

Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness in Atlanta



PARTNERS FOR
HOME

YHDP Atlanta Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the many contributors to the YHDP planning process. Particularly those organizations and individuals who participated in our surveys, focus groups, and committees. Their participation helped provide key input in developing a strong system to end youth homelessness.

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Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC)
United Way of Greater Atlanta



“In 2022,

We are in need of a living system that doesn’t just tackle Youth Homelessness, but tackles Youth Self-Sustainability.

We are also in need of a system that:

Recognizes the structural disparities that lead to youth experiencing homelessness and

Commits to fight for social and health equity for the distressed youth that we serve.

In 2022,

We demand realization of the Systemic Changes needed in our community to dismantle structural violence and End Youth Homelessness”

-YAB 2022

**SELF-SUSTAINING
YOUTH**



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Chapter 1

Executive Summary

The Atlanta Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to end youth homelessness was written as a collaboration among diverse stakeholders. We are grateful to the Youth Action Board (YAB) which led this process, in collaboration with the Atlanta CoC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Committee. Following a data-driven approach, the CCP combines demographic and system data with qualitative evidence of youth experience to create a plan responsive to those observed needs.

The Atlanta YHDP mission is to end youth homelessness and create social justice in our communities by strengthening the Youth Homeless Response System. We envision Atlanta's Youth Homeless Response System as a living system that grows and adapts to the needs of youth quickly and compassionately. It will provide an individualized and wholistic response to impact not just the immediate need of homelessness but also long-term needs for authentic sustainability. This system will be equitable, center youth leadership, and actively advocate for the change needed to end youth homelessness.

❖ **Vision Statement 1:**

Atlanta Youth in housing crisis have immediate access to trauma informed and person-centered individualized best-fit interventions.

❖ **Vision Statement 2:**

All youth engaging with Atlanta's youth homeless response system benefit from comprehensive wrap-around services to wholistically empower individuals utilizing the system.

❖ **Vision Statement 3:**

The youth homeless response system is youth responsive, and youth led; youth leadership is involved at all stages of program/service planning and implementation.

❖ **Vision Statement 4:**

The youth homeless response system keeps moving upstream, preventing youth homelessness with coordinated, cross-system collaboration.

Accomplishing this vision requires taking an exploratory look at the current youth homeless response system and the broader context in which it operates. In Atlanta, affordable housing is scarce, average income levels are low, and racial disparities are high. The conversation of homelessness in Atlanta is a conversation of racial inequity and systemic poverty. We also observe that the system capacity does not currently meet the volume of need for youth. Based

on youth and partners observations, the experience of engaging with the system does not consistently satisfy the unique needs and circumstances of youth in the Atlanta community.

YHDP funding will be used to further the mission as outlined in this CCP to grow and strengthen the youth homeless response system. In addition to supporting the Office of Housing and Urban Development YHDP Principles, Atlanta commits to following the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes, including any recommended principles developed in USICH's 2022 strategic plan. Successful YHDP funded projects will adhere to and align with the CCP, USICH core outcomes for Youth, and YHDP principles. Projects which incorporate the leadership and engagement of youth with lived experience will be prioritized.

Project Types which will be eligible for YHDP funding include:

Housing Awards:

- Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing for Youth

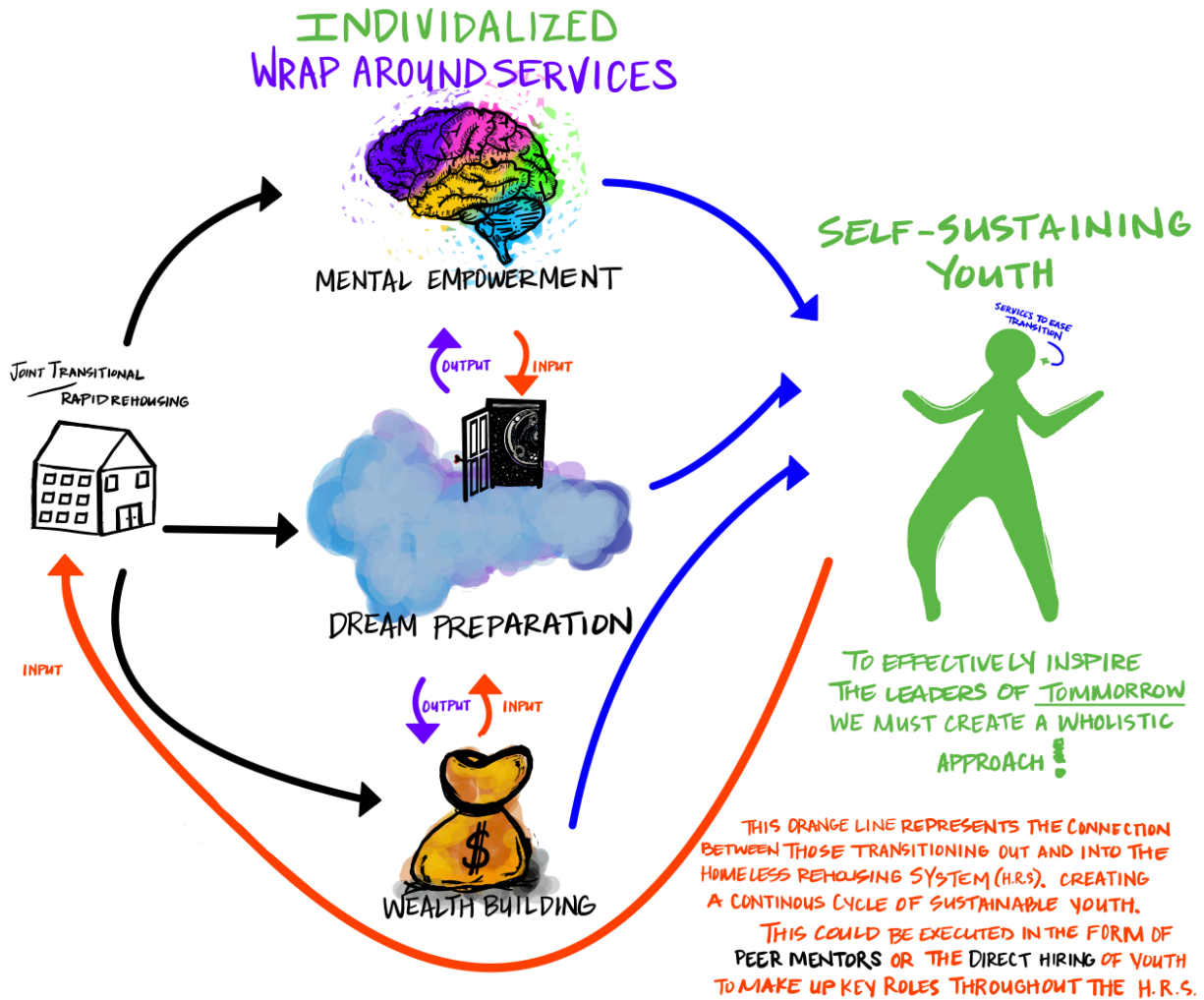
Service Awards:

- Youth Outreach/Navigation
- Youth Empowerment Advocates


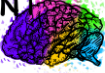


















We recognize that alone, directly funded YHDP projects will not be able to accomplish the vision outlined in this community plan. Transformational change will require community commitment to coordinated collaboration throughout the homeless providers network, youth service providers, and broader cross-system partners. Some objectives outlined within this plan will work through partnership and leveraged resources to expand the impact of YHDP funds. Together the Atlanta community can support the mission that youth homelessness will be rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

-Youth Action Board and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Committee

Vision Diagram: The End of Youth Homelessness



KEY:

WEALTH BUILDING 	MENTAL EMPOWERMENT (MENTAL SERVICES) 	DREAM PREPARATION 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  FINANCIAL LITERACY  MONEY MANAGEMENT  CREDIT BUILDING/REPAIR  FIRST TIME - HOME BUYING COURSES.  ACCESS TO MAINSTREAM BENEFITS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  POSITIVE PEER GROUPS  SELF-CARE WORKSHOPS  COUNSELING  WELLNESS / NUTRITION / PHYSICAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS  SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT  TRAUMA FOCUSED SUPPORT GROUPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  LEGAL RESOURCES  CAREER SERVICES  PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES  EDUCATION  LIFE SKILLS

-Ralaria B.

Chapter 2

Mission and Vision

As we build a youth homeless response system that actively addresses the overlapping systems of oppression, inequity, and violence leading to the problem of youth homelessness in Atlanta, we recognize that our community must go beyond simply making sure each youth is housed, but also, provide nurturing systems building social justice that help form the foundation youth experiencing homelessness need for maintaining self-sustainability throughout their lives—including bridging the gap to equitable opportunities and livelihoods. To truly end youth homelessness, we need to invest in individuals, families, and communities, building social and health equity in Atlanta, so that the contextual cycles of oppression and violence leading to youth homelessness dissolve.

Mission Statement:

Through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program efforts we will end youth homelessness by creating a living system to build youth self-sustainability. Recognizing the structural violence that leads to individual experiences of homelessness and broader disparities in youth homelessness, our system actively fights to build social and health equity for the youth we serve; and continuously advocates for the systemic change needed in our community to fight the systems of structural violence, build equity, and end youth homelessness. Throughout this process, we will continuously honor the expertise and voice of youth with intersectional lived experiences of homelessness and the communities they are entwined within, as we work alongside and are led by those whom we are serving in our living system through trauma informed and person-centered services

Vision Statement:

We envision a nurturing and empathetic living system that brings forth the mission of ending youth homelessness and creating social justice by activating a coordinated system response to youth experiencing homelessness, providing more than just housing. Throughout engagement with the living system, youth will receive wrap-around support services cultivating **Dream Preparation, Wealth Building, and Mental Empowerment**. These three elements are overlapping tools needed to address the root causes which led to their experiences of homelessness and build self-sustainability and flourishing throughout young adulthood and beyond. We imagine a continuously evolving and growing system, as those leaving the system become integral both in providing support for those entering and supplying important insight into areas for growth and needed development, so the living system can perpetually adapt to better meet the needs of those it is serving. We envision building strong relationships with providers beyond the existing homelessness system because substantial cross-system partnerships and actions are of the utmost importance to ensure that the experiences of youth entering a housing crisis are rare, for the shortest time possible, and non-recurring. We have a short opportunity of engagement in each individual's life to lay the structures to start bending the arc towards justice, and our community envisions a living system that understands these widespread investments are worth making.

For the purpose of setting goals and developing action steps to reach our vision for the 'end state' of youth homelessness, we have identified four key statements:

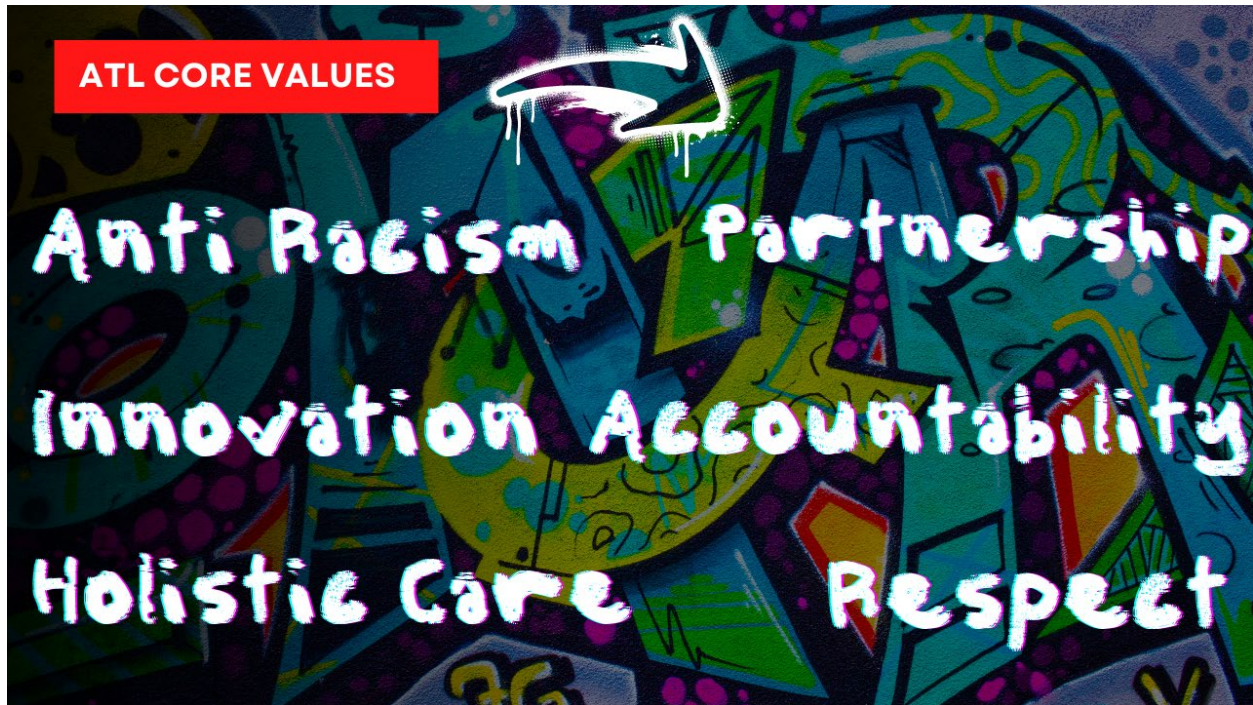
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Further descriptions of the vision statements and the goals, objectives, and actions for each may be found in Chapter 4: The Path to Realizing our Vision.



Anti-Racism

Anti-racism proactively combats racism, including structural causes and systems of racism which ultimately support the continuation of inequity in our community. We believe each person regardless of race or ethnicity is entitled to the same wholistic care and outcomes. YHDP goals and objectives include promoting anti-racism efforts.

Partnership

We value strategic partnerships to develop community services and opportunities greater than the sum of their parts to meet the full needs of youth experiencing homelessness. We foster a culture of partnership, moving forward together with multiple voices uplifting each other.

Innovation

We adapt to the evolving nature of need with open minds, open hearts and flexibility. The homeless response system must be a living system, growing and changing through continuous innovation.

Respect

We respect “you for you” no matter the differences we have amongst each other. Respect builds trust, safety and well-being. We recognize that respect has to be earned, and our commitment to respect is evident in our engagement with each other. We respect diverse voices and value collective discussion among unique perspectives.

There are 5 ways we show respect

- Active Listening
- Seek to understand others
- Keep Our promises
- Show gratitude
- Be polite
- Accountability
- We recognize accountability as a necessary element for effecting change. We are accountable to the young people experiencing homelessness, to our partners, and to the community. Accountability supports our YHDP goal of continuous quality improvement. Holding ourselves accountable helps us earn the respect of the community we serve.
- Wholistic Care

To effectively inspire the leaders of tomorrow we must foster a system which delivers wholistic care. This means working with each individual as a whole person, recognizing their unique needs beyond housing, and supporting them with **Dream Preparation, Wealth Building, and Mental Empowerment.**

Principles

The Atlanta YHDP Committee recognizes the National HUD YHDP Principles which must guide all project implementation strategies.

Equity:

Atlanta is committed to the value of Anti-racism, an approach that proactively combats racism and systemic disenfranchisement fueling disparities. The City of Atlanta has significant racial inequality in our homeless population, where 81% of youth experiencing homelessness are Black, and 94% are non-white. Compared to the overall population of Black Atlantans, which only represent 49.8% of the total general population. As part of our overall strategy to implement a living system following principles of continuous quality improvement, we are monitoring system performance for subpopulations.

We will fight disparities by continuing this conversation with broad cross-system partnerships including youth with lived experience, particularly disproportionately impacted subpopulations. We will conduct regular assessments and evaluations, utilize research on the driving factors of disparate outcomes and implement proactive strategies and program services providing additional support to ultimately create equitable outcomes and opportunities for youth. Multiple goals and objectives outlined in this CCP refer to our approach to proactively support an equitable system through measurable benchmarks, including: Objective 2c. Objective 2f., Goals 5 and 6.

Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC)

Projects within the Atlanta youth homeless response system must incorporate positive youth development and trauma informed care as accepted best practices within service delivery. Our value of Wholistic Care supports positive youth development by focusing on youth as a whole person, not simply a person in need of housing. Empowerment Advocates will implement positive youth development principles when acting as facilitators guiding youth on their path to individualized success using strengths-based methodologies.

Trauma informed care principles guide our youth coordinated entry experience, youth outreach, navigation, and advocacy. We strive to be empathetic, kind, and provide assistance with a true understanding of individuals' experiences. This includes support for prioritization of employment of youth with lived experience and adding opportunities for youth to give back to the system. We understand that trauma affects youth behavior and decision-making, and we will practice de-escalation to help youth maintain access to services. *Trauma informed care promotes safety, trustworthiness/transparency, peer support and mutual help, collaboration and mutuality, empowerment voice choice, and cultural sensitivity*

Family engagement.

In Atlanta, we will seek to reunite families who have become disconnected. Family reconnection can be a first option that allows the homeless youth to lean on family support until they are ready for independence. Diversion resources are available to reconnect youth to family ties, including those out of state, allowing them to work with problem solving specialists. All households who access coordinated entry are first screened for diversion assistance, where a problem-solving conversation may uncover the opportunity to reconnect with family support. Youth households in particular may be more likely to have such support. Where possible, families should be a part of the youth's individual plan for support. Successful family reconnection can be a lifetime of support for that young person's ongoing success beyond the limited resources of the Atlanta CoC. However, we also recognize that families become disconnected due to difficult, complex histories and circumstances and reconnection requires a sensitive trauma-informed approach.

Housing First:

The Atlanta CoC requires that all projects follow housing first principles, including youth projects. We also advocate for the adoption of housing first within the broader system. In youth experience surveys, we identified that some programs that practice housing first principles at entry can become less welcoming, adding preconditions over time. Some youth have left shelter due to poor cultural fit and/or perceptions of bias. Youth should be referred to best-fit project types and have easy access to transfer between projects in order to support long-term placement in housing. Providers must be accountable to housing first principles and be aware of these cultural concerns.

Unsheltered homelessness:

We will work to decrease unsheltered homelessness by increasing youth outreach efforts, and those efforts will be guided by our YHDP values of mutual respect, trauma-informed care, and motivational conversations.

Youth choice:

The Atlanta Coordinated Community Plan was built by and for youth experiencing homelessness. Our values of respect and wholistic care reflect the youth-centered approach. All youth will have their choice to access Dream Preparation, Wealth Building, and Mental Empowerment wrap-around services unique to their specific needs through the establishment of a "Seamless Youth Services Network", as defined in Goal 3.

Individualized and client-driven supports:

We honor that youth are individuals, whole people, with varying identities and intersections, and those identities inform how they move through the world. Youth will be guided to their own path through Assessment and Navigation. As they pilot their own unique journey through the program(s) they will be able to see growth as they are making progress toward their goals and dreams. Empowerment Advocates will be responsible for facilitating each client-driven path to individual success.

Social and community integration:

The Atlanta youth homeless response system is built upon the value of holistic care and positive empowerment. By connecting youth with comprehensive services through socially supportive engagement, we actively support youth in building the foundation they need to be thriving members of their communities. Youth will be connected to empowerment advocates focused on their unique Dream Preparation, Wealth Building and Mental Empowerment needs of each young person. All youth experiencing homelessness, including those who have reached success, will have the opportunity to contribute to the homeless response system. These opportunities include participation in YAB, youth experience surveys, youth mentorship, and employment by the system. The Atlanta youth homeless response system is a positive community, able to integrate varied cultures and experiences respectfully, where people from all backgrounds coexist and support one another.

