VIRTUAL POLICY BRIEFING ON
UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

Learning from Washington State to Maximize California’s Historic Investment

September 28, 2022
USING ZOOM WEBINAR

To submit questions, click on the Q & A icon on the control panel. The Q & A window will appear, allowing you to ask questions to the host and panelists.*

Webinar materials and recording will be posted at https://jbay.org/resources/ and sent out to all registrants following the live presentation.
AGENDA

1 Welcome & Opening Remarks
2 California’s Investments in Youth Homelessness: Where Are We Now?
3 Presentation by Community Solutions: *Solving Homelessness at Scale: The Journey to Zero*
4 Presentation by A Way Home Washington: *Anchor Community Initiative*
5 California’s Investments in Youth Homelessness: Where Can We Go From Here?
6 Question & Answer
OPENING REMARKS BY SENATOR ANNA CABAÑALERO

- Represents California’s 12th State Senate District (D-Merced)
- Chair of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee
TODAY’S SPEAKERS

Simone Tureck Lee
Director of Housing & Health
John Burton Advocates for Youth

Melanie Lewis Dickerson
Portfolio Lead, Large-Scale Change
Community Solutions

Beth Sandor
Principal
Community Solutions

Julie Patiño
Executive Director
A Way Home
Washington

Ashley Barnes-Cocke
Anchor Community Initiative Project Director
A Way Home
Washington
There are at least 13,299 youth experiencing homelessness in California

13,299 youth experiencing homelessness (to age 24)

- Accounts for 32% of the nation’s total youth experiencing homelessness
- Accounts for 8% of California’s total homeless population

12,172 unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness

1,127 parenting youth experiencing homelessness
WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AS A YOUNG PERSON?

2017 Voices of Youth Count study found that certain subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness:

- Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED: 346% higher risk
- Unmarried parenting youth: 200% higher risk
- Youth reporting annual household income of <$24,000: 162% higher risk
- LGBTQ youth: 120% higher risk
- Black/African-American youth: 83% higher risk
- Hispanic, non-white youth: 33% higher risk
CALIFORNIA HAS MADE RECENT PROGRESS ON ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Established “youth set-asides” in mainstream homelessness funding, with $533 million committed up until next year’s budget.

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness is charged with 5 goals related to youth homelessness, of their 18 total goals.

Local homeless Continuums of Care now administer youth homelessness funding.

Through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program more than 11,000 youth have been served since 2019.

Early Point-in-Time (PIT) data show a 25% decrease in the number of homeless youth in the 8 largest cities that have released their 2022 data.
Since 2018, California has invested $533 million in youth homelessness through “youth set-asides”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Year</th>
<th>Program &amp; Funding Level</th>
<th>Youth Set-Aside</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>HEAP: $500M</td>
<td>5% = $25M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>HHAP Round 1: $650M</td>
<td>8% = $52M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>HHAP Round 2: $300M</td>
<td>8% = $24M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>HHAP Round 3: $1B</td>
<td>10% = $100M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-23</td>
<td>HHAP Round 4: $1B</td>
<td>10% = $100M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homekey Round 2: $1.6B</td>
<td>8% = $104M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homekey Round 3: $1.3B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HEAP** = Homeless Emergency Aid Program

**HHAP** = Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention Program
QUESTIONS REMAIN

Are these investments working? Are we making progress?

What is the full extent of our state’s need?

Are people being served with the right interventions?

Are people remaining housed—is the impact sustained?

Are people being housed more quickly?

Are people being served equitably?
Solving Homelessness at Scale

The Journey to Zero
HOMELESSNESS IS SOLVABLE

Communities in the Built for Zero movement are proving it.

105 communities are participating in Built for Zero

147,000+ individuals housed by Built for Zero communities since 2015

14 communities have functionally ended homelessness for a population

64 communities have achieved quality real-time data

42 communities have achieved a measurable reduction

SEE OUR INTERACTIVE MAP >
The Fundamental Question

Are all our programs + investments adding up to thing we really want: equitable reductions in homelessness over time?

