

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL

BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

In July 2018, Miami-Dade effectively ended veteran homelessness as affirmed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (UD), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The designation followed unprecedented collaboration among partners and providers and scaling up of housing resources. Miami-Dade launched their 100-Day Challenge on youth homelessness with a desire to build on the community's excitement and this momentum, leveraging existing resources and leadership to accelerate progress towards ending youth homelessness.

Prior to the launch of the 100-Day Challenge on youth homelessness, Miami-Dade County had made tremendous strides towards creating a system tailored to serving unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, including:

- Finalization of the *Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth (HOMY) Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness*;
- Development of a Coordinated Entry policy which incorporates five Youth Access Points;
- Implementation of monthly By-Name List meetings with a broad range of CoC and non-CoC funded organizations serving youth;
- Creation of a systems map to better understand the movement of youth through the homeless system of care;
- Creation of a Youth Homelessness Working Group informed by the HOMY Collective, a collaboration of 80 organizations and youth leaders working to prevent and end youth homelessness, including youth with lived experience;
- Commitment of dedicated funding by the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust in the amount of \$326,200 to create dedicated resources for unaccompanied youth/parenting youth (18-24);
- Funding commitments totaling \$250,000 to support strategic planning efforts and expand capacity to serve homeless unaccompanied youth;
- Refinement and continuation of the iCount, a census and survey designed to capture data on unaccompanied minors;
- Participation in the A Way Home America Community Dashboard to publicly track Miami-Dade County's data and progress toward ending youth homelessness;
- Improved coordination of referrals to extremely low income (ELI) Special Needs Set-Aside Units through Florida Housing Finance Corporation and in partnership with Our Kids;
- Creation of a Youth Resource Guide; and
- Partnership with all four local Public Housing Authorities, including the Homestead and Hialeah Housing Authorities which submitted Family Unification Partnership (FUP) applications in partnership with the CoC and Public Child Welfare Agency.

100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

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

- Strengthen and expand the youth homelessness system of care (including Coordinated Entry) to connect young people to housing and resources beyond those funded by HUD or the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust. This included a particular focus on connecting youth to employment and health care (primary and behavioral) resources.

100-Day Goal

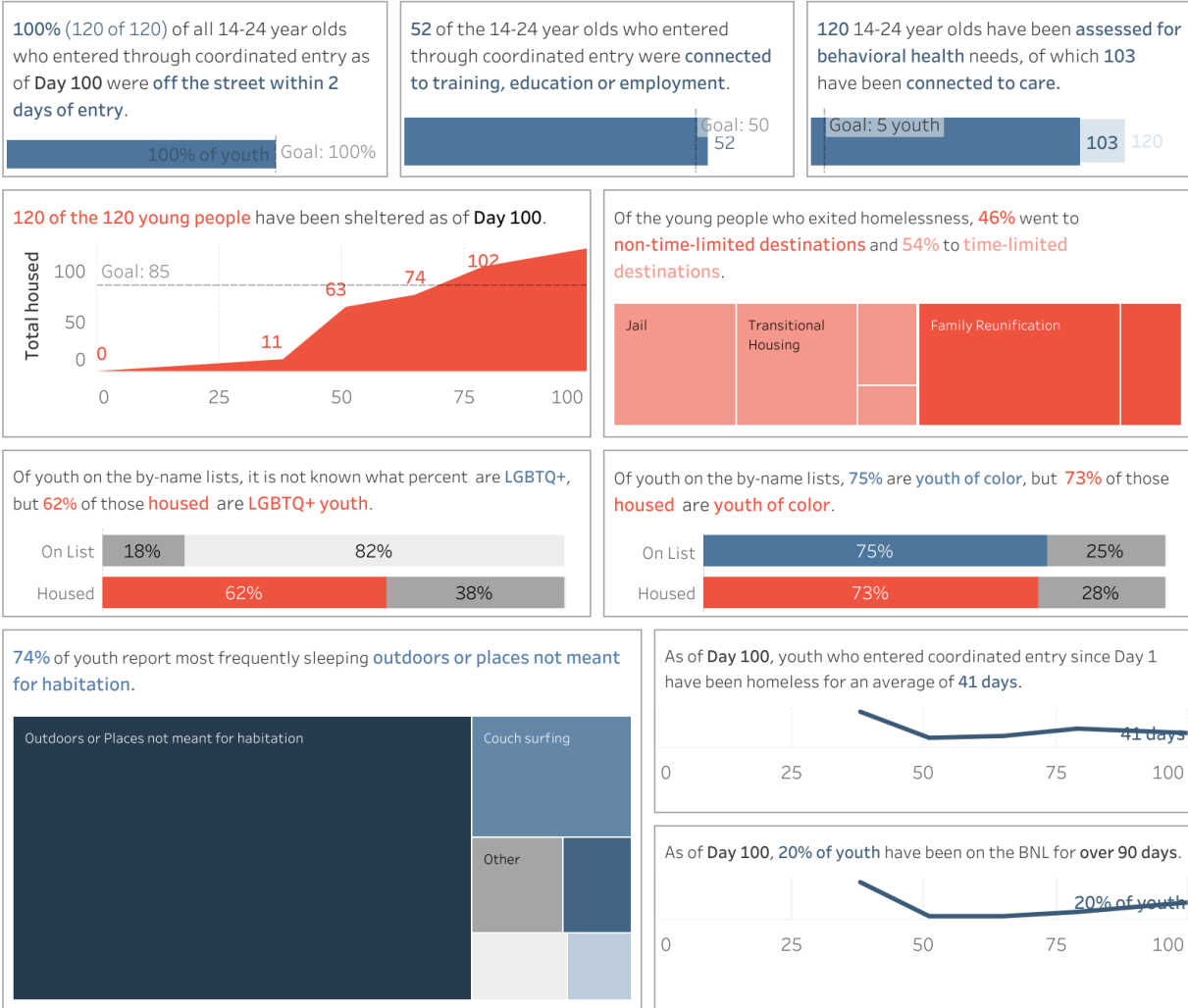
By Day 100, every 14-24 year old who enters through Coordinated Entry will be off the street within 2 days of entry and 85 youth will exit to safe, stable housing. Of the 14-24 year old youth entering through Coordinated Entry, 50 will be connected to training, education, or employment (subsidized or unsubsidized).

