

BALTIMORE, MD

BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

In 2017, approximately 2,700 individuals experienced homelessness in Baltimore City on any given night, 10% of whom were unaccompanied homeless youth under 25. Of families experiencing homelessness, 23% of households were headed by an unaccompanied homeless youth. During Baltimore's most recent homeless youth count, over 30% of homeless and unstably housed youth reported that they did not attempt to access services that could address their housing or family situation.

The City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland have identified youth homelessness as a top priority – working together to design new systems of care, develop new housing resources, and ensure that robust data on the extent of youth homelessness is available for decision-making. Prior to beginning its 100-Day Challenge, Baltimore had undertaken several initiatives to address youth homelessness, including developing a strategic plan for youth and young adults and participating in a youth Rapid Re-Housing learning collaborative.

100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

In addition to increasing housing placements, the community of Baltimore identified two priority areas to address during the 100-Day Challenge:

- **Identifying and strengthening supports for young adults most at-risk of homelessness upon leaving the foster care system or juvenile justice system**, including strengthening the commitment of partners from the foster care and juvenile justice systems in addressing youth homelessness and creating an action plan with tangible goals.
- **Creating shared standards among agencies for working with youth**, including developing Coordinated Access points and practices, and integrating several new homeless youth projects into the community's efforts to address homelessness.

100-Day Goals

100 youth, ages 16-24, will move into safe and stable housing. 100% of youth that are exiting the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) system will have a transition plan that addresses housing stability.

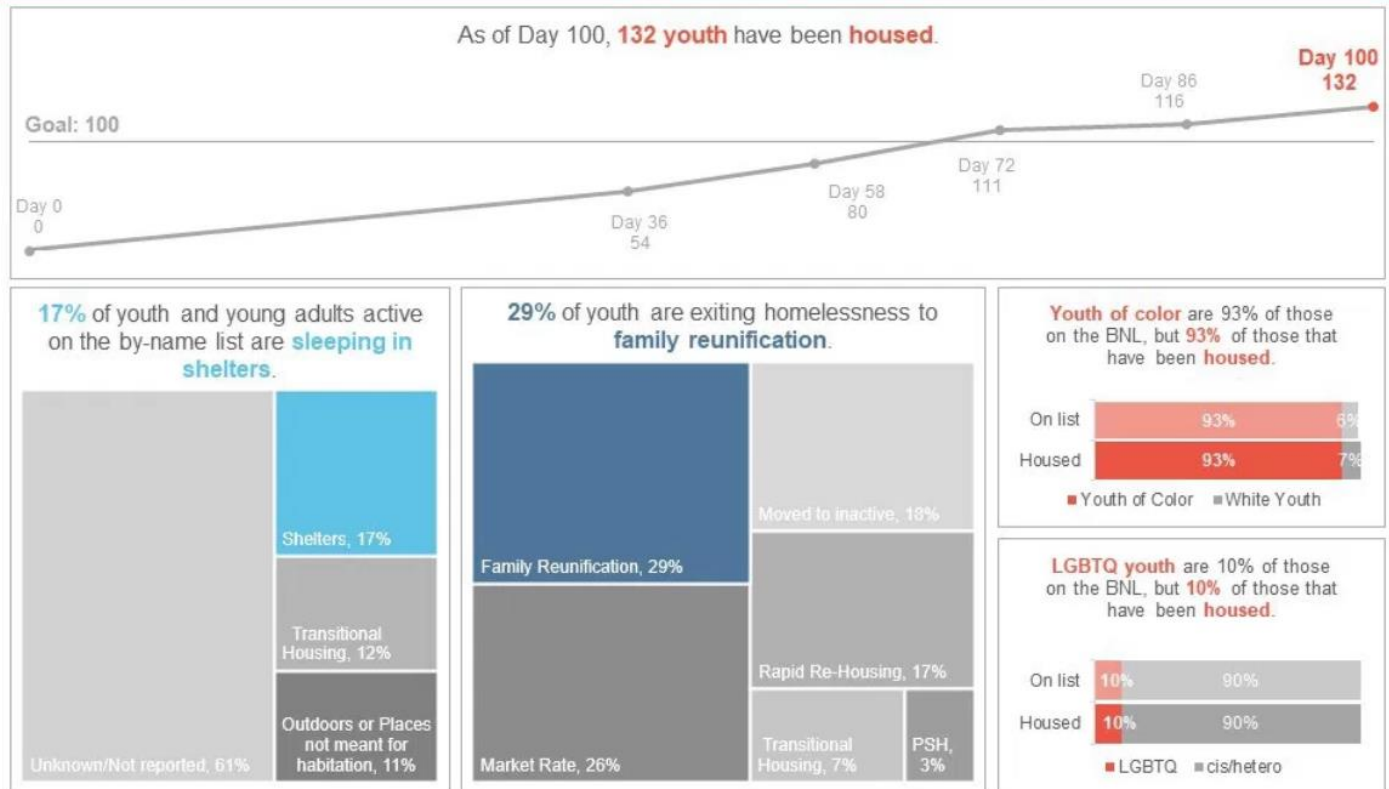
GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL	RESULTS
<p>In Baltimore, in 100 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 youth, ages 16-24, will move into safe and stable housing. 100% of youth that are exiting the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) will have a transition plan that addresses housing stability. 	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 132 youth, ages 16-24, were safely and stably housed. Homeless response system leaders began conversations with DJS and DSS leaders about transition planning, and line staff planned opportunities for cross-training.

100-Day Challenge: BALTIMORE, MD

Day 100 | Nov 8

In Baltimore in 100 days, 100 youth, aged 16-24, will move into safe and stable housing. At the same time, 100% of youth that are exiting the DSS and DJS system will have a transition plan that addresses housing stability.



SUCSESSES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

SYSTEMS CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP

The 100-Day Challenge greatly advanced Baltimore’s understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of its own system. Improved collaboration among system leaders helped break down silos within the community’s homeless response system.

CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, many in the community had not worked together around preventing and ending youth homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge promoted strong collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including department of juvenile services, school district, Department of Social Services, nonprofit homeless service providers, funders, and advocates.

AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

At the 100-Day Challenge sustainability workshop, youth with lived experience, including some who had exited homelessness during the 100-Day Challenge, helped the community work through strategies and recommendations to improve the response to youth homelessness. Youth with lived experience also helped formalize youth involvement in the 100-Day Challenge efforts and ensure that youth were authentically engaged in all community efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM

To preserve gains made during the 100-Day Challenge and maintain momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness, Baltimore planned to:

1. Hold trainings between youth providers and DJS/DSS systems to increase cross-sector understanding and collaboration.
2. Explore new housing options – specifically shared housing for youth.
3. Bridge gaps between housing and employment/education systems.