

HUD Cohort 6 100-Day Challenge Summary

San Bernardino County, CA

100-Day Challenge Goal

In 100 days, 100 Transition Age Youth (18-24) will exit homelessness into safe and stable housing, 50% of whom have been system-involved which may include, but is not limited to, the criminal justice system, child welfare, and/or the foster care system.

100-DAY CHALLENGE CONTEXT & FOCUS AREAS

BACKGROUND: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Nonprofit service providers, advocates, and persons with lived experience have created significant momentum around preventing and ending youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness. The Homeless Youth Taskforce (HYTF) of San Bernardino County provides a voice for struggling and underprivileged YYA by collaborating and creating partnerships with community stakeholders to identify needs and find solutions to homelessness.

The HYTF launched a Homeless Youth Survey in 2015, which is conducted annually to provide crucial information for the community on experiences of YYA homelessness, including current and prior living situation, systems involvement, and the struggles and challenges YYA face to accessing housing and services. In 2017, the HYTF created a three-year strategic plan to provide a blueprint for carrying out their purpose of improving the lives of YYA in San Bernardino County. The community established six strategic directions to help prevent and address YYA homelessness: (1) Financial Resources, (2) Communication, (3) Asset Mapping and Housing, (4) Youth Involvement, (5) Employment Resources, and (6) Outreach and Engagement.¹

The 100-Day Challenge helped the community to generate greater momentum around achieving the strategic plan and directions for preventing and ending YYA homelessness in San Bernardino County. In particular, the 100-Day Challenge created an opportunity to improve collaboration with public agencies and increase buy-in at a systems level for addressing YYA homelessness as a local priority.

¹ Homeless Youth Taskforce of San Bernardino County, "Strategic Plan Outline," 2017, <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/BOSD3/content/HYTF%20STEGIC%20PLAN%20DOC.2017.pdf>

100-DAY CHALLENGE FOCUS AREAS

System leaders from San Bernardino County came together to help identify the following areas of focus for their 100-Day Challenge to prevent and end youth homelessness:

- Addressing homelessness for youth ages 18 to 24 who have been touched by the criminal justice system;
- Youth in college who are experiencing homelessness; and
- Youth who meet both the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Education definitions of homelessness.²

System leaders also identified a number of areas in which the San Bernardino 100-Day Challenge Team could focus their work:

- Addressing transportation needs for YYA experiencing homelessness;
- Developing a plan for meaningful input from youth with lived experience;
- Improving the local Coordinated Entry System (CES) for youth;
- Coordinating with Child and Family Services (CFS) and County Probation; and
- Fostering county-wide partnerships with youth to amplify their voices in future decision making.

100-DAY CHALLENGE SUCCESSES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INNOVATIONS

SNAPSHOT OF 100-DAY CHALLENGE PROGRESS

100-Day Challenge Goal: In 100 days, 100 Transition Age Youth (18-24) will exit homelessness into safe and stable housing, 50% of whom have been system involved which may include, but is not limited to, the criminal justice system, child welfare, and/or the foster care system.

OUTCOMES AS OF DAY 100:

71 YYAs safely housed

Safe Housing Options



71 YYAs safely housed, including 49 YYA connected to permanent housing options and 22 YYA provided with transitional housing.

Populations of Focus



77% of YYA housed had experienced systems involvement, including involvement with the criminal justice, child welfare, and/or the foster care system.

Youth Advisory Board



22 Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members were recruited and regularly attended meetings during the 100-Day Challenge

² For more information on the differences between the HUD and Education definitions of homelessness, please see the document, [Housing and Education Collaborations to Serve Homeless Children, Youth, and Families](#)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SYSTEMS CHANGE

AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

The San Bernardino County 100-Day Challenge was “done by youth for youth”, with YYA with lived experiences of homelessness authentically engaged throughout the 100-Day Challenge, including in key leadership positions. San Bernardino launched the development of a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in June 2020 at the onset of the 100-Day Challenge. The Chair of the San Bernardino YAB was selected to serve as a Team Lead for the 100-Day Challenge, creating opportunities for alignment between expanding membership for the YAB and authentically engaging YYA with lived experience in the 100-Day Challenge process. YAB members helped lead San Bernardino’s local census efforts, as well as much of the street outreach conducted during the 100-Day Challenge. Throughout the course of the 100-Day Challenge, the San Bernardino YAB expanded to 22 members who were meeting on a weekly basis to support various efforts to improve housing and services for YYA experiencing homelessness, including landlord engagement and the development of Coordinated Entry for youth. San Bernardino is working to establish two youth seats on the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board to help sustain their commitment to youth leadership in ongoing efforts to address YYA homelessness.

