

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP): **Community Kickoff**

November 17, 2021

OH-505: Dayton, Kettering / Montgomery County Continuum of Care

Welcome

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Authentic Youth Collaboration Training
- Break (5-10 minutes)
- YHDP Overview
- Q&A
- Data: What We Know & What We Don't
- Next Steps

Welcome & Introductions

- In the **chat**, please tell us your:
 - Name
 - Pronouns
 - Racial / ethnic identity
 - Role in ending youth homelessness
 - **Icebreaker:** What brings you to this table? Why is it important to you to be a part of this conversation and work to end youth and young adult homelessness?

Why we lift up pronouns in intros

- **Everyone has pronouns.** Naming pronouns reminds us that we cannot know and should never assume we know someone's gender just from knowing their name, seeing their face or body, or hearing their voice.
- Naming pronouns during introductions gives everyone the opportunity to actively **consent to how they want others in the room to refer to them.** By hearing and using the pronouns people ask us to use, we are respecting everyone's identity.
- Someone's **pronouns may change over time** for many reasons. Naming pronouns in introductions gives people the opportunity to name who they are and how they want to be referred to in that moment.
- Some people may use **different pronouns in different settings**, which may be driven by their perceived level of safety in the space.

Why we lift up racial & ethnic identity in intros

We honor and welcome the acknowledgment of racial & ethnic identity in introductions because:

- Naming racial identity focuses our awareness on how we show up with each other and particularly with Black Brown, Indigenous, and other people of color colleagues.
- Naming racial identity focuses our awareness on who is not present.
- Naming racial identity removes our fear of talking about race and instead normalizes it.
- Naming racial identity helps us own our racial identity and what we bring into the space.
- Naming racial identity reminds us that racial groups sit differently in relation to power and resources in the U.S. due to historical and present day manifestations of systemic racism
- Naming racial identity helps us resist habits of white supremacy culture and anti-Blackness and its constant presence.
- Naming racial identity is a proactive disruption of white dominant culture.
- Naming racial identity grounds us in the connections between homelessness and race.
- Naming racial identity names whiteness and invites us to sit with the discomfort of whiteness and the space that it takes up.
- Naming racial identity contributes to doing our work well and building our capacity to build system responses that are equitable.

Youth Collaboration and Adulthood

Dayton/Kettering/Montgomery, Ohio

Presented by: Justina Burton, Matt Minor and Aryel Newman

November 17th, 2021

True Colors United



What we do:



**Training & Education
Technical Assistance**



Advocacy



Youth Action



Objectives

- *Participants will be introduced to the youth collaboration method and framework.*
- *Older adult partners will learn how to identify and reframe behaviors rooted in adultism to be a true collaborator with youth and young adults.*



Youth Collaboration Concepts



- Identify Barriers
- Build Trust
- Establish Meaningful Engagement

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Youth and Broader Equity

- *Authentic collaboration with young people requires a commitment to understanding how identity shapes experiences.*
- *Young people come into this work with various and multiple identities which need to be acknowledged, accepted, and understood before authentic collaboration can truly take place.*
- *It is **important** to understand how racism and oppression has impacted your community.*



Youth Collaboration Principles

- **Set leaders up for success.** Before asking youth and young adults for their expertise, ensure they have the necessary tools to support them throughout the process.
- **Reduce barriers to participation.** Provide various channels for youth and young adult leaders to offer their input and feedback.
- **Set clear and realistic deadlines.** Be mindful that youth and young adults have personal lives outside of this work.
- **Highlight the impact of the work.** Give clear examples of how youth and young adult input influences final decisions or products.



Meaningful Collaboration

- Reduces power imbalances and their impacts on young people.
- Creates spaces where young people feel safe to make important decisions.
- Create systems that honor the decision making power of youth and young adults **and** show them that their decisions create results.

****Create safety by differentiating between a young person's role as a participant and as a collaborator.*



Collaborating on Services

In order to collaborate with youth who participate in your programs and services, it is important to honor their autonomy to make important decisions that impact their lives.

Collaboration Example:

*A service provider could use an intake form to educate young people about different available housing options rather than making the choice for them. This allows young people to make **informed** decisions for themselves.*



Avoiding Barriers to Authentic Youth Collaboration:

Building Trust

Establishing and building trust is essential in any effective relationship. Once trust is established, genuine collaboration can begin.



Avoiding Barriers to Authentic Youth Collaboration:

Meaningful Engagement

Ensure that youth and young adults are meaningfully engaged at every level. “Showy engagement” is an issue that often gets in the way of effective collaboration between YYAs and service providers.

Example: Young people are invited to participate simply to create the impression of inclusion and diversity



Avoiding Barriers to Authentic Youth Collaboration:

Leadership Development

Youth and young adults should have the freedom and agency to be the leaders of their own lives. Their autonomy should be promoted as they make decisions about the issues that impact their lives.



Adultism

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What is Adulthood?