And if not, how quickly would we know, and how quickly could we pivot?
The Shift from Technical Solutions to Iteration

The Model for Improvement was developed by Associates in Process Improvement and taught to us by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Thank you!
An Operating System for Ending Homelessness

Continuous improvement response discipline

- **Shared, Measurable Aim**
- **Effective implementation structure**
- **Menu of proven technical strategies**
- **Rapid, by-name feedback loop**
- **Flexible housing + service resources**
Shared Aim
First Principles for Functional Zero Definition

- Objective and replicable
- Standardized but dynamic to local conditions
- Simple and usable
- Credible with critical stakeholders, including people with lived experience, practitioners in the field, adjacent system stakeholders, and the general public
System Outcomes

For each population:

- **Single Adults**: Unaccompanied individuals 25 years old and over
- **Youth**: Unaccompanied individuals under 25 years old
- **Families**: Families with minor children
Racial Equity Indicators

**SYSTEM DECISION-MAKING POWER**
Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) at all levels of the homeless response system have decision-making power to influence the design of the system.

**LIVED EXPERIENCE**
BIPOC receiving services from the homeless response system have experiences that preserve their dignity and have their needs met in a timely manner.

**QUALITY DATA**
All people experiencing homelessness have access to the system and are known by name in real-time. Communities accurately collect data around race and ethnicity.

**SYSTEM OUTCOMES**
Communities close all racial/ethnic disproportionality in housing placements, returns to homelessness, and the average length of time from identification to housing by improving outcomes for BIPOC who experience homelessness.
Rapid Feedback Loop
Quality Data Defined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FULL COVERAGE</th>
<th>PERSON-LEVEL DATA</th>
<th>RELIABILITY</th>
<th>REGULAR UPDATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● All agencies and programs are represented (linked systems involved)</td>
<td>● Each household has an entry that includes their name, history, health and housing needs</td>
<td>● Data balances month over month, just like your checkbook</td>
<td>● List is updated monthly, at a minimum (goal of real-time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● List includes households sleeping in shelters, on the streets and/or in unsafe/unstable living conditions</td>
<td>● Each household and person can be followed through the system</td>
<td>● Changes in actively homeless numbers are accounted for in inflow + outflow</td>
<td>● As household’s housing and population status changes, so do their list entries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
System-Level Problem Solving

Actively Homeless

- Landlord outreach
- Voucher process improvement

- Inflow spike

Chattanooga/Southeast Tennessee CoC
Testable Programs + Strategies
October 2019
- New SSVF Shallow Subsidy Program began

April 2020
- System Inflow significantly reduced due to Covid 19

September 2020
- Began testing Doc Readiness

December 2020
- Increased regional coordination and data sharing with MoCo and PG Counties

January 2021
- Began testing change ideas at a provider level

June 2019
- Began stating annual reduction aim and looking at providers monthly housing targets and progress during monthly meetings

October 2019
- Ribbon Cutting for Walter Reed, 70 unit Veteran PSH building

July 2020
- Began testing Co-enrollment of VASH with SSVF while VA is understaffed

January 2021
- Increased capacity at VAMC to increase matching to available HUD VASH Vouchers
Menu of Proven Technical Strategies

- **Problem Solving**
  - Driver Diagram Template
    - Tool
  - Improvement Foundations Training
    - Training
  - Resources To Increase Data Literacy
    - External Resource, Training
  - Resources For Leaders New To Racial Equity Work
    - External Resource
  - Case Conferencing Tool Bank
    - Tool
  - Engaging Community Residents With Lived Experience
    - External Resource, Report

- **PLAN**
- **DO**
- **ACT**
- **STUDY**
Flexible Resources
Bakersfield/Kern Cty: Targeted Investments

**July 2018**
- Hosted a landlord event to secure units

**Spring 2019**
- Case conferencing improvement work takes off
- Retraining of staff
- Creation of universal documentation form.
- Created at-risk list