PROGRESS, SUCCESSES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

<i>GOAL</i>	<i>RESULTS</i>
<p>In Miami-Dade County, in 100 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every 14-24 year old who enters through Coordinated Entry will be off the street within 2 days, and 85 young people will have been safely sheltered. • 50 YYA entering through CE will be connected to training, education, or employment. • 5 YYA will be connected to behavioral health services. 	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of all young people (120 youth) who entered through CE were off the street within 2 days. • 120 YYA were safely sheltered or housed, 28 of whom exited to safe and stable housing. • 52 YYA who entered through CE were connected to training, education, or employment. • 120 YYA were assessed for behavioral health needs, of whom 103 were connected to behavioral health services.

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SUCCESSES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The authentic inclusion and engagement of youth with lived experience during Miami-Dade County’s 100-Day Challenge helped foster successful outcomes for the community. Four youth with lived experience were actively engaged in the Miami-Dade County 100-Day Challenge team, helping to develop and implement the community’s 100-Day Challenge goals and taking on leadership positions within the initiative. Youth team members were empowered to contribute to conversations about system changes and to leverage their expertise and experience to engage with other youth experiencing

homelessness and help them make connections to shelter. Additionally, some youth 100-Day Challenge team members were involved in the 2019 Point-in-Time Count as Youth Ambassadors.

COORDINATED ENTRY

The Miami-Dade County 100-Day Challenge Team utilized their Coordinated Entry System (CES) as a driving force to bring youth experiencing homelessness into sheltered situations and provide them with connections to education, employment, and behavioral health resources. Miami-Dade County developed a system to operate separate youth access points within their CES that was implemented during the 100-Day Challenge. Miami-Dade County was able to identify three new youth access points among youth-serving providers outside the Continuum of Care (CoC), including nontraditional partners such as an LGBTQ center and an educational supports provider, that became operational during the 100-Day Challenge. There are CES assessors working at all youth access point agencies that have access to shelter staff and can help ensure that youth are provided access to shelter the same day they are assessed. All of the youth access points, including those operated by nontraditional partners outside of the CoC, have joined HMIS.

CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

The 100-Day Challenge helped establish open lines of communications between the larger systems of care serving youth in Miami-Dade County. The CoC and 100-Day Challenge sponsors brought in leaders from the homeless, housing, education, and employment systems and secured their buy-in to address youth homelessness together.

Education and employment partners were actively engaged in the 100-Day Challenge from the launch of the initiative and helped establish connections with education and employment resources through the local Coordinated Entry System. As a result of the 100-Day Challenge, Educate Tomorrow established a new Youth Access Point for Coordinated Entry, and a new partnership with CareerSource South Florida led to the creation of an employment pipeline for youth on the by-name list. Additionally, team members from non-CoC youth providers brought new energy and different perspectives to address gaps and improve the community's cross-system response to youth homelessness.

ACCESS TO SHELTER

One of Miami-Dade County's goals for the 100-Day Challenge was to help move youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness into safe, sheltered situations. The 100-Day Challenge mobilized cross-system partners and utilized HMIS to ensure that when youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness make contact with the homeless system of care, that they are connected to and are able to access shelter within two days. Due to the 100-Day Challenge and the efforts of Miami-Dade County's team members, most youth were able to access shelter within the same day of being assessed.

DATA AND HMIS UTILIZATION

The Miami-Dade 100-Day Challenge Team found that utilizing HMIS provides invaluable insight into the experiences of youth in the homeless response system. Miami-Dade County is committed to

operationalizing data collection and use to better serve youth experiencing homelessness, including identifying ways to track diversion and using data to reflect and act upon inequities and disparities for serving gender diverse youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth of color.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM

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

TEAM'S ACTION PLANS FOR ONGOING WORK

1. Expand and diversify youth involvement at every level of programs and the CoC.
2. Expand the use of the Educate Tomorrow App to identify youth needs and quickly connect them to resources.
3. Leverage social media as a tool to connect youth to programs.
4. Operationalize data collection and use.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYSTEM LEADERS

1. Secure funding for youth positions.
2. Build out Miami-Dade's network of engaged system leaders.
3. Develop and implement universal and comprehensive youth homelessness trainings.
4. Mandate sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE) and Racial Equity trainings.
5. Create youth-centric housing options.