



MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN 100 DAYS

HUD Cohort 5: 100-Day Challenges on Youth Homelessness Summary Report



100-Day Challenges on Youth Homelessness

In February 2020, the 5th U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Cohort to accept a 100-Day Challenge to prevent and end youth homelessness had their Launch Workshop in Charleston, South Carolina. The five Southeast communities to participate in the Challenge included:

- Central Alabama
- Charleston, SC
- Jacksonville, FL
- Monroe County, FL
- North Central, WV

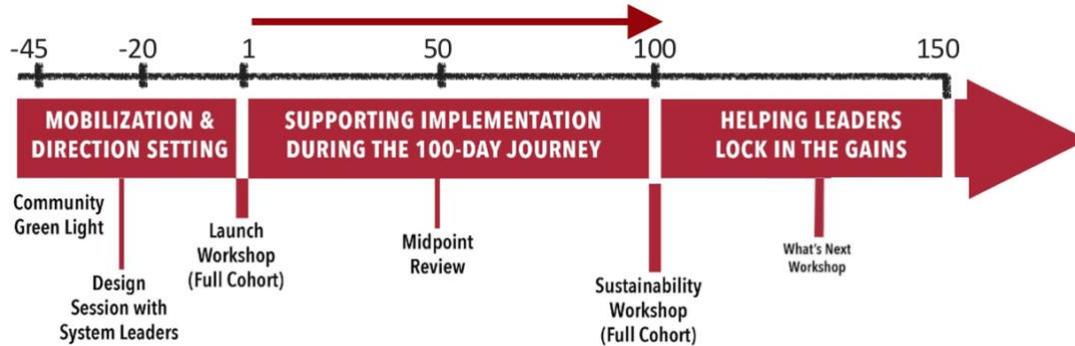


The purpose of the 100-Day Challenge is to catalyze community action to establish bold and creative ways to build and strengthen a system response to bring about a desired result. The short timeline is intentional, inviting a cross-sector of partners from the community to generate urgency and action. The process provides an opportunity to understand and learn about current local efforts and collaborations and set an ambitious 100-Day Goal that unleashes intense collaboration, innovation, and execution.

The 100-Day initiative also creates a dedicated space and builds momentum for cross-system stakeholders to come together, make new connections, share information and best practices, and create a common vision for preventing and ending youth homelessness.

HUD Cohort 5 faced the unprecedented new challenge of completing their 100-Day Challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. After a brief pause in the Challenge, all five communities continued forward with their goals and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to helping the youth and young adults in their communities during this especially vulnerable time.

100-Day Challenge Journey



Emerging Practices From the 100-Day Challenge Cohorts

The 100-Day Challenges to prevent and end youth homelessness have produced incredible results and have highlighted a number of emerging practices that have been successful in communities of different sizes, geographies, and capacities across the country. The 35 communities that have completed 100 Day Challenges as of HUD Cohort 5 – which have resulted in a total of 3,633 youth and young adults housed – are depicted on the map below.



What follows are emerging best practices from the 35 communities that have accepted the 100-Day Challenge to prevent and end youth homelessness as of HUD Cohort 5.

Authentic Youth Partnership

- Ensuring youth perspective is incorporated and valued in the process of building a system for youth. “Nothing about us without us.”
- Compensating youth appropriately and fairly for their work, time, and expertise.

- Active listening and engaging in new ways to address adultism across systems.
- Supporting the development of a Youth Action Board (YAB)¹ with diverse representation from youth and young adults with lived experiences of homelessness from across the community.

Connecting and Engaging Systems

- Building processes to formally and permanently connect with foster care, juvenile justice, schools, and other youth-serving systems in order to create a systemic response for identifying and serving youth and young adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Coordinating various system supports, including supportive services, training and employment services, and mainstream benefits.
- Considering how to identify and support youth who are not connected to any systems.
- Leveraging existing working relationships and connections between systems for a focus on youth homelessness.

Exploration of New and Innovative Housing Options

- Exploring and expanding non-traditional forms of housing interventions, including family and friend reunification support, host homes, and shared housing options.
- Thinking creatively to utilize different and more varied resources to support and house youth, such as HOME funds, Olmstead housing, JobCorps, and the Family Unification Program (FUP).
- Strengthening efforts to recruit and build relationships with landlords to house youth and young adult tenants.

