

LOUISVILLE, KY

BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

Between 2008 and 2013, the number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in Louisville's homeless system progressively increased, reaching a peak of 562. The Louisville community responded by creating a formal plan to end homelessness among youth and young adults. The plan brought together representatives of diverse systems to work toward providing stable housing, education, employment, and social/emotional well-being for Louisville's unaccompanied youth.

Through the 100-Day Challenge, Louisville leveraged existing momentum to deepen collaborative cross-system efforts, break down silos, engage youth, and move forward with developing tangible solutions to prevent and end youth homelessness in the community.

100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

Louisville established several key population groups of focus for which outreach, identification, housing placements, and services could be prioritized during the 100-Day Challenge:

1. **African American and other minority homeless youth:** Rates of homelessness among African American and other ethnic and racial minority youth in Louisville exceeds 60%, while only 30% of the general population are people of color.
2. **Youth in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty:** A Greater Louisville Project study showed the majority of poverty in Louisville is concentrated in five neighborhoods, which the community has prioritized for housing, employment, and transportation services.
3. **LGBTQ and pregnant/parenting youth populations:** LGBTQ and pregnant/parenting youth each make up approximately one-third of the population of youth experiencing homelessness in Louisville.

100-Day Goals

Louisville will safely and stably house 100 youth and young adults ages 16-24 and create 3-5 additional types of housing opportunities by testing alternative models with a focus on education, prevention, and ongoing support.

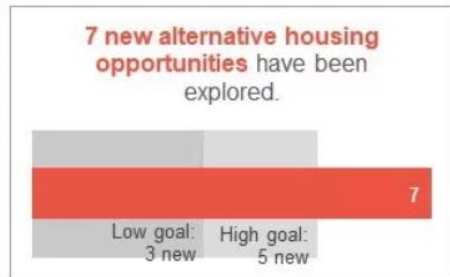
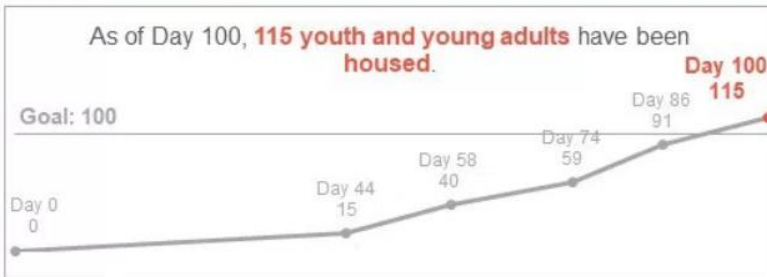
PROGRESS, SUCCESSES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL	RESULTS
<p>In the next 100 days, Louisville will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely and stably house 100 youth and young adults ages 16-24. Create 3-5 additional types of housing opportunities by testing alternative models with a focus on education, prevention, and ongoing support. 	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 115 youth and young adults were safely and stably housed. 7 new alternative housing opportunities were tested and explored.

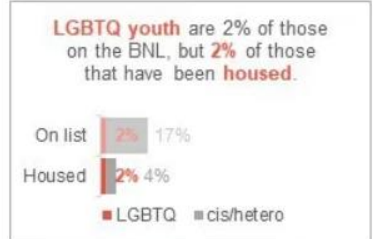
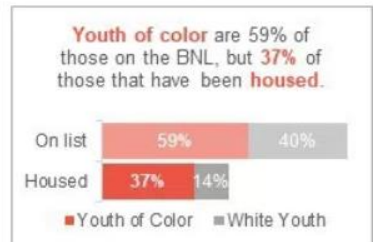
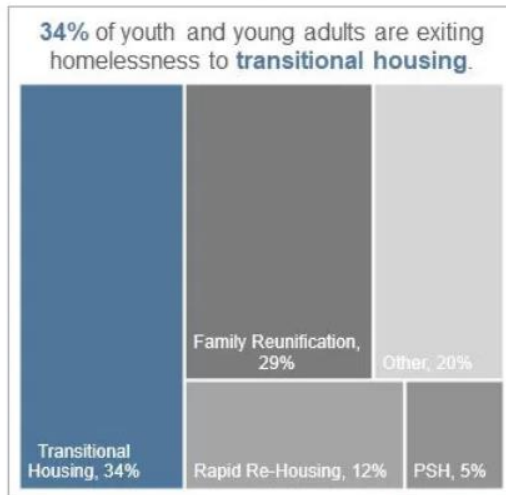
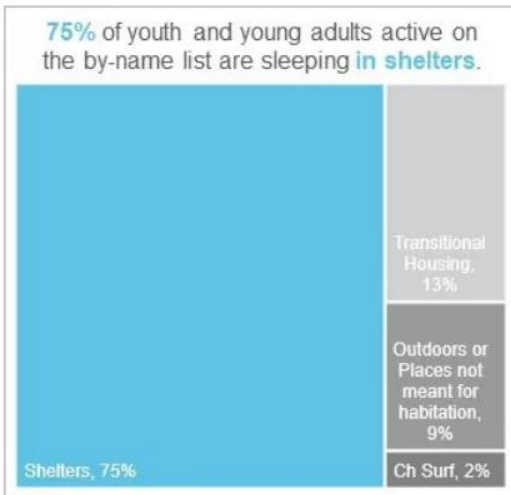
100-Day Challenge: LOUISVILLE, KY

