

COLUMBUS, OH

BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

Among the more than 400,000 people experiencing poverty in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, an estimated 144 unaccompanied youth experienced homelessness – and many more were at-risk – based on 2017 point-in-time count estimates. The Columbus community set out to improve current efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness, with a focus on providing individualized, trauma-informed care to young people, and ensuring actual connections are made to youth-tailored community resources.

For Columbus, participation in the 100-Day Challenge provided a catalyst for advancing current efforts, allowing the community to think and act as a system, and continuing to unite local agencies serving youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge timeline synced well with Columbus's own emerging, collaborative plans for action and provided an opportunity for the community to consult with experts and to be creative in contemplating approaches for ending homelessness among transitional-age youth (TAY).

100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

Columbus identified four key priority areas for its 100-Day Challenge:

1. **Youth-Tailored Emergency Shelter System:** Develop and coordinate youth-tailored services to TAY who are entering and staying in single adult and family emergency shelters.
2. **TAY Rapid Re-Housing (RRH):** Implement a youth-centric RRH program for TAY experiencing homelessness (including pregnant/parenting TAY).
3. **Youth Participation Network:** Establish a youth-led communication/participation network for creatively engaging youth in recommending and implementing innovative solutions to preventing and ending youth homelessness.
4. **Storytelling Campaign:** Engage the community-at-large in meeting the needs of TAY experiencing homelessness through a strategic storytelling campaign, including communicating stories and opportunities through social media, television, print, and radio.

100-Day Goals

In 100 days, Columbus will improve its TAY-serving systems, starting with 1) safely housing 30% of single, unaccompanied youth and 80% of youth-headed families exiting the shelter system; and 2) safely housing 30 TAY experiencing homelessness who are not currently utilizing shelter systems.

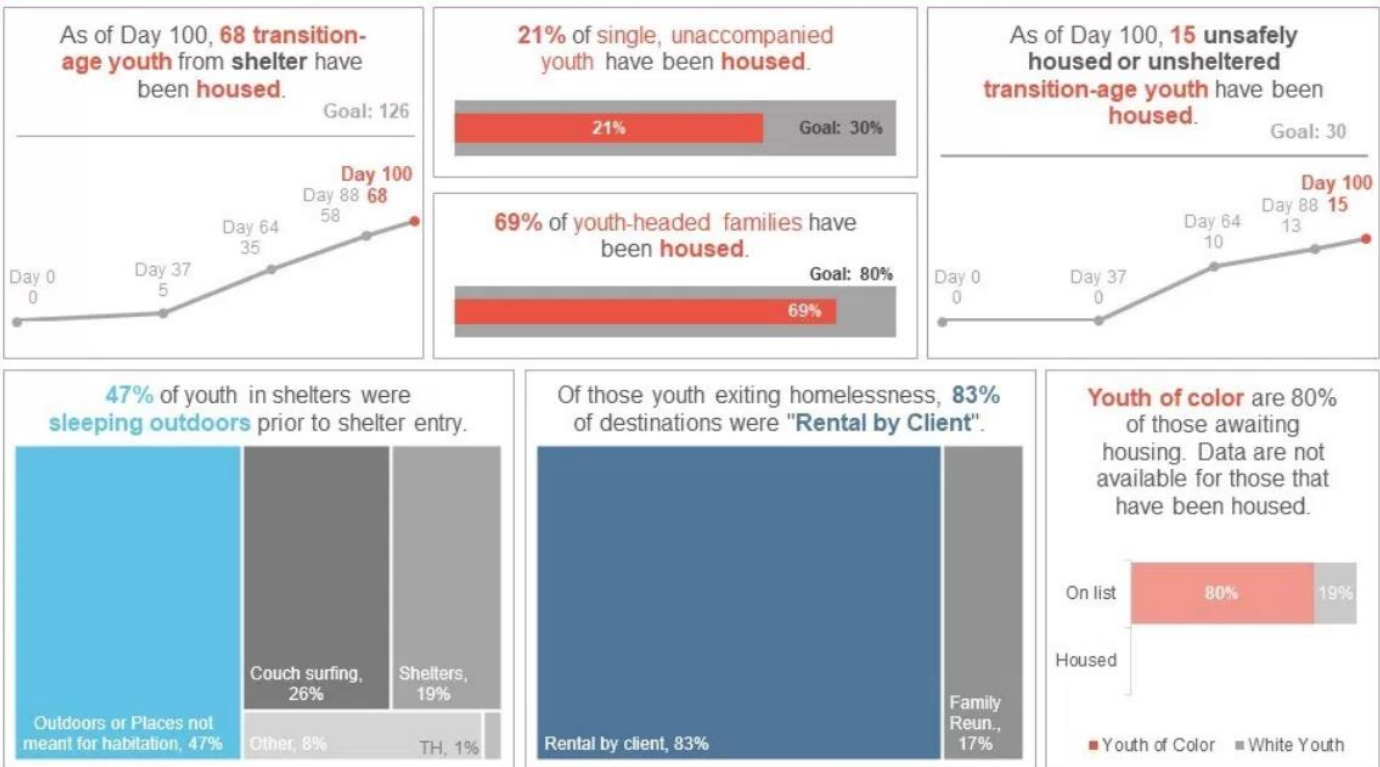
PROGRESS, SUCCESSES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL	RESULTS
<p>Improve TAY-serving systems, starting with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely housing 30% of single, unaccompanied youth and 80% of youth-headed families exiting the shelter system. Safely housing 30 TAY experiencing homelessness who are not currently utilizing shelter systems. 	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68 TAY exiting the shelter system were safely housed. Increased rates of successful youth exits from adult shelters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exits to housing for single, unaccompanied youth increased from 8% to 21%. Exits to housing for youth-headed families increased from 61% to 69%.

