

LAS VEGAS/SOUTHERN NEVADA

BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

Southern Nevada's 100-Day Challenge provided the community with an opportunity to build upon and leverage its ongoing systems change work to prevent and end youth homelessness. Southern Nevada service providers have worked collaboratively over the last few years to develop a strong infrastructure for the homeless system of care. This included developing youth-specific coordinated entry, youth-specific outreach and housing assessment tools, youth-centered housing programs, and strengthening a Youth Action Board. The 100-Day Challenge also provided the opportunity for the community to implement several action items from the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness – the first plan ever to end youth homelessness in the region which was released just weeks before the Challenge began.

Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, Southern Nevada had recently applied for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), which enhanced the community's understanding of the issues and challenges associated with youth homelessness. This process also raised awareness locally of Southern Nevada's standing as one of the communities with the highest total number of unaccompanied unsheltered youth in the nation. Recognizing the local need to address youth homelessness, Southern Nevada developed an annual Summit to End Youth Homelessness, the first of which provided an opportunity for stakeholders to use data to understand the needs, experiences, and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness locally and to identify gaps in the community for providing housing and supportive services to youth. At the Summit, the community used this data to begin developing a strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Additionally, the Southern Nevada community has completed other 100-Day Challenges for specific populations such as Veterans and has participated in national technical assistance and training opportunities as a way to deepen its understanding of issues around homelessness and incorporate valuable information into crafting solutions. Youth providers in Southern Nevada have been active participants in conversations at the national level about preventing and ending youth homelessness, including in a national youth learning collaboration around coordinated entry, and engaging as active members of Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) and the National Network for Youth.

100-Day Goal

In 100 days, we will prevent 50 system involved youth from exiting into homelessness and house 100 youth experiencing homelessness under age 25. Twenty percent of those 100 youth will be housed with new and/or innovative housing solutions.

100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

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

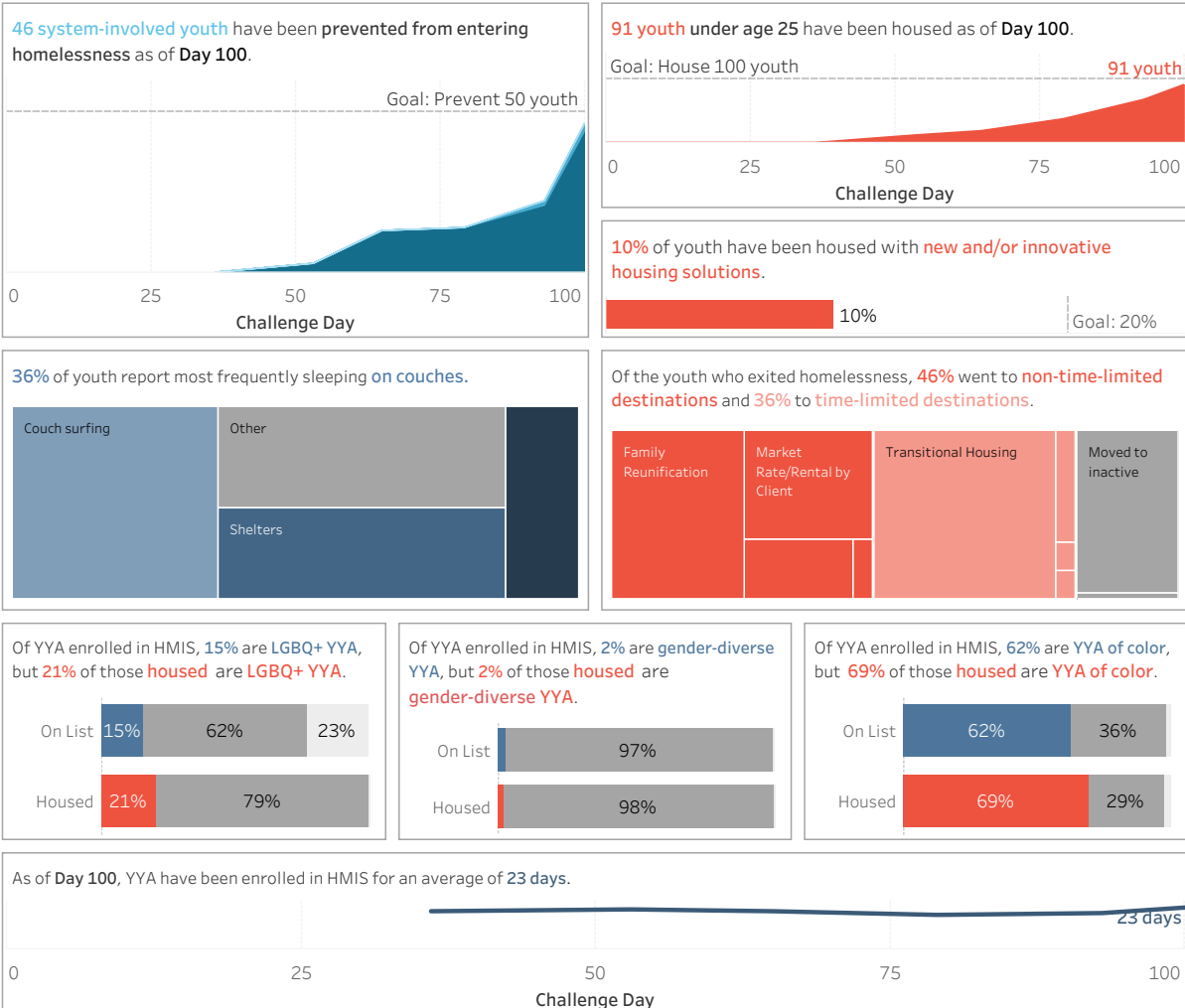
- Ensuring that youth and young adults that are involved with public systems - such as child welfare, juvenile justice, and youth parole - exit to a safe place to live and are prevented from experiencing homelessness. This includes leveraging existing and new resources to ensure housing stability among these populations.
- Exploring new ways of housing youth and young adults to more efficiently utilize existing housing resources and take advantage of untapped resources.