Coordinated entry:

The Atlanta CoC maintains youth-specific coordinated entry access points. These assessors are specialists in youth engagement, utilizing best practices including Trauma Informed Care and Motivational Interviewing. Youth access points will complete assessments following our CCP values of Respect, Partnership, and Wholistic Care. Youth Coordinated Entry will connect with Youth Navigation to ensure referrals to wrap-around services follow youth choice, including but not limited to referrals within the "Seamless Youth Services Network". Youth navigators will ensure youth are connected with best-fit resources compatible with each individual path to success.

Chapter 3

Statement of Need:

Introduction:

The Atlanta CoC is composed of direct service providers, government entities, nonprofits and community stakeholders dedicated to ending homelessness in the City of Atlanta. Measuring the scale and impact of youth and young adult homelessness in Atlanta is an ongoing challenge. Whether meeting the definition as outlined by HUD for “literal homelessness” or the McKinney-Vento’s definition of “homeless children and youths,” it is only by examining data from multiple sources that we begin to better understand both the prevalence and demographics of youth in and around Atlanta facing homelessness. Through data collection, focus groups, and surveys we can understand the unique vulnerabilities youth face. By following a data-driven approach that incorporates both qualitative and quantitative data, we can observe the totality of the problem to close the gaps in our current system. We are committed to use our resources to respond to documented needs.

The needs described in the next sections include:

- Atlanta Profile
 - Lack of Affordable Housing
 - Employment and Income Inequality
 - Transportation Affordability
- Atlanta Homelessness Profile
- Youth Profile
 - Demographic data
 - Housing Affordability
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Social Emotional Well-Being
- Youth Experience Stories
- Youth Subpopulations: Impact and Strategies
- Atlanta System Capacity: Analysis and Goals

City of Atlanta Profile:

Lack of Affordable Housing

Atlanta is experiencing a tight rental market where the demand for apartments exceeds the supply of available units. The resulting demand makes available units unaffordable for many in Atlanta. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as a dwelling a household can obtain for 30% or less of its income. The 2020 Census found that Atlanta had a total of 258,245 housing units with the majority of units being priced over \$1000. According to the American Community Survey, between 2014 and 2019, Atlanta lost 9,300 units that rented monthly for \$1,250 or less. The real-estate company, Zillow, published Zillow Observed Rent Index score, saw a 43% increase in rent in metro Atlanta since 2017.

As rent rates have increased, many Atlantans have found themselves house burdened or paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs. This has led to many households becoming delinquent on rent. According to an analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the percentage of Georgia households with rent debt more than doubled between mid-August 2020 and early March 2021 - trending upward on a monthly basis from 15 percent to 31 percent. With rising rent rates and increased rental debts, housing instability becomes an even greater challenge.

Employment and Income Inequality

Skyrocketing rents have been particularly difficult for women and minorities in Georgia who earn lower wages. In Georgia there is gender inequality in wages between women and men with males in Georgia having an average income that is 1.36 times higher than the average income of females, which is \$50,267. In 2019, Atlanta had a population of 507 thousand people with a median age of 33.3 and a median household income of \$66,657. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Atlanta, GA grew from 498,073 to 506,804, a 1.75% increase and its median household income grew from \$65,345 to \$66,657, a 2.01% increase.

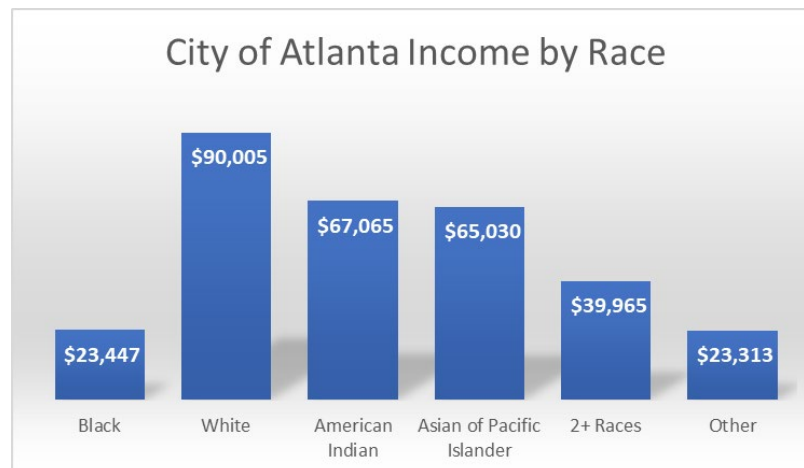


Exhibit 2: Mean Income in the Past 12 months by Race American Community Survey 2019

While some populations saw their income increase, minority populations across the city of Atlanta earned significantly less than their white counterparts. The average income for an African American was 26% that of white individuals living in the city.

The median property value in Atlanta was \$359,500 in 2019. That value was 1.49 times larger than the national average of \$240,500. Between 2018 and 2019 the median property value increased from \$302,200 to \$359,500, up 19%.

The homeownership rate in Atlanta is 46.6%, which is lower than the national average of 64.1%.

Transportation

The average person in Atlanta drives to work alone and has an average commute time of 25.1 minutes. Car ownership in Atlanta is approximately the same as the national average, with an average of 2 cars per household.

Atlanta is the largest metropolitan area in the Southeast - and continues to grow. With no large bodies of water, mountains, or major federal land holdings to limit the city's outward growth, the city's expansion creates continued transportation challenges. Many individuals living in the metro-Atlanta area rely on their cars or our local public transportation system, MARTA. The MARTA system consists of buses, trains, and streetcars. According to MARTA, "More than 550 buses provide services along 1439 miles of road on 101 routes". There are 338 Rail cars that provide transportation to 38 fixed locations. The Atlanta Streetcar provides transportation for roughly 2.7 miles of downtown Atlanta.



Among those public transit commuters, the average commute time is 53 minutes. Only ten percent of commuters have a commute within 30 mins while twenty-seven percent have a commute time of over an hour. For individuals not able to afford car ownership, getting around from one location to the next can be a time-consuming process.

With a round trip fare of \$5.00, the cost of public transportation and the amount of time it takes to use the transit system was identified by our youth as a barrier to employment, housing, and education opportunities.

For people experiencing homelessness, reliable transportation can make a tremendous impact on their access to opportunities and support services. If people can effectively get around the city, they can apply and interview for jobs, pursue educational goals, and be connected to peers and other necessary supportive services. A lack of adequate transportation is isolating and can make thriving in any capacity nearly impossible.

According to a 2019 study by *Geotab*, a transportation-focused data analytics company, Atlanta is tied for second worst place in the nation when it comes to using public transit to get to and from work. There is a need to not just expand public transit systems, but to do so in a way that likewise gives additional access to our youth populations to support systems that will allow them to thrive.

Barriers for YYA Mobility

Atlanta is a "Car Dependent City"...but **the Expense of Car Ownership is Out of Reach for many YYA...**

BARRIERS

...Navigating from Shelter, to Employment, to Education, to Multiple Services Across the City by **Public Transportation is Time Consuming and Costly**

The infographic features a dark teal header with a white icon of three stylized human figures. Below the header, a light blue background with a grid pattern contains icons for a car, a bus, and a train. A black exclamation mark icon is positioned to the right of the bus icon. A blue clock icon is located at the bottom right. A black and white line graph with five data points is centered on the page. The background of the infographic is an aerial view of a city with many skyscrapers.

Atlanta Overall Homeless Population and Inequality

The City of Atlanta has one of the largest homeless populations in the State of Georgia. Partners for HOME (PfH) and the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC) are committed to the development of a Housing First Continuum of Care following best practices where an integrated, collaborative system of shelter, services, and housing meets the needs of those served. This system of care works to immediately assess and shelter persons who are homeless; helping them move quickly to the appropriate permanent housing intervention with priority given to persons with the greatest need for housing.

As seen in the 2020 Point in Time count, there were 3,240 individuals experiencing homelessness within the city limits. In 2021, we counted 1,996 individuals experiencing homelessness in emergency shelter and transitional housing. No unsheltered count was taken in 2021 due to COVID-19. While the number of those experiencing homelessness in the City of Atlanta has decreased since 2015, there is continued work to be done.

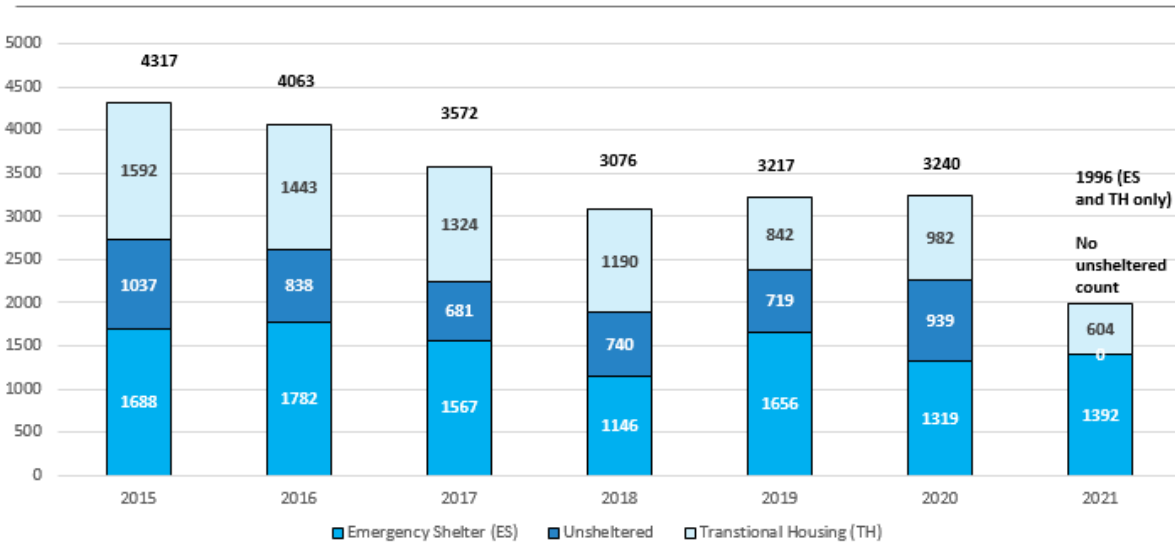
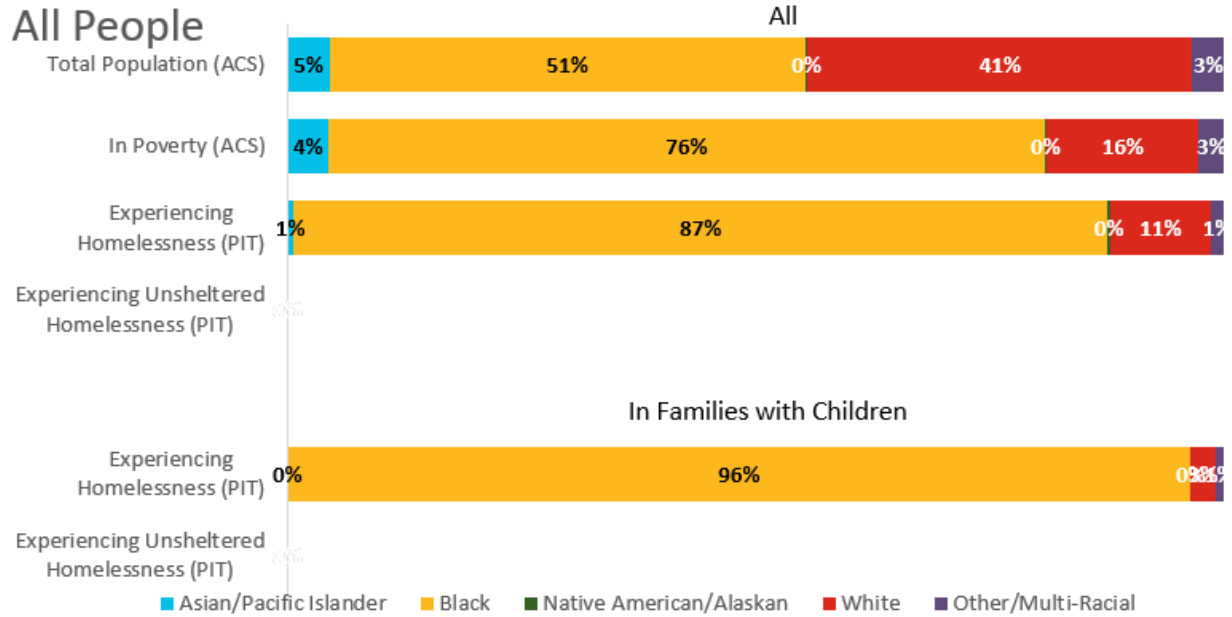


Exhibit 3: Atlanta CoC Point-in-Time Totals

Similar to national trends, the majority of those experiencing homelessness in the City of Atlanta are disproportionately Black. As seen in HUD’s CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool (version 2.1), 86% of individuals counted in the Point in Time Count for City of Atlanta were Black, followed by 10% White.

All People



Youth*

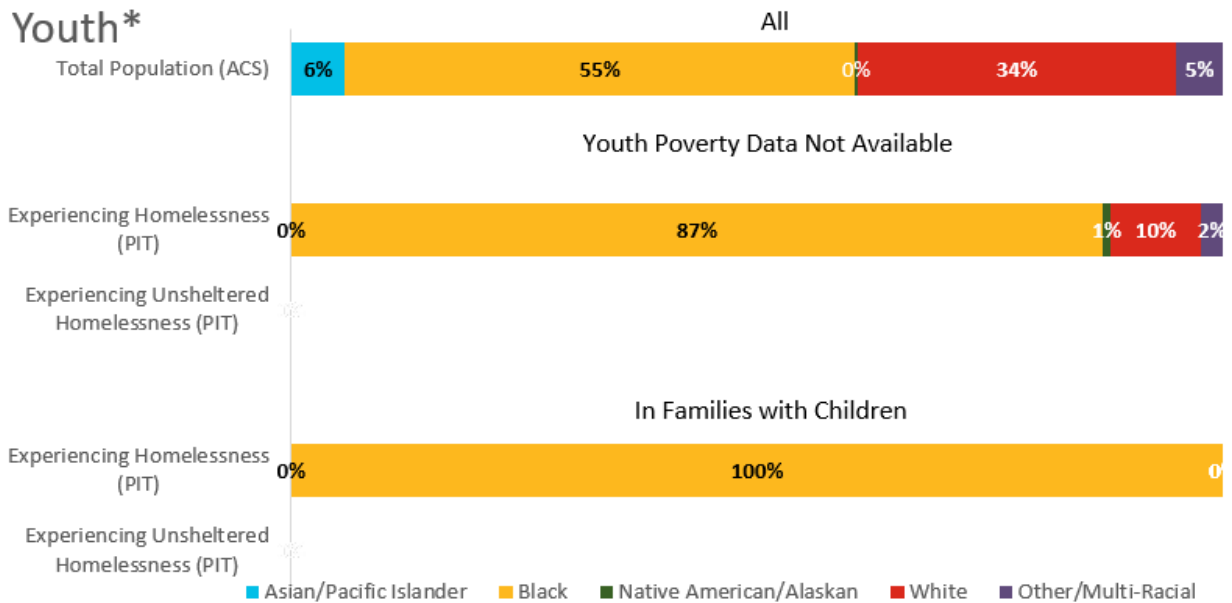


Exhibit 4: HUD CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool showing Distribution of Race for All People and Youth

The data highlights the striking disparity in Atlanta where African Americans represent 49.8% of the total general population but account for 86% of the homeless population. Thus, the foundation of an adequate system response must promote Anti-Racism and directly respond to the structural racism driving the disparities we witness. This follows trends among the SPARC Study locations, of which Atlanta is included:

*While people of color were overrepresented among all groups, the dramatic disproportionality of homelessness that we found among youth/young adults of color is of particular concern. Our findings are consistent with previous research showing Black youth to have high rates of homelessness compared to other racial/ ethnic groups (Morton et al. 2018). Such elevated risk may be tied to overrepresentation of young people of color in foster care and juvenile justice (Shah et al. 2017; Aratani 2009). In each of the eight communities, qualitative interviews indicated that **lack of jobs with adequate wages and benefits and lack of access to safe, decent, and affordable housing were common experiences for people of color experiencing homelessness. Additionally, multisystem involvement—particularly with child welfare, criminal justice, and behavioral health systems—were common, with participants often reporting inadequate collaboration between homeless programs and these systems. Involvement with these systems posed barriers to exiting homelessness, especially when felony and eviction histories obstructed access to jobs and housing. Across these areas, participants noted the impact of interpersonal and institutional racism and discrimination, including within the homelessness response system** (Olivet 2020: 96)*

Atlanta Homeless Youth Profile:

Youth have unique needs and challenges that affect their interaction with the homeless response system compared to adults. Quantifying youth experiencing homelessness can be particularly difficult as homeless youth may “hide in plain sight” as they attempt various strategies in order to survive – whether doubled up with friends, transient, or living in hotels or motels with families. These youth are categorized as at-risk, and are not often prioritized for housing resources.

With roughly 161 youth being identified as unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2020 Point in Time, and 550 youth identified as being in homeless prevention programs, there is an urgent need to increase capacity to provide services for youth. Similar to the overall homeless population of Atlanta, youth experiencing homelessness are disproportionately African American, with 81% of Youth in the HMIS housing queue in 2021 identifying as Black or African American.