100-Day Challenge: COLUMBUS, OH

Day 100 | Nov 8

In the next 100 days, Columbus, OH will improve our TAY-serving systems, starting with: 1. Safely housing 30% of single, unaccompanied youth and 80% of youth-headed families exiting the shelter system; 2. Safely housing 30 TAY youth experiencing homelessness who are not currently utilizing shelter system.



SUCCESSES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

SYSTEMS CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP

As a result of the 100-Day Challenge, Columbus and Franklin County are planning a youth system for the first time in the community's history, utilizing the momentum and opportunity to innovate at a systems level, with support from the Columbus Foundation to ensure sustainability. The City of Columbus, Franklin County, and Community Shelter Board were engaged throughout the 100-Day Challenge period, making system-level innovation possible through their strong dedication and collaboration.

NEW HOUSING INNOVATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

Columbus leveraged the momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to open up Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) resources to youth who had not accessed shelter, creating new paths to housing for youth experiencing homelessness. Previously, RRH resources were available only to those who had accessed shelter.

COORDINATED ENTRY

Columbus began developing a TAY by-name list (BNL) within the first two months of the 100-Day Challenge. The BNL will be formalized (including combining manually collected data on the TAY BNL with HMIS data to create a comprehensive youth BNL/active list), staffed, and utilized as the primary tool for future case conferencing meetings focused on the most vulnerable youth.

AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Columbus 100-Day Challenge team went outside its weekly meeting structure to creatively and proactively reach youth in shelters and drop-in centers to gain insight on strategies for the 100-Day Challenge. The 100-Day team emphasized involvement of LGBTQ youth through partnership with a local LGBTQ youth provider. System leaders and local providers reported that the 100-Day Challenge was the first time youth providers and youth with lived experience have been intentionally included and treated as experts in local efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM

To preserve the gains and maintain momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness, Columbus plans to:

1. Maximize current adult shelter resources for TAY by implementing TAY-specific services in shelter, including carving out TAY-specific spaces within one pilot shelter site.

2. Incorporate TAY components within the local Coordinated Entry System.
3. Fund and hire a youth system manager to lead development and implementation of a comprehensive youth system.
4. Formalize the By-Name List in HMIS.
5. Implement TAY case conferencing.

The City of Columbus has partnered with the Columbus Foundation to provide support for youth homelessness system activities to ensure sustainability of the work and momentum begun in the 100-Day Challenge.

Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, Columbus expressed a **300-day goal** of building on their 100-Day Challenge accomplishments to complete an assessment, gap analysis, and design of their crisis response system for TAY.