

Atlanta Continuum of Care Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026
In-Person Meeting – St. Luke’s Episcopal Church – Budd/Parish Hall

❖ **Welcome – Brianna Flowers**

❖ **Persons with Lived Experience Outreach Work – Camille Sims Russell**

- Partners for HOME is looking to increase opportunities for those with lived experience in homelessness in Atlanta to join our team. There are two positions that are currently open. More info can be found on the [Partners for HOME website](#).
- A peer support specialist program has been launched that will engage individuals with lived experience with homelessness, recovery, or systems involvement to connect with people experiencing homelessness across Atlanta. The program aims to emphasize ethical, relationship-centered engagement within encampments and other community spaces. Currently, the program is open to Client Advisory Council members. For more information, please email [Camille Sims Russell](#) or [Erin Wilson](#).

❖ **National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference Review – Brianna Flowers**

- Brianna Flowers recently attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference in San Diego. NAEH took a different approach to the conference this year. When signing up for the conference, attendees had to sign up for a specific track (advocacy, lived experience, funders, emerging leaders, executive leaders, etc.). Some themes included: anchoring to purpose, cultural humility, equity in decision-making, rejecting fear, and seeking wise counsel.

❖ **JEDI Standards – Brianna Flowers**

- The JEDI standards were created as part of the of the 2023 – 2028 Atlanta CoC Community Plan to Reduce and End Homelessness. The strategic plan included four main goals as well as two culture goals, one of which is to advance equity within the Atlanta CoC. A DEI taskforce was created to establish the JEDI standards which are composed of domains (the category in which the work falls), standards (specific topics within the domain area), and indicators (how the standards are done).
- A structured cohort composed of 3 participating agencies brought together staff at all levels from direct service to executive leadership to examine culture, share power, and create lasting change. Four phases were conducted: 1) organizational assessment; 2) training series; 3) vision setting and action planning; and 4) metric development and implementation.
- Moving forward, there will be continued targeted refinement of standards, a re-launch of CoC-wide evaluation to measure progress against the baseline, and a focus on one domain/standard quarterly.

❖ **Youth Action Board Youth Point-in-Time Count Event & Current Projects – Bidemi Animashaun**

- The Atlanta Youth Action Board (YAB) hosted a Point-in-Time Count event on January 30. Over 25 volunteers came together with nearly 20 providers to conduct on-site coordinated entry assessments and provide resources. Attendees enjoyed a hot chocolate station, were entered into a raffle, and received a swag bag.
- Current YAB activities include creating a 2026 CoC Youth Resource Guide by the end of June, YHSI (Youth Homelessness System Improvement) evaluation workgroup with the Morehouse School of Medicine, and capacity building training with the Southern Legal Center for Youth.

❖ **Fostering Youth to Success Act & Fostering Youth to Independence Review – Tyler Fulton & Deja Johnson, HTS**

- The Fostering Success Act is a taxpayer policy legislation program where taxes go towards housing, educational, and living expenses for Young Adults with intentions for furthering education. Living expenses

can include medical appointments, transportation, childcare, rent/utilities, food and many things for daily living needs while they're in post-secondary education. Clients who are under the age of 26 and have been in foster care in Georgia for at least 6 months at age 14 or older are eligible to apply. Homelessness is *not* a requirement of this program. Clients must be enrolled or open to enrollment in a Technical College of Georgia or University System of Georgia College.

- The Foster Youth to Independence housing choice voucher is for youth who are aging out or who have aged out of the care of DCFS. This initiative makes HCV assistance available to public housing agencies in partnership with public child welfare agencies. The program's vouchers provide up to 36 months of financial housing assistance to young adults aged 18 to 24 who have left foster care or who will leave foster care in the next 90 days.
- For more information on both programs, please reach out to the HTS team (Deja@hopethrusoap.org or Tyler@Hopethrusoap.org).

❖ **Legislative Updates – Natallie Keiser, HouseATL**

- The 2026 session convened on January 12 for a 40-day session. Crossover day was March 6, and Sine Die will be on April 2. This is the second year of a two-year session. Legislation that didn't pass in 2025 is available for passage, but many new bills are being introduced. The FY2026 amended budget has been finalized, and 2027 budget discussions are still underway. Drivers of the 2026 session include this being a key election year, and unobligated budget surplus of \$9 billion, and struggles over tax cuts in the house and the senate.
- Advocacy efforts around preventing and ameliorating homelessness:
 - Homeless response grant funding: Finalized. FY 2026 Amended Budget includes one-time funding to State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless of \$45 M for local grants for emergency shelter, transitional housing, outreach & services, plus \$5 M for veteran homelessness.
 - Georgia Housing Voucher Program: This FY 2027 budget increase for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is for 404 additional vouchers and wraparound services. House Appropriations Committee. Needs support from advocates.
 - HB 689: Local grants for short-term emergency rental/utility assistance. Covid funded program expired September 2025. HB 689 passed House, now Senate Government Oversight Committee. FY 2027 budget request is with House Appropriations Committee
 - SB 418: Directs Dept. of Community Health to request a federal waiver to qualify certain services for Medicaid (supportive housing, employment support, case management).
- Advocacy efforts around opposing the criminalization of housing insecurity:
 - HB 295: Creates a right for property owners to pursue property tax recovery if a city/county fails to enforce laws against homelessness, e.g., public camping, loitering, panhandling, etc. Passed House. Needs strong opposition.
 - HB 61: Formerly HB 183, this bill would remove a person's right to an eviction process despite living months and years in extended stay hotels, provides for immediate lockout, requires law enforcement removal and charge as criminal trespassers. Tabled in House Judiciary Committee in 2025. Substituted onto an unrelated bill in Senate Public Safety Committee with harsh Squatter Bill. Pending now in Senate Rules Committee. Needs strong opposition.
- Advocacy efforts around building more affordable housing:
 - SB 476: Oppose reducing state match of federal LIHTC awards from 100% to 50% effective 2027 and 0% in 2032. Passed Senate, now in House Ways & Means Committee. Needs opposition.

- HB 116: Zoning decisions shall not affect accessory dwelling units of 400 square feet or fewer. Passed House, referred to Senate. Needs advocacy support.
- HB 1132: Provides a narrow nonprofit sales tax exemption on construction materials for single family homes for first time home buyers with 0% loans and 30-year affordability. Passed House, referred to Senate. Needs advocacy support.
- Advocacy efforts around protecting tenants and supporting first-time homebuyers:
 - It is extremely difficult to increase tenant protections in legislature. Bills introduced included: defining required habitability of rental units; increasing transparency in advertising of rents to include fees; right to withhold rent for repairs; removing the rental registry ban, etc.
 - Bipartisan efforts to limit the rental homes that institutional investors can own and address competition challenges created for first time home buyers. SB 463 passed Senate, now in House Judiciary Committee. HR 656 to create a study committee in House Rules Committee. HouseATL's prevention priority is tenant protection.
- Suggested next steps:
 - Contact State Representatives and Senators to express priorities.
 - Stay engaged with legislators after the session is over.
 - Get to know local City Councilmembers and County Commissioners to share concerns.
 - Get involved in candidate forums.
 - Consider becoming a member of [HouseATL](#).
- ❖ **Downtown Rising Presentation – Ke'Asia Conley, PCCI & Veronyka Snelson, SafeHouse Outreach**
 - [PCCI](#)
 - PCCI was contracted to serve 45 clients. First move ins occurred in August, 2025. Contract expanded to serve 85, and last move in was in February of 2026.
 - PCCI's services include: rental & move-in assistance, connections to supportive services, housing advocacy, case management/housing stabilization services, housing counseling, and landlord liaison services.
 - Common challenges include a lack of income or low income, lack of support system and community, lack of transportation or access to transportation, adjustments to being housed, and a lack of employment readiness.
 - Next steps include securing vital documents, increasing income, learning budgeting, workshops and events, building a support network, and senior and subsidized housing.
 - [SafeHouse Outreach](#)
 - SafeHouse Outreach serves dinner to over 200 people per night Monday through Friday. They also offer mail services, family reunification, rental/utility assistance, and document recovery, case management, employment services, and housing placements.
 - SafeHouse Outreach's Connect Team works to meet and assist unsheltered individuals at encampments, drop-in and warming centers, and bridges get connected with resources. The process starts with building trust and connections, enrollment in essential services, navigation through the system, securing stable housing, and supporting clients with ongoing assistance to maintain housing stability.
 - SafeHouse Outreach has worked in three zones and enrolled 125 clients as part of Downtown Rising. 90 clients have been successfully connected to housing.