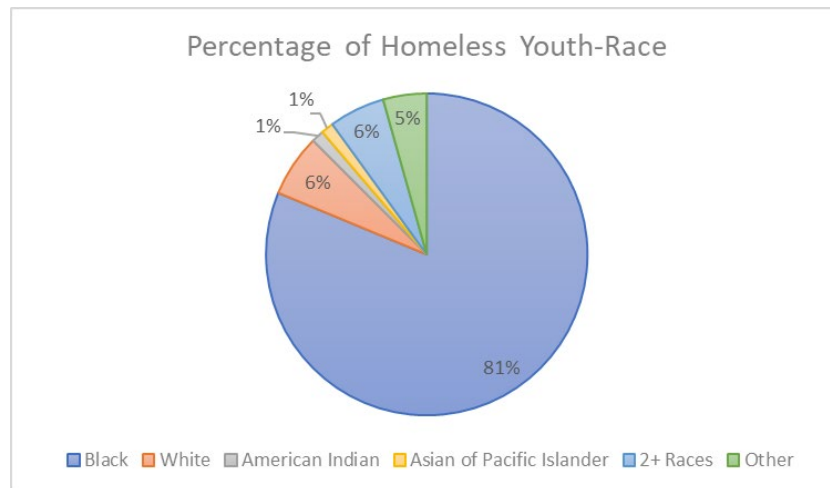


Exhibit 5:
Percentage of Homeless Youth by Race HMIS Housing Queue (2021 CE enrollments)

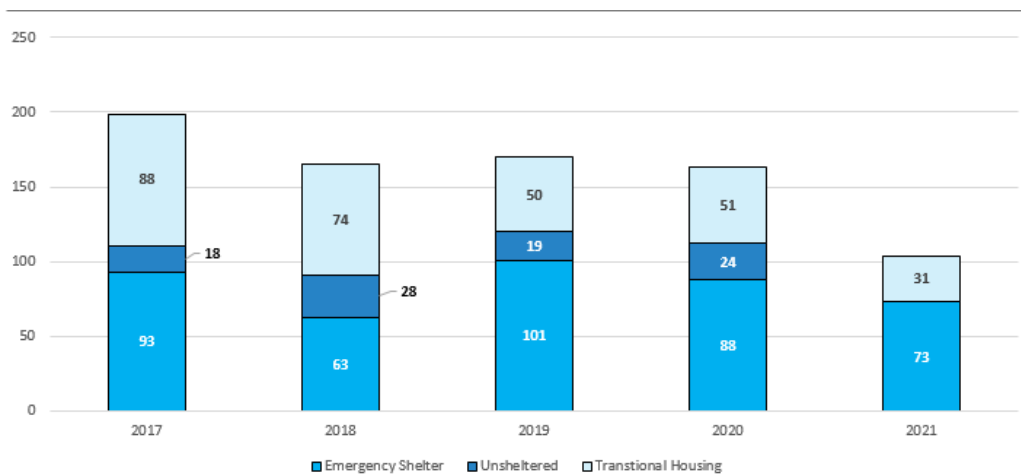


Exhibit 6: Unaccompanied Youth Sub- Population PIT (18-24)

Findings from the SPARC Study note disparate representation of subpopulations among youth entering into homelessness. However that is not the full story. There are also disparate outcomes for youth receiving interventions:

Race and ethnicity were associated with exits from the system, with clearer implications for youth and single adults than for families. One notable finding was that Black/African American young adults were at a significantly higher risk of exit back into homelessness. Research should further explore this finding to understand structural risk factors and develop strategies to ensure that these early homelessness episodes do not become a lifetime of moving in and out of homelessness. Our findings suggest that disproportionate rates of homelessness among people of color can be understood as a symptom of the failure of multiple systems to provide equal opportunity for all racial and ethnic groups. For those who become homeless, lack of adequate resources to address needs (e.g., income, health, or housing) is also the result of racism across systems. Despite inconsistent findings from our regression models, it is clear that equity-based responses to homelessness should strive to address how society continues to disadvantage people of color.

(Olivet et. al 2020: 92)

Pregnant/Parenting Youth

Research underscores the connection between youth and family homelessness – with family homelessness as a precursor to youth homelessness, and youth homelessness as a precursor to family homelessness. According to Chapin Hall’s research *Missed Opportunities: Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America*, pregnancy and parenthood

increases the risk of youth homelessness – youth parents are three times more likely to experience homelessness when compared to non-parenting youth.

In February 2022 there were 87 pregnant or parenting youth in the Atlanta CoC HMIS system listed as at-risk of homelessness. During the YHDP 2022 Youth Survey, 17% of the 35 household respondents were pregnant or parenting. The 2020 PIT count found 13 pregnant or parenting youth on the streets experiencing literal homelessness.

To prevent and end homelessness among Atlanta youth, we must address the unique needs of pregnant and parenting youth and connect them with resources necessary for not only stable living – but for a future where they can thrive.

The very presence of another person in a household, especially a child, magnifies and adds complexity. Children and their parents have a range of needs—even families who are homeless for the first time and for whom short-term housing assistance is most appropriate need childcare, education, nutrition, health, employment, and other assistance in order to recover and maintain housing stability. Families who were homeless before the pandemic face even greater levels of trauma and challenge that threaten their future...Even the staunchest defenders of the current system recently conceded that families with children experiencing homelessness have tremendous needs that are unmet by HUD homeless assistance (National Alliance to End Homelessness 2020b). The time to create a new homeless assistance system for children and families is now.

(Duffield, 2020, p. 302)

Housing Affordability

As reflective of the overall tight rental market of Atlanta, many of the youth partners and youth participating in our 2022 PIT surveys and focus groups expressed a lack of affordable housing within the City of Atlanta. The data received from the 2020 Census and 2019 American Community Survey support this claim. In many cases, the youth in Atlanta do not have enough income to obtain or maintain adequate, “affordable” housing. According to the 2019 American Community Survey the median gross rent for a studio in Atlanta was \$1257 while a 1 bedroom was \$1279. According to our HMIS data, the average median income for youth households is \$1193 per month. Without addressing the discrepancy of the cost of housing, it will be difficult to solve youth homelessness. There is a need for safe, affordable housing in order to give youth choices of where they live and to give them an opportunity to obtain long-term stable housing. Transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and housing vouchers are needed in addition to wrap-around services so that our youth can be financially supported until they can maintain housing on their own. Some youth will require long-term subsidies in order to maintain this housing. There is a significant need to quickly connect our city’s youth with safe, affordable housing options which meet individual needs.

Average Youth Income vs Average Rent (by Bedrooms)

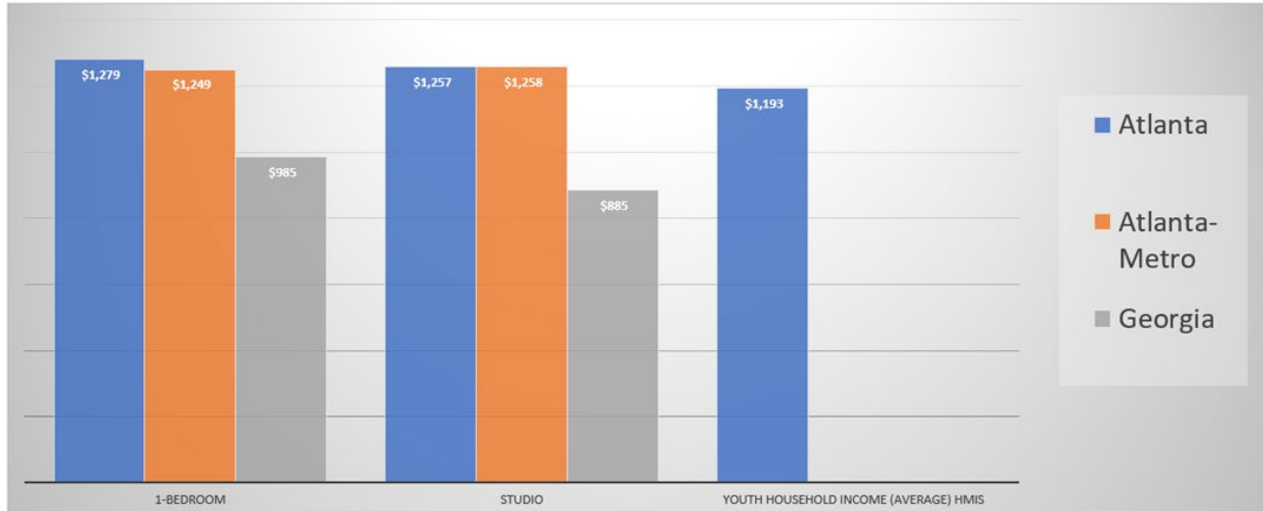


Exhibit 8: Rent rates from 2020 Census and income from HMIS (18-24)

Youth need sustainable access to affordable housing beyond the assistance offered short term in housing interventions. This is a problem vocalized among youth nationwide:

“What I really realized is that these programs can help you in the beginning, but they don’t help you long term. And this is the issue ... The process of these programs is really troubling, because they will help you in the beginning, but I’m scared to enjoy my own apartment, because in two years, what am I going to do? How am I going to afford this? Where is this going to lead me? I’m going to be back outside. Who will help me then? Because I’ll be over 25. I won’t be eligible for youth services anymore. So now I’ll get stuck in the adult system. —Stephanie Ford, Boston, ACF Family Homelessness Listening Session, April 3, 2019, as quoted in Duffield 2020

Addressing the context of housing unaffordability will necessitate innovative approaches to programing and defining success to ensure youth don’t simply return to housing instability and homelessness further in their lives.

Education for Youth and Minors

School-aged students experiencing the challenges of homelessness are diagnosed with learning disabilities and chronic health conditions at higher rates than other children. According to the Office of Federal Programs at the Georgia Department of Education, homeless students in Georgia have attendance rates significantly lower than their peers. The most recent Georgia Department of Education report found that 68.78% of students in Atlanta public schools receive free and reduced lunch, with some schools seeing over 94% of their student population using this resource. These youth often do not have the income available to them to end the cycle of unstable housing. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded this trend, as Atlanta youth struggle with record rates of job loss, rental delinquencies, shrinking availability of affordable housing, and educational inequities.

Because of the adaptability of our youth, when things become tough they often turn to friends and other relatives to avoid being unsheltered. Youth finding themselves in these precariously housed situations do not have a permanent household – instead live a day-to-day existence of relying on others or an inadequate temporary location. Because they do not meet the definition of “literal homelessness,” youth in Atlanta often miss out on certain federally allocated resources – and are often overlooked when the general public thinks about its homeless populations. Because these students are busy trying to manage their own housing instability, their educational outcomes may not be their first priority.

The McKinney-Vento Definition of homelessness includes children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It refers to children and youth living in shelters, transitional housing, cars, campgrounds, and motels, as well as those who are temporarily sharing housing with others because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons. Living doubled-up is a hardship and an inherent barrier to academic success. School-age children experiencing homelessness are diagnosed with learning disabilities and chronic health

conditions at higher rates than other children. According to the 2020-2021 McKinney Vento Annual Homeless Education Survey, homeless students in Atlanta have attendance rates significantly lower than their peers. The attendance rate for students experiencing homelessness in Atlanta Public Schools was 14.4% less than children and youth not facing these obstacles. Across all Atlanta Public Schools, 1,162 students during the 2020-2021 school years experienced these types of homeless situations.

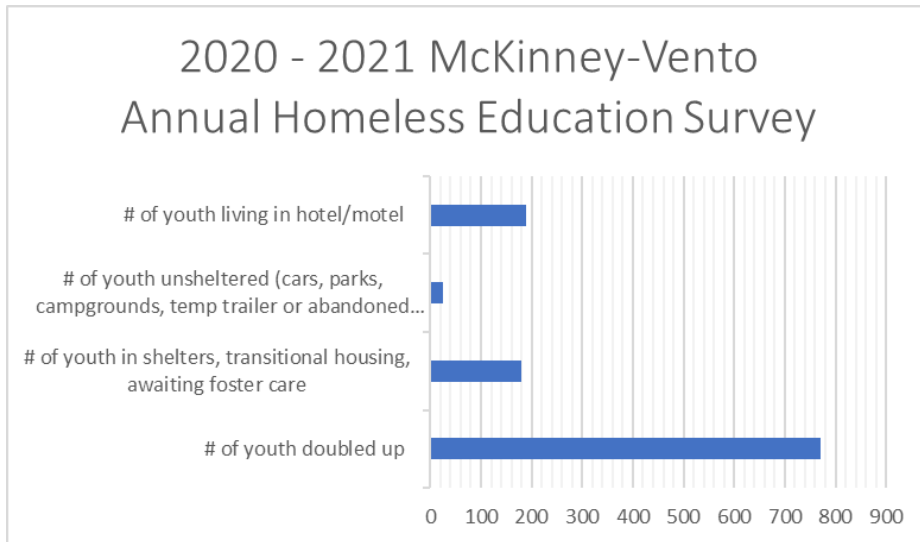


Exhibit 7: 2020 - 2021 McKinney Vento Annual Homeless Education Survey

Housing instability is a major barrier to positive education outcomes. There is a significant need to create a bridge between youth and service providers to gain access to GED and higher education programs. Youth need clear navigation to GED and higher ED programs which eliminates enrollment barriers and allow youth to be successful in their academic endeavors. The YHDP 2022 Youth Survey asked respondents their education levels, job history, and interest in pursuing further education. When looking at their education levels, 63% completed high school-level education, and 83% were interested in pursuing additional education, out of 35 respondents. Ideal educational opportunities named by the youth included pursuing a college education, obtaining their GED, or studying fine arts. When reviewing employment, 91% of the youth typically maintained full-time, part-time, or temporary employment. Some of the common job roles were restaurant workers, working in retail stores, and cleaning homes/offices.

Employment and Income

Through focus groups and surveys completed by youth within the city of Atlanta, the need to address employment and income inequalities to prevent and end homelessness is clear. Our Youth Advisory Board has very clearly stated that we “must address issues of poverty instead of just housing”.

The median income for a youth household currently in our Homeless Management Information System is \$1193 per month. The minimum wage in Atlanta is only \$7.25 per hour. An individual can work 40 hours a week and still only make roughly \$1256.67 per month before taxes. With the rent averaging \$1279 for a 1 bedroom in Atlanta according to the 2019 American Community Survey, rent is unaffordable. One youth put it this way, *“the real starting pay is \$9 everywhere and we can’t live off that”*.



According to the Living Wage Calculator for Atlanta, an individual needs to earn at least \$16.56 and be working a full 40 hour work week in order to have a livable wage for an individual. If the youth is a “parenting youth” of only one child, that hourly wage should be at least \$31.33 to be considered livable. There is a significant need to connect our youth with resources to help them increase their income so that their housing is more affordable and stable.

Atlanta youth have expressed a desire and need to be linked to pathways to careers. During focus groups, youth disclosed having interests in careers in cosmetology, entrepreneurship, nursing, law, construction, audio visual, engineering, and many others. Many youth have mentioned that they would not be homeless if they had well paying careers and could afford the cost of housing.

We also acknowledge that not all youth have the ability to work due to disabilities or presumed disabilities. While we do have a partner that is able to help our youth apply for disability, that process takes a significant amount of time and requires a lot of navigation between healthcare providers, service providers, clients, and other entities. Even after a client starts receiving SSI, the amount is usually not enough to afford a studio or 1 bedroom apartment. Our system needs a pathway to long term intervention for those that will need on-going subsidized housing.

We need to create a feasible pathway to careers and well-paying jobs. Youth need access to jobs, in their desired career track, that pay livable wages. Internships, career exposure, and

career exploration is needed. We likewise need to develop both soft and hard skills in our youth populations, including interviewing and job training. These investments in our youth beyond just housing are, nonetheless, imperative to break the cycles of housing instability and recurring homelessness.

The strong connection between adult, youth, and child homelessness strongly suggests that a roof alone does not end homelessness. The lasting impact of childhood homelessness, even prenatally, demands a more holistic view and a more nuanced and individualized approach to matching children and families to services and housing.

There needs to be a long-term plan, not just help us get into a shelter, help us out, and then just leave us floating. Because then that's where the repeat homelessness happens, that's where you have youth who had homeless parents, and that's all they know, so then they go back into the system themselves as adults. It's just a cycle that I want to break with my kids. —Aralese Estrella, Boston, MA, ACF Family Homelessness Listening Session, April 3, 2019 (Duffield 2020: 302)

Social and Emotional Well-being

The trauma of homelessness, even short term, can have a major effect on a youth's future development. Children who experience homelessness have significantly higher rates of emotional, behavioral, and immediate and long-term health problems. They often struggle with self-esteem, which puts them at risk for substance use, suicide, and other negative outcomes. They have numerous academic difficulties, including below-grade level reading, high rate of learning disabilities, poor school attendance, and failure to advance to the next grade or graduate.

Similarly to all youth, those experiencing homelessness have varying needs when it comes to their social and emotional development. Lived experiences, education attainment, family dynamics (chosen and birth), the pandemic, and the unique events that lead to homelessness need to be considered when developing strategies centered around the social-emotional well-being of children and young adults.

Through a series of town halls, with youth experiencing homelessness, while discussing social and emotional health one youth voiced that, *“we need to deal with the trauma before it deals with us, before we can learn to live on our own.”* The most often discussed topics around trauma focused upon how to deal with stress, depression, and suicide.

According to a 2021 national survey conducted by *The Trevor Project*, 58% of youth who reported past housing instability and 62% of youth who were currently homeless reported having seriously considered suicide in the last year – compared to 35% of youth who had not experienced housing instability. There is a significant need to increase comprehensive services to improve our youths' social and emotional wellbeing outcomes with a wholistic approach that looks beyond just immediate housing needs.

Youth Experience Highlights

Youth Experience Highlighted:

“My situation of homelessness is mainly caused by a long history of domestic and sexual violence impacting my mental health. I have complex PTSD and depression...

Every time we connected and met with someone in the system, I made it very clear I have a history of trauma impacting my capacity to function on a daily basis, this was the major reason I became homeless, and I needed to connect with trauma focused mental healthcare.

The only referral I was given in the first three months the counselor said she can only meet weekly for thirty minutes temporarily and then we would need to meet only two times per month. An hour a month to attempt to fix the impact of years of trauma. And in the meetings, she said we didn't really have time to unpack and deal with the trauma due to the structure of how things worked. Basically, my needs were greater than what could be provided for... In total it took 3 and ½ months to finally get me connected to a trauma focused counselor that I hope can meet my needs, even though I continuously said this was a priority that needed to be taken care of since day one.

The system wasn't equipped to link me to the resources I needed and there wasn't any cross-system or cross-organizational collaboration. The worst part is almost all the women in the homeless shelter I was staying also shared histories of domestic and/or sexual violence and also need help processing their trauma and its impact on them. It was crazy to me that the case managers still didn't know where to access adequate trauma focused mental healthcare—it isn't a strange need among the population experiencing homelessness.” Female YAB member, 23 years old

Need identified: Access to sufficient mental health services, Seamless Youth Support Network

Youth Experience Highlighted:

“We were sent to one place to the next and making a plan on where to go in the city, where to park and how much it will cost, how to get and cook food from our trunk or go to the bathroom during the day, and figure out where to sleep each night illegally but nonchalantly was stressful, draining, and disheartening. Not to mention I didn't get good sleep since my hypervigilance from my PTSD was on super alert at each noise. When we would finally get information on where to go through 2-1-1 or calling agencies when we arrived, we were told we showed up at the wrong time or we actually needed to go somewhere else. The information about what time you need to show up places to get the help you need isn't widely posted or accessible. You have to figure things out through word of mouth from others who have navigated the system as well. And you're on your own to fight to comb through the haystack of possible resources you're told about to find the needle—that maybe can provide you help if they still have a spot and you can get there in time.” Female YAB Member 23 Years Old

Need Identified: Consistent communication and assistance, Navigation and Advocacy

Youth Experience Highlight

“When I first got into shelter I was very relieved to finally have a place to stay. My shelter was for DV victims and their children, but it was an hour from anyone in my support network. Honestly it was a very nice shelter compared to many other shelters. However, what was disappointing was in all the shelters I've stayed (3 total now, one for a night, one for three months, and one I just got into) was the lack of trauma informed workers. When at the DV shelter I was disappointed because I felt like I knew more about abuse and its effects than the workers who were trying to teach and support the other women did. This made me sad because if it wasn't for my sister giving me the resources she did, then I wouldn't have known barely anything. I spent 3 months there without gaining access to trauma counseling and without any connection to the county's CE (the shelters were in charge of this, you couldn't access it on your own). The other thing that was disappointing is that they didn't stop people from being emotionally abusive to each other there. Instead, they told me just to ignore the people who were trying to gaslight and manipulate me. I was saddened by that because if I didn't grow into the person I am today I wouldn't be able to identify these behaviors and I would believe in what they were saying. Women tend to go back to their abusive relationships nearly ten times before leaving them and I feel like these shelters play a huge part in this because of the lack of knowledge and help they provide.

