

HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

Horry County, South Carolina launched its 100-Day Challenge on youth homelessness with a goal of aligning multiple initiatives across youth-serving systems to practice a client-centered approach of solving housing instability among youth. Horry County embarked on its 100-Day Challenge acknowledging that the community has limited resources to address youth homelessness and barriers to accessing existing resources, but they were ready to start where they were, use what they have, and aim to solve what others may believe is unimaginable in preventing and ending youth homelessness. System leaders were ready to take on the Challenge to demonstrate that the community is not okay with the status quo, that local stakeholders are interested in addressing youth homelessness, and that ending youth homelessness is possible in Horry County.

Horry County's 100-Day Challenge also aligned with recent local efforts to bring together system leaders and community members to work on solutions for youth experiencing homelessness. Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, the Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO) completed a training program on human-centered design (HCD) for child and family services, the lessons of which were applied at the CoC level. One outcome of this training was the launching of a youth advisory committee for the Myrtle Beach, Sumter City & County CoC, including youth with lived experience. ECHO also participated in the national U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) 2017 Convening on Ending Rural Homelessness which has helped spur regional action around increasing access points in rural areas through partnerships with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Horry County has been learning to increase community engagement around youth homelessness through awareness, education, and action, all of which have been strengthened through the 100-Day Challenge.

100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

In addition to increasing housing placements, Horry County identified the following priority areas to address during their 100-Day Challenge:

- Preventing youth exiting systems (e.g. foster care) from becoming homeless; and
- Fast-tracking housing and support services for youth experiencing homelessness with substance abuse and/or mental health challenges.

100-Day Goal

In 100 days, we will stably and sustainably house 50 youth and young adults under age 25 (unaccompanied or head of households) in 30 days or less and provide them behavioral health services in 45 days or less. We will also prevent homelessness for 50 young people at risk (RHY definition) by creating housing access plans and, if needed, providing behavioral health services in 45 days.

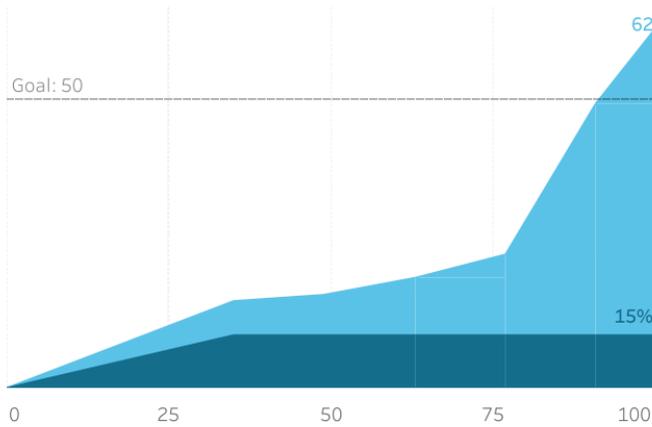
PROGRESS, SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

100-DAY CHALLENGE | HORRY COUNTY, SC | DAY 100 | AUG 10 2019

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YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SAFELY & STABLY HOUSED

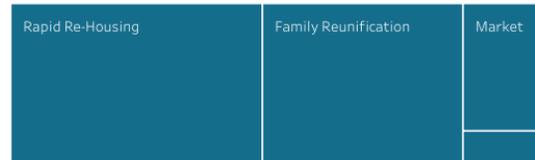
62 youth and young adults have been safely and stably housed as of Day 100. 15% have been housed within 30 days.



As of Day 100, 0% of housed youth and young adults have been connected to behavioral health services. Of those, None have been connected in less than 45 days.