Day 100 | Nov 8

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33 youth were identified as homeless **by the local school district.**



SUCSESSES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

Through the 100-Day Challenge, Louisville built a stronger, more cohesive network of partners and agencies from diverse systems to support youth experiencing homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge facilitated a strong new cross-system partnership with the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD). The Louisville 100-Day Challenge team developed relationships and procedures for collaborating with LMPD, building trust between the homeless response system and local law enforcement and incorporating police officers into local outreach efforts for youth. As a result of these relationship-building efforts, “coffee with a cop”— an existing event providing an opportunity for police and community providers to share information and resources – developed a focus on youth and became part of Louisville’s efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Louisville provided HMIS access to new cross-system partners such as Jefferson County Public Schools and LMPD to more effectively track youth experiencing homelessness and therefore more quickly find and help them. Additionally, a partnership with the Jamon Brown Foundation helped to raise funds and garner publicity for the cause.

NEW HOUSING INNOVATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

Louisville identified and explored a number of new resources to house youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness, including: Olmstead vouchers, Job Corps, CSBG and Neighborhood Place Rapid Re-Housing, Freedom House, Youth Build, Kristy Love Foundation, and Pink Door Properties. The team formed new partnerships with Family Scholar House, public housing providers, and landlords who can create additional housing opportunities for youth in the future. Louisville also leveraged the opportunity of the 100-Day Challenge to raise flexible funding (including for deposits, furniture, and moving expenses) to address barriers that often prevent young adults from getting housed quickly.

COORDINATED ENTRY

Louisville created a single by-name list and began using data in new ways for bi-weekly case conferencing. Additionally, Louisville adopted the TAY VI-SPDAT as part of its common assessment process, developed a transition plan to utilize the TAY VI-SPDAT for all youth, and created a single point of contact for newly homeless young adults accessing services through the YMCA hotline.

AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Louisville learned and adopted new strategies for authentically engaging youth through the 100-Day Challenge, consulting young adults during every stage of the process to create solutions that better meet their needs. Louisville’s Youth Advisory Council – comprised solely of persons 24 years or younger and led by 8 representatives who were self-nominated or identified by service agencies – served as leaders in the 100-Day Challenge efforts. The Council created a resource guide for

homeless youth, advised on a new resource phone app, attended national conferences to represent Louisville efforts, raised funds for a Host Home Program, created a local resource map for youth, and hosted an ice cream social at a local library to connect youth to housing and supportive services. Youth advocates solicited items for youth experiencing homelessness and created the first booth for youth at Louisville's Stand Down event.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM

To preserve gains made during the 100 days and maintain momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness, the Louisville 100-Day Challenge team established the following priorities moving forward:

1. Building a flex fund to help homeless youth, driven by the CoC.
2. Securing justice system involvement in the ongoing work to support and house youth.
3. Developing a plan to secure emergency shelter for youth in response to the removal of YMCA shelter funds.
4. Creating a Host Home program.