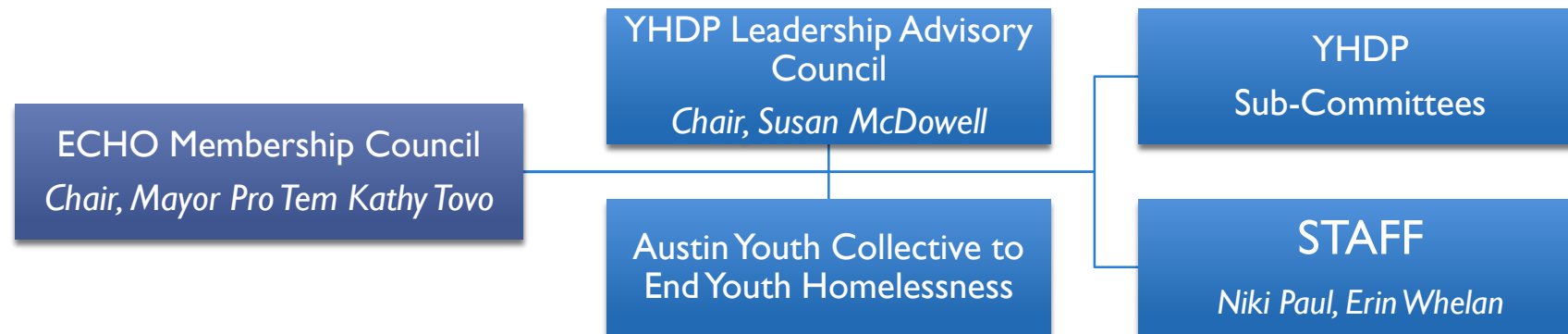
Other partners include:

Austin/Travis County Integral Care, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Caritas, Austin Independent School District, Safe Alliance, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, City of Austin Housing Authority, City of Austin, Travis County, Front Steps, Street Youth Ministries, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, University of Texas, Texas Homeless Education Office

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Purpose: Catalyze the community's efforts to end youth homelessness through the development of a plan to meet the USICH criteria and funding innovative projects to meet gaps in services.

\$5.2 million over 3 years for planning and development of innovative projects to address youth homelessness. Project funding may roll over to our community's annual HUD Continuum of Care allocation from HUD.



TRAVIS COUNTY GOALS

| OUTCOME MEASURE | CORRESPONDING BENCHMARK OF SUCCESS |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community has identified all youth experiencing homeless. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CoC will conduct 3 intensive outreach initiatives in 1 year CoC will develop a comprehensive outreach system that can identify youth in sheltered, unsheltered, and doubled-up situations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community can provide safe and appropriate shelter to any youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CoC will offer youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness an emergency shelter option within 72 hours or less CoC will streamline current emergency shelter system capacity CoC will ensure all non-youth specific shelters have a protocol and training in place meet the needs of a youth |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community will help youth return home to their given or chosen families, as desired. | <p>100% of youth who identify family reunification goals achieve them</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community can move youth into permanent housing. | <p>90% of youth experiencing homelessness are permanently housed within 90 days of engagement after identification</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community will connect youth to supportive services to empower and foster stability | <p>Streamline youth's accessibility to healthcare, mental health, substance use supports, education and employment. Improve emotional well-being and permanent community connections</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community has adequate resources and capacity to prevent homelessness for at-risk youth | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> TDFPS will identify youth aging out of care, develop housing plans, and refer youth into CoC service providers to ensure zero discharge into homelessness Youth who are housed will received on-going support and follow-up at 3, 6, & 12 months to prevent reoccurring homelessness |

KEY NEXT STEPS

- Community Plan due to HUD by July 13
- ECHO conducts competitive process for Innovative Projects
- Aggressively pursue existing and new initiatives to work as a system (coordinated entry, integration with CPS and school district, etc.)
- Extensive communication and resource development to fund initiatives not currently funded and/or funded under Innovative Projects

CONTACT INFORMATION

Niki Paul, Director of Operations, ECHO:

Phone: 512-571-3945

Email: nikipaul@austinecho.org

Erin Whelan, Division Director for Housing Programs, LifeWorks:

Phone: 512-735-2147

Email: Erin.Whelan@LifeWorksAustin.org

RESOURCES

- USICH Opening Doors: <https://www.usich.gov/opening-doors>
- HUD NOFA: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/YHDP-NOFA.pdf>
- Ending Youth Homelessness Guidebooks Series: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5138/ending-youth-homelessness-a-guidebook-series/>
- USICH Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness- A Coordinated Community Response: https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Youth_Homelessness_Coordinated_Response.pdf