**Summer 2019**
- Kaiser Permanente investment funds new housing opportunities and staff position
Implementation Structures & Intermediaries
Improvement Opportunities in a System

**STRUCTURAL SPACE**
- Laws and policies
- Benefits and entitlements
- Funding parameters and amounts
Improvement Opportunities in a System

**TECHNICAL SPACE**
- Housing and service models
- Practical service delivery
- Evidence-based interventions and best practices

**STRUCTURAL SPACE**
- Laws and policies
- Benefits and entitlements
- Funding parameters and amounts
Improvement Opportunities in a System

IMPLEMENTATION SPACE
- How structure gets translated into technical behavior
- How systems do/don’t collaborate
- How the pieces fit together around the user

TECHNICAL SPACE
- Housing and service models
- Practical service delivery
- Evidence-based interventions and best practices

STRUCTURAL SPACE
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**Improvement Opportunities in a System**

**IMPLEMENTATION SPACE**
- How structure gets translated into technical behavior
- How systems do/don’t collaborate
- How the pieces fit together around the user

**FEDERAL**

**STATE**

**LOCAL**

**TECHNICAL SPACE**
- Housing and service models
- Practical service delivery
- Evidence-based interventions and best practices

**STRUCTURAL SPACE**
- Laws and policies
- Funding parameters and amounts
Local Intermediaries

Continuums of Care

City or County Government

Other Local or Regional Backbone Organizations

1. **Shared Goal:** Community, elected and sector leaders share a commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.

2. **Authority and Accountability:** Lead organizations have the authority to make changes towards the goal of ending homelessness for all and they hold the accountability for this aim.

3. **Strategic Partnerships:** Critical partners are actively involved in supporting the goal of ending homelessness.

4. **System Capacity:** System improvement leadership and staff are dedicated to supporting goal achievement.

5. **System Culture:** The culture in the community is data-driven, nimble and trust-based with shared accountability to equitably ending homelessness.

6. **Data and Evaluation:** Data is used for improvement, findings are made transparent to the public, and learnings inform policy making.

7. **Financial Resources:** Leadership understands the landscape of opportunities and the types of funding needed to make the greatest impact and has access to the funding for effective utilization.
State Intermediaries

A WAY HOME
WASHINGTON

COLOMADO
Department of Local Affairs

OREGON HOUSING and
COMMUNITY SERVICES

MaineHousing
MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Thank You
A Way Home Washington
Anchor Community Initiative
Agenda

A Way Home Washington Overview

What is the Anchor Community Initiative (ACI)

How ACI works with Communities

Successes and Learnings

Q & A
A Way Home Washington
We envision a Washington State where every young person can access the services they need and want quickly, without having to leave their home community — and see them stably housed as a result.

Yes to Yes
Building Yes-to-Yes communities

- AWHWA wants to prevent and end unaccompanied youth and young adult homelessness across WA.

- We value:
  - Ending, not just responding.
  - Justice – to end homelessness, we need to end disproportionality too.
  - Data – we need to know our impacts, pivot and learn.
Advocacy for increased services for young people across the state

Continuous System Improvement and Quality Data communities can rely on

Elevating local barriers to the state level & partnering to find solutions

Centering Youth Voice and Justice Driven Strategies
Young people who are **unaccompanied**, age 12-24, and are:

- Unsheltered
- Staying somewhere not meant for human habitation
- Fleeing domestic violence or trafficking
- Sheltered
- Unsafely or unstably couchsurfing or doubled-up
The Anchor Community Initiative
In ACI, we are testing, trying, and learning what it takes for individual communities to

1. House all the young people coming into their system in 30 days or less,
2. Ensure every young person has immediate access to shelter, and
3. There are equitable outcomes for LGBTQ youth and youth of color

And prove it is possible to functionally end youth and young adult homelessness
By Name List

Achieve a comprehensive, real-time, quality By-Name List that produces reliable data.

- BNL Scorecard
- Reliable Data
- YYA Engagement

Reduce to Zero

Drive monthly reductions in active youth and young adult homeless numbers.