- **Adulthood describes the systems of privileged attitudes, beliefs, values, and behaviors that adults have over those of young people.** We sometimes see this play out when youth and young adults are stereotyped and discriminated against on the basis of age.
- **Adulthood is driven by behaviors and attitudes that are based on the assumption that adults are better than young people** and, therefore, entitles them to act upon or on behalf of young people without their agreement.
- **Calling out adulthood whenever and wherever it shows up in working with young people is necessary for authentic youth collaboration,** as it spreads through housing systems and our culture.



Adultism in Common Language

- *“Respect your elders -- they know better”*
- *“Older and wiser”*
- *“Childish”*
- *“Immature”*
- *“Kids don’t know what their doing”*
- *“Too young/Not old enough”*
- *“Children should be seen, not heard”*
- *“Stay in a child’s place”*
- *“The more you live, the more you know”*

Tips on Reframing Adulthood



Behavior Rooted in Adulthood:

Assuming you know what is best for youth because you are older or more experienced than them.

Inviting participation from youth merely to create the impression of inclusion and diversity.

Behavior Rooted in Equity:

Respecting youth as the experts of their own lives and experiences.

Meaningful engagement that honors, respect, and celebrate differences among youth and young adults.



How Do We Fight Adultism?

1. *By consistently and intentionally making opportunities for authentic collaboration*
2. *By standing up, voicing observations, and interrupting as allies when adultism (oppression) is occurring*
3. *By understanding and incorporating the intersectional nature of our social identities and oppression, particularly how this plays out for young people*
 - ***This is particularly critical in the work to prevent and end youth homelessness.***



Resources

- [TCU Youth Collaboration Toolkit](#)
- [TCU Equity Hub](#)
- [Free Child Institute for Youth and Social Change](#)
- [Everyday Feminism: So You Call Yourself an Ally: 10 Things All 'Allies' Need to Know](#)



**Any
questions?**



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Thank you!

justina@truecolorsunited.org



Break



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YHDP Overview

Important Acronyms

YHDP: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

CCP: Coordinated Community Plan

YAB: Youth Action Board

CoC: Continuum of Care

HUD: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

NOFO: Notice of Funding Opportunity

TA: Technical Assistance

HMIS: Homeless Management Information System (CoC's data system)

What is YHDP?

- CoCs across the country apply to HUD for YHDP, which comes with:
 - **Funding** that must be used to address youth homelessness
 - 3 years of technical assistance (TA) to support you throughout the planning and early implementation processes
- Your CoC got **\$1,765,797** in YHDP funding!
- This CoC is part of YHDP Round 4/5
 - Round 1: 10 CoCs
 - Round 2: 11 CoCs
 - Round 3: 23 CoCs
 - Round 4/5: 33 CoCs

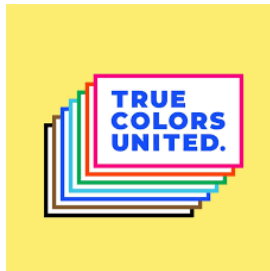
What do we mean by “youth?”

- **Youth:** minors, under age 18
- **Young adult:** ages 18-24
- **Parenting youth (PY):** youth or young adult with their own children
- **Unaccompanied youth (UY):** Not with parent, legal guardian or caretaker

NOTE: Youth who are experiencing homelessness with their parents or guardians have many of the same services and support needs of unaccompanied youth, but YHDP focuses specifically on households where no one is 25 or older.

What do we mean by “homelessness?”

- Resource: [HUD's Determining Homeless Status of Youth](#)
- **Literally homeless (Category 1)** – shelter, transitional housing, hotel or motel paid for by government or charity, or sleeping on the street, park or other place not meant for human habitation
- **Imminently at risk of homelessness (Category 2)** – losing housing (including doubled up situations) within the next 14 days with no other safe place to stay and no money or other resources
- **Unstably housed (Category 3)** – homeless under other federal statutes including McKinney-Vento (Dept. of Education) and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and couch surfing with multiple moves in the last two months and can be expected to have continued housing instability
 - CoCs must apply for a waiver from HUD to serve Category 3 using YHDP funds. Can only use up to 10% of funding.
- **Fleeing dangerous or life-threatening situations (Category 4)** – including domestic violence, sexual assault, trading sex for housing, trafficking, violence or threats of violence because of sexual orientation or gender identity



Technical Assistance (TA) Providers

Lead HUD TA

- Aubrey Sitler (Abt Associates)
- Roy Graham (Youth Collaboratory)

Youth Collaboration TA

- Justina Burton (True Colors United)