It was very hard for me there as well because I felt like I couldn't connect with people as much because everyone was 10+ years older than me, and they told me they didn't really accept people my age, I was just lucky. When I switched to a youth shelter I was even more disappointed because there is even less trauma informed people and more of a dehumanizing program. No one is teaching these kids how to stand up for themselves and communicate healthily. They tell everyone what is good for them, and don't allow independent choices of, like when it's okay to walk away from things because it's draining you and empower yourself to move forward. They only care about you getting a job, saving your money, and following a program to a T. They take a cookie cutter approach and it doesn't work because these are people's complex lives, traumas, and futures. We are not robots, we deserve more time, care, and resources. If you don't follow these programs then you lose your spot to stay at night and it is extremely hard to get into another shelter. So these might be “voluntary programs” but they're not because you hurt yourself either way but more if you don't follow the program. Throughout my homeless journey I've met one worker who has truly been helpful to me and truly cares about the people she's helping and is not just sayin she does to try to make you feel better. Overall there needs to be more trauma training for these jobs and more information pushed out to clients about how to

healthy communicate. How to set boundaries, what is abuse, professionalism, how to cope, and healthily communicating with others. Even outside of DV shelters you meet so many people who have been abused and don't even know it because the information is not out there, and emotional abuse is normalized in today's society. - Female Fleeing DV 18 years old

Need Identified: Trauma-Informed, Empathetic Care

Youth Experience Highlighted:

...The culture of the current system feels like you're basically expected to pick yourself up by your bootstraps, and then you'll receive some assistance with rent and getting the material things to be in an apartment and live. The current system doesn't really see you as a young individual, who is in this situation really due to some bad histories that have nothing to do with you and your character, and truly in need of wholistic support and empowerment...

.. I needed help connecting my strengths to viable pathways to navigate this situation. I needed a safe space to process what was happening. I needed to form connections with others who were also struggling with the things I was to keep validating one another that we are worthy and will get through this. Honestly, the only reason I'm moving forward is due to some privileges I've experienced in my life. Where one youth end up in comparison to another, has nothing to do with 'who they are' in terms of character or willpower. The current system fails to take into account the root causes of why a youth became homeless in the first place, systematically think about what would be needed for them to find their place in the world and thrive in life, and supportively connect them to wholistic services and care to get them on their way..."
Female YAB member 23 years old

Need Identified: Empowerment Advocacy

Youth Experience Highlight

“...Once we were in an emergency shelter and rapid rehousing, the focus by case managers was employment and apartment searching. The clock ticking on how much time you had left to find a solution; it was so much pressure. I ended up working 48 hours a week, trying to follow the rigid schedule of the shelter, and used all my spare time to search for apartments in our budget, make calls try to set up a time to see places and coordinate logistics. It was an unsustainable, inhumane set-up. There was no time to look and utilize other resources that could maybe help me, let alone the time in the day to travel there to receive services. And there really wasn't empathy about the struggle and reality of what it's like to be in this terribly low place grasping to pull your head above the water. There was also a lot of stigmatizations happening by the very people who were meant to help, and honestly, I witnessed very hostile responses by staff when people who vocalized they had more needs than were being met. When I finally got my housing, I lost my job because my mental health was strained even further from this experience” Female YAB member 23 years old

Need Identified: Wholistic Care

Youth Subpopulations: Impact and Strategy

Youth homelessness has a high correlation with specific subpopulations, such as foster care exits, marginalized sexual and gender identities, and youth trafficking. Atlanta has identified the following special subpopulations for which we have developed specific strategies for their unique circumstances.

- LGBTQ+ Youth
- Gender Nonconforming Youth
- Minors
- Justice Involved Youth
- Foster care Involved Youth
- Youth Victims of Sexual Trafficking or Exploitation
- Youth Victims of Domestic Violence

In general, all subpopulations share these strategies:

Strategy for all subpopulations:

- Training for agencies on subpopulation specific engagement
- Goal to pair youth in crisis with youth with lived experience of same or similar qualities - increase compassion and empathy, stronger connections
- Collaboration and Engagement with subpopulation representation
- Ensure subpopulation representation at the table for planning/governance

LGBTQ+ Youth

In the 2021 APR, only 34 youth shared their sexual orientation information in HMIS. Of these 34, 31 were heterosexual, 2 bisexual, and 1 other. During the YHDP 2022 Youth Survey, 31% of the 35 respondents identified as LGBTQ+. Using this information, and our annual estimate of 600 youth households served, we can approximate that there may be 186 LGBTQ+ youth households annually moving through the system each year.

LGBTQ+ and gender nonconforming youth are particularly at risk of enduring homelessness. According to a recent study from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, LGBTQ+ young people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ+ youth.

The leading factor for LGBTQ+ homelessness is family rejection of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This rejection causes youth to either be thrown out of their homes or run away out of fear of violence.

As a result, compared to their heterosexual peers, LGBTQ+ homeless youth experience higher rates of traumatic mental and physical health outcomes:

Survival Sex: Transgender homeless youth are **8x more likely** to engage in survival sex and LGB youth are **7x as likely** than heterosexual peers.

Suicide: 57.1% of LGBTQ+ homeless youth will make at least one suicide attempt

Sexual Assault/Rape: 22% of LGBTQ+ youth reported being sexually assaulted or raped

There is a need to engage LGBTQ+ youths and identify LGBTQ+ sensitive housing and wrap around services to better aid youth who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness.

Strategy for LGBTQ+

- Promote LGBTQ friendly services
- Sexual Orientation should not be barrier to project enrollment
- Acceptance of Sexual Orientation - Programs must be comfortable for all orientations even after enrollment
- Youth surveys targeting this population to confirm they feel they were respected during their full program enrollment

Gender Nonconforming Youth

During the 2020 Point in Time Count, the overall percentage of transgender heads of household counted made up less than 1% of the count (29/2,789 counted) However, in the youth population transgender or other gender made up 6% of those counted (9/163). The same pattern increased in the 2021 Point in Time where 9.5% of youth were either transgender or gender nonconforming (10/104) compared to the general count less than 1% (24/1,996 counted).

Strategy for Gender non-conforming youth

- Promote Gender Nonconforming friendly services
- Gender Identity should not be barrier to project enrollment
- Acceptance of Gender Identity - Programs must be comfortable for all gender identities even after enrollment
- Youth surveys targeting this population to confirm they feel they were respected during their full program enrollment

Minors

Currently the Atlanta CoC does fund projects which directly serve unaccompanied minors. During the 2020 Point in Time, only two literally homeless unaccompanied minors were counted and in 2021 that same number was zero. The child welfare system is designed to provide safe temporary housing until the child can reunite with their families, be adopted, or is old enough to care for themselves. We rely on this system to care for minors unaccompanied.

Accompanied minor homelessness is much more common. We also recognize that the homelessness of minors is connected to the homelessness of families, and family poverty. Minors should be supported within the overall support for their family whenever possible.

By building relationships in the school systems and working with the youth homeless liaisons of Atlanta Public Schools, we will continue to identify minors under the age of 18 experiencing risk of homelessness or accompanied homelessness. We will also work with child welfare and juvenile justice systems to continuously identify accompanied and unaccompanied minors. We will work with agency partners and emergency shelters to identify disconnected youth under the age of 18 that are runaways or youth that are forced out from family environments due to unresolved family conflicts. These youth are more vulnerable and susceptible to exploitation and in need of safe crisis assistance.

Multisystem involvement and intergenerational poverty strained families' abilities to stay together and successfully avoid or exit homelessness. While respondents often described giving and receiving financial and in-kind support to family they also shared the ways in which system involvement created barriers, as described in the following statement from a young Black man: I just notice like my support system—my family was not as tight and that played a big role, you know, the family that don't reach out and stuff because they're dealing with the way the system has affected them long-term. And . . . it's not their fault.

(Olivet et al 2020: 92)

Strategy for Minors

- Promote reconnection to family support where appropriate
- Connection to DFCS where family reunification is not immediately feasible
- Special consideration for those aged 17, soon to turn 18. Explore access to services through pre-screen
- Special consideration for emancipated minors, updates to policy will be reviewed and developed

Juvenile System Involved Youth

The risk of entering homelessness increases for youth transitioning out of public systems – in particular the juvenile justice system. For youth and minors entering the juvenile justice system, trauma and negative environmental factors outside their control often lead to a cycle of recidivism and other negative outcomes. Atlanta's Fulton County Juvenile Court is the busiest juvenile Court in Georgia.

According to the U.S. Office of Juvenile Delinquency, between 2013 and 2017 Atlanta's Fulton County saw juvenile arrest and recidivism rates that were above the national average. There is a need to develop strong partnerships and collaboration between Fulton County Juvenile Court and youth service providers to connect those exiting the system with the resources necessary to maintain housing stability.

Strategy for Justice Involved Youth

- Proactively coordinate with Department of Juvenile Justice to have smooth access to services for those engaged in Juvenile Justice System
- Leverage connections to Police Alternatives Diversion (PAD), the @PromiseCenter, and the upcoming City of Atlanta Diversion center
- Youth service access should be criminal history friendly
- Youth with criminal history should be connected to legal resources and receive guidance on the juvenile records expungement process
- Seek opportunities to incorporate probation officers into discussions around care and strategy for individual solutions
- Advocate for the decriminalization of homelessness for all, including youth.

Youth Involved with Foster Care

APR data from 2021 Atlanta coordinated entry enrollments showed 15 youth whose prior residence was a foster care home. Of the 35 respondents during the 2022 Youth PIT surveys and focus groups one reported exiting foster care.

According to Annie E Casey Foundation’s Kids Count Center, youth that have experienced homelessness or exited from foster care by 18 experience the following: 43% will end up experiencing long term homelessness (more than six months)

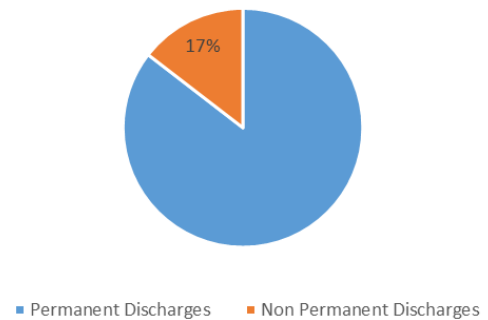
Only 3% will further their education, Over 50% of females will give birth to a child that enter the foster care system

Many youth enter the foster care system as minors and age out entering homelessness. In Fulton County between October 2020 and September 2021 this percentage was 17% of all discharges.

Several factors increase the risk of homelessness for children placed in foster care including their number of placements, history of running away from those placements, and the length of time spent in a group home. According to the National Foster Youth Institute, “an estimated 20 percent of young adults who are in care become homeless the moment they’re emancipated at the age of 18.” Additionally, it is estimated that 50% of individuals experiencing homelessness spent time in foster care. Minors entering this system are at-risk of experiencing homelessness.

The numbers show a strong correlation between foster care exits and homelessness. These statistics perpetuate a never-ending cycle of generational poverty with very little meaningful opportunities for work or education. Results from the SPARC Initiative, of which Atlanta was a participant, illuminate these statistics:

Fulton County Children in Care Discharges
Between Oct. 2020-Sept 2021



Respondents reported challenges with maintaining stability within family units and described how this contributed to housing insecurity, particularly due to involvement with child welfare, juvenile justice, and the criminal justice system. A young woman who identified as Puerto Rican, Greek, and white explained how the system impacted her and her daughter: I've been in trouble a lot of times for running away from foster care and foster homes to go back home. I mean I didn't understand why I couldn't go back home, so I just ran from the system . . . and then eventually, they just kind of, after I hit 13, I was making my own decisions, so they let me go. But, um, as a mother, they took my kid two days after she was born because I was homeless.

(Olivet et al 2020: 92)

Youth have expressed that they are suffering from abandonment and trust issues. There is a need for counseling, mentoring, and meaningful adult connections in order for youth to thrive.

Strategy for Foster Care involved Youth

- Proactively coordinate with DFCS to have smooth access to services for those transitioning out of Foster Care
- Continue to explore connections between HMIS database and the DFCS database.
- Leverage existing housing assistance for foster engaged youth via cross-system partnership

Victims of Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation

Since 2005, when the Federal Bureau of Investigation identified Atlanta as one of the 14 cities with the highest incidence of sexually trafficked children, Georgia has been considered a trafficking hub.

In 2018, the National Institute of Justice funded the Atlanta Youth Count to specifically study and address sex and labor trafficking amount youth experiencing homelessness in Atlanta. This study uncovered critical insights into the experiences of sex and labor trafficking among homeless youth in metro-Atlanta. Georgia State University students trained in a Domestic Field School, worked with service providers, outreach workers, and youth to conduct sweeps of shelters, motels, and other community locations where homeless youth frequent. Homeless youth were then asked to participate in a survey about their demographic background, history of homelessness, exploitative sex and labor trafficking involvement, and other social experiences and behavior.

A total of 564 unique surveys were completed by eligible youth in the field. In addition 95 windshield observations were made, where the the field team were reasonably confident an observed youth were both homeless and met additional eligibility criteria but the field team was unable to directly engage to confirm.

The prevalence of human trafficking (sex and labor trafficking) among homeless youth was measured using the Dank, et al. 2017 Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) developed by

the Urban Institute. Respondents were given a list of 16 potential things they may have done for work in their lifetime, work in the formal economy (i.e. serving food at a restaurant or café or in a retail store) and work in the informal economy (i.e. asking for change or donations on the street or in the subways). The work list also included commercial sex work (i.e. trading sex for money, clothes, shelter, or other things and participating in sexual videos or photos for money, clothes, shelter or other things). Respondents were also able to list any other kinds of work they may have done for money.

After work was defined, respondents were asked 18 questions from the HTST to determine if respondents had experienced force, fraud, coercion, or commercial sexual exploitation ever in their life or while homeless - or human trafficking. This study found that 36.7% of youth had experienced some form of human trafficking while homeless, and 54.1% had experienced it in their lifetime.

The 2018 Atlanta Youth Count identified and studied the impact that certain risk factors – including adverse trauma and LGBT status – had on youth’s likelihood to experience sex and labor trafficking. While homeless, LGBT youth have a significantly higher risk of experiencing human trafficking than their straight peers and are significantly different than their cisgender peers for force, fraud, and commercial sexual exploitation.

Of 564 youth in the sample, 43.8% of LGBT youth experienced trafficking in comparison to 34% of their straight peers. Additionally, 64.5% of transgender youth report experiencing trafficking while homeless, compared to 34.4% of their cisgender peers.

Trauma-informed care is imperative for homeless youth who have been trafficked. The homeless youth population had higher than normal experiences of childhood trauma, which may have contributed to their homelessness. These childhood traumas include: parental incarceration, parental domestic violence, parental mental illness, parental substance abuse, childhood sexual abuse, childhood physical abuse, and childhood psychological abuse. 59.6% of youth in the 2018 Atlanta Youth Count had experienced adverse trauma in their childhood.

““The various vulnerability assessment tools used to triage and prioritize people for homelessness assistance have been found to be flawed in other ways—they rely on potentially re-traumatizing self-disclosure and are biased in favor of white people” (Duffield, 2020, p. 300)”

Trauma was significantly linked to a youth’s experiences with all forms of sex and labor trafficking. Agencies and staff encountering and serving with this subpopulation of homeless youth need to continue to be trained and continuously informed regarding the best and most current practices in trauma-informed care.

Strategy for Victims of Sexual Trafficking

- Connect with critical partners
- Better collaboration and communication between sex trafficking victim advocates and youth providers

- Explore opportunities to connect housing resources to crisis lines, including youth-specific lines.
- Incorporate victim services into the seamless youth supportive services network
- Highlight trauma informed care for this unique population, especially during coordinated entry
- Connect with victims advocates and other legal services

Victims of Domestic Violence

Victims of Domestic Violence is not a subpopulation but a full category of homelessness. However it has its own special needs to be outlined. Category 4 homelessness needs a specific strategy.

In the 2020 Point in Time count, less than 100 households within the count overall self-reported that they were victims of domestic violence. In 2021 this number was much lower at 47 self reporting. However the 2021 count lacked an unsheltered count, therefore skewing the numbers. Two of the 35 respondents during the 2022 Youth PIT surveys and focus groups reported fleeing domestic violence.

Strategy for DV-Youth:

- Better collaboration and communication between DV providers and youth providers
- Specifically connect with victims advocates and other legal services
- Explore opportunities to add youth-specific crisis line
- Highlight trauma informed care for this unique population

Youth Experience Highlighted:

“Let's start with the lack of knowledge that is spread on how to access a shelter in the first place. If I hadn't called the national dv line before I left I was just going to leave and drive to shelter and show up because I didn't know you had to call ahead of time. The other bad part of that is I have a phone. What about people who do not have access to a phone? There are many cases of dv where people are not allowed to have phones. When I started calling around, many places denied me because they were not in my state (I was trying to get as far away as possible.) They told me to get into a place in my own state and then have them help me get into another state. I called so many places in my state and they were not accepting me because I was not “high risk” and they didn't have the room for me.

At that point I almost didn't leave because I didn't know what to do, I didn't know how to advocate for myself and those phone calls were extremely discouraging. If I hadn't called my sister and had her help (since she fled once herself) I wouldn't have even left. She finally helped advocate for me and found me somewhere to start. She helped me get into my first DV shelter. She suggested I come by her from Illinois to Atlanta (where she was also homeless), because then I wouldn't be completely isolated (5 hours from everyone I knew). I agreed and jumped on the road and headed her way.

We spent the next 3 days looking up places and calling places to find me a safe place to stay. If I didn't have her in this time I would have been 100% no doubt living in my car. The problem when I left Illinois is DV shelters were now saying since I passed state lines I was no longer fleeing and just homeless, and homeless shelters (including youth specific shelters) were saying I was too high risk for them and they weren't comfortable with me staying for the others' safety. It felt like there was no place for me. I was still fleeing my relationship. I felt like I wasn't safe from it until I moved far away because I knew she could talk me back if I was anywhere close. Many people are displaced from their homes because of DV and I know I'm not the only one to move to a different state because of it. I've met multiple other women from different areas so why is it so difficult to reach these places? We're told to just leave. There are places that help, but no one talks about how difficult and mentally draining it is to access these places.

In Atlanta, where I came to be close to my sister to not be completely isolated, there was no place for me, and I had to move an hour away from her to have any shelter, so basically isolated in practicality. However, the DV shelter I ended up with was really closely tied to a church, and I got the feeling had the church ladies known I was LGBTQ+ they wouldn't have accepted me.” Female Fleeing DV 18 years old
Need identified: Ease of access to shelter, coordination between DV and regular shelter, Outreach and Navigation

Atlanta System Capacity Analysis

The Atlanta CoC operates on a Coordinated Entry System. All households engaging with the CE System complete a Coordinated Entry Assessment. Those in need of housing assistance are screened and referred to housing resources as available on the Housing Queue. This need-based wait list prioritizes households for housing assistance based on greatest need.

The main access points to Coordinated Entry in Atlanta are Gateway Center and City of Atlanta 311. For youth, there are also the Drop-In Center at Chris 180 and the Youth Coordinated Entry team at Covenant House of Georgia. Young people experiencing homeless are able to be assessed for housing resources at both the adult locations and the youth locations, either in-person or over the phone.