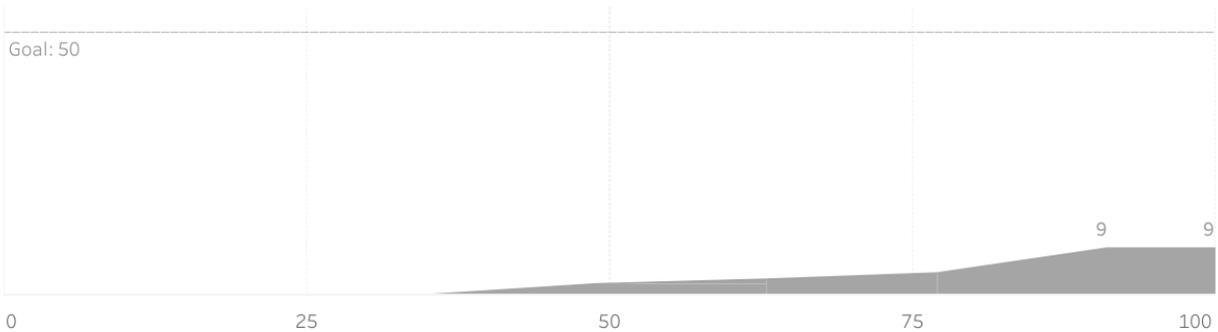


Of the youth and young adults who exited homelessness 100% went to non-time-limited destinations.



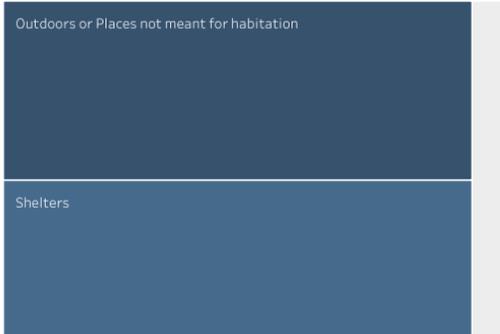
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS PREVENTED FROM HOMELESSNESS

9 youth and young adults have been prevented from entering homelessness with the creation of a housing access plan, as of Day 100.

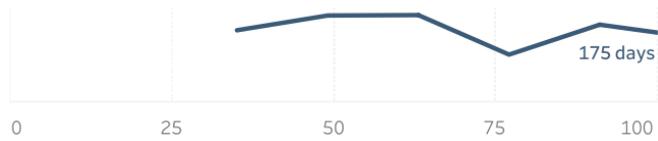


YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

50% of youth and young adults report most frequently sleeping outdoors or places not meant for habitation.



As of Day 100, youth and young adults have been on the BNL for an average of 175 days.

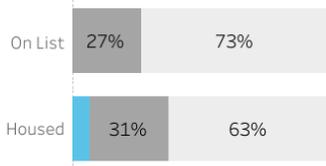


As of Day 100, 20% of youth and young adults have been on the BNL for over 90 days.

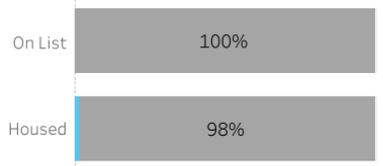


FOCUS ON POPULATION PROPORTIONALITY

Of youth and young adults on the by-name lists, 0% are LGBQ+, but 6% of those housed are LGBQ+ youth and young adults.



Of youth and young adults on the by-name lists, 0% are gender-diverse, but 2% of those housed are gender-diverse youth and young adults.



Of youth and young adults on the by-name lists, 60% are people of color, but 52% of those housed are people of color.



GOAL	RESULTS
<p>In Horry County, in 100 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 YYA will be stably and sustainably housed in 30 days or less and provided with behavioral health services in 45 days or less. • Homelessness will be prevented for 50 at risk youth by creating housing access plans and, if needed, providing behavioral health services in 45 days. 	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 YYA were safely and sustainably housed. 15% of YYA were housed within 30 days. • 100% of youth who exited homelessness went to non-time-limited destinations. • 9 YYA were prevented from entering homelessness through the creation of a housing action plan.

SUCCESES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION**INCREASED PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION AROUND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

Key to the success of the Horry County 100-Day Challenge was increasing community awareness of youth homelessness and bringing new partners to the table to improve housing and services for youth. The 100-Day Challenge Team brought together representatives from youth-serving providers, housing providers, school districts, mental health agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Solicitor's Office, and a local Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grantee to work together and evaluate the current system of care serving Horry County's youth. Partner agencies and organizations shared personnel and information throughout the 100-Day Challenge with the goal of creating a better system for youth, including identifying existing strengths and linkages between programs as well as existing gaps and areas of improvement for serving unstably housed youth. The collaborative efforts of the 100-Day Challenge allowed Horry County to identify and address an existing bottleneck in the youth homelessness system of care, allowing the community to more quickly and efficiently connect youth to available housing and services and decrease their time on the by-name list.

