

# HENNEPIN, MN

## BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, Hennepin had many of the components necessary for an effective youth homelessness response system. However, the community recognized the need to strengthen coordination, better understand gaps and linkages, and ensure that the system works for all young people facing homelessness.

Participating in the 100-Day Challenge allowed Hennepin to build on the community's enthusiasm and momentum around ending youth homelessness. Enthusiasm generated by the 2016 YHDP application process led to the development of the Hennepin County Youth Collaborative – a CoC committee made up of 15 youth-serving agencies in Hennepin – which is committed to developing a strategy to end youth homelessness by 2020. Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, Hennepin had participated in several initiatives to address youth homelessness, including the USICH Youth Count! Initiative and the Voices of Youth Count.

## 100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

In addition to increasing housing placements, Hennepin identified the following priority areas to address during the 100-Day period:

1. **Youth Coordinated Entry:** Leverage community relationships; add prevention, diversion and employment to the coordinated entry system; broaden partnerships with landlords and a wider array of housing providers; and generate new ideas and solutions to overcoming limited housing options accessible to youth via the Coordinated Entry System.
2. **Meaningful and Stable Employment:** Broker new relationships with employers and enhance existing employment services to help 113 young people access employment.
3. **Engage Mainstream Youth-Serving Systems:** Work more closely with systems that feed into the homeless response system, prioritizing collaboration with child protective services and the juvenile justice system.
4. **Community-Wide Plan:** Leverage learning, partnerships, and achievements of the 100-Day Challenge to support the development of Hennepin's plan to end youth homelessness by 2020.

### 100-Day Goals

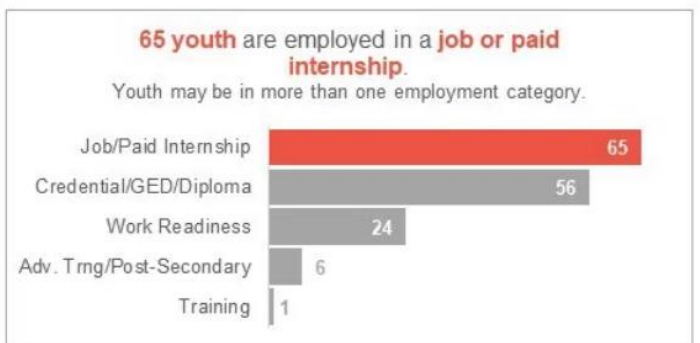
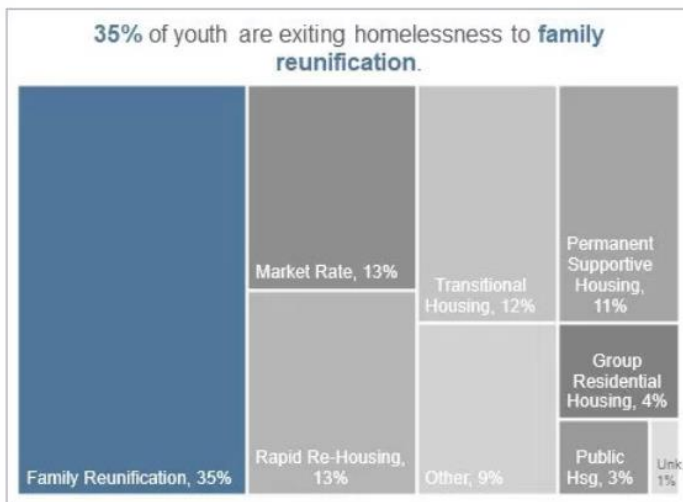
In 100 days, 150 youth, ages 16-24, will exit homelessness into safe and stable housing in Hennepin County, of which 75% will be employed.

**PROGRESS, SUCCESSES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

GOAL	RESULTS
<p>In 100 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 youth aged 16-24 will exit homelessness into safe and stable housing in Hennepin County.</li> <li>75% of youth housed during the 100 Day-Challenge will be employed.</li> </ul>	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>236 youth, ages 16-24, exited homelessness into safe and stable housing.</li> <li>57% of housed youth were employed.</li> </ul>

**100-Day Challenge: HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN Day 100 | Nov 8**

In 100 days, 150 youth aged 16-24 will exit homelessness into safe and stable housing in Hennepin County, of which 75% will be employed.



*Employed includes those who are connected to a job or paid internship, job training and credentialing (including GED and HS diploma), post-secondary education opportunities and work readiness programs.*

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**SUCSESSES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION****SYSTEMS CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP**

The Hennepin 100-Day Challenge team’s focus on employment pushed the community to think about the flow of youth through the homeless response system and into sustainable situations. System leaders came together to align two very separate systems – housing and employment – in completely new ways, with employment integrated into the housing process from the first day a young adult entered the homeless response system. The community put in place new policies, procedures, and tools. As a result of the 100-Day Challenge, the City of Minneapolis prioritized employment vacancies for youth experiencing homelessness.

**CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS**

The 100-Day Challenge brought together a strong and diverse array of stakeholders from different systems, including representatives from the state, community college and school district, juvenile probation, child protective services, police, philanthropists, county departments, homeless service providers, and youth with lived experience. A communications team conducted significant outreach to engage the community, increase awareness of the 100-Day Challenge, and facilitate better partnerships, including strong partnerships with the employment system to help focus the community’s work on employment opportunities for youth who are exiting homelessness.

**NEW HOUSING INNOVATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS**

Hennepin County undertook an innovative process to streamline and integrate housing and employment services to increase youth access to both resources, including piloting co-location of employment specialists at housing provider locations. During the 100-Day Challenge, the City of Minneapolis prioritized employment vacancies for youth experiencing homelessness.

**COORDINATED ENTRY**

The Hennepin 100-Day Challenge team began building methods for capturing system-wide data and use of by-name lists. Hennepin County harnessed the momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to begin case conferencing for youth and to incorporate diversion, prevention, and employment into coordinated entry through a “step 1” tool. Hennepin has converted its 100-Day Challenge team to a case conferencing team, allowing employment and housing staff to continue to work together. To support these changes within the coordinated entry system, Hennepin created a data tracking tool to record the number of youth who exit homelessness into safe and stable housing, and the number of those youth who were employed, across all the youth-serving agencies in the community.

## **AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

The Hennepin County 100-Day Challenge team hosted meetings at a local community college where youth team members were taking classes to increase ease of attendance. The team utilized text messaging for communication with youth team members. The community created a Youth Action Board, including youth from various organizations that will support county-level decisions and various other programs and services.

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## **MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM**

To preserve the gains made during the 100 days and maintain momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness, the Hennepin team plans to focus on the following priorities:

1. Case Conferencing.
2. Community involvement with housing and employment.
3. Continued integration of housing and employment.
4. Expanded use and functionality of the Youth Services Network (YSN) App.
5. Continued data tracking.

Additionally, the following recommended priorities were established for system leaders:

1. Expand the definition of homelessness and revise Coordinated Entry to fit that definition, thus allowing the system to begin assessing couch-hopping youth in addition to youth who are literally homeless.
2. Redefine the family definition for access to family shelter within the CoC.
3. Strengthen youth involvement at all levels of decision-making.