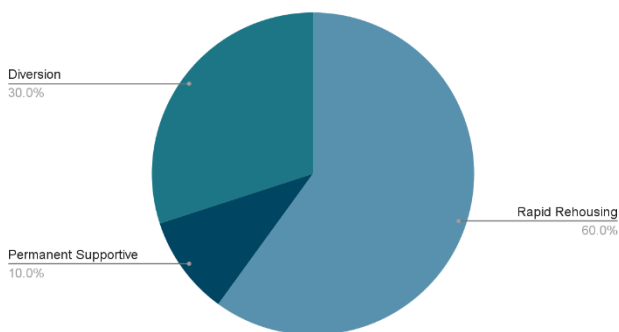
Once a young person completes the assessment and is prioritized for housing, all adult resources are possible matches for referral, as well as dedicated youth housing projects. Based on youth feedback, we have found a consensus that youth dedicated projects are the preference for placement among youth. In 2021, 581 youth heads of households aged 18-24 joined the Coordinated Entry (CE) system. Through the CE system, youth are assessed for housing needs, prioritized based on their vulnerability, and matched to available resources. After having a housing resource identified, youth households are referred and placed in their matched housing solution and exited from the CE system. By December 31, 2021, 486 youth households had exited the system. Of the youth that exited, an estimated 59% went to a housing resource including Rapid Rehousing (50%), Permanent Supportive Housing (6%), or Other Permanent Housing (3%). Additionally, 3% were diverted, 4% self resolved, and 9% went to stay with family or friends. The remaining 25% were youth households who were unable to be contacted.

Overall Atlanta had 53% Shelter utilization for 2021. Youth Shelters averaged 73-76% utilization for 2021. On average, it takes 73 days between CE referral to move-in. The average time between CE enrollment and being connected to a housing resource is about 163 days.

System Capacity Goals and Methodology

In order to determine the system capacity goals as summarized in the table below, we reviewed 2021 housing program placements and estimated that in future the placements ratio will be largely similar. However we intend to have a greater number in each placement category and fewer lost contacts. As YHDP expands the system capacity, the new ratio proposed would be: Rapid Rehousing, including TH-RRH, (60%) Permanent Supportive Housing (10%) and Diversion (30%). The estimated annual number of youth households to be served was rounded up to 600 youth experiencing homelessness.

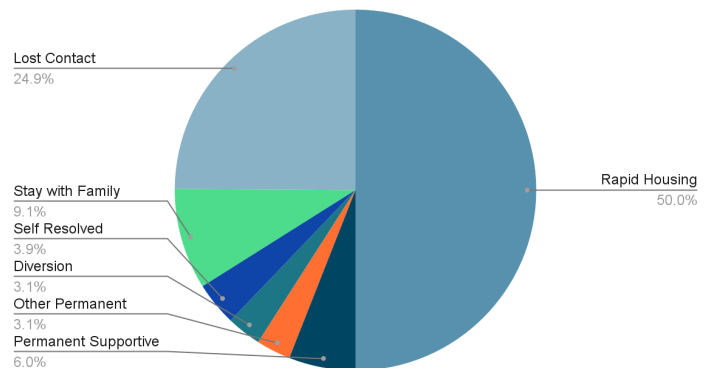
Youth System Capacity Goals



Therefore we estimated the need for youth emergency shelter beds to be around 150 as a high estimate. Youth in our YHDP focus groups and from the YAB have often expressed a preference for youth-dedicated shelter beds compared to general population beds. Youth have unique needs and have a better experience in shelters who specialize in those needs. In addition, based on the past reviews of youth homelessness, we estimate a need for specialty youth beds to be for LGBTQ+, parenting, and couples. All new emergency shelters beds for youth would be requested to be low-barrier, following the principles of accommodating youth as they present.

Historically over the past 12 months, the Atlanta CE system has seen an average of 41 new literally homeless youth households enter the queue each month. PSH placements average 1 per month, 19 RRH placements per month, and 10 TH placements per month. Diversion has been under-utilized with only an average of 2 diversion enrollments for youth monthly.

2021 Youth Exits from CE



In addition to the permanent housing project goals we also estimated the need for emergency housing beds. On average, the number of literally homeless youth on the Housing Queue was 140. A second data point is the number of youth in shelter during the 2021 and 2020 point in time counts. In 2021 we counted 124 youth in shelter, with 40 in transitional shelter and 84 in emergency shelter. In 2020 we counted 24 unsheltered youth.

System Capacity Summary Chart

Early Response Interventions (non-housing)				
	Agency Offering Youth Projects (2021)*	Number of Youth Spaces Available Annually	Total Spaces Available Annually (open to youth and adults)	Estimated Need for Youth Spaces Annually
Youth Diversion	-all CoC Diversion projects are open to both youth and non-youth	0	1100	180 <i>Sufficient capacity, focus on access</i>

Temporary Housing				
	Agency Offering Youth Projects (2021)*	Number of Youth Spaces Available Annually	Total Spaces Available Annually (open to youth and adults)	Estimated Need for Youth Spaces Annually
Emergency Shelter	-Covenant House of Georgia (50) -Lost and Found Youth (12) <i>-specializes in LGBTQ+</i>	62	1,734	150 <i>Short by 88, to be absorbed by general emergency shelter beds, TH, and TH portion of Joint TH project</i>
Transitional Housing (TH)	-Covenant House of Georgia (35) <i>-includes 11 family beds open to pregnant and parenting youth</i> -Families First (6) <i>-includes 2 family beds</i>	41	1,022	41 <i>To be maintained</i>

Permanent Housing				
	Agency Offering Youth Projects (2021)*	Number of Youth Spaces Available Annually	Total Spaces Available Annually (open to youth and adults)	Estimated Need for Youth Spaces Annually
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	-Chris 180 (40) -Covenant House of Georgia (30)*	70* <i>*Includes 30 new beds that come online in 2022</i>	2,137*	60 <i>Sufficient capacity, focus on access</i>
Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	-Buckhead Christian Ministry (16) -Chris 180 (3) -Covenant House Georgia (11) -Grady (1) -Hope Atlanta (6) -Project Community Connections Inc (115) -The Salvation Army (4) -Youth Empowerment Success Services (11)	167	956	167 <i>Sufficient capacity, focus on access and expansion in new Joint TH-RRH projects. Total for RRH + Joint TH-RRH should be 360 when serving all HH average 12 months</i>
Joint-TH/RRH	No COC funded projects	0	0	208 <i>New projects</i>
Other PH	Community Concerns Inc	5	103	0**

*HIC 2021 Data

Final Summary of Need

Each of the needs outlined in this statement of need have been addressed as part of the community goals and objectives in later chapters. We recognize that all needs identified will not be overcome through YHDP funded projects alone. It will be necessary to collaborate, leveraging additional funded resources to meet these needs. Diverse stakeholders, robust community partnership, and a shared mission and vision are critical to the success of this plan.

In the following chapters, we will discuss in more detail the goals and objectives of this community, and the projects we have chosen to highlight for funding. In 2022, pilot projects will be funded around these goals and objectives. Year to year as we implement YHDP, the needs and best practices as outlined here will be continuously reviewed and updated. Our vision is to have a living system, which adapts and responds to the changing environment in which the youth homeless response system operates.

Chapter 4

The Path to Realizing our Vision

Aligning with our mission and vision statement and in response to the identified needs in our community as established by the data, Atlanta's Coordinated Community Plan developed the following goals, objectives, and action steps to serve as a roadmap in developing systems and programs capable of ending youth homelessness.

Ending youth homelessness is multifaceted. On one hand, it means adequate youth diversion programs, front line services, and cross-system coordinated upstream interventions so youth experiencing periods of homelessness becomes rare. It also means, youth experiencing a housing crisis have immediate access to crisis beds and choice of appropriate permanent housing programs; their transition from housing instability is brief. Additionally, it means trauma informed, person-centered programs provide adequate wrap-around empowerment services build social and health equity and prevent reoccurrence. By necessity, the YHDP understands coordinated collaboration with key stakeholders touching the youth homelessness system beyond the YHDP committees is paramount. While convening collaborative task forces/coalitions need the capacity to set their own pathways to accomplish shared goals and objectives, the CCP includes guiding charges these collaboratives must undertake to successfully end youth homelessness.

Following our guiding vision statements, the YHDP Committee developed a strategic plan of goals, objectives, and action steps necessary to bring each vision into reality. In the included table, each objective has been noted as: To be implemented following specific YHDP Principles, To result in a USICH Core outcome, and To meet an identified Atlanta Community Need.

USICH Core Outcomes

Stable housing Youth have a safe and reliable place to call home.

Permanent connections: Youth have ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks.

Education/Employment: Youth have adequate access to education and training opportunities to maintain stable employment.

Social-Emotional well-being: Youth develop key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors for success in school, work, relationships, and community.

Atlanta YHDP Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps Summary:

Vision Statement 1: Atlanta Youth in housing crisis have immediate access to trauma informed and person-centered individualized best-fit interventions

- **Goal 1:** Right-Sized Housing Capacity for Youth
- **Goal 2:** Rapid Entry to Housing for Youth

Vision Statement 2: All youth engaging with Atlanta’s youth homeless response system benefit from comprehensive wrap around services that wholistically empower individuals utilizing the system.

- **Goal 3:** Establish “Seamless Youth Services Network”

Vision Statement 3: The youth homeless response system is youth responsive, and youth led; youth leadership is involved at all stages of program/service planning and implementation

- **Goal 4:** Youth Leadership Roles are Included in All Stages of Program and Services Planning and Implementation

Vision Statement 4: The youth homeless response system keeps moving upstream, preventing youth homelessness with coordinated, cross-system collaboration

- **Goal 5:** The Atlanta CoC develops strong Cross-System Partnerships and collaborations to meet the needs of special focus populations at higher risk of experiencing homelessness
- **Goal 6:** Atlanta’s youth homeless system develops a strategy to use their platform to advocate for the passage of policies and laws that will combat the structural causes of youth homelessness and promote social and health equity for youth at high risk for experiencing homelessness

Measuring and Monitoring Success: Commitment to Continuous Quality Improvement

We commit to monitoring and measuring progress toward reaching our vision of the end of Youth Homelessness. This includes the goals, objectives, and action steps as outlined in this strategic plan and any future updates. Projects implemented will also be closely monitored and measured as part of our overall strategy for continuous quality improvement. Measurement is how we honor the core value of accountability for these commitments.

We will seek to measure increased positive perception that housing interventions are adequately helping youth subpopulations overcome their barriers and meet their needs to become stably housed, successful, and thrive. Aligned with our vision, we will use continuous quality improvement to reach the end of Youth homelessness.

The below measurement concepts have come up in initial discussions. This list will grow and change as we complete the critical next step: Collaborative development of CQI process and tools necessary to implement that process together with the YAB and community partners.

Measurement Concepts:

- Equity - parity in outcomes
- Ongoing proactive monitoring
- Tracking of system capacity to meet the needs of all youth in our community
- Trends over time and outcomes from engagement to housing placement and ongoing stability
- Number of youth entering literal homelessness in Atlanta decreases
- Quantitative and qualitative assessment of progress
- Qualitative assessment of youth experience enrolled in programs
- Qualitative assessment of youth experience engaged with shaping the homeless response system, including YAB members perceptions of successful leadership and inclusion throughout governance processes and areas needing improvement
- Decrease in reported barriers to quickly access services
- Measurable increase in stability outcomes such as income, education, achievements, access to health benefits.

Vision 1: Atlanta Youth in housing crisis have immediate access to trauma informed and person-centered individualized best-fit interventions

Goal 1: Right-Sized Housing Capacity for Youth

Objectives	Action Steps	YHDP Principles/ USICH Core Outcomes/ Community Need	Who? By When?
<p>Objective 1a: Expand the system’s capacity to meet anticipated needs of permanent housing for all youth experiencing homelessness and at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness</p>	<p>i) YHDP Awards will be granted to add Joint TH-RRH Project Type to serve Atlanta Youth.</p>	<p>Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness</p>	<p>i) YHDP Grantees Projects Awarded by Fall 2022</p>
		<p>Stable Housing</p>	
	<p>ii) Calculate how much funding would be needed to provide funding for the complete annual need of youth experiencing and at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>iii) Begin the work of securing partnerships to be able to expand TH-RRH beyond the scope YHDP funding provides</p>	<p>Insufficient vacancies available in TH and RRH projects</p>	<p>ii) Youth CoC Subcommittee, ongoing</p> <p>iii)YHDP and Partners for HOME Ongoing, started by Year 1</p>
<p>Objective 1b: Housing intervention types available adapt quickly to match the changing context of youth’s individual needs</p>	<p>i) Flexible Joint TH-RRH projects are a first step in this direction, and continuous quality improvement reviews will help the YHDP Committee to monitor changes in timely manner.</p>	<p>Housing first, Unsheltered homelessness, Youth Choice</p>	<p>i)YHDP Projects Awarded by Fall 2022</p>
		<p>Stable Housing, social-emotional well-being</p>	<p>ii) Youth CoC Subcommittee and CE Refinement Committee, Year 1</p>
	<p>ii)Develop a method for transfers to occur smoothly</p>	<p>Transfers between TH and RRH are not possible</p>	<p>iii) YHDP Committee, YHDP</p>

	<p>among youth providers and projects.</p> <p>iii)CQI within TH-RRH program, and annual evaluations of needed housing interventions to match context of youth’s needs</p>		<p>Grantees, and YAB by Year 1</p>
<p>Objective 1c: Atlanta’s Youth Homeless System meets the barrier free emergency shelter needs of unique youth at any given time.</p>	<p>i)Develop collaborative relationships with diverse emergency shelters to be barrier free. Advocacy for removal of barriers to shelter for all, improved sensitivity on youth experience in shelter.</p> <p>ii)Research and understanding of local barriers particularly for youth including ongoing experiential surveys and focus groups.</p> <p>iii) Creates a collaborative process for emergency shelter for youth in need. Get the key stakeholders at a table and strategize about the best way for coordinating access to youth emergency shelter.</p> <p>iv) Network Youth outreach, navigation, and shelter case management through case conferencing and other tools for youth</p>	<p>Special populations, Equity, PYD/TIC, Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice</p> <p>Social-emotional well-being, stable housing</p> <p>Emergency shelter utilization rates are low</p> <p># of youth dedicated shelter beds are limited and cannot meet all family types and/or intersectional needs and positionalities</p>	<p>i)Partners for HOME Year 1 and ongoing</p> <p>ii) YHDP and YAB Year 1</p> <p>iii)YHDP and YAB Begin Year 1 and ongoing</p> <p>iv)YHDP, YAB, YHDP Grantees, and Cross-Org Coordinated Partnerships by Fall 2022</p>

Vision 1: Atlanta Youth in housing crisis have immediate access to trauma informed and person-centered individualized best-fit interventions

Goal 2: Rapid Entry to Housing for Youth

Objectives	Action Steps	YHDP Principles/ USICH Core Outcomes/ Community Need	Who? By When?
<p>Objective 2a: Shorten the amount of time it takes from CE assessment to housing move-in</p>	<p>i) YHDP Awards will be granted to add Outreach workers, Navigators and Empowerment Advocates responsible for fast movement between the phases of rehousing.</p> <p>ii) Build relationships with landlords to negotiate and facilitate housing for youth in places youth want to live.</p> <p>iii) Develop strategies and processes for roommate matching or other alternative solutions that facilitate sustainable permanent housing.</p> <p>iv) Evaluate: Proactively identify system bottlenecks as opportunities to shorten time to housing. Identify sources of delay.</p>	<p>Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness</p> <p>Stable Housing, social-emotional well-being</p> <p>Difficult to access CE, lack of knowledge, can be slow to obtain referrals to move in</p>	<p>i) YHDP Grantees Projects Awarded by Fall 2022</p> <p>ii) YHDP Committee and YHDP Navigation Grantees Year 1-2 and ongoing</p> <p>iii) YHDP Committee and YHDP Grantees Year 1-2</p> <p>iv) Partners for HOME and partners</p> <p>v) Partners for HOME, YHDP, YAB, and YHDP Grantees beginning in Year 1</p>

	<p>Implement updated procedures.</p> <p>v) Strategize: Develop a written strategy to best monitor and meet the needs of subpopulations and proactively identify any subpopulations taking significantly longer to housing to then uncover and address the source of the disparity.</p>		
<p>Objective 2b: Atlanta will encounter and identify Youth experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness to quickly offer assistance and then travel through a coordinated and compassionate community system.</p>	<p>i) Grant YHDP Awards to add Youth Outreach and Youth Navigation specialists to the system. Work closely with GSU's AmeriCorps youth outreach program to coordinate the work of youth outreach efforts.</p> <p>ii) Secure connections and develop coordinated collaboration with key access points such as DJJ, DFCS, APS, and other non-housing youth providers.</p> <p>iii) Implement a By Name List process for identifying youth at imminent risk of homelessness and experiencing literal homelessness</p> <p>iv) Updated Coordinated Entry prioritization to</p>	<p>Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness</p> <p>Stable Housing, Social-emotional well-being, education or employment, permanent connections</p> <p>Private youth outreach is not well connected to CE</p> <p>Stakeholders from various cross system agencies know certain youth are at high risk of becoming homelessness, but don't know how to connect them with help</p>	<p>i)YHDP Grantees Projects Awarded by Fall 2022. GSU and YHDP Grantee coordination by Year 1</p> <p>ii) Partners for HOME and partner collaboration ongoing</p> <p>iii) Partners for HOME Year 1</p> <p>iv) CoC Youth Committee and CE Refinement Committee, ongoing updates based on system capacity</p>

	<p>ensure all youth on the BNL are offered community resources that meet their needs and also to plan ahead, how to add at-risk youth to housing resources priority once literally homeless are served.</p>	<p>Youth's experience bouncing in and out of literal homelessness without connection to help increases trauma</p>	
<p>Objective 2c: Atlanta's youth homeless system provides permanent housing interventions equitably for all subpopulations.</p>	<p>i) Through YHDP launch, reinforce CoC, YHDP, and YAB roles to advocate for equity within the homeless response system.</p> <p>ii) Conduct an Assessment to Evaluate the current rate services are reaching special populations, and identify equity concerns.</p> <p>iii) Youth-led Continuous Quality Improvement Strategy for Equitable Service is developed, formally documented, and implemented to continuously seek improvements to the data</p> <p>iv) Include scores for quantitative and qualitative outcomes in CoC RFP process</p> <p>v) Utilize research on the driving factors for</p>	<p>Equity</p> <p>Stable Housing, social-emotional well-being, permanent connections</p> <p>Difficult to access CE, lack of knowledge, disparities in rates of homelessness and recurrence among subpopulations</p> <p>Atlanta's Coordinated Youth Homelessness System is Competent in Social Justice and Equity Concerns as it relates to Service Provision Any expansion to the system is an inclusive, equitable expansion</p>	<p>i) YHDP Committee & YAB Year 1</p> <p>ii) YHDP Committee & YAB Year 1</p> <p>ii) Partners for HOME, YHDP Committee, and YAB, Year 1</p> <p>iv) Partners for HOME and CoC Board, ongoing</p> <p>v) Partners for HOME, YHDP Committee, YAB Year 1-2</p>