CROSS-SYSTEMS COLLABORATION

The 100-Day Challenge helped to foster new relationships between nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and other youth-serving providers in San Bernardino County. San Bernardino is an expansive county that incorporates urban, rural, desert, and mixed geographies. The 100-Day Challenge Team was intentional about engaging nonprofit organizations that represented each of these regions and the YYA they serve. The 100-Day Challenge also helped local nonprofit organizations and advocates develop strong new partnerships with 211 San Bernardino, the County Department of Behavioral Health Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Center, and homeless liaisons from the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. The involvement of these key stakeholders from across the county that represent local education, health, homeless, and housing systems helped to establish a cross-system commitment to preventing and ending YYA homelessness in San Bernardino County for the first time.

COORDINATED ENTRY FOR YOUTH

The San Bernardino County 100-Day Challenge created an opportunity for the community to develop and launch Coordinated Entry for youth. Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, there was not a workflow in San Bernardino’s Coordinated Entry System (CES) specific to youth, which created barriers to efficiently and effectively connecting YYA experiencing homelessness to permanent housing resources. The 100-Day Challenge Team partnered with 211, the administrative entity for the San Bernardino County’s CES, to implement all the various components needed to make CES work for youth. The community adopted the TAY VI-SPDAT for youth-specific assessments and incorporated it into HMIS, with training provided to outreach workers to help them conduct assessments with YYA clients. San Bernardino also developed a Basic Names List (BNL) for all the youth experiencing homelessness in the county. The 100-Day Challenge Team also collaborated with 211 and Veterans services to guide the development of weekly youth-specific case conferencing meetings to discuss YYA on the BNL and provide connections to housing and services. Over the course of 100 days, San Bernardino County was able to establish all necessary workflow and modules in HMIS to effectively manage this new youth component of CES.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO HOUSING AND SERVICES

San Bernardino County utilized the 100-Day Challenge to evaluate current housing options and increase permanent housing options for YYA experiencing homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge Team was able to connect YYA experiencing homelessness to permanent housing options – including Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) – at greater rates than prior to the 100-Day Challenge due to the launch of CES for youth. The Team also conducted outreach to YYA residing in the county’s Transitional Living Program (TLP) to assess current housing needs and identify clients who were ready to “move on” to permanent housing options. San Bernardino County saw significant success in utilizing case management and mediation techniques to reunify YYA experiencing homelessness with chosen family, including a number of youth who were able to exit from unsheltered situations directly to housing with family members. The 100-Day Challenge Team also utilized grant funding from Axa XL Insurance to create a landlord mitigation fund which will be administered by the YAB to support ongoing landlord engagement efforts to help address YYA homelessness.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY CHALLENGE MOMENTUM

In order to lock in their gains and maintain the momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness, the San Bernardino 100-Day Challenge Team plans to focus on the following priorities moving forward.

ACTION PLAN FOR ONGOING WORK

- Establish a stakeholder group who will meet regularly and prioritize youth in all homelessness conversations.
- House 29 YYA experiencing homelessness to complete the goal of the 100-Day Challenge using YYA case conferencing,
- Continue expanding and utilizing the YAB.
- Expand partnership with Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP).

Additionally, the team has established the following priority system shifts needed to sustain performance and proposed actions to make those system shifts a reality.

Priority System Shifts	Action Areas for System Shifts & Sustainability
<p>Expanding and improving Coordinated Entry to better serve YYA clients</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide CES training for a wide range of partners, including social workers, juvenile services, the Public Defender’s Office, health partners, extended foster care programs, and TAY centers. • Expand YYA case conferencing efforts.
<p>Increasing housing options and landlord engagement to sustain progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a more robust array of services for TAY youth experiencing homelessness, beyond current TAY Centers and permanent housing options. • Make youth a population of focus for San Bernardino’s homeless response system. • Develop a list of TAY-specific housing resources.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a public campaign to support landlord engagement efforts. • Establish a landlord risk mitigation fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work in partnership with real estate agents ○ YAB control over how the fund is used
<p>Expanding YYA-focused partnerships and resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase collaboration between the Department of Children and Family Services, colleges, and youth-serving agencies to respond to YYA homelessness. • Prioritize YYA experiencing homelessness for CoC and other HUD funding.
<p>Investing in authentic youth engagement to further progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue growth and expansion of the YAB.
<p>Increasing visibility for the issue of YYA homelessness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information on public opinions regarding YYA homelessness. • Develop a public awareness campaign to share results of the 100-Day Challenge and get support from the broader community.