- Systems Improvement
- Monthly Reductions
- Race/LGBTQ+ Equity

End & Sustain

Reach functional zero, end disproportionality and sustain gains.

- Confirm Zero
- Equitable Outcomes
- Sustain

Leadership, Building the Will, Youth & Young Adult Voice
Let's Talk Data
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is a YYA By Name List?</th>
<th>What is a YYA BNL used for?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Real-time</td>
<td>- House young people!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Person-specific (unique</td>
<td>- Resource matching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>identifier)</td>
<td>- System improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Full coverage</td>
<td>- Highlight and take action on equity issues, housing gaps and data quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reliable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Builds on Homeless</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System (HMIS) data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All Anchor Communities Collect and Use These System-Level Data Points Each Month

- **Inflow**
  - New
  - Returning (from housing)
  - Returning (from inactive)

- **Actively Homeless**
  - Unsheltered
  - Sheltered
  - Doubled-up/couchsurfing
  - Other/unknown

- **Outflow**
  - Permanently housed
  - Inactive
  - No longer meets population criteria
  - # of days from ID to positive exit

**Age**
**YYA of Color**
**LGBTQ**
**Gender Diverse**
To be confident a homelessness system has fundamentally changed, we need to see 6 data points below a system’s baseline.

We call that a SHIFT.
Total number of young people actively experiencing homelessness in Walla Walla April 2021 to February 2022
Walla Walla Unsheltered Homelessness

Total number of young people actively experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Walla Walla April 2021 to April 2022
Filling System Gaps

Young Adult Rapid Re-Housing Program

By scaling up resources in alignment with goals to END YYA homelessness, Walla Walla is hitting on a “right-size” system for their community.
Homeless Prevention and Diversion Fund

- Mental and behavioral health
- BIPOC serving agencies
- LGBTQ youth agencies
- McKinney Vento Liaisons
- Community college people
- Job readiness people
- Homeless youth service providers

Local HPDF Administrator

669 Households so far!
System and Practice
Change
Innovations

Walla Walla and the Prepaid Debit Card
Spokane’s Next Step Form
Youth Expertise is Key to the Process

We believe that we cannot end youth and young adult homelessness without young people’s expertise and leadership.

Communities need young people’s expertise to identify what changes will actually reduce and end YYA homelessness.

Young people bring unique and critical perspectives that are key to informing this work.
Key Learnings
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVING FUNCTIONAL ZERO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN CALIFORNIA

Existing framework: Communities across the country are successfully working toward functional zero using the Built for Zero approach or an adaptation.

Existing California precedent to work toward functional zero: The Governor has a stated goal of reaching functional zero for family homelessness through a series of existing, expanded, and new investments including the new “Family Homelessness Challenge Grants & Technical Assistance Program.”

Existing state interagency council with the authority and responsibility of working to address homelessness: Charged with 5 goals related to youth homelessness.
Demonstrated motivation & commitment to ending youth homelessness: Several CA communities have applied for the federal Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) which provides funding to develop a plan to end youth homelessness.

Existing sizable investment: The Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program’s current rounds provide at least $100 million for youth homelessness.

We’re making some progress: Early Point-in-Time (PIT) data show a 25% decrease in the number of homeless youth in the 8 largest cities that have released their 2022 data.
HOW CAN CALIFORNIA MEET THE MOMENT?

Make an **ongoing funding commitment:**
Currently, investments made through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program have been **one-time commitments** which leaves local jurisdictions uncertain about future investments.

Establish technical assistance and data **infrastructure:**
To establish a framework for working toward achieving functional zero, communities must adopt a **framework** for doing so, and have the capability to **measure data and progress in real time.**
QUESTION & ANSWER:
SUBMIT QUESTIONS VIA THE QUESTIONS BOX

FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS:
- Simone Tureck Lee: simone@jbay.org
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- Julie Patiño: jpatino@awayhomewa.org
- Ashley Barnes-Coche: abarnes-cocke@awayhomewa.org