	<p>disparate outcomes of re-entry into homelessness among youth subpopulations to implement proactive strategies to reduce disparities.</p>		
<p>Objective 2d: Information about the youth CE process and available resources for diversion, emergency shelter, and housing is easily accessible to youth needing resources and is widespread knowledge among the community.</p>	<p>i) Awareness campaigns about youth coordinated entry process and diversion to ensure all advocates and natural contact points who may encounter youth experiencing a crisis are knowledgeable about the youth CE process, and various interventions available.</p> <p>ii) Improve and coordinate online communications detailing the youth coordinated entry process, available resources, and available interventions. Ensure consistent centralized information about access to resources.</p> <p>iii) Collaborate with other service access points such as hospitals, assistance hotlines, etc. and create consistent messaging with training to facilitate youth access to housing resources.</p>	<p>Coordinated Entry, Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness</p> <p>Permanent connections, social-emotional well-being, stable housing</p> <p>Difficult to access CE, lack of knowledge, response to disparities of experiences of homelessness among youth with system involvement</p>	<p>i) Youth outreach providers and Partners for HOME Year 1</p> <p>ii) Youth outreach providers and Partners for HOME Year 1-2</p> <p>iii) Partners for HOME Year 1</p> <p>iv) Youth CoC Subcommittee Year 1</p> <p>v) YHDP by Fall 2022</p>

	<p>iv) Establish a Campaign subcommittee that continuously updates the website, and creates IP to distribute to community, social media presence, other media in community</p> <p>iv) Develop relationships with target organizations (DFCS/ School system, etc.) and coordinate supplying at risk youth (e.g. aging out) with information for youth coordinated entry</p>		
<p>Objective 2e: The CE system quickly assesses youth in a way that meets and responds to their unique needs with empathy</p>	<p>i) Revise the current CE assessment and project enrollment process to meet the wholistic needs of youth. Include considerations of “humanizing” the assessment process. Develop written standards for Youth housing assessment, including prioritization standards. Establish written standards for roles and responsibilities of collaboration between Youth Outreach, Youth Navigators, Front Line Service providers for completing CE housing assessments</p>	<p>Coordinated Entry, Individualized and Community Driven Supports</p> <p>Social-emotional well-being, stable housing, permanent connections,</p> <p>Barriers to access CE, process not always empathetic, potential re-traumatization</p>	<p>i) CE Refinement Committee, YHDP Committee, and YAB , Years 1-2</p> <p>ii)CE Refinement Committee, YHDP Committee and YAB Years 1-2</p>

	ii)CQI Process: create measurement for evaluating effectiveness		
Objective 2f: The Atlanta CoC develops strong Cross-System Partnerships and collaborations for overcoming common barriers and meeting the needs of special focus populations to gain and maintain housing	i)Develop Cross-System Partnerships with targeted populations and those serving them; may include Juvenile Justice, Foster Care, Black, Trans, Sexual abuse, domestic violence, and trafficking survivors, pregnant and parenting youth, among others identified. Increase participation of key stakeholders in program development, evaluation, and strategic planning ii) Partners monitor and update strategic plans for successfully serving these populations and works to create an Anti-Racism strategy, outlining what it means to actively address racial disparities leading to homelessness and effecting engagements with systems and services. (see also <i>Objective 5b</i>)	PYD/TIC, Youth Choice, Individualized and Community Driven Supports	i) Partners for HOME, Youth CoC Subcommittee YAB, ongoing
		Social-emotional well-being, stable housing	ii) Partners for HOME, Youth CoC Subcommittee, YAB, Cross-System Partnership members, ongoing
		Stable Housing, social-emotional well-being	
Objective 2g: Noting that diversion is often the fastest way to end youth homelessness, youth	i)Messaging and training around diversion for youth should be provided to all relevant access points and providers,	Difficult to access CE, lack of knowledge, institutional risk factors	i) YHDP Committee/YAB, Partners for HOME Year 1

will be able to access Diversion assistance as a first option when encountering the homeless response system.	especially Youth CE, youth Outreach teams, and youth navigators.	Permanent Connections, stable housing	ii) YAB and Partners for HOME by Year 1
	ii)YAB collaborates with CoC Diversion provider to discuss what it means to make diversion accessible and responsive to youth at risk of homelessness needs.	Lack of knowledge of Diversion Lack of youth specific diversion programs	





















Vision 2: All Atlanta’s Youth Homeless Response System Projects Pair with Wrap around services to wholistically empower individuals utilizing the system

Goal 3: Establish “Seamless Youth Services Network”

Objectives	Action Steps	YHDP Principles/ USICH Core Outcomes/ Community Need	Who? By When?
<p>Objective 3a: Increase ease of continuous access to supportive services for youth so that youth in PSH or RRH also receive the individualized needed for long term success .</p>	<p>i) Create master list of supportive service referrals available to youth network of providers.</p> <p>ii) Youth Navigators and Empowerment Advocates take the lead as experts in housing and non-housing service referrals available for youth.</p>	<p>Special Populations, Equity, PYD/TIC</p> <p>Permanent Connections, stable housing</p> <p>Wrap around service referrals dependent upon individual project connections</p>	<p>i) Partners for HOME, Youth CoC Subcommittee, YHDP Grantees, YAB and other partners.</p> <p>ii) YHDP Projects Awarded by Fall 2022</p>
<p>Objective 3b: Have an up-to-date easy access “youth community class pass” for referrals to meet the unique needs of clients within the “ Seamless Youth Services Network”</p>	<p>i) Establish MOU agreements to allow youth to visit support services programs on a trial basis in advance of full enrollment.</p> <p>ii) Long term goal to establish process of supportive services enrollments accessible to any housing program enrolled youth regardless of location and which travel together with the</p>	<p>Special Populations, Equity, Youth Choice, PYD/TIC</p> <p>Permanent Connections, stable housing, education or employment, social-emotional well-being</p> <p>No ability to test-run a project</p>	<p>i) Partners for HOME, Youth CoC Subcommittee, YHDP Committee, by Year 2</p> <p>i) Partners for HOME, Youth CoC Subcommittee, YHDP Committee, by Year 2</p>

	youth upon any project transfer.	enrollment, limits youth choice	
Objective 3c: Youth in homeless system have seamless access to comprehensive services from collaborating partners focused on all three categories of supportive services: 'Dream Preparation', 'Wealth Building', and 'Mental Empowerment'	i) Evaluate existing services master list and identify gaps in supportive service availability meeting the three categories. ii) Create new partnerships and explore new opportunities to add capacity to the "Seamless Youth Services" network. iii) In particular, evaluate rates of exit into living wage, including by intersectional identities, and proactively collaborate on implementing programs to increase living wages among all youth.	Special Populations, Equity, Youth Choice, PYD/TIC	i) YHDP Committee, YAB, YHDP Grantees by Year 1 ii) Youth CoC Subcommittee, ongoing iii) Youth CoC Committee, ongoing
		Education/Employment, Social/Emotional wellbeing, Permanent Connections	
		Need for wholistic response system including self-sufficiency not just immediate housing	

KEY:

WEALTH BUILDING 	MENTAL EMPOWERMENT (MENTAL SERVICES) 	DREAM PREPERATION 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  FINANGIAL LITERACY  MONEY MANAGEMENT  CREDIT BUILDING/REPAIR  FIRST TIME-HOME BUYING COURSES.  ACCESS TO MAINSTREAM BENEFITS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  POSITIVE PEER GROUPS  SELF-CARE WORKSHOPS  COUNSELING  WELLNESS / NUTRITION / PHYSICAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS  SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT  TRAUMA FOCUSED SUPPORT GROUPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  LEGAL RESOURCES  CAREER SERVICES  PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES  EDUCATION  LIFE SKILLS

-Ralaria B.

Vision 3: The youth homeless response system is youth-responsive and youth led; Youth Leadership is involved at all stages of program and service planning and implementation

Goal 4: Youth Leadership Roles are Included in All Stages of Program and Services planning and Implementation

Objectives	Action Steps	YHDP Principles/ USICH Core Outcomes/ Community Need	Who? By When?
<p>Objective 4a: Youth Leadership: YAB members are active collaborators at all tables in governance structure including development of best practices, policy, and funding decisions.</p>	<p>i)YAB incorporation will be reviewed and updated for all CoC governance.</p>	<p>Special Populations, Equity, Youth Choice, PYD/TIC</p>	<p>i)Partners for HOME, YAB, Year 1</p>
	<p>ii)YAB will be provided with sufficient training and technical knowledge to actively participate as "co-workers" in all tables where decisions are being made.</p>	<p>Permanent Connections, Social/Emotional well being</p>	<p>ii) Partners for HOME, YHDP Committee, YAB, ongoing</p>
	<p>iii)YAB members will develop relationships with CoC members, and leaders, and YHDP funded organizations to discuss ongoing planning and implementation needs.</p>	<p>Need for youth leadership. Need for youth feedback to implement continuous quality improvements responsive to user experience</p>	<p>iii)YHDP Committee and YAB ongoing</p>
<p>Objective 4b: Youth Evaluation: Youth will play a pivotal role in continuous quality improvement to</p>	<p>i)The YAB will establish new methods for collecting qualitative data through surveys, interviews, and focus</p>	<p>Special Populations, Equity, Youth Choice, PYD/TIC</p>	<p>i) YAB with support from Partners for HOME, Year 1</p>
		<p>Permanent Connections,</p>	<p>ii) YAB, annually</p>

influence the growth of a "living system" for youth homelessness response.	groups. To be updated on a regular basis.	Social/Emotional Well-being	
	iii)The YAB reviews on a yearly basis thriving aspects of the system and areas needing innovation and modification	Need for youth leadership, feedback to implement CQI responsive to user experience	
Objective 4c: Atlanta's youth homelessness system use their platform to advocate policies that a) benefit youth experiencing homelessness and b)promote social and health equity for youth experiencing homelessness	i)As a first step, the youth homeless system will develop an advocacy sub committee.	Special Populations, Equity, Youth Choice, PYD/TIC	i) YHDP Committee, YAB, Year 1 ii) YHDP Committee, YAB, Years 1-2
	ii)This committee will begin to develop relationships with other policy and advocacy groups and legislators aligned with the cause of ending youth homelessness.	Permanent Connections, Social/Emotional well being	
		Need for youth leadership. Need for advocacy	
Objective 4d: Youth Representation: YHDP funded projects increase representation of youth (18-24) with lived experience of homelessness and adults with lived experience of homelessness as a youth (18-24) among their program staff, governing boards, advisory councils, etc	i)As a first step, YHDP Funded Organizations will evaluate and document % of youth representation among program staff, governing boards, and advisory councils. RFP scoring will be influenced by these self-reported metrics.	Special Populations, Equity, Youth Choice, PYD/TIC	i) YHDP Applicants and Grantees, Year 1 ii) YHDP Committee, YAB and YHDP Grantees, Year 1
	ii) YHDP Grantees and YAB members begin conversations of what a shared vision of successful youth representation, inclusion, leadership, and impact will be defined by, in a written plan.	Permanent Connections, Social/Emotional well being, Employment YHDP programs are led by youth and responsive to intersectional needs of youth served	

Vision 4: Moving Upstream, Preventing Youth Homelessness through Coordination of Systems and Collaborative Partnerships

Goal 5: The Atlanta CoC Establishes a dedicated coalition with comprehensive stakeholders to collaborate on youth homelessness prevention

Objectives	Action Steps	YHDP Principles/ USICH Core Outcomes/ Community Need	Who? By When?
<p>Objective 5a. Proactive Engagement: a By Name list system identifies at risk youth and prevents them from falling through the cracks into experiences of homelessness</p>	<p>i) The Cross-System Partnership to prevent youth homelessness collaboratively develops and implements a by-name list process to identify youth at high risk for experiencing homelessness and coordinate collaborative community service provision (e.g. eviction prevention, rental assistance, employment training, mental health care, etc) and case management to keep youth from falling through the cracks.</p> <p>ii) The cross-system partnership holds working meetings discussing what it means to serve at-risk youth.</p>	<p>Individualized and Community Driven Supports, Permanent Connections, Special Populations, Equity</p>	<p>i-ii) YHDP Committee and YAB initiates the convening of cross-system partners for discussion of at-risk strategies and by-name list by Year 1</p>

<p>Objective 5b. Anti-Racism Strategy: Cross-System Partnership creates strategy outlining what it means to address racial disparities leading to homelessness throughout their systems</p>	<p>i) The cross-system partnership holds working meetings discussing what it means to build an anti-racist system, evaluations of disparate outcomes and driving factors of these trends. As Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with youth and staff with lived experience of homelessness • Identify barriers and exclusions in programs working with vulnerable populations • Implement regular Anti Racism trainings • Discuss ways to use the collective resources of all system members to increase living wage and equity outcomes among their service populations. • Other interventions - policy changes, hiring BIPOC individuals with lived experience into leadership, etc. <p>ii) The cross-system partnership seeks funding and resources to sustain needed efforts.</p>	<p>Special Populations, Equity, PYD, TIC</p>	<p>i) Cross-System Partnership, YHDP Committee, & YAB Years 1-2</p>
		<p>response to disparities of experiences of homelessness among youth with system involvement, inadequate coordinated collaboration between systems youth experiencing homelessness are engaged with</p>	<p>ii) Cross-System Partnership, YHDP Committee, & YAB Years 1-2</p>

Vision 4: Moving Upstream, Preventing Youth Homelessness through Coordination of Systems and Collaborative Partnerships

Goal 6: Atlanta’s youth homeless system develops a strategy to use their platform to advocate for the passage of policies and laws that will combat the structural causes of youth homelessness and promote social and health equity for youth at high risk for experiencing homelessness

Objectives	Action Steps	YHDP Principles/ USICH Core Outcomes/ Community Need	Who? By When?
<p>Objective 6a. Atlanta’s youth homeless system identifies key local, state, and federal policies driving the structural causes of youth homelessness in Atlanta</p>	<p>i) Atlanta’s YHDP Committees seek resources and training from HUD Technical Assistance and youth homelessness advocacy organizations</p> <p>ii) Atlanta’s YHDP Committees research and identify key local, state, and federal policies driving the structural causes of youth homelessness in Atlanta</p> <p>iii) Atlanta’s YHDP and YAB begin building relationships with local and state representatives dedicated to building justice and equity in our communities</p> <p>iv) Atlanta’s YHDP Committees creates documentation of their</p>	<p>PYD, Social and Community</p>	<p>i-iv) YHDP Committees & YAB Year 1-3, ongoing</p>

	<p>understanding of how specific local, state, and federal policies impact the local experience and need to be changed.</p>		
<p>Objective 6b. Atlanta’s youth homelessness system offers pathways for YAB members and youth with lived experience of homelessness to build advocacy skills and uplift their voices</p>	<p>i)The YHDP Committees and YAB identify existing programs offering pathways for YAB members and youth with lived experience of homelessness to learn strategies for impacting policy and systems with their experiences, knowledge, and power.</p> <p>ii) YAB create photo-essays, Op-eds, creative writing, art, or other means of expressing important experiences of youth in Atlanta within our communities.</p>	<p>PYD, Social and Community</p>	<p>i)YHDP Committees & YAB Year 1</p> <p>ii) YHDP Committees & YAB Year 2</p> <p>iii) YAB, ongoing</p>

Chapter 5

Atlanta Project List

The Atlanta CoC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Committee including the Youth Action Board worked in collaboration to create the Atlanta Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to address and provide solutions to make youth homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. The CCP combines demographic and system data with qualitative evidence of youth experience to create a plan responsive to those observed needs. The CCP goal is to offer housing stability, and supportive services from a social justice lens to ensure justice, equity, and inclusion for every youth who touches the system. This system will be equitable, center youth leadership, and actively advocate for the change needed to end youth homelessness.

The Atlanta CCP projects focus on outreach, assessment of needs, peer support, and case coordination to guide youth to housing and wellness sustainability. The YHDP Committee has envisioned both YHDP funded and non YHDP funded projects to increase the accessibility and availability for youth to receive the appropriate interventions that meet their needs.

The YHDP funded project interventions are:

- Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing
- Youth Navigation/Outreach
- Empowerment Advocates

Project types were identified which support actionable progress toward meeting our goals and objectives, to bring our vision of end-state youth homelessness to reality. Each of the project types will produce progress toward the **four U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Core Outcomes:**

1. Stable housing includes a safe and reliable place to call home;
2. Permanent connections include ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks;
3. Education/employment includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth; and
4. Social-emotional well-being includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community

New Joint Transitional Housing Rapid Rehousing projects will directly increase the amount of rental assistance programming for our community, therefore increasing access to stable housing. New Youth Outreach and Navigation projects will increase the ease of accessibility to housing projects. The additional core outcomes will be addressed through the “Seamless Youth Services Network”. Projects will be implemented following YHDP principles.

Seamless Youth Services Network

All projects will be asked to participate in a Seamless Youth Services Network, in order to reach the goal of complete wholistic service access for all youth entering the homeless response system. Connection to the service will be unique to each individual household, but access should be there for all who may need it. We envision that youth will be able to complete a trial session of any wrap-around service at any agency within the network no matter where their housing enrollment is held. To empower youth choice, youth will be able to sample and then decide which wrap-around service is the right fit. There are three supportive service elements we envision accessible for all youth, no matter where they are accessing housing services.

Supportive Service Elements may include but are not limited to:

Wealth building

- Obtaining and Maintaining Stable Employment
- Financial Literacy
- Access to Mainstream Benefits
- Money Management
- Credit Building/Repair
- First Time Home Buying Courses

Mental Empowerment

- Social-Emotional Well Being
- Connection to Positive social networks including: peers, family, schools, other communities
- Positive Peer Groups
- Self-Care Workshops
- Counseling
- Wellness/Nutrition/Physical Health Workshops
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Trauma Focused Support Groups

Dream Preparation

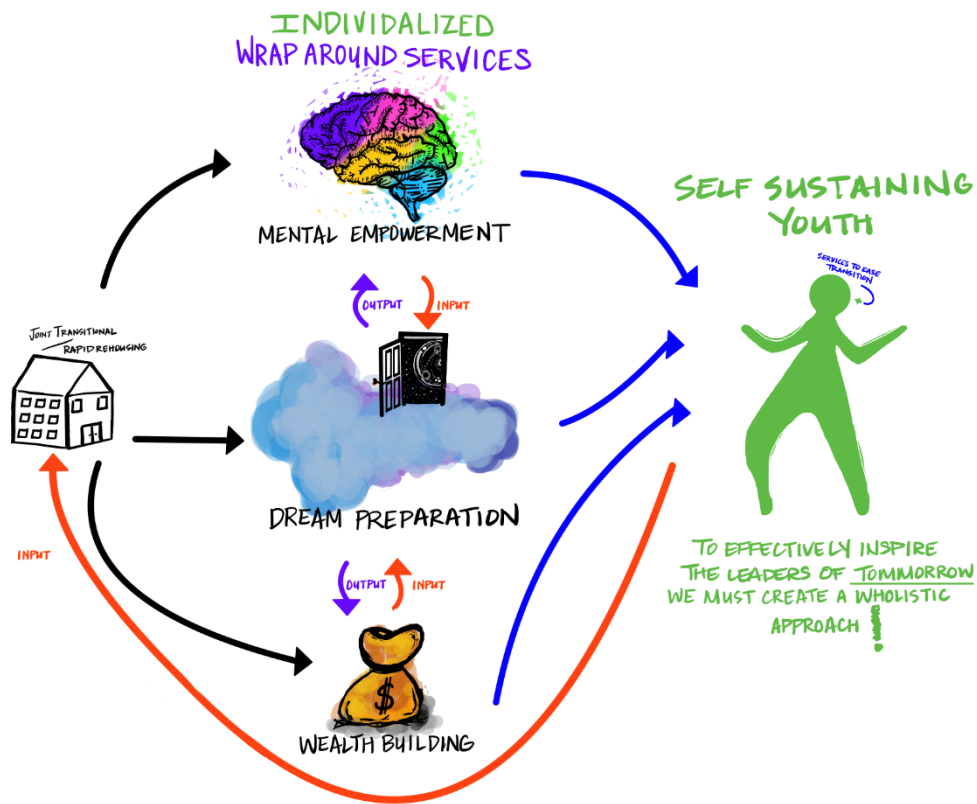
- Completion of Education and Training certificates
- Career Services
- Legal Resources
- Professional Development
- Job Placement Services
- Life Skills

Prioritization of Youth with Lived Experience

All projects will be asked to prioritize youth with lived experience for hiring. Organizations will also be asked to describe how their organization connects with youth voices such as collecting user feedback or including youth on organizational boards or program development.