PROGRESS, SUCCESSES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

<i>GOAL</i>	<i>RESULTS</i>
<p>In Southern Nevada, in 100 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 youth will be safe and stably housed, with 20% of those youth being housed with new and/or innovative housing solutions. • 50 system-involved youth will be prevented from entering homelessness 	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 youth were safe and stably housed. • 46 system-involved have been prevented from entering homelessness. • 10% of youth have been housed with new and/or innovative housing solutions.

100-Day Challenge | Southern NV/Las Vegas | Day 100 | Mar 6 2019

In 100 days we will prevent 50 system-involved youth from entering homelessness and house 100 youth experiencing homelessness under age 25. 20% of those 100 youth will be housed with new and/or innovative housing solutions.



SUCCESES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION THROUGH CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

Southern Nevada established an ambitious cross-system goal of ensuring that youth and young adults who are involved with public systems are prevented from experiencing homelessness. In order to achieve this goal, the 100-Day Challenge Team worked to seek out new partners from youth-serving systems and engage those who have been present but not fully involved in the youth homelessness response system, including representatives from the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system.

Representatives from the Department of Family Services (DFS), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJS), and the Nevada Youth Parole Bureau served as 100-Day Challenge Team members and became strong partners in Southern Nevada's youth homelessness prevention efforts. The new cross-system collaboration between youth-serving systems and agencies helped the Team improve identification of systems-involved youth who are most vulnerable to exiting into homelessness and hold frequent meetings to case conference the specific needs of youth at-risk of homelessness. In particular, the juvenile justice and child welfare systems were able to identify a significant crossover in population served. Through the 100-Day Challenge, these systems work together to leverage existing resources and broaden homelessness prevention efforts to serve youth with dual system involvement.

INCREASED ACCESS TO HOUSING OPTIONS

The Southern Nevada 100-Day Challenge Team worked to share their knowledge of existing housing resources and increase access to housing options across the community. Southern Nevada's youth housing and homeless service providers realized through their work together during the 100-Day Challenge that they were accessing different housing resources and working with different landlords. By sharing information on resources and housing options available for youth experiencing homelessness, the community's housing and homeless service providers could better serve this population.

The 100-Day Challenge Team created an online tracking tool for housing options available to youth experiencing homelessness, including landlords willing to work with this population. This shared housing resource database can be used by all participating agencies to identify and connect youth to available and appropriate housing options. The Team organized the list of resources according to geographic area and provided information regarding affordability, unit composition, housing requirements, and current availability to improve matching of resources to individualized youth needs. The Team sorted all housing sites into tiers based on ease of entry for youth in all of the factors outlined above, so that team members could easily navigate to the best possible housing option for a client based on their needs and circumstances. In addition, the Team worked to increase affordable housing options by developing new landlord partnerships in each geographic area of Southern Nevada.

AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Southern Nevada utilized the 100-Day Challenge to infuse stronger youth voice into the community's efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. Youth with lived experience, including representatives of the Southern Nevada youth action board, Young Adults in Charge, were active in providing real-time feedback on the community's progress and activities throughout the 100-Day Challenge. Additionally, Team members changed the way they make decisions during the 100-Day Challenge and within their own organizations to begin with diverse and robust youth input.

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY PLAN TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The Southern Nevada 100-Day Challenge Team aligned their work with the development and implementation of the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge helped the community make measurable progress toward addressing specific objectives and strategies

in the Plan, including strengthening local prevention and diversion strategies. The 100-Day Challenge also highlighted the need to address youth equitably, increase youth participation and authentic engagement, and communicate across systems to address youth homelessness. These objectives have also been outlined in the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness, which will provide an ongoing blueprint for continuing the community's work to prevent and end youth homelessness.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM

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

TEAM'S ACTION PLANS FOR ONGOING WORK

1. Strengthen youth collaboration.
2. Implement a resource sharing system.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYSTEM LEADERS

1. Secure diversified and flexible funding.
2. Standardize case management training, case plan, and standards.