Education TA

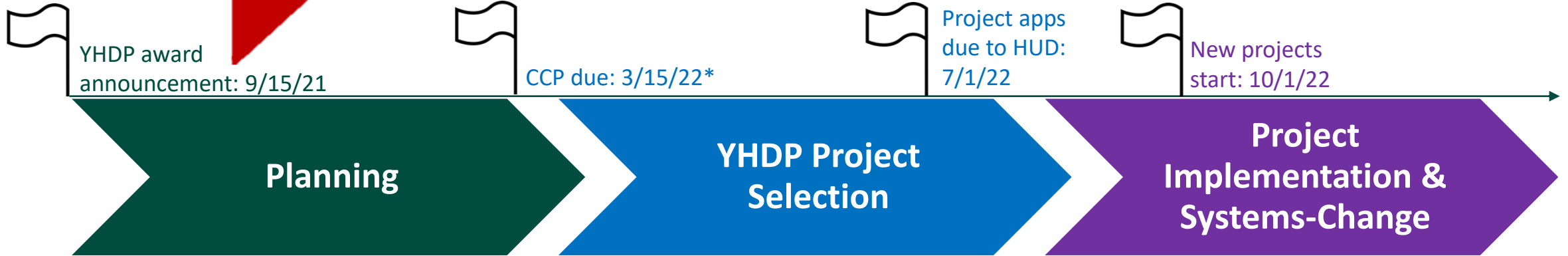
- Megan Johnson (National Center for Homeless Education)

YHDP Objectives

- Engage in a community-wide planning process to **unite the focus, vision, and funding** of local efforts to holistically end youth and young adult homelessness.
- Write a **Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)** that reflects this planning process and guides communitywide action.
- Expand **capacity** and **pilot new models** of assistance and support for young people.
- Center and elevate the **leadership of young people** across the CoC.
- Embed core principles like **youth collaboration** and **racial & LGBTQ+ equity** throughout the process and system.
- Create and enhance **cross-system partnerships**.

YOU
ARE
HERE

3 Main Phases of YHDP *Round 4/5 Timeline*



- Engage in a youth-led, community-wide **planning process** to envision what you need to end youth homelessness across CoC
- Put that into a **Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)** that HUD must approve before accessing YHDP funding
- **opportunity for 3-month extension if needed*
- Based on what you decides in your planning process, **host a local competition** to determine which entities will run new housing and services projects using YHDP funding
- Transform local work to end youth homelessness
- Start up **new projects** (~October 2022)
- Make moves on the **action plan** from the CCP

Main CCP Components*

- **Threshold 1: Statement of need**
- **Threshold 2: Communitywide stakeholder engagement** in planning process
 - Youth Action Board (YAB) and additional youth with lived experience of homelessness
 - Homeless system partners (recipients CoC, ESG, RHY, etc.)
 - Cross-system partners (child welfare, justice, education, landlords, etc.)
- **Threshold 3:**
 - **Mission, vision, & action plan** for ending youth homelessness
 - **Governance & decision-making structure**
 - List of **new projects** to be funded by YHDP & other entities
 - **Signature** pages
- **Threshold 4: Key principles**, including authentic youth collaboration, racial & LGBTQ equity, Housing First, and Positive Youth Development, among others.

**The YHDP NOFO, [Appendix B](#) details the CCP requirements in full.*

Preview: Next Steps

- **Stay tuned!**
- Upcoming meetings to:
 - Identify what young people experiencing homelessness want and need
 - Talk through what's working and what's not within your community's efforts to end youth homelessness
 - Imagine and build solutions, design YHDP-funded projects, and develop an ongoing community-wide action plan



Questions About YHDP



Data

What We Know & What We Don't

Data in YHDP

Data can tell us:

- The number of young people who have gotten assistance in the CoC
- What types and intensity of resources/services young people have gotten
- Demographics (e.g., age, race, gender)
- Inequities or disparities in how people tend to get linked with resources/services
- What questions we need to ask to get to core issues

Data can't tell us:

- Who's not showing up to ask for help in the first place
- How the resources & services young folks have gotten are administered
- How to address any identified inequities or disparities
- How young people experience the services and resources offered

Data Sources

- Where did we get these data?
 - Montgomery County Needs Assessment
 - HMIS
 - Housing Inventory Count
 - From partners in other systems (behavioral health, education, employment, foster care, and criminal justice)
- Who was involved in providing this information? In what ways? Who wasn't?

What We Know: 496 youth-headed households were served by the CoC in 2020

- **Age**
 - 371 unaccompanied or parenting youth 18-24
 - 125 unaccompanied minors
- **Location**
 - Almost all served in shelter
 - 11 unsheltered
- **Demographics**
 - 58% were Black
 - 53% were male
 - 13% were LGBTQ*
- **Involvement with other systems**
 - 21% had a juvenile justice history
 - 30% had been in foster care

*of those who answered questions about LGBTQ identity

Let's chat.

What do you know about young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness?

- What are we missing?
- What do you know or what data do you have access to that you can provide or pull in?
- What questions do you hope we can answer by the end of the YHDP planning process?



Next Steps



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Additional Resources

- [YHDP NOFO](#): details all HUD requirements for YHDP awards
 - [Appendix A](#): Project Selection Process (including YHDP flexibilities)
 - [Appendix B](#): CCP Requirements
- Completed [CCPs](#) from other YHDP communities
- [Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness](#)
- [USICH Criteria & Benchmarks for Ending Youth Homelessness](#)