Data-Driven Decision Making

- Using data to make decisions on the team and communicating with system leaders.
- Building a by-name list of all youth experiencing homelessness.
- Using a standard assessment tool to help understand the needs of homeless youth and young adults and prioritize individuals for different resources.
- Creating a standardized way to track and report on all youth being served and housed in the community by all providers supporting homeless youth.
- Analyzing data to understand inequities and disparities within the homeless response system for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, including by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

¹ A Youth Action Board (YAB) is a decision-making body composed of youth and young adults who help shape and inform local youth homelessness policy and project decisions. YAB members should be representative of the youth and young adult population experiencing homelessness in the community, including being comprised primarily of people with lived experiences of homelessness. For YHDP community YAB requirements, please see the [YHDP NOFO](#).

Governance Mechanisms

- Testing methods of communicating insights and lessons learned, gaps identified, data snapshots, and specific needs within the community that will drive coordinated action.
- Creating a culture of experimentation, innovation, and collaboration with clear goals.

HUD Cohort 5 100-Day Challenge Communities

Central Alabama; Charleston, SC; Jacksonville, FL; Monroe County, FL; and North Central, WV were selected as 100-Day Challenge communities based on their demonstrated commitment to preventing and ending youth homelessness, their capacity for innovation, and their ability to build partnerships and collaboration around meeting the needs of youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness. The five 100-Day Challenge communities represent largely rural and suburban geographies from across the Southeast region of the United States, each with its own unique needs, challenges, strengths, and opportunities.



Completing 100-Day Challenges Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

Only a couple of weeks into their 100-Day Challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality for the HUD Cohort 5 communities. A decision was made to pause the Challenge so that each community could first address their immediate needs related to the growing pandemic, including staffing changes, shifts in local priorities, and changes in how youth and young adults were engaging with the homeless response system. During this time, the coaching and support team also worked quickly and efficiently to adapt the 100-Day choreography to a virtual setting.

About 6 weeks after the initial pause, HUD Cohort 5 came back together - this time, virtually - to hold a Reboot Launch Workshop. The five communities reassessed their goals that they had established during the Launch of the 100-Day Challenge, and restarted the Challenge for the remaining 75 days. The updated 100-Day Challenge goals, which were locally-driven and developed by the teams in response to the needs of youth in their communities during the COVID-19 crisis, are as follows:

- **Central Alabama:** In 100 days, 30 youth experiencing homelessness ages 19-24 will enter safe and stable housing and be offered supportive services, with 60% having touched the child welfare or justice systems.
- **Charleston, SC:** In 100 days, Charleston will house 50 YYAs age 18 to 25 in safe and stable housing. We will attempt to connect 100% to supportive services, and 35% will be pregnant or parenting.
- **Jacksonville, FL:** In 100 Days, we will house or prevent homelessness for 100 youth and young adults ages 16-24, 40% of whom will be LGBTQIA+ and/or survivors of human trafficking.
- **Monroe County, FL:** In 100 days, Monroe County will permanently house 5 homeless unaccompanied youth aged 16-24 with connections to supports (e.g., employment, life skills training, education, behavioral health, etc.), of which 40% will be people of color, LGBTQ+, and/or have a disabling condition and 20% will be previously involved with the Departments of Juvenile Justice or Children and Families.
- **North Central West Virginia:** In 100 days, we will safely and stably house 35 homeless and at risk YYA ages 18 to 24, of whom 75% are or have been involved with Child Welfare and/or Juvenile Justice and/or are affected by substance use.

The teams jumped quickly back into action, rebuilding on the initial momentum from the start of the Challenge. At the end of July 2020, their 75 days were complete - and the cohort met once more (virtually) for their Sustainability Workshop. Across the Challenge, a total of **168 youth and young adults** were connected to safe and stable housing across the five communities in 100 days.



“The one thing we are most proud of is being able to come together as a community for a greater cause. Everyone we invited to the table to assist us with this Challenge stepped up, and in that moment we had so many resources and individuals with different backgrounds that helped to shed so much light on the best way to reach our goal.”