OUTREACH & IDENTIFICATION OF YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

One area of focus identified at the start of Horry County's 100-Day Challenge was improving identification of youth experiencing homelessness and engaging them in housing and services. The Horry County 100-Day Challenge Team leveraged new partnerships and strengthened existing ones with youth-serving providers to ensure that they are all trained to identify and refer youth to appropriate housing and services, creating a more coordinated local identification and engagement processes. Since the 100-Day Challenge, an increased number of community partners have begun identifying youth experiencing homelessness and providing referrals across agencies based on youths' housing and service needs. In addition, Horry County plans to work with cross-system partners to develop new Coordinated Entry access points for youth to increase local capacity to quickly identify, engage and assess youth.

During the 100-Day Challenge, Horry County also mobilized an innovative new way of identifying and engaging with youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness through the development of a Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Access Card and Housing Access Plan (HAP). Horry County developed the HAP as a postcard with the local crisis hotline phone number, as well as a text option that connects youth to a brief HAP survey that helps ascertain the youth's situation and needs by evaluating their current level of safety and vulnerability. Once the youth completes the survey, a Housing Access Planner reaches out to the youth and together they attempt to identify alternative resources and supports to end the youth's homelessness and, when such supports are unavailable, determine appropriate housing and service interventions to meet the youth's needs. The YYA Access Card and HAP were designed to provide direct, easy access to assistance for youth in crisis or needing housing services, but have also provided Horry County with a new method for identifying and engaging youth who are not yet connected with the homeless response system. Horry County engaged 10 youth in housing and services through the YYA Access Cards and HAP during the 100-Day Challenge and is working to provide more postcards to youth-

serving agencies such as schools and mental health agencies to increase local capacity to identify and engage youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

COORDINATED ENTRY FOR YOUTH

During the 100-Day Challenge, Horry County brought community partners and stakeholders together to evaluate the existing Coordinated Entry System for youth. The Horry County 100-Day Challenge Team recognized that youth were not being highly prioritized within the Coordinated Entry System, and as a result were remaining on the by-name list for extended periods of time. As a result, Horry County improved equity in the prioritization of youth within Coordinated Entry for the duration of the 100-Day Challenge by ensuring that youth were able to access all resources for which they are eligible. Since the 100-Day Challenge has ended, Horry County has continued to improve prioritization for youth by creating a “zipper” prioritization approach, wherein high-vulnerability youth and members of other high-vulnerability subpopulations receive alternating referrals to housing resources. This new method for prioritization has allowed Horry County to better manage the By-Name List for all vulnerable populations of persons experiencing homelessness, including youth, Veterans, and those experiencing chronic homelessness.

Horry County also leveraged the momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to improve management of the youth by-name list. Local homeless service provider staff and interns were recruited to contact all youth on By-Name List and update their information regarding their current housing status. As a result, Horry County was able to update the By-Name List of those who have self-resolved their housing crisis and more quickly prioritize those currently in need of housing and services for appropriate interventions through the Coordinated Entry process. As a result of these efforts, the number of youth on the By-Name List decreased from 74 active youth at the beginning of the 100-Day Challenge to 30 active youth at the end of the Challenge. The average number of days on the By-Name List for youth decrease from 218 to 175 days over the same period of time.

HOUSING PLACEMENTS

Horry County connected 62 youth to safe and stable housing during the 100-Day Challenge, all of whom exited homelessness to non-time-limited housing destinations. The Horry County 100-Day Challenge Team was able to increase housing placements for youth by forging new partnerships, strengthening the capacity of local service providers to house youth, and increasing prioritization of youth for existing resources such as rapid re-housing. Horry County also increased utilization of family reunification as a housing destination for youth in cases where reunification was a safe, stable and appropriate option. Improvements to different components of the homeless response system for youth, as well as a focused community effort on prioritizing an end to youth homelessness, helped Horry County improve housing placements and significantly decrease the number of youth experiencing homelessness locally. Since the 100-Day Challenge, Horry County has been working to connect the small number of youth still active on the By-Name List to housing and services while increasing their focus on youth homelessness prevention as well.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM

To preserve the gains made during the 100 days and maintain momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness, Horry County plans to carry out the following activities:

TEAM'S ACTION PLANS FOR ONGOING WORK

1. House all youth experiencing literal homelessness on the Coordinated Entry By-Name List; and
2. Support identification of youth at risk of and experiencing homelessness through improved communication with McKinney-Vento liaisons.