Prioritization of Team Model

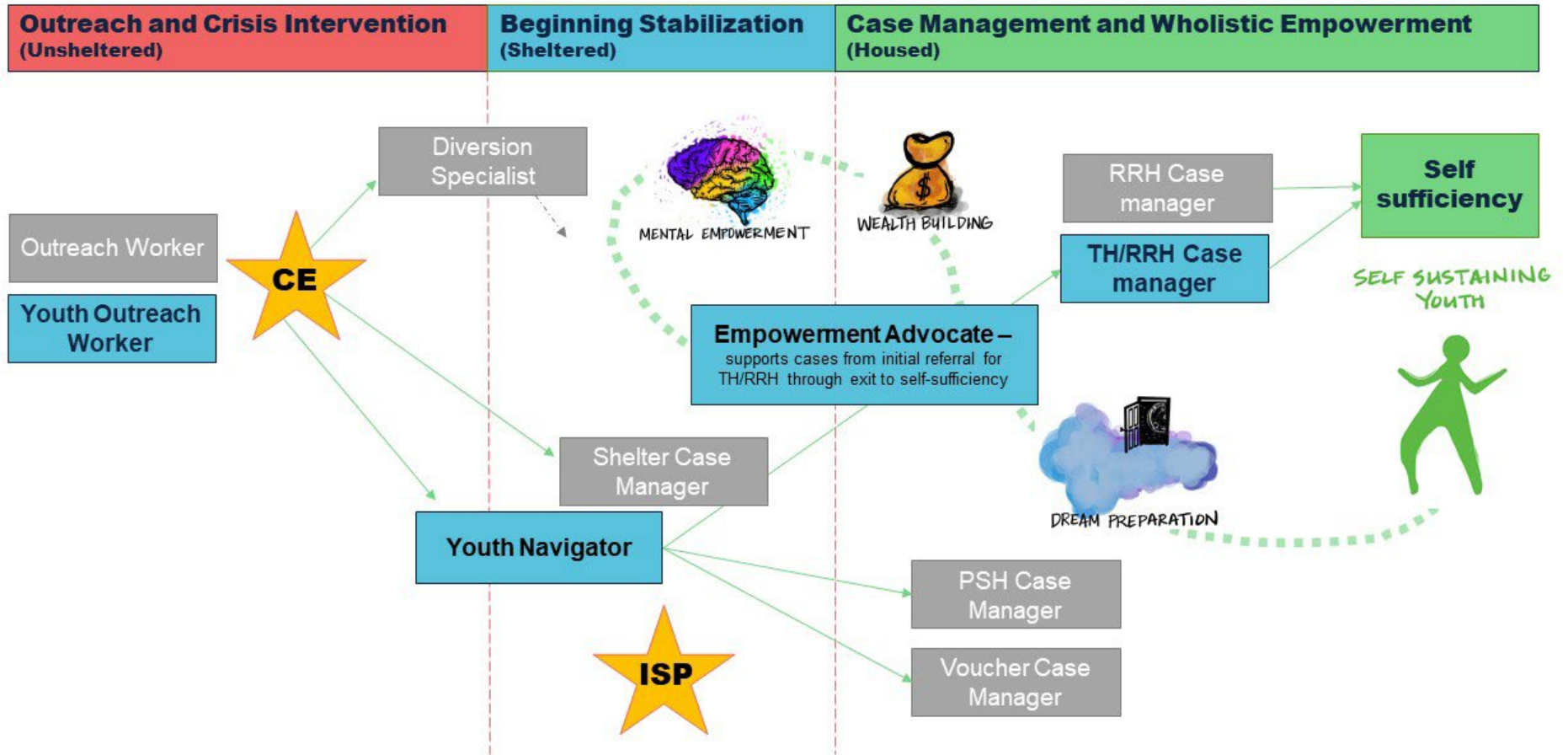
All projects will be required to participate in a team model of services, collaborating with other youth providers. Youth Outreach, Navigation, Case Management, and Empowerment Advocacy must work together to meet individual youth needs. Only through collaboration will we be able to hold true to the holistic approach of services at every phase of engagement with the system to end youth homelessness. Organizations will also be asked to describe their approach to how YHDP projects will be implemented in a team model, maximizing connections between roles and potential opportunities for providing larger numbers of households served through paired match funding.



-Ralaria B...

Phases of Youth Rehousing System Engagement (Connections with Staff and Programs)

Light blue = YHDP funded position
 Gray = Existing/Non-YHDP funded position



Project Concept #1 Joint TH/RRH

<p>Project Description and Core Elements of TH-RRH</p>	<p>This housing program combines two interventions: Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing. Providers must offer both options. Youth will decide which intervention is best for their current situation at project enrollment following the principle of youth choice. Youth may move from TH into RRH at any point within their enrollment, using the principle of progressive engagement to decide at what time to make the move. The TH/RRH project will provide necessary housing and supportive services for youth to transition self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Housing Stability will be provided from a lens of affordability and equity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing crisis housing support through transitional housing and/or rapid rehousing as a with a goal of obtaining permanent housing in the RRH component within 60 days. • Rental and financial assistance to be 12 months on average across both the TH and RRH components. Maximum length of time assisted to be 24 months. May request rental assistance extension to up 36 months on case by case basis. • Housing Unit Acquisition support
<p>Target Populations:</p>	<p><u>Youth in a Housing Crisis</u>: This will target youth headed households ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, including Categories 1, 2 and 4.</p>
<p>Projected # of Youth to be served</p>	<p>Number of youth served: estimate 30-40 Households or more annually</p>
<p>Supportive Service Description</p>	<p>This project will offer supportive services to youth including housing case management and wrap-around referrals based on individual needs, strengths, barriers and dreams of youth.</p> <p>Supportive Services offered in a Social Justice, Equity, Anti-poverty lens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Case Management using a progressive engagement approach for up to 6 months after the end of rental assistance • Individualized housing plans to address housing stability and self-sufficiency

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All youth in Joint TH/RRH must have “Empowerment Advocate” services in addition to “Case Management” services • Linkage to supportive services including the three elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mental Empowerment ○ Wealth Building ○ Dream Preparation • Participation in “Seamless Youth Services Network”
YHDP Principles to be Addressed	Stable Housing Permanent Connections Education/Employment Youth Choice Housing First Social-Emotional Wellbeing Progressive Engagement of Services
USICH Outcomes to be Addressed	Stable Housing Permanent Connections Education/Employment Social-Emotional Wellbeing
Innovative Strategies to be Built into Implementation	TH/RRH is a new project for youth in Atlanta. The Atlanta CoC will fund this intervention for youth prioritized based on their needs and assessment. Youth will have the right to elect which intervention they feel is best for them to gain housing stability and dream preparation. For example, if the youth desires more independent living, then they may choose to enter into the Rapid Rehousing Program. Progressive engagement will be used to make the switch from TH To RRH. Joint TH/RRH Case Manager must be paired with “Empowerment Advocate”.
Is this project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?	Yes
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?	3–36-month flexibility- this is dependent on the need of each youth. We will use progressive engagement to support the youth in their process of obtaining stability and reaching self-sufficiency.
Is the project still feasible if waivers are applied for but not granted?	Yes.
Projected cost (1 year)	Anticipated 80% of annual YHDP funding will go to this project type.

Project Concept #2 Youth Outreach / Navigation

<p>Project Description and Core Elements of the Project</p>	<p>Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Atlanta will have a seamless pathway to access resources in our community to meet their wholistic needs of housing, dream preparation, and well-being.</p> <p>To make housing rare, brief, and non-recurring for any youth in our community who encounters homelessness and is seeking an intervention to exit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth dedicated Outreach will engage with youth who may need access to housing resources. • Youth dedicated Navigation will coordinate with housing and services in the community to expedite and improve the experience for young adults seeking support.
<p>Target Population</p>	<p><u>Youth in a Housing Crisis</u>: This will target youth headed households ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, including Categories 1, 2 and 4.</p>
<p>Projected # of Youth to be served</p>	<p>Number of youth served: estimate 100 or more households annually</p>
<p>Supportive Service Description</p>	<p>Supportive Services offered including a Social Justice, Equity, Anti-poverty lens.</p> <p>Youth Outreach Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find unsheltered youth who are not yet connected to housing resources • First point of contact for young adults experiencing homelessness. Connecting through drop-in centers, schools, libraries, and other agencies • Convince youth to come into shelter and connect with coordinated entry • Brings resources to the most vulnerable youth living on the streets or in unsafe environments. • Warm handoff to needed housing and service interventions • Connection to emergency shelter if desired by client. • Complete problem-solving conversations with youth and make connection to diversion services if desired by client. • Follows techniques of trauma informed care and motivational interviewing. • Responsible for relationship building, developing trust with clients and convincing youth to engage with the housing response system. • Support referral to behavioral health service • Complete VI-SPDAT and Housing Assessment

- Conduct Full time street outreach
- Provide consistent and ongoing engagement to unsheltered homeless individuals throughout the City of Atlanta
- Provide continued engagement to individuals who initially refuse.
- Provide 1:1 support to clients who need additional supports accessing behavioral health treatment, addiction treatment, and other services
- Demonstrated ability and willingness to respond to urgent/emergent needs for outreach as requested by the City of Atlanta, PFH and stakeholders
- Outreach must be accessible to the COC and PFH to respond to needs throughout the city and willing to prioritize outreach requests
- Liaise with Emergency Medical Services, Grady Hospital, Atlanta Police Department and the Georgia Crisis and Access Line to assist clients with accessing detoxification and crisis mental health services.
- **Caseload:** Typical service 45-90 days. Typical caseload 20-25 households at a time

Youth Housing Navigation Services

- Step after outreach - works as a team with outreach
- Doc-Readiness (including Hud-McKinney)
- PSH Project Applications
- Unit Search
- Unit Application Assistance
- **Connects with “Seamless Youth Services Network” for wrap-around service and ‘dream prep’**
- **Collaborates with full Youth Dream team: Youth Outreach workers, Youth Empowerment Advocates, and Youth Case Managers.**
- Ensures smooth connection and collaboration among Youth Outreach and Youth Case Management workers for each assigned household.
- Navigation: provision of 1:1 support to clients needing assistance in obtaining any document necessary for housing placement. This may include, but is not limited to, state identification, birth certificate, social security card, and disability verification form.
- Housing search and voucher navigation.
- Assist clients with finding a voucher approved unit including housing tours, application paperwork and addressing any housing barriers.

- Assist clients with completing the voucher process including attending the voucher briefing, completing necessary paperwork and submitting documents
- Assist clients with locating landlords and units who will partner with voucher programs including the Atlanta Housing Choice Voucher and the Department of Behavioral Health's Georgia Housing Voucher.
- Ongoing and consistent contact with client to ensure connection to housing match and continuity of care.
- Point of contact for CE staff and housing providers to ensure client is connected to housing solution.
- Follow protocol established within the CES for referral to housing interventions.
- Weekly meetings with assigned cases. 75% of cases complete doc readiness within 45 days.
- **Caseload:** Typical service 45-90 days. Typical caseload 1 or more household per month for PSH, may be higher based on capacity and program design

Assessment of needs to ensure:

- Immediate Safety Planning
- Connection to Diversion, including family engagement
- Supportive Services - Warm handoff referrals to individual best fit
- Complete Coordinated Entry Assessments and participates in case conferencing and By Name List management

Case Coordination Services

Linkage to supportive services including the three elements

- Mental Empowerment
- Wealth Building
- Dream Preparation

Youth Peer Support

- Projects should prioritize employment of youth in youth services roles, including the employment of youth with lived experience as outreach workers and navigators
- Peer support specialist certification is a plus

Doc Readiness

- Navigators will work to bring youth doc-ready status

Housing Unit Acquisition

- Navigators will work to assist youth in identifying units

Team Relationship

- Youth Outreach and Navigation must collaborate with other youth partners in shelter and other case management

YHDP Principles to be Addressed	Special Youth Populations Promotes Youth Choice Supports Positive Youth Development and Trauma-Informed Care Individualized and Client-Driven Supports Social and Community Integration Housing First Equity Works directly with coordinated entry, completes assessments when needed
USICH Outcomes to be Addressed	Stable Housing Permanent Connections Education/Employment Social-Emotional Wellbeing
Innovative Strategies to be Built into Implementation	We will have up to date, easy access via outreach and navigation services and a "Seamless Youth Services Network" for referrals to meet the unique needs of clients. Increased Youth Navigator/Outreach Services decreases the amount of time youth remain unsheltered and out of the system. The services provided by Youth Navigators walking with them to meet their basic needs also decreases the trauma experienced from not having these needs met and/or not having an empathetic person for support.
Is this project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?	Yes
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?	No
Is the project still feasible if waivers are applied for but not granted?	Not Applicable
Projected cost (1 year)	Anticipated 10% of annual YHDP funding will go to this project type.

Project Concept #3 Empowerment Advocates

<p>Project Description and Core Elements of the Project</p>	<p>Empowerment Advocates serve as an ongoing connection throughout the homeless system engagement for a youth household. Dedicated and consistent support and mentorship is provided by advocates to ensure that youth in Atlanta have a seamless pathway to access resources in our community to meet their wholistic needs of housing, dream preparation, mental empowerment, and wealth building. To make housing rare, brief, and non-recurring for any youth in our community who encounters homelessness and is seeking an intervention to exit.</p> <p>Empowerment Advocates ensure all youth engaged with the housing system have connection to the “Youth Seamless Services Network”</p> <p>Empowerment Advocates work together with the Youth Outreach, Navigation, and Case Management team to support the youth as they are transitioned through these various staff and programs. The Empowerment Advocate is the consistent contact point so no warm handoff is ever missed.</p>
<p>Target Population</p>	<p><u>Youth in a Housing Crisis</u>: This will target youth headed households ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, including Categories 1, 2 and 4. Advocates will be assigned at minimum, youth connected to the Joint TH/RRH project(s). May expand based on system capacity and project implementation.</p>
<p>Projected # of Youth to be served</p>	<p>Number of youth served: 30-40 or more households annually</p>
<p>Supportive Service Description</p>	<p>Empowerment Advocates are navigators for dreams - navigators beyond just housing access. This is a collaborative, strengths-based, process asking the youth first what their own unique dream is, then planning action steps for reaching that specific dream sustainably. Empowerment Advocates show youth that their power for self-sufficiency lies within, by following their own passions and strengths. Directing youth to the resources available to support their goals while following a path to self-sufficiency. Advocacy is key part of exit planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong action steps - SMART Goal setting plan for each youth. (Framework may be developed.) • Make referrals to “Seamless Youth Services Network”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Specialists, youth with lived experience, prioritized for hiring <p>Individual Service Plan - Collaborate with the rest of the youth dream team to continue to update and create action steps for the success of the ISP. The ISP will be the connective document guiding discussions between the multiple providers engaged with a single youth. This document to be a living document, continuously updated. Case conferencing to be used to share information across the team. Empowerment advocate to focus on wrap-around services and long-term goal planning aspects of the ISP. Case Management to focus on housing stability aspects of the ISP.</p> <p>Training: Motivational Interviewing, Trauma Informed Care, Certified Peer Support Specialist, Referral team approach, YAB highlighted trainings</p> <p>Anticipated caseload: Average 12 months of service to each household following progressive engagement standards – include both strong leadership in ISP and intensive self sufficiency preparations toward program exits, caseload size approximately 15-20 at a time.</p> <p>Empowerment Advocate to be involved at the beginning of services during initial ISP development Intensity and frequency of services to go up nearer to exit from RRH. Must coordinate with housing case management and others in the youth team.</p> <p>Case Coordination Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up on the status of services to discuss barriers and create solutions to address the youth's specific needs. Linkage to supportive services including the three elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Empowerment Wealth Building Dream Preparation <p>Youth Peer Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects should prioritize employment of youth in youth services roles, including the employment of youth with lived experience as outreach workers and navigators Peer support specialist certification ideal <p>Team Relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowerment Advocates must collaborate with other youth partners, especially housing case managers, outreach, and navigation.
<p>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</p>	<p>Special Youth Populations Promotes Youth Choice</p>

	<p>Supports Positive Youth Development and Trauma-Informed Care</p> <p>Individualized and Client-Driven Supports</p> <p>Social and Community Integration</p> <p>Housing First</p>
USICH Outcomes to be Addressed	<p>Stable Housing</p> <p>Permanent Connections</p> <p>Education/Employment</p> <p>Social-Emotional Wellbeing</p>
Innovative Strategies to be Built into Implementation	<p>Empowerment Advocates serve as an ongoing connection throughout the process. To make housing rare, brief, and non-recurring for any youth in our community who encounters homelessness and is seeking an intervention to exit. Empowerment Advocates are there to support youth in connecting to housing and coordinated case management that would lead to obtaining resources for youth mental empowerment, wealth building, and dream preparation goals.</p> <p>The strategy focuses on a peer-to-peer model with the purpose to support youth through their housing instability with empathy. This model will positively impact how youth engage in the homelessness systems and services. Having a peer to support and walk alongside them will help a youth experiencing housing instability feel more supported and seen.</p>
Is this project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?	Yes
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?	No
Is the project still feasible if waivers are applied for but not granted?	N/A
Projected cost (1 year)	Anticipated 10% of annual YHDP funding will go to this project type.

Chapter 6

YHDP Atlanta Stakeholders

Planning to end youth homelessness is a collaborative effort and requires intentional partnerships between stakeholders. Effectively addressing youth homelessness will require coordination, collaboration, and innovation from a wide range of cross-system stakeholders, including youth with lived experience, child welfare agencies, school districts and institutions of higher education, workforce development organizations, the juvenile justice system, and organizations that represent the cultural and racial diversity of youth in your community. Stakeholder Engagement focus groups were implemented to collect feedback and information from various stakeholder groups for purposes of helping develop and implement content for the CCP. The focus group design was approved by the Focus Group Committee of the YHDP Team and the City of Atlanta YAB.

The following chart outlines partners who have supported the development of this Coordinated Community Plan and who will continue to support the implementation of the YHDP and system improvements.