- Central Alabama 100-Day Challenge Team

HUD Cohort 5: Successes in Collaboration and Innovation

Cross-Systems Partnerships

The five 100-Day Challenge communities recognized the importance of cross-system partnerships in effectively identifying, engaging, and responding to the needs of youth at risk of and experiencing homelessness. These partnerships helped communities build and sustain a collaborative system through the use of the community’s existing resources.

Spotlight on Central Alabama



The Central Alabama 100-Day Challenge Team worked to deepen Continuum of Care (CoC) relationships with cross-system partners, including the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and Birmingham Municipal Court, as a key step in developing a more coordinated community response to youth and young adult (YYA)

homelessness. A strengthened partnership between the CoC and Birmingham Municipal Court during the 100-Day Challenge allowed the community to brainstorm new, practical solutions for meeting the needs of YYA experiencing housing instability with histories of justice system involvement. A focus of this collaborative effort was the exploration and development of new processes to allow for case conferencing and information sharing between the justice and homeless response systems.

This partnership also encouraged outreach and engagement to additional system partners – particularly the Department of Human Resources (DHR), which manages the child welfare system in Central Alabama – to increase coordination around preventing and ending homelessness for systems-involved YYA. The CoC, Birmingham Municipal Court, and DHR have been working together beyond the 100-Day Challenge to coordinate housing stability efforts and establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) around transition planning, data sharing, and case conferencing for YYA at risk of or experiencing homelessness across systems.

Jacksonville, FL engaged 17 different agencies to participate in the 100-Day Challenge, many of which had not previously worked together on the issue of youth homelessness. Team members included representatives from the housing, homelessness, child welfare, and mental health systems, including staff from local non-profit organizations working with populations of focus such as YYA with involvement in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems and survivors of trafficking.

In **Charleston, SC**, new partner agencies engaged during the 100-Day Challenge included homeless providers, youth serving agencies, mental health providers, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and the local Department of Social Services. The 100-Day Challenge resulted in a particularly strong connection with a local mental health agency, which remained actively engaged throughout the Challenge and would like to continue its involvement as a member of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Youth Committee.

The **Monroe County, FL** 100-Day Challenge Team brought together cross-system agencies for the first time around a focused goal of preventing and ending YYA homelessness, successfully engaging new partners such as the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Children and Families in the process. The Team established weekly case conferencing meetings that involved case managers and team leads from local homeless shelters, Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) providers, mental health service agencies, juvenile justice, child and family services, and school systems.

North Central West Virginia brought together eight agencies, including representatives from the homeless, housing, health, justice, education, and child welfare sectors, to work together to prevent and end youth homelessness through the 100-Day Challenge. The 100-Day Challenge Team built new relationships with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, with efforts underway among system leaders to develop and implement data sharing agreements that will enable appropriate and efficient cross-system sharing of information pertinent to YYA housing needs.

Authentic Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Engagement

The 100-Day Challenge communities confronted the challenges and complexities of authentic YYA engagement during the COVID-19 crisis, with all five communities working to establish stronger YYA engagement models and authentic partnerships with young people beyond the 100-Day Challenge. The continued growth and development of authentic YYA partnerships is critical for success as communities move forward in their efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Spotlight on Jacksonville, FL



Jacksonville consistently and authentically engaged youth from the beginning of the 100-Day Challenge, resulting in the creation of new processes and structures that incorporate authentic youth voice throughout the homeless response system. The Jacksonville 100-Day Challenge Team successfully recruited four young adults with lived experience to serve on a Youth and Young Adult Action Committee (YAAC) that was developed during the Challenge and which operates as a formal committee of the Continuum of Care (CoC). YYA advocate positions on the YAAC are compensated at living-wage hourly rates and are responsible for helping to increase authentic youth collaboration throughout the community. Jacksonville has consistently and deliberately focused on cultural and racial diversity in recruitment for the YAAC,

recognizing that diverse and equitable representation is necessary to address the inequities that currently exist for YYA experiences of homelessness in accessing housing and supportive services.