❖ Agency Round Robin

- [DBHDD](#) will be opening a [health and human services center soon in Alpharetta](#). Opening welcome day and open house are coming. More info to come. They are looking to partner with entities that work with people with developmental disabilities and would like to partner for more outreach since they have a mobile unit and a clinician who can do assessments.
- [Serenity Haven Housing](#) provides transitional housing for people coming out of the justice system. They are opening several houses and have a house in Atlanta for seniors. They are looking to partner with different people and organizations to house the homeless.
- [Crossroads Community Ministries](#) provides services to the unhoused population. They are building a new courtyard and are recruiting volunteers. If your agency has services or outreach days, please reach out.
- [Salvation Army](#) is experiencing issues for clients who have income and whose time is up at the shelter. They are looking for housing and don't want clients to go back to being unhoused.
- United Way has partnered with [Hope Thru Soap](#) for diversion. Clients may receive up to \$2,000 to use for fees. It is age restricted to 18 – 24 and individuals have to be experiencing homelessness in Atlanta, Gwinnett, or Clayton counties.
- [Open Doors](#) is one of the leading housing providers in the city. They provide housing and collaborate with several local agencies.
- [Redeemed Outreach CDC](#) provides educational life experience training at their location where they also provide housing for women. They teach clients life skills in agriculture and do additional wrap around services.



Welcome! March Atlanta CoC Meeting

PARTNERS FOR
HOME



PLE Outreach Work

PARTNERS FOR

HOME

Outreach Coordinator

- We're looking to increase opportunities for those with lived experience of homelessness in Atlanta to join our team.
- This is a 12-month, contractual part-time position that will initially be responsible for two main projects. The initial areas of focus are:
 - **1) Training outreach teams on best practices for engaging those experiencing homelessness**
 - **2) Working with the community and homeless diversion providers to increase the use and success of diversion, Rapid Rehousing and Transitional Housing.**
- Qualifications:
 - Year or more lived experience of unsheltered homelessness in City of Atlanta and/or the greater Metro Atlanta areas
 - Current member of a CoC workgroup/committee
 - High energy and a passion for the CoC's mission and goals
 - Previous experience working with the homeless population or housing preferably, not required
- **Please visit our careers page on www.partnersforhome.org to apply!**



Peer Support Specialists Program

Strategic Goal 1: Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness in the City of Atlanta

- This program is Partners for HOME's community-based homeless outreach strategy that engages individuals with lived experience of homelessness, recovery, or systems involvement to connect with people experiencing homelessness across the City of Atlanta.
- The program aims to emphasize ethical, relationship-centered engagement within encampments and other community spaces.
- Currently, the program is open to our CAC members, and we encourage others interested in the program join the CAC to join the program.
- Peer Support Specialists serve as frontline assessors to:
 - Identify the needs within encampments/community spaces and how those gaps can be addressed compassionately and effectively.
 - Assist with understanding of the priorities of individuals residing in encampments

Email Camille Sims Russell, crussell@partnersforhome.org or Erin Wilson, ewilson@partnersforhome.org for more information

LEAD WITH PURPOSE

NAEH Leadership Summit: Recap

Summit Themes

01

Anchor to Purpose

04

Reject Fear

02

Cultural Humility

05

Seek Wise Counsel

03

Equity in Decision-Making

Anchor to Purpose

"Why am I here?" is a question for you return to, especially on the hard days.

- ✓ Whether you do intake, outreach, case management, or lead a team; Your purpose anchors everything
- ✓ When the system feels broken, your purpose reminds you why you stay
- ✓ Let it guide how you treat every person who walks through the door or who you find outside
- ✓ Name your purpose out loud

Cultural Humility

Our Clients Deserve It.
So Do Our Colleagues.

Lead with Love, Not
Power

Discomfort Is Where
Growth Happens

Model Humanity at
Every Level

Equity in Decision-Making

Power shared is power multiplied.

Share Power with
Clients &
Colleagues

Center
Transparency

Give Yourself Time

Reject Fear.

Silence in the face of injustice is a choice too. Speak with care, but still speak.

The people we serve can't afford for us to stay comfortable. Iterate. Learn. Keep going.

Every system change started with one person who decided their role mattered.

Seek Wise Counsel

This work carries weight. You shouldn't carry it alone.

A NOTE ON SECONDARY TRAUMA & MENTAL HEALTH:

Compassion fatigue and secondary trauma are occupational realities in homeless services. Seeking support is not weakness, it's how you sustain the work. Model it so your team feels safe to do the same.

A Therapist or Counselor

A Mentor, Supervisor, Someone You Trust

Peer Support & Community

Your Own Inner Life

The people we serve need us at our best.

That starts with how we lead ourselves.

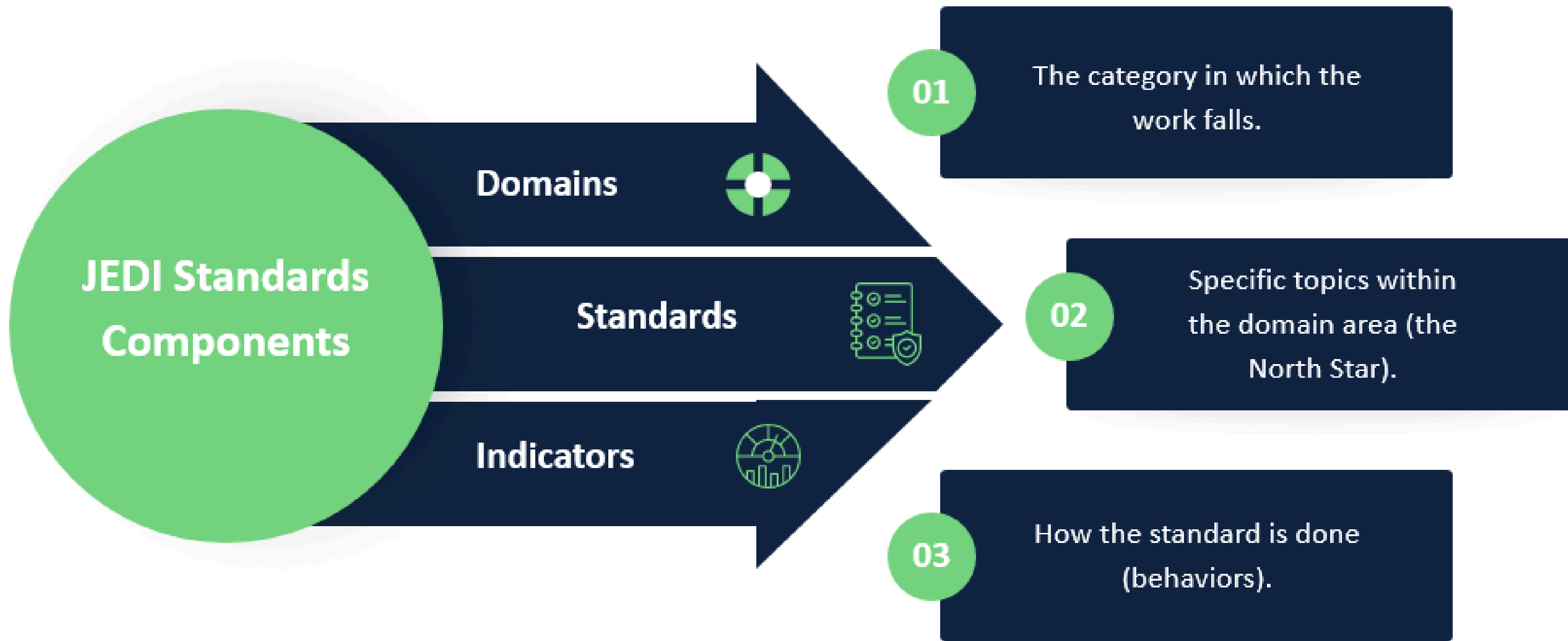
- Return to your purpose... especially on hard days
- Lead with dignity, love, and cultural humility
- Share power with clients & colleagues
- Reject the fear that keeps you and the work small
- Ask for support & normalize it for others

JEDI Standards & Cohort: Update



2023-2028 Atlanta CoC Community Plan to Reduce and End Homelessness

Culture Goal 1: Advance Equity Within the Atlanta CoC
KPI: CoC-Wide Equity Standards



PARTNERS FOR **HOME**

What is the Cohort?