Partners	Organization/Partner	Description of involvement
Youth Action Board (required)	<u>YAB Members:</u> Kellie Bryson Theodoisha M. RaCaria Burgess Devon Ezell Amanda Leppert Gomes	Leaders, Decision-Makers, YHDP Committee participants. YAB voices designed the coordinated community plan, mission/vision, goals, objectives, action steps, and projects.
Local and State Government	Partners for Home	Nonprofit appointed by the City of Atlanta to manage the Atlanta Continuum of Care for homeless services, administer the local HUD CoC grants, and leads the City's coordinated strategy on homelessness. Partners for HOME acted as lead for the YHDP Committee during the plan development process.

Public Child Welfare Agencies	Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS)	DFCS staff participated in YHDP focus groups.
CoC and ESG Program Recipients	<p>PCCI Caring Works Intown Collaborative Ministries CHRIS 180 Covenant House YESS 4 Youth</p>	<p>PCCI - Project Community Connections, Inc. (PCCI) is dedicated to permanently rehousing individuals and families and collaborates to provide ancillary services. PCCI staff served on YHDP Committee.</p> <p>CaringWorks - Short Term, Long Term Housing and Supportive Services, Residential Treatment. CaringWorks participated in the YHDP focus groups.</p> <p>Intown Collaborative - Engagement, enrollment, navigation and housing plus food programs. Intown participated in the YHDP focus groups.</p> <p>CHRIS 180 -provides bridge housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing and prevention for youth. Chris 180 staff serve on the Atlanta COC Youth Committee.</p> <p>Covenant House of GA- provides emergency shelter, drop-in center, transitional housing. rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, and prevention for youth. CHGA staff serve on the Atlanta COC Youth Committee.</p> <p>YESS- provides rapid rehousing and prevention for youth. YESS staff serve on the Atlanta COC Youth Committee.</p>
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Lost N Found Youth	Agency serving LGBTQ youth by providing them with the skills and support needed to live independently as well as in crisis support and shelter, and transitional housing. Lost n Found staff participated in YHDP focus groups and hosted an on-site focus group with youth in shelter for CCP plan input.

<p>Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies</p>	<p>Mercy Care DBHDD</p>	<p>MercyCare - Provides free and low-cost medical and mental health care to youth experiencing homelessness Participated in YHDP focus groups DBHDD – The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Development has representatives on the Atlanta CoC board, and as a member of that board have expressed their support for this plan.</p>
<p>Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation</p>	<p>Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)</p>	<p>Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is a multi-faceted agency that serves the state's justice involving youth up to the age of 21. While holding justice-involved youth accountable for their actions through probation supervision and secure detention, DJJ provides them with medical and mental health treatment, as well as specialized programs designed to equip them with the social, intellectual, and emotional tools they will need as adults. DJJ also places a premium on education.</p> <p>Participated in YHDP focus groups</p>
<p>Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges</p>	<p>Pre-Arrest Diversion (PAD)</p>	<p>PAD – The Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative works to reduce arrest and incarceration of people experiencing extreme poverty, problematic substance use, or mental health concerns, and increase the accessibility of supportive services in Atlanta and Fulton County.</p>
<p>Public Housing Authorities</p>	<p>Atlanta Housing Authority</p>	<p>Through its various housing solutions and programs, AH is able to meet a broad spectrum of housing needs for low-income families, including at-risk populations, in the city of Atlanta. Housing includes single-family homes and multi-family condominiums and apartments Partner Agency that provided general input on the CCP</p>
<p>Early Childhood Development and Child Care providers</p>	<p>Our House</p>	<p>Our House is one of the leaders in ending the cycles of homelessness for families in Atlanta. In 1988, Our</p>

		<p>House: “took notice that families experiencing homelessness were required to leave emergency shelters early every morning—despite the weather conditions, despite the health status of all family members, and regardless of whether they had anywhere to go. The parents of these families, mostly single mothers, were given a relatively short amount of time to secure both employment and other housing before being required to permanently leave their shelters. Moved by this hardship, the founders realized that without reliable childcare, these parents were trapped in the cycle of unemployment, poverty, and homelessness.” Our House now coordinates shelter for families with infants, quality Early Childhood Education (ECE), training opportunities, rapid rehousing, and quality family services case management to end the cycle of homelessness for families.</p>
Local and State Educational Agencies	McKinney Vento Liaison, Cristo Rey	<p>Cristo Rey -Private High School that educates young people of limited economic means through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, integrated with a relevant work-study experience, students graduate prepared for college and life. Cristo Rey staff participated in YHDP focus groups.</p>
Institutions of Higher Education	Georgia State University- GSU (CRIMM Center) Clark Atlanta University	<p>GSU - Provides outreach engagement and connection to community resources for youth experiencing homelessness. GSU staff participated as a YHDP Committee member.</p>
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	Hope thru Soap Point Source Youth Stand up for Kids	<p>Hope thru Soap -Thrive by Hope Program focusing on youth advocacy, education, career readiness, life skills,</p>

	Covenant House MAAC4Kids	<p>supportive service, mental health wellness and emergency shelter. Hope thru Soap was a YHDP Committee member.</p> <p>Point Source Youth - Technical Assistance around youth-centered solutions and Rapid Rehousing, Host Homes and Direct Cash Transfers. Point Source Youth was a YHDP Committee member.</p> <p>Stand Up for Kids - mobile service center providing support and resources.</p> <p>Youth Community Bases Partner (CBP) Agencies that provided general input on the CCP. These CBPs provide outreach, needs assessments, connection to resources, safe places drop-in centers, and case management. Stand Up for Kids staff participated in YHDP focus groups.</p> <p>MAAC - MAAC staff participated in YHDP focus groups and serve on the Atlanta COC youth committee.</p>
Landlords	Open Doors	Open Doors - provides community connections by helping non-profit partners place clients into permanent, stable housing through advocacy and partnership with landlords and property management companies.
Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	United Way of Greater Atlanta	Engage and bring together people and resources to drive sustainable and equitable improvements in the well-being of children, families, and individuals in the community. Partner Agencies that provided general input on the CCP
Continuum of Care Board	Atlanta COC	Atlanta Continuum of Care - The Atlanta CoC is comprised of direct service providers, government entities, nonprofits and community stakeholders dedicated to ending homelessness the City of Atlanta

		Partner Agencies that provided general input on the CCP
WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies	Worksource Atlanta	Worksource – representatives from Atlanta and Dekalb county have participated in Atlanta YHDP focus groups.
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc) communities	Lost N Found True Colors United	Lost-N-Found - Agency serving LGBTQ youth by providing them with the skills and support needed to live independently as well as in crisis support and shelter, and transitional housing. Lost n Found staff participated in YHDP focus groups and hosted an on-site focus group with youth in shelter for CCP plan input. True Colors United - implements innovative solutions to youth homelessness that focus on the unique experiences of LGBTQ young people. True Colors has been a HUD technical assistance provider for the YHDP project in Atlanta.

Chapter 7

YHDP Atlanta Governance:

Guiding Principles

In order to end youth homelessness in Atlanta, we understand our governance and decision-making process must reflect our mission, vision, goals, and objectives. To meet this intention, the Atlanta's Coordinated Community Plan agreed to center the following guiding principles in the decision-making process:

- Youth Leadership, Youth Voice, Youth Choice
- Centering Equity in Policies and Programs
- Directly Addressing Root Causes of Youth Homelessness
- Responding to Needs in the Qualitative and Quantitative Data→ Prioritizing Upending Disparities
- Continuous Quality Improvement at All Levels of YHDP
- Accountability and Transparency

Building the Table: Decision makers

Youth Action Board (YAB): Atlanta's YAB consists of a board of Youth Advisors, each bringing lived experience of homelessness in Atlanta. Their seat at the table represents the needed empowerment of youth advocates' voices in our community—the foundation of our mission and vision. Together, YAB brings unique insight into the lived experience of youth navigating the homelessness system in Atlanta and perspectives on areas for system and service improvement to the table. As such, YAB should be well balanced with membership representing the lived experience community. Successful collaboration with YAB and others at the table builds the capacity for our Coordinated Community Plan to end youth homelessness.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Committee: Atlanta's YHDP Committee consists of the YAB, a team of technical assistance providers, and a mixture of local adult partners: school liaisons, Partners for HOME, and service providers. This committee takes community input (derived from Youth Advisor's voices, the voices of focus group participants, the voice of what the data tells us about youth homelessness, etc.) and transforms it into comprehensive actionable plans and recommendations for YHDP project approval. It does so by balancing and bringing together the technical capabilities and working knowledge of professionals working to end youth homelessness and YAB perspective in such a way that the produced work of the committee is greater than the sum of its parts. At a minimum, two YAB members must be present in this space to realize this intention, although the committee should aim for greater representation.

YHDP Subgroups: YHDP Subgroups consist of teams of adult partners and YAB members working collectively to gather, formulate, and bring important individual pieces of the work to the YHDP Committee so we can effectively keep devising comprehensive actionable plans and recommendations for approval by the Continuum of Care Governing Council. To formulate this Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness, for example, we relied on the work of our Data Team, the Focus Group/Survey Team, and the Stakeholders Team. As we bring the Coordinated Community Plan to life through implementation, we recognize a Continuous Quality Improvement Team must exist as a standing subgroup to guide our work. Importantly, Youth Advisors' voices must be in these spaces as well to produce the best work, so two YAB members also must sit on the Subgroups.

Youth Continuum of Care (CoC) Subcommittee: The Youth CoC Subcommittee is a subcommittee of Atlanta's CoC Governing Council and provides greater CoC insight and oversight of the YHDP Committee's work. This represents a wider array of community stakeholders dedicated to seeing the successful implementation of Atlanta's Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. Monthly, this Subcommittee meets to oversee YHDP's progress and provide input. This Subcommittee also must approve the YHDP committee's work before passing to the CoC's Rank and Review Council. This group should strive for a well-balanced composition of multiple types of stakeholders. To continue building youth leadership, voice, and choice, two YAB members must be in this space.

Rank and Review Council: The Rank and Review Council is another subcommittee of Atlanta's CoC Governing Council and provides oversight and input of a more diverse range of stakeholders in Atlanta's Continuum of Care. Conceptually, Rank and Review provides focused CoC input and oversight of approved recommendations and plans from the Youth CoC Subcommittee before being presented to vote upon at the CoC Governing Council. To continue integrating youth leadership, voice, and choice into all levels of Atlanta's CoC, two YAB members must also be in this space.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Governing Council: As mandated by HUD, Atlanta's CoC Governing Council oversees all Atlanta Coordinated Homelessness System work. It consists of a diverse array of stakeholders invested in ending homelessness in Atlanta through quality services, programs, and policies. Once again, in order to uplift the voice of youth with lived experience of homelessness, two YAB members must also be in this space.

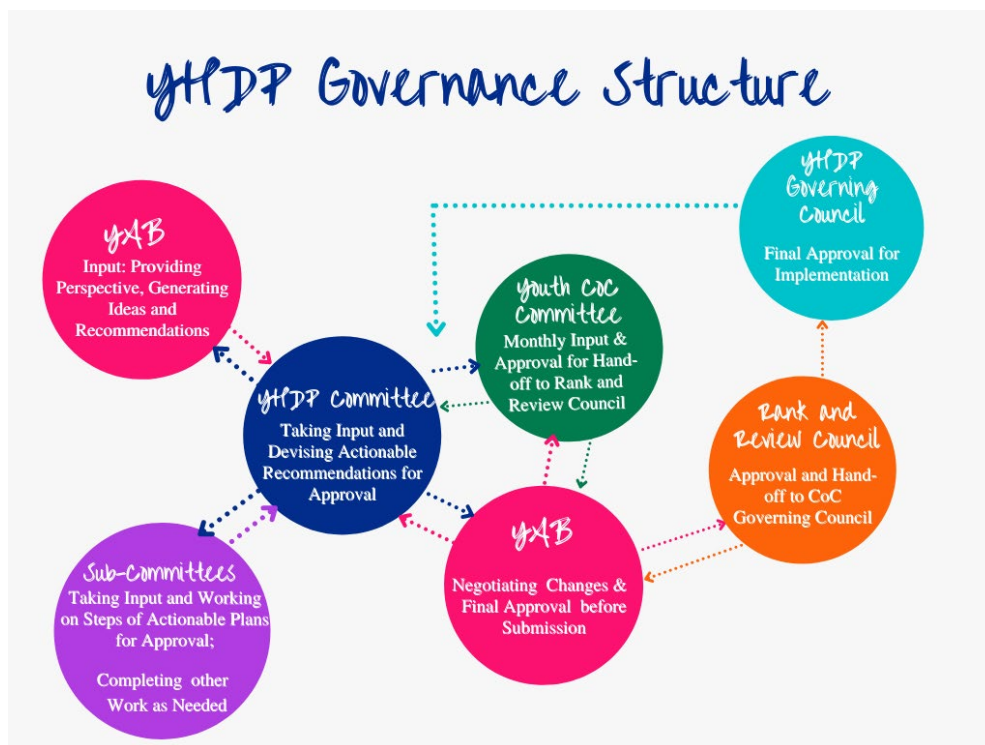
Decision-Making Process:

To enforce a spirit of collaboration and respect the voices of a wide array of diverse perspectives and lived experience, Atlanta's Coordinated Community Plan agrees to the following Decision-Making process. The Subgroups, YAB, YHDP Committee members, etc, first present their work and recommendation to the YHDP Committee. Afterwards, the YHDP Committee allows space for feedback and collaboration on the work. Based on this feedback and collaboration, the YHDP Committee votes on the new documented work and

recommendation. If unanimous consensus is not reached, the YHDP Committee holds space for the perspectives and voice of those opposing the documented plan. The YHDP Committee takes these perspectives into consideration, and potential collaboration occurs to address these perspectives based on group consensus, and the group votes again. However, if unanimous consensus is not once reached again, the YHDP Committee approves a vote of 75% of the group in favor.

YHDP Governance Structure: Decision-Making Diagram

The Atlanta’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program established a pathway for decision making which encourages collaboration among the diverse groups and voices at each step of the process. Feedback, collaboration, and consensus pushes the work from one group to another, progressively increasing the array of stakeholders’ expertise and insights down the pathway to final approval and implementation. The arrows on the diagram flowing both ways represent this exchange of knowledge and developing production of actionable recommendations.



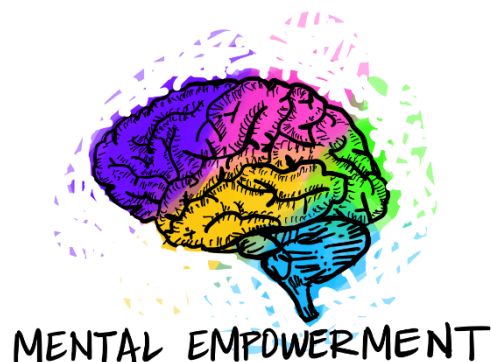
Input arises from various channels, such as YAB leadership, the voices of focus group participants (e.g. current youth in the homelessness system, youth recently exited from the system, service providers, etc), and the story behind collected data on youth homelessness. Based on these inputs, the YDHP Committee develops plans for utilizing these perspectives to guide exceptional YDHP program development to fully meet the needs of those we serve. The

YDHP Committee works out the framework of the plan together and delegates necessary work to inform the plans and steps of the actionable plans for Subgroup development. The Subgroups bring this work back to the YDHP Committee for continuous group improvement. On a monthly basis, the Youth CoC Subcommittee also provides input on the work as it progresses.

Youth Advisors' voice and leadership are present in each of these spaces, but the plans need official approval of the YAB before the YHDP Committee recommends the plans for Youth CoC Subcommittee approval. The Youth CoC Subcommittee votes to approve hand-off to the Rank and Review Council or provides feedback on why the recommendation cannot be approved as standing. YAB leads the negotiation of any changes and gives final approval before handing the recommendation back to the Youth CoC Subcommittee for approval. With Youth CoC Subcommittee approval, YAB hands the recommendation to the Rank and Review Council who must approve the recommendation before introduction to the YHDP Governing Council. The Rank and Review Council and YHDP Governing Council either approve the recommendation or provide feedback for further negotiation and changes before final approval.

Continuous Quality Improvement - A Living System

As a reminder, for this process to work to its fullest capacity, continuous improvement must continue to guarantee the voices in each of these groups represent the community's demographics of lived experience. This Coordinated Community Plan takes the initiative to guarantee youth leadership, voice, and choice in all spaces by including a minimum of two seats at each of these tables. Nevertheless, continuous quality improvement also must be applied to this governance structure as our living system evolves.



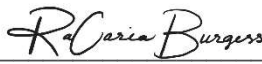
Signatures of Support:

The following stakeholders attest to the approval and support of the Atlanta Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.


YAB Members:


Kellie Bryson, co-chair


Theodoisha M., co-chair

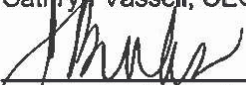

RaCaria Burgess



Amanda Leppert-Gomez


Devon Ezell

Required Signatories:

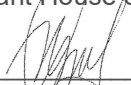

Cathryn Vassell, CEO, Partners for HOME

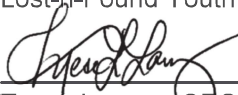

LaChandra Butler-Burks, Deputy COO,
City of Atlanta


Chris Hempfling, Deputy Chief of Staff
Georgia Department of Human Services,
Division of Family & Children Services

Providers and Stakeholders:


Dr. Alie Redd, Executive Director,
Covenant House of Georgia


Neena Beausoleil, Director of Programs,
Lost-n-Found Youth



Tyese Lawyer, CEO, Our House, Inc.


Ebony Harris, CEO, Youth Empowerment

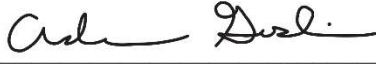

Diana Mason, Program Director, Chris 180

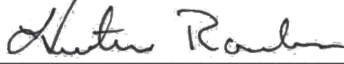

DePriest Waddy, CEO, Families First



Jimiyu Evans, Co-CEO, Project
Community Connections, Inc


Megan Roberts VandeBogert, Executive
Director, Hope Thru Soap, Inc.


Raphael Holloway, CEO, Gateway Center,
LLC


Adam Goslin, Georgia State University


Heather Rowles, Executive Director, Multi-
Agency Alliance for Children


Selima Morrow, Associate Director of
Programs, Point Source Youth, Inc.


Amy Lancaster-King, Executive Director,
Worksource Atlanta


Kathryn Lawler, CEO, St. Joseph's Health
System

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2020 - 2021 McKinney-Vento Annual Homeless Education Survey

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2021 Point-In-Time, Atlanta CoC

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2021 Atlanta HMIS Data – Coordinated Entry Enrollments

2022 Atlanta Youth Point in Time Count Survey Responses

Atlanta YAB/YHDP January 2022 Focus Group Responses

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YHDP 2022 Youth Survey Data

Youth surveys were conducted for YHDP planning purposes at the end of January 2022. This coincided with the City of Atlanta’s annual PIT count. While the 2022 PIT data is not complete for release, the youth surveys were analyzed for the purpose of YHDP planning. In order to identify youth for the survey, it was presented during the 2022 night count, as well as during a youth virtual survey event, and a series of in-person focus groups were held at local youth shelters. 32 of 35 respondents were sheltered.