North Central West Virginia supported the growth and development of the West Virginia Balance of State CoC YAB over the course of the 100-Day Challenge. The YAB nominated a YYA member to join the 100-Day Challenge Team who was engaged throughout the Challenge and played an active role in strengthening the Team's social media outreach strategies. North Central West Virginia's YYA team member also developed a video for YYA aging out of foster care or exiting the juvenile justice system outlining the steps they can take to seek services. As a sub-committee of the governing council of the CoC, the YAB will play an active role in spearheading the sustainability efforts of YYA homelessness efforts and elevating this work to the state level.

Monroe County, FL's 100-Day Challenge Team helped increase authentic youth engagement and supported the growth of the Keys Youth Action Network (KYAN), the local YAB. A member of KYAN was engaged in the 100-Day Challenge from the launch and helped advocate for the establishment of the End Youth Homelessness Committee and a YAB seat on the CoC Board. Since the 100-Day Challenge, KYAN has been active in recruiting new members and meeting weekly to establish goals and activities for the ongoing work of preventing and ending youth homelessness in Monroe County.

Central Alabama worked throughout the 100-Day Challenge to identify areas where the CoC can increase support for the local Youth Action Council (YAC). Among the needs identified were further resources to appropriately compensate YAC members for their time and expertise; professional development and advancement opportunities, including potential opportunities as peer outreach workers; a dedicated staff position to help with development and management of the YAC; and increased buy-in from organizations outside of the CoC to support YAC development and recruitment.

Charleston, SC leveraged the 100-Day Challenge to begin the process of developing a YAB. The Charleston 100-Day Challenge Team worked to adopt virtual approaches for YAB recruitment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and developed new strategies to engage YYA experiencing homelessness through increased homeless outreach efforts. Charleston has been working beyond the 100-Day Challenge to identify resources to support YAB compensation and to overcome technology barriers for ongoing YAB recruitment and engagement.

Youth-Specific Outreach, Engagement, and Identification Efforts

The HUD Cohort 5 communities responded to the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic by leveraging the momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to improve local processes for outreaching, identifying, and engaging with YYA experiencing homelessness. The five communities developed new and innovative ways to reach YYA populations, particularly young people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, in order to quickly connect them to safe and appropriate housing and supportive services.



Spotlight on North Central West Virginia

The North Central West Virginia 100-Day Challenge Team supported the launch of an innovative mobile mental health and substance use program for youth called Resilient Minds. Resilient Minds was developed by West Virginia University (WVU) Medicine and United Summit Center (USC) in collaboration with the 100-Day Challenge Team to serve as a youth mental health and substance use disorder street outreach program for young people ages 18-21 who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or aging out of the foster care system. The program provides 24-hour youth-focused crisis response services to young people in their environment, including behavioral health assessments, referrals to treatment, case management, counseling, and medication management through the use of telemedicine platforms. Homeless outreach workers are able to call and request an on-the-spot assessment for YYA experiencing homelessness with mental health or substance use needs who they identify during outreach and engagement efforts. Resilient Mind staff can assess YYA where they are and streamline their referral for mental health or substance use services as needed.

Charleston, SC began conducting weekly youth-focused outreach in front of a local drop-in center during the 100-Day Challenge. These outreach hours provided an opportunity for YYA experiencing homelessness to meet with a case manager in-person to discuss their needs while being able to maintain social distance and other COVID-19 safety protocols. The 100-Day Challenge Team shared information regarding the new outreach hours with community partners, through the housing crisis hotline, and through YYA-focused flyers. The Team also collaboratively developed a new assessment tool to be used during outreach when engaging with new YYA clients to determine the services offered by partner agencies for which they are eligible.

Jacksonville, FL increased outreach and engagement with YYA experiencing homelessness through the development of new youth-focused staff positions. Four new YYA Advocate positions filled by young people with lived experience were developed to increase authentic YYA collaboration, outreach, and engagement throughout the community. YYA advocates use a variety of strategies to conduct outreach to YYA experiencing homelessness and refer them to partner agencies to be assessed and connected to resources. Jacksonville's new Youth Coordinated Entry Intake Specialist is also able to conduct youth-specific outreach and engagement efforts to connect YYA experiencing homelessness to assistance through the Coordinated Entry System.