A structured learning community for homeless service agencies committed to building more equitable, people-centered organizations, from the inside out.

The cohort brought together staff at all levels, from direct service to executive leadership, to examine culture, share power, and create lasting change.

3

Participating Agencies

4

Cohort Phases

1

Shared Commitment to Change

THE COHORT JOURNEY

Four phases.

01

**Organizational
Assessment**

02

**Training
Series**

03

**Vision Setting &
Action Planning**

04

**Metric Development
& Implementation**

Moving Forward



Refinement

Continue targeted refinement of standards



Re-launch

Relaunch CoC-wide evaluation to measure progress against baseline



Quarterly Focus

Partner with the committee to lift up one domain/standard quarterly

Atlanta Youth Point-in-Time Count Event

January 30th 2026

- Over 25 Volunteers
- 17 Providers
- Hot Chocolate Station
- On Site Coordinated Entry Assessments
- Baby Clothing Drive
- 2 Chromebooks + 1 pair of JBL headphones raffled off

The flyer features the YAB logo at the top, followed by the event title '2026 YOUTH POINT-IN-TIME COUNT'. The main text describes the event as a day of raffles, fun, and free food for a national survey. It specifies the date as January 30th, with doors opening at 10:30 AM, and the location as 818 Pollard Blvd SW, Atlanta, GA 30315. A note states that all attendees will receive a care package and be entered into three raffles. Contact information is provided at the bottom.

YAB
YOUTH ACTION BOARD

2026 YOUTH POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Join us for a day of raffles, fun, and free food as Atlanta participates in the national Point-In-Time Count to survey and provide resources to youth ages 18-24 who are facing housing challenges in our community

JANUARY 30TH
Doors Open at 10:30 AM

818 POLLARD BVD SW
ATLANTA GA, 30315

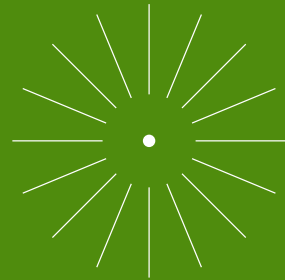
All attendees will receive a care package and be entered into 3 raffles.

Questions? Contact yab@partnersforhome.org

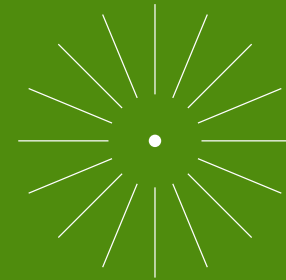
YAB Swag Bag that included:

- YAB Water Bottle
- \$10 Kroger Gift Card
- YAB Sticker
- YAB Pen & Notepad
- Hand Sanitizer
- Poncho
- Hot Hands Hand Warmers
- Dove Soap & Lotion
- YAB Resource Guide

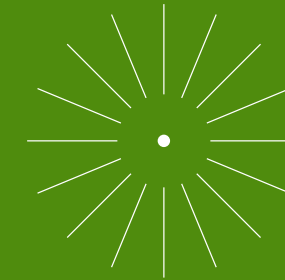
Current YAB Activities



**2026 CoC Youth
Resource Guide
June 30th 2026**



**YHSI Evaluation
Workgroup w/
Morehouse School of
Medicine**



**Capacity Building
Training w/ Southern
Legal Center for Youth**



Fostering Youth to Success Act (FSA) & Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI)

Deja Johnson & Tyler Fulton, MSW

Fostering Success Act (FSA) Overview

- The Fostering Success Act is a taxpayer policy legislation program where taxes go towards housing, educational, and living expenses for Young Adults with intentions for furthering education.
- Living expenses can include medical appointments, transportation, childcare, rent/utilities, food and many things for daily living needs while they're in post secondary education.



Eligibility

Youth Clients that are under the age of 26 and have been in foster care in the state of Georgia for at least six months at age 14 or older.

- If a Client experienced foster care in a different state or under the age of 14, they would not qualify for this program.

Homelessness is not a requirement of this program.

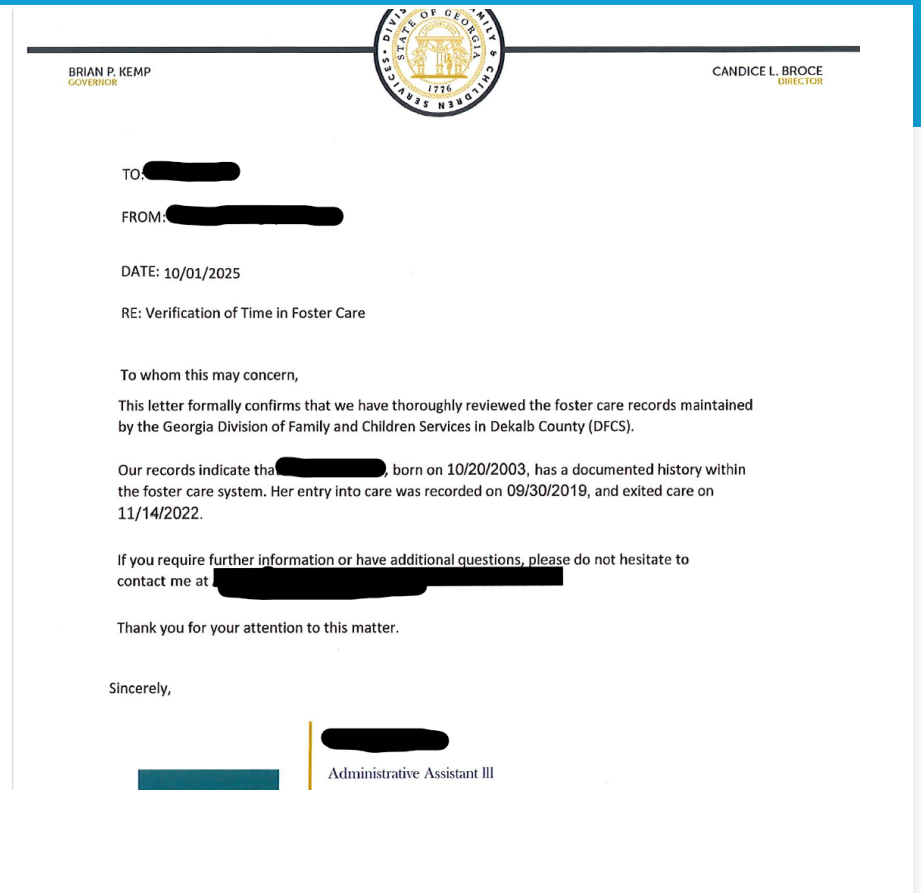
- Clients that are housed or in a different housing program, are still eligible to receive funding.
- Clients cannot receive double the funds or double dip funds.
- If Client's are in a housing program that is paying for their rent (FYI/SECTION 8/RRH), Fostering Success cannot pay their rent.
- Fostering Success could pay for other living needs.

Client must be enrolled or open to enrollment in a Technical College of Georgia or University System of Georgia College.

- It cannot be an online program for an out of state school, a private school or for a local career institution offering classes.
- The client must remain in good academic standing in school; client must maintain a 2.0 GPA.

FSA Waiting Period: Minimum of 4-8 weeks after educational program enrollment

- Documents needed: ID, SSC, BC and DFCS Verification Letter

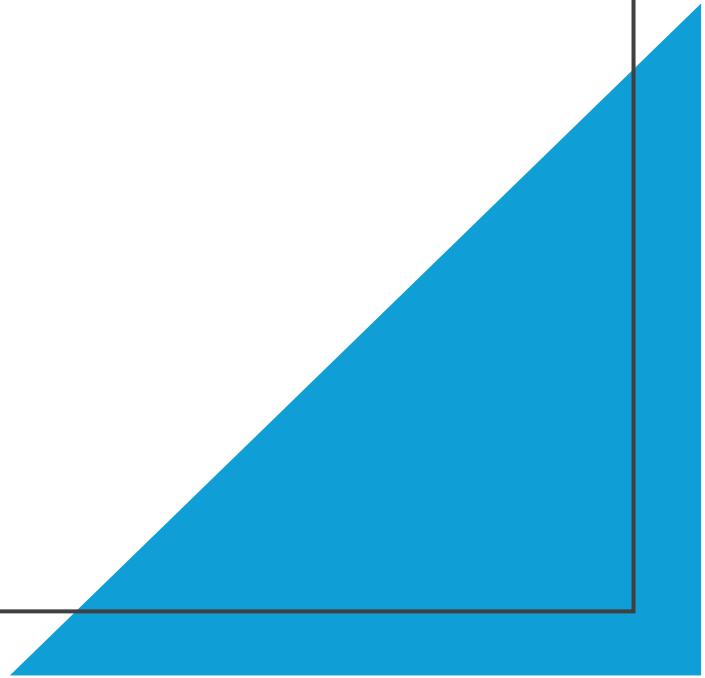


FSA Program Phases:

- Pre-application: foster care verification letter, school enrollment proof, & budget.
- Housing navigation: Housing does not need to fully be identified but an estimate for how much we think rent is going to cost.
- Budget approval and funding deposits
- Financial disbursement: Client's are given checks and gift cards. Checks are also made out to vendors that Client utilizes for living expenses.
- Post Award Case Management
- Budget and Application Renewals

Common Issues:

- Clients not being able to upkeep GPA
- Client is arrears of backpay or eviction



Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) housing choice voucher Overview

- FYI is a housing choice voucher (HCV, commonly referred to as “Section 8”) for youth who are aging out, or who have aged out, of the care of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
- Social work researchers estimate more than 40% of foster youth will face homelessness within two years of leaving the system. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program in 2019 to address the issue.
- The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs).
- The program's vouchers provide up to 36 months of financial housing assistance to young adults, between the ages of 18 and 24, who have left foster care or will leave foster care in the next 90 days.

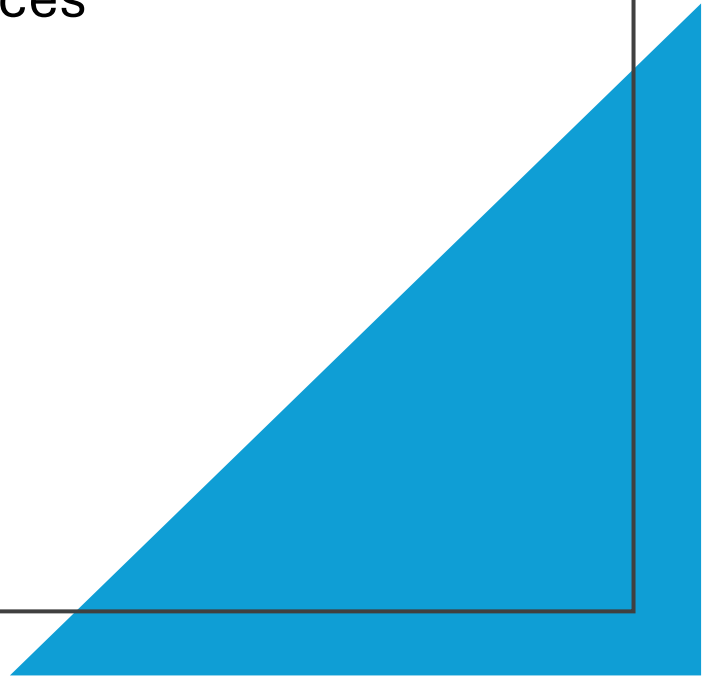


Referral Process

- DFCS caseworkers initiate this process. They will release the name and information to the local housing authority who will help complete the housing authority's application for HCV. The process can take between twelve and eighteen months from the date of referral until the client gets their keys to an apartment.
- With an FYI housing choice voucher, client will pay approximately 30% of their income on rent. The housing authority pays the rest.
- FYI does not provide an apartment. Client is responsible for finding an apartment to rent. Supportive services or Housing Advocates may be able to assist in this process.
- **FYI Waiting Period: Minimum of 12 - 18 months**
- Documents needed: ID, SSC, BC and DFCS Verification Letter

Common Issues

- Clients come to us from all walks of Foster Care life. Some sign themselves out while others complete the program up to age 21. However, youth are often, left without follow up resources for housing, education, etc.



Questions

To refer a Client please email:

Deja: Deja@hopethrusoap.Org

Tyler: Tyler@Hopethrusoap.org

Partners for Home

Tuesday, March 10, 2026





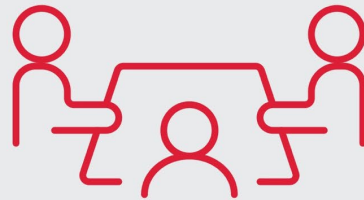
About Us

HouseATL advances equitable housing outcomes for people in metro Atlanta by leading cross-sector collaboration and advocating for affordable housing policies and solutions. Our members envision metro Atlanta as a thriving and diverse region, where people at all income levels have housing choices and can live with dignity, for generations to come.



450

**MEMBERS FROM
270 ORGANIZATIONS**



5

**WORKING
GROUPS**



8

**GUIDING
PRINCIPLES**



23

**DATA-DRIVEN
RECOMMENDATIONS**

2026 State Legislative Session Calendar

- 2026 session convened on January 12 for 40-day session
- **Crossover Day: March 6, 2026**
- **Sine Die (last day): April 2, 2026**
- Second year of 2-year session; legislation that did not pass in 2025 is available for passage. Many new bills are being introduced
- FY2026 Amended Budget finalized
- 2027 Budget discussions still underway



Drivers of the 2026 Session

Key Election Year

- Governor and Lt. Governor races with no incumbents
- All Constitutional offices – Secretary of State, Attorney General, Education, Agriculture, Labor, and Insurance Commissioners

Unobligated Budget Surplus of \$9 Billion

House and Senate Struggle Over Tax Cuts

- Senate supports reducing income tax. Funding state gap with cutting corporate tax credits and sales tax exemptions.
- House supports cutting property taxes for residential homestead property. Providing flexibility for counties, cities and schools with methods to close gaps, more options to increase sales taxes, etc.
- Governor supports speeding reduction in income tax and one time rebate to taxpayers (\$500 married couples and \$250 individuals).



Prevent and Ameliorate Homelessness

Homeless Response Grant Funding

Governor Requested \$50 Million to Housing Trust Fund – Finalized. FY 2026 Amended Budget includes one-time funding to State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless of \$45 M for local grants for emergency shelter, transitional housing, outreach & services, plus \$5 M for veterans homelessness.

Georgia Housing Voucher Program

Support Governor's Ask for \$9.3 Million increase for DBHDD - This FY 2027 budget increase for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is for 404 additional vouchers and wraparound services. House Appropriations Committee.

Permanent Emergency Rental Assistance

Support HB 689 and \$25 Million to DCA – Local grants for short term emergency rental/utility assistance. Covid funded program expired September 2025. HB 689 passed House, now Senate Government Oversight Committee. FY 2027 budget request is with House Appropriations Committee.

Medicaid Waiver

Support SB 428 - Directs Dept. of Community Health to request a federal waiver to qualify certain services for Medicaid (supportive housing, employment support, case management). House Health Committee

Opposing Criminalization of Housing Insecurity

Preventing Criminalization of Homelessness

Oppose HB295: Pressures cities and counties to prosecute homelessness - Creates a right for property owners to pursue property tax recovery if a city/county fails to enforce laws against homelessness, e.g., public camping, loitering, panhandling, etc. Passed House. Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee

Protect Families Living in Extended Stay Hotels

Oppose HB 61: Ends tenant protections for long term residents in extended stay hotels - HB 61 (formerly HB 183) removes a person's right to an eviction process despite living months and years in extended stay hotels, provides for immediate lockout, requires law enforcement removal and charge as criminal trespassers. Tabled in House Judiciary Committee in 2025. Substituted onto an unrelated bill in Senate Public Safety Committee with harsh Squatter Bill. Pending now in Senate Rules Committee.

Build More Affordable Housing

State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (SLIHTC)

Oppose SB 476 - Oppose reducing state match of federal LIHTC awards from 100% to 50% effective 2027 and 0% in 2032. Passed Senate, now in House Ways & Means Committee.

Zoning Reform

Support HB 1166 - Zoning decisions shall not affect accessory dwelling units of 400 square feet or fewer. Passed House, referred to Senate.

Sales Tax Exemption for Construction Supplies

Support HB1132 – Provides a narrow nonprofit sales tax exemption on construction materials for single family homes for first time home buyers with 0% loans and 30 year affordability. Passed House, referred to Senate.

Protect Tenants and Support First Time Homebuyers

Provide Tenant Protections

Multiple bills, but none crossed over – Extremely difficult to increase tenant protections in legislature. Bills introduced included: defining required habitability of rental units; increasing transparency in advertising of rents to include fees; right to withhold rent for repairs; removing the rental registry ban, etc.

Addressing Institutional Investment in Single Family Homes

Multiple bills, but only two still alive - Bipartisan efforts to limit the rental homes that institutional investors can own and address competition challenges created for first time home buyers. SB 463 passed Senate, now in House Judiciary Committee. HR 656 to create a study committee in House Rules Committee. HouseATL's prevention priority is tenant protections.

City and County Policy Toolbox

Housing Supply

- **Zoning Reform** (increase by right supply opportunities)
- **Affordable Housing Trust Funds** (gap financing for deep affordability)
- **Housing Opportunity Bonds** (gap financing for affordability)
- **Community Land Trusts** (develop permanent affordability)
- **Public Land** (remove land costs to increase affordability)
- **Land Bank Authorities** (blight/vacancy restoration to production)
- **Property Tax Abatements/Incentives** (reduce operating costs to allow for affordability)
- **Inclusionary Zoning** (require a percentage of affordable units)

Support for Tenants, Homebuyers and Homeowners

- **Rental Vouchers** (address gap between wages & available rents)
- **Downpayment Assistance** (encourage first time homeownership)
- **Emergency Financial Assistance** (sustain housing stability & prevent homelessness)
- **Eviction Diversion/Legal Assistance** (provide legal counsel, mediation & eviction prevention resources)
- **Housing Navigation** (provide housing navigation & case management)
- **Code Enforcement and Inspections** (increase habitability & safety)
- **Home Repairs** (help legacy low-income homeowners keep their homes)

Suggested Next Steps

- Contact your State Representative and Senator to express your priorities
- Stay engaged with your legislators after the session, as it is easier to build relationships and share your priorities outside of the session
- Get to know your City Council Member and County Commissioner to share your concerns
- Get involved in candidate forums to ask about housing and know candidates housing platforms when you vote
- Consider becoming a HouseATL member to receive action alerts, join us at the Capitol and participate in city/county policy actions



Find your Legislator

Thank you!

Contact

Natallie Keiser
Executive Director
nkeiser@houseatl.org

Talia Thornton
Membership Associate
tthornton@houseatl.org

Mijha Butcher Godfrey
Policy and Project Associate
mgodfrey@houseatl.org

Get Involved!

- Join HouseATL and be active in a Working Group
- Submit items for newsletter
- Make Board and award nominations
- Participate in Member Convenings - houseatl.org/events/

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DOWNTOWN

RISING

Initiative



CLIENTS SERVED

Contracted to serve 45

First move-in was in August 2025

Contracted to serve 85

Last move-in was in February 2026



SERVICES



**Rental &
Move-In
Assistance**

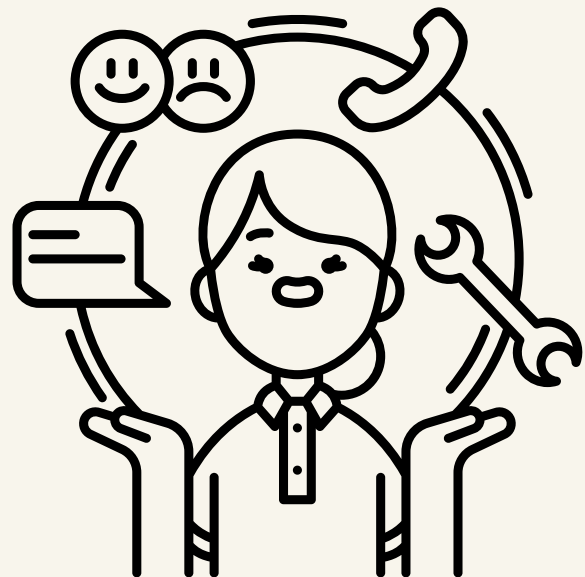
**Connections
to Supportive
Services**

**Housing
Advocacy**

**Case
Management /
Housing
Stabilization
Services**

**Housing
Counseling**

**Landlord
Liaison
Services**



WALK THROUGH & LEASE SIGNING

Intake Process

Step 1: Intake Coordination

The Outreach Team coordinates with the Housing Coordinator to schedule the client's intake appointment

Step 2: Intake Meeting

During the intake meeting, the Housing Coordinator meets with the client to begin the enrollment process.

Step 3: Program Overview

The Housing Coordinator provides a detailed overview of the program, including:

- Program expectations
- Participation requirements
- Available supports and services

Walk Through

Walkthrough Process

- Housing Coordinator confirms the client's move-in date.
- A walkthrough of the unit is scheduled prior to move-in.
- The client reviews the unit with the Housing Coordinator.
- Any questions or concerns about the unit can be addressed before move-in.

- Client completes initial walkthrough before lease signing.
- Housing Coordinator confirms no outstanding concerns.
- Final walkthrough conducted on the day of signing.
- Repairs or maintenance issues are verified as completed.
- Client proceeds with signing the lease.

Lease Signing

MOVE-INS



CHALLENGES



Lack of Income/ Low Income



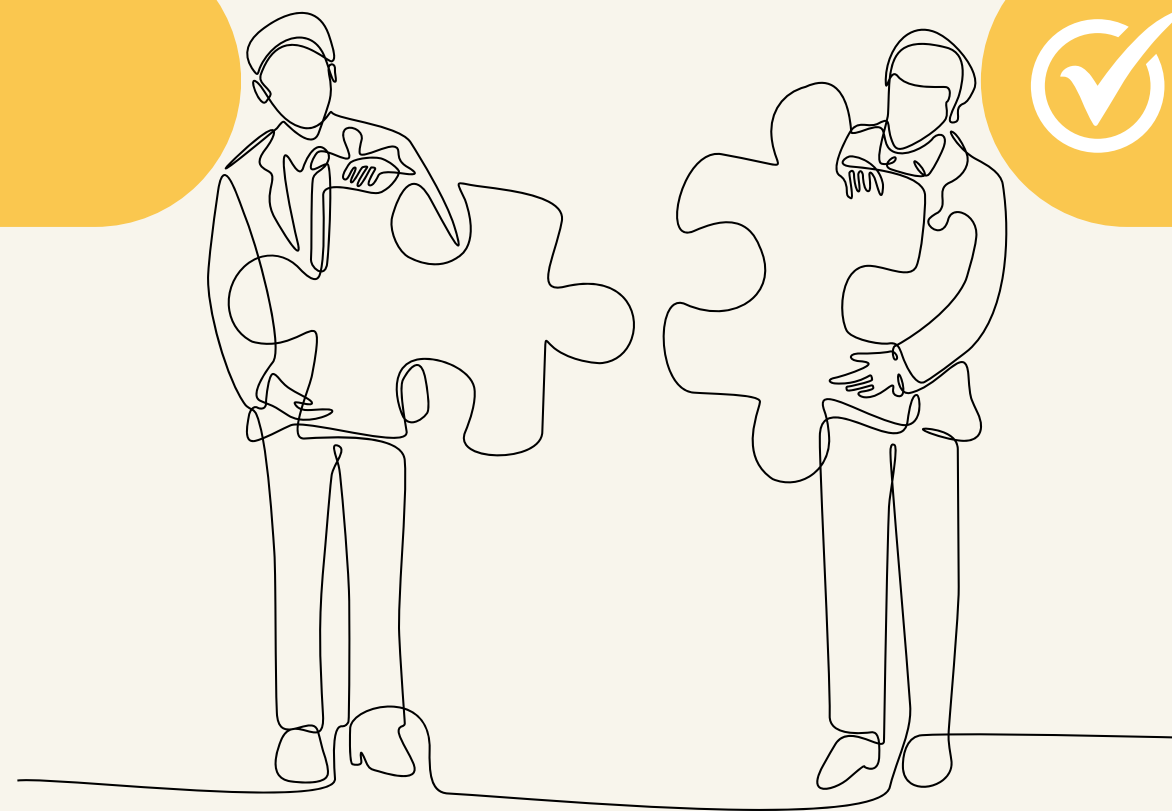
**Lack of support system/
Community**



**Lack of transportation or
access to transportation**

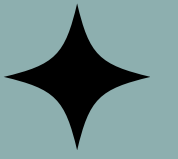


**Adjustment to being housed.
Lack of employment readiness.**





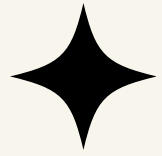
SUCCESS STORY



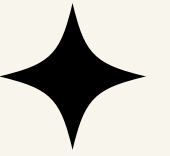
Success can look very different for each individual in the DTR program. After facing months of housing insecurity, Mr. H made the courageous decision to seek support and rebuild his life. Through consistent engagement with community resources and his own determination, he secured safe, stable housing that finally gave him the foundation he needed to move forward with confidence. With stability came healing.

Mr. H was able to reestablish regular communication with his minor child, progressing toward a warm, trusting bond once again. He remained committed to every step of the process, attending appointments, actively seeking gainful employment, and securing several interviews.

Today, Mr. H is thriving in his new housing, actively involved in his child's life, and building a future filled with hope. His story is a powerful reminder that with the right support and unwavering resilience, families can reunify and flourish.



SUCCESS STORY



DURING INTAKE, MR. C SHARED THAT HE STRUGGLED WITH FEELING OVERWHELMED AND MEETING DEADLINES.

A SUPPORTIVE, CLIENT-CENTERED APPROACH WAS USED TO MEET MR. C WHERE HE WAS TO AVOID ADDING STRESS.

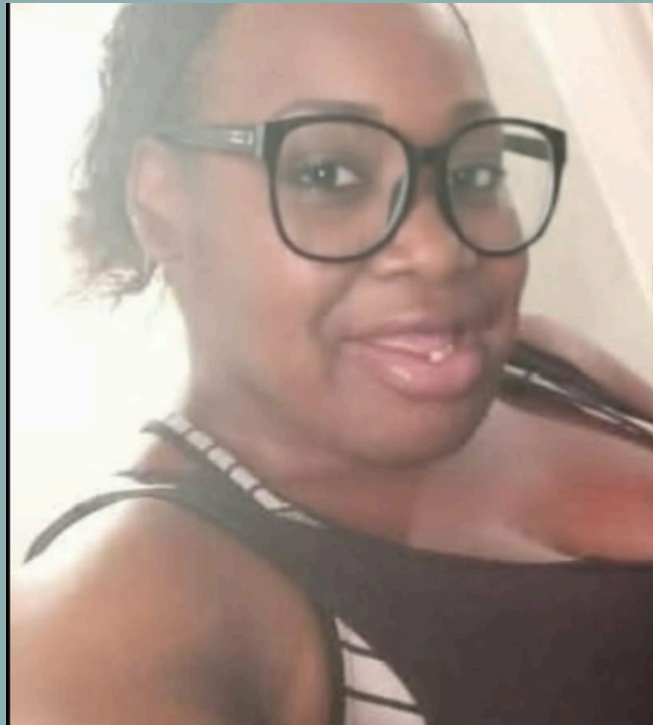
INITIALLY, HE SHOWED MINIMAL ENGAGEMENT, BUT CONSISTENT SUPPORT HELPED BUILD TRUST OVER TIME.

HE BEGAN TAKING INITIATIVE BY REGULARLY VISITING THE LIBRARY TO APPLY FOR JOBS AND SCHEDULING CASE MANAGEMENT MEETINGS THERE FOR APPLICATION SUPPORT.

BY UTILIZING AVAILABLE EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES, HE SUCCESSFULLY SECURED A CLEANING POSITION AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EARNING \$15/HOUR.

MR. C HAS BEEN EMPLOYED FOR TWO WEEKS AND REPORTS FEELING HAPPY AND PROUD OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

SUCCESS STORY



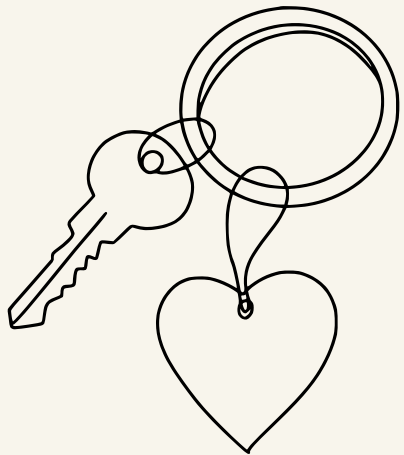
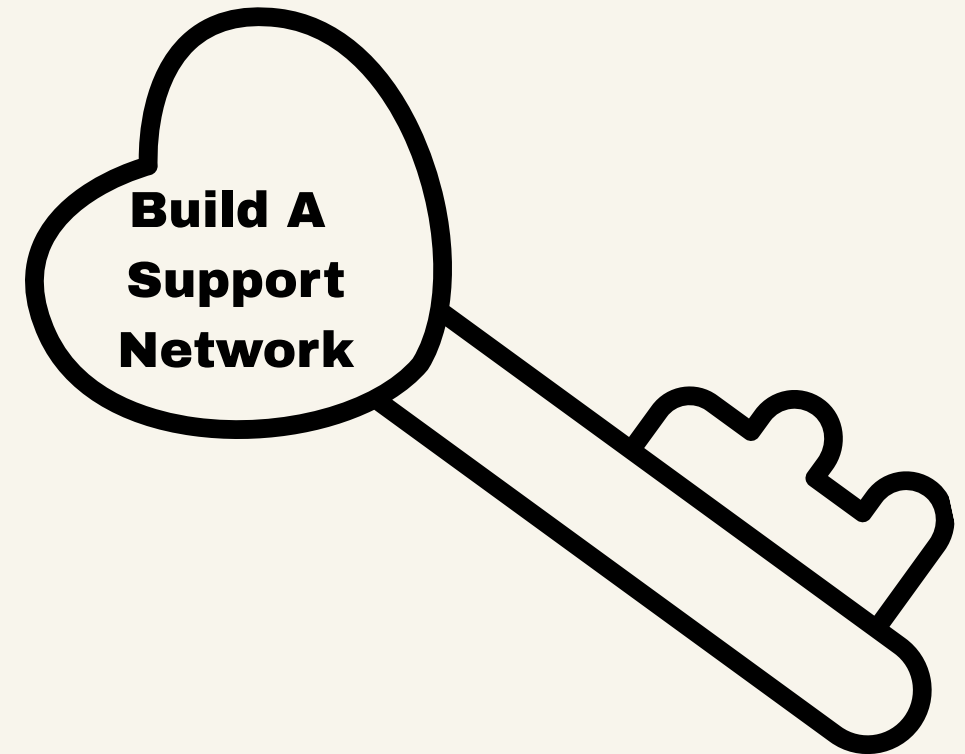
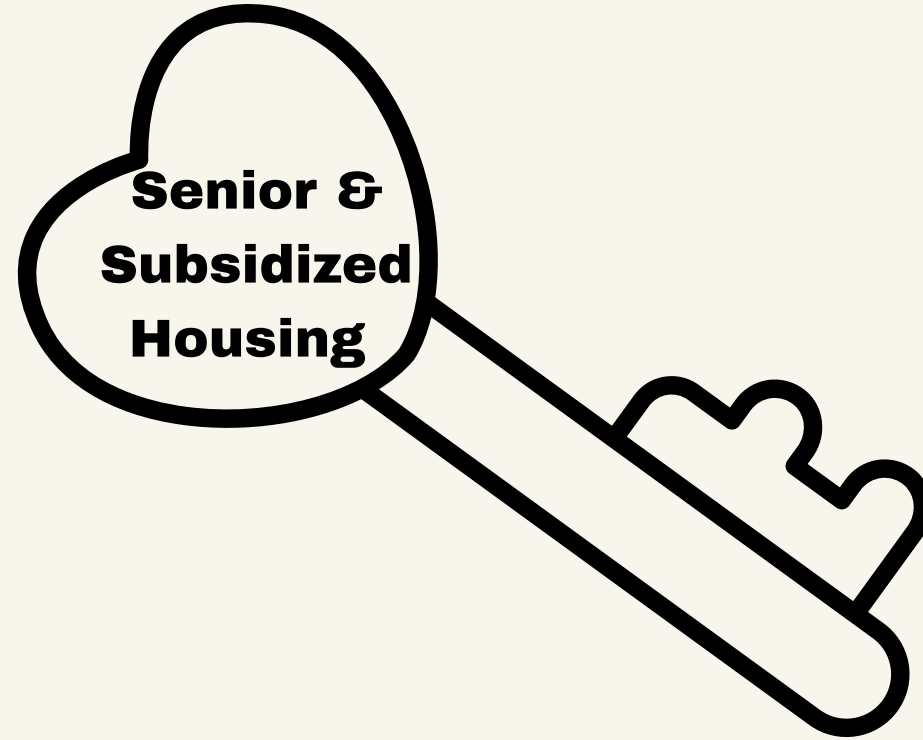
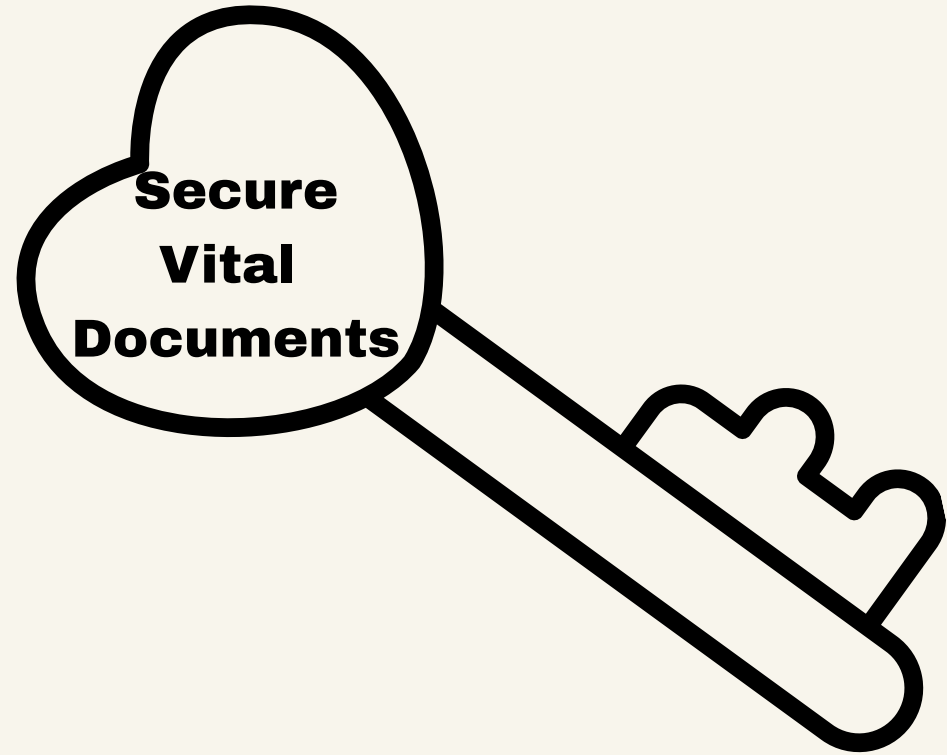
Ms. C has demonstrated strong and consistent compliance with all programmatic and housing policies. She maintains open and reliable communication with both her case manager and me, which has greatly supported her progress.

What continues to stand out is her enthusiasm for her own growth; she eagerly shares each accomplishment, no matter the size, and celebrates her milestones with genuine pride. Her positive engagement, steady participation, and commitment to her goals contribute meaningfully to the program's overall success and reflect the impact of supportive housing services





NEXT STEPS





**THANK
YOU**



<https://www.pccihome.org>

(404) 215-9991

302 Decatur St. SE, Atlanta, GA 30312





SafeHouse Outreach

Providing a hand-up not just a hand-out

MISSION



SafeHouse Outreach's mission is to help restore lives of those experiencing extreme poverty to independent living through faith, love, and compassionate service.



Values



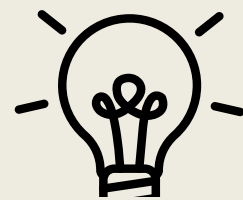
HUMBLE

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; Instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation." – Paul The Apostle



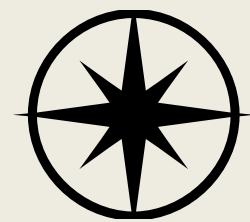
HUNGRY

Is there a physical yearning that drives you to never lack creative initiative?
"Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Jesus The Christ



SMART

Do protocols marry the mind of Einstein to the heart of Christ? "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be give to him- James The Just



VIRTUOSITY

We will strive to consistently do the common, uncommonly well. "Whatever your hand finds hard to do. Do it with all your might." – King Solomon



Impact Meals

SafeHouse Outreach serves over 200 per night!

Meals Monday - Friday

We are able to do this because of volunteers who sacrifice to come be a part of something bigger than all of us.



Problem Solvers



Mail Services



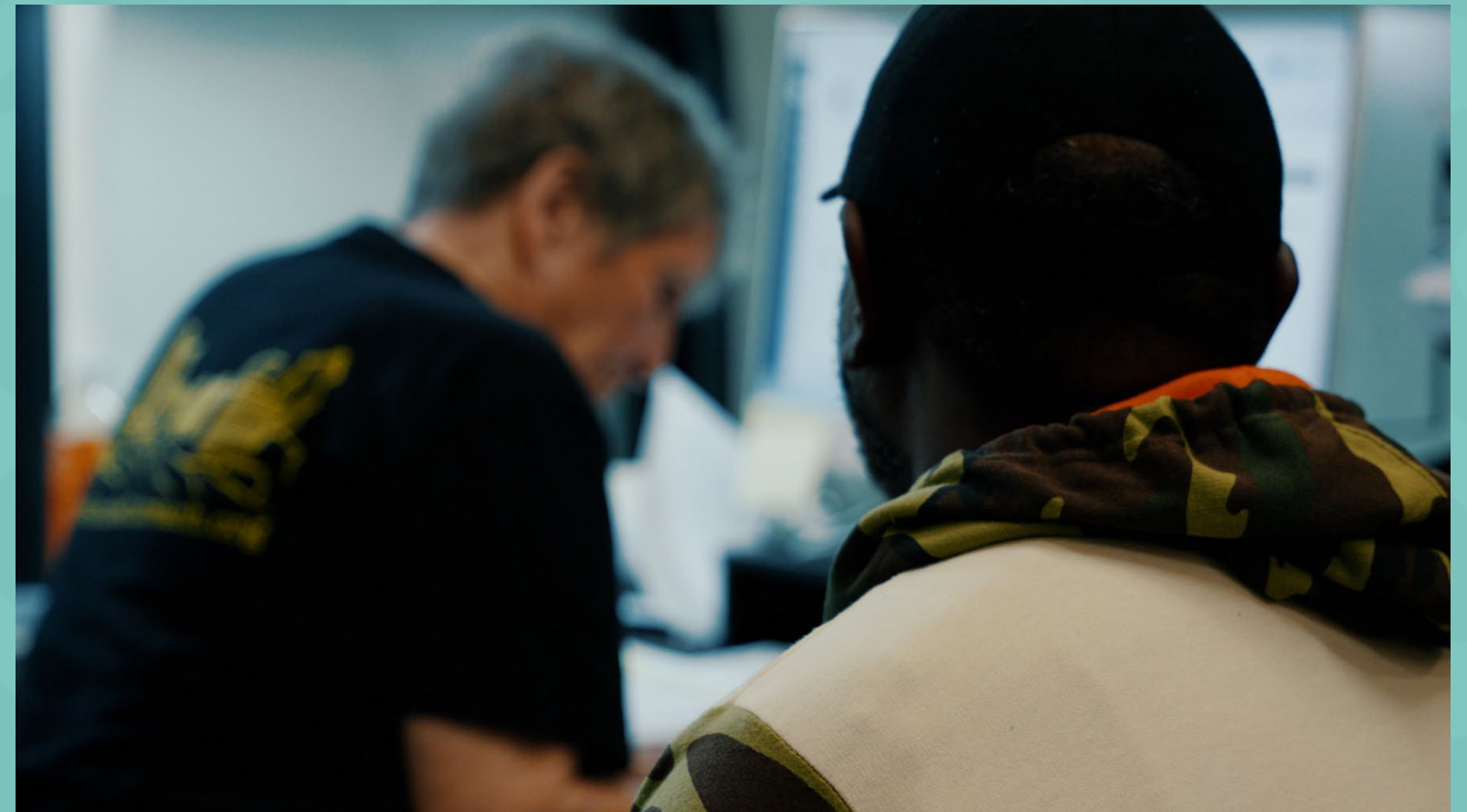
Family Reunification



Rental/Utility Assistance



Document Recovery



Next Level

Advanced services that empower individuals to achieve long term stability and personal growth

Case Management



Personalized support planning and coordination of comprehensive services for each individual

Employment Services



Job Training, skills development, and placement assistance to build sustainable careers

Housing Placement



Secure, permanent housing solutions with ongoing support for housing retention



Connect Team

Connect Team works to meet and assist our unsheltered friends at neighboring encampments, drop-in and warming centers, and bridges get connected with valuable resources including basic hygiene and nutrition, on-site case management employment training, transportation, and more –meeting them exactly where they are!



1

Relationship

Building trust and genuine connections with individuals experiencing homelessness.

2

Enrollment

Connecting individuals with essential services and support programs.

3

Navigation

Guiding clients through complex systems to access benefits and resources.

4

Housing

Securing stable, permanent housing solutions for lasting independence.

5

Support

Providing ongoing assistance to maintain housing stability and personal growth.



Downtown Rising Outreach

“Outreach” is who we are; it’s in our name.

3
Zones

Zone C closed October 2025
Zone F and G preparing to close



125
Outreach

Clients enrolled in Zone C, F, G



90
Housing

Individuals successfully connected to
Housing



Rapid Rehousing



105

RRH Enrollments

20 households in Pryor St project

85 households in the DTR project

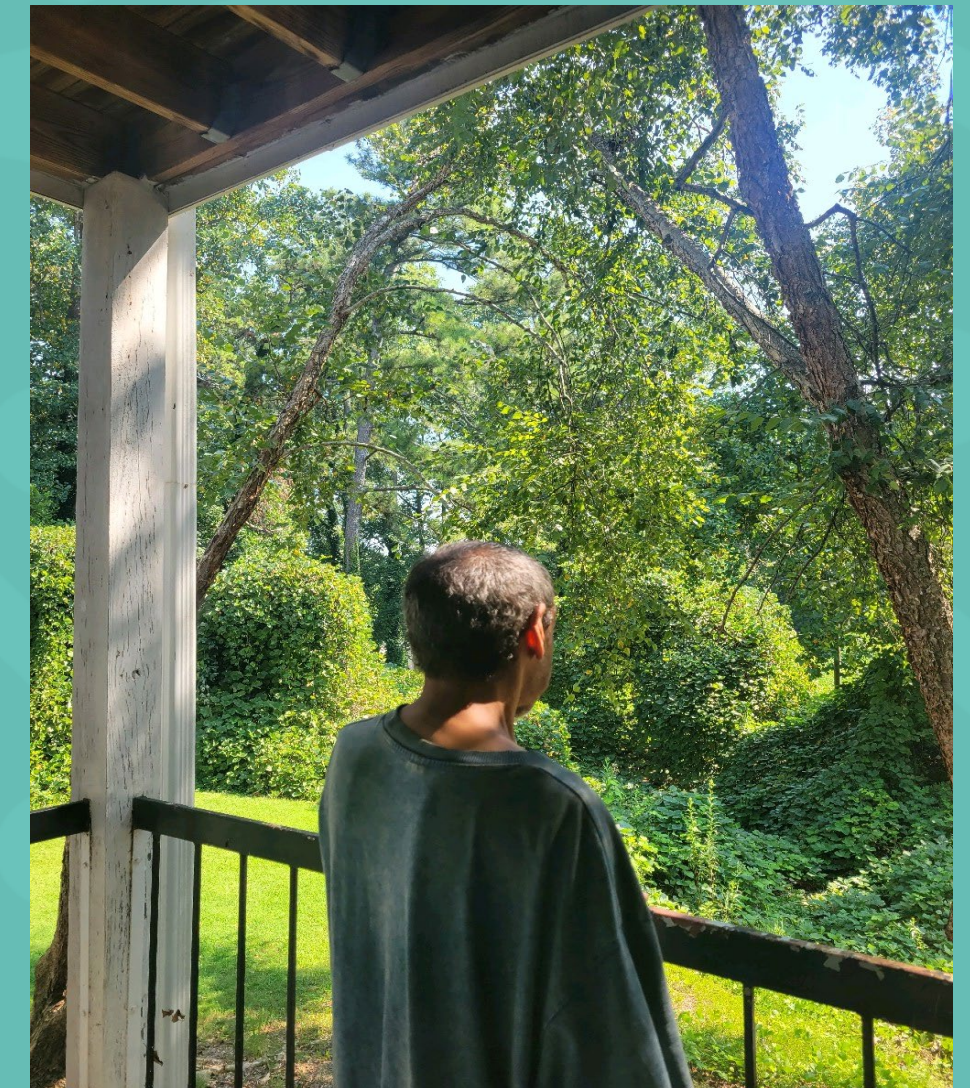
- Maintain consistent, regularly scheduled meetings with clients to monitor progress and address needs.
- Collaborate with clients to develop and work toward personal goals, offering individualized support based on each client's needs and preferences.
- Provide monthly food donations and household goods to help stabilize clients in their new housing.



SafeHouse Outreach
Providing a hand-up not just a hand-out

Impact of DTR

- Ongoing collaborative trainings for staff ensured staff have tools needed to engage in different spaces.
- All of our clients with criminal records were housed
- Consistency of the outreach teams allowed clients to re-establish faith in the system
- The clients have been more receptive to the help
- Housing is not onesize-fits-all



Thank You!



SafeHouse Outreach
Providing a hand-up not just a hand-out

Veronyka@safehouseoutreach.org

WWW.SAFEHOUSEOUTREACH.ORG