Central Alabama was able to improve identification of YYA experiencing homelessness through enhanced partnerships with their local municipal court and child welfare systems. Efforts to improve cross-systems data sharing with the municipal court, child welfare system, and other non-HMIS participating agencies such as the school system will allow Central Alabama to better identify, outreach and engage with YYA at risk of or experiencing homelessness who are not yet connected to the homeless response system.

The **Monroe County, FL** 100-Day Challenge Team successfully brought youth-serving agencies and homeless service providers together to improve coordination around identifying, engaging, and serving YYA experiencing homelessness. New and strengthened partnerships, including with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Children and Families, have helped Monroe County identify and engage more YYA experiencing homelessness in housing and supportive services.

Improved Data Collection, Sharing, and Coordinated Entry Processes

The Cohort 5 communities utilized the momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to improve data-driven processes for connecting YYAs experiencing homelessness to housing and resources. Across the five communities, this included developing new and improved data collection processes, increasing cross-system data sharing, and making local Coordinated Entry Systems more accessible for YYA experiencing homelessness. These changes have not only improved local identification and referral processes for YYA experiencing homelessness, but they have also helped ensure that a focus on addressing YYA homelessness is sustained at a systems-level beyond the 100-Day Challenge.



Spotlight on Monroe County, FL

Monroe County utilized the collaboration and momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to create and maintain a “dynamic” YYA by-name list that can be populated by agencies outside of HMIS. Information is collected and stored using a client identification number to ensure that no personally identifying information is captured on the by-name list. The by-name list uses universal data elements similar to those collected in HMIS, but allows for new partners that do not use HMIS to report their data on YYA experiencing homelessness within their systems. Additional information that can be collected and tracked in the by-name list includes disabling conditions and histories of involvement with the child welfare or juvenile justice system. The dynamic by-name list is updated in real time during weekly case conferencing meetings to discuss client housing and case management status. When a YYA client is housed, the by-name list allows for 30-, 60-, and 90-day follow-up notes to be captured by case managers, including information on each young person’s stability in their new housing situation and continued case management and supportive services being provided.

The **Charleston, SC** 100-Day Challenge Team was able to engage new partner agencies who did not currently participate in HMIS and increase data collection and sharing between these providers and the homeless response system. The development of a youth-specific by-name list and youth case conferencing process has helped Charleston improve service coordination across HMIS and non-HMIS participating agencies and increase YYA access to resources through the Coordinated Entry System. The 100-Day Challenge Team also made changes to data collection during the intake process to improve identification of pregnant and parenting YYA and to better assess the supportive service and income needs of all YYA clients.

Central Alabama developed a youth by-name list that will track data on YYA experiencing homelessness from all youth-serving agencies, helping to improve data collection from non-HMIS participating agencies. Data specialists on the 100-Day Challenge Team are in conversations with child welfare as well as Birmingham Municipal Court to create a data-sharing process that protects client privacy while also allowing the CoC to populate a more comprehensive youth by-name list. Once these data sharing agreements are in place, the by-name list will be accessible to DHR and the Municipal Court to facilitate cross-systems case conferencing for YYA involved in multiple systems of care. Additional non-HMIS participating agencies, such as Birmingham Schools, will be able to add and share information during monthly cross-system by-name list meetings.

Jacksonville, FL was able to increase the number of youth-serving partner agencies participating in HMIS and Coordinated Entry, with 5 additional agencies gaining access or working to gain access to HMIS over the course of the 100-Day Challenge. In order to improve collaboration with agencies that do not currently have access to HMIS, the Jacksonville 100-Day Challenge Team also tested an online collaboration tool for Coordinated Entry to identify, prioritize, and connect YYA to housing and resources for HMIS and non-HMIS participating agencies. Jacksonville's 100-Day Challenge weekly meetings evolved to incorporate regular by-name list meetings among partner agencies, including staff from shelters, Transitional Living Programs, Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) providers, and representatives of organizations that specialize in working with LGBTQIA+ YYA, survivors of human trafficking, and YYA involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Jacksonville also developed a new Youth Coordinated Entry Intake Specialist position, which is dedicated to improving connections between YYA experiencing homelessness and the Coordinated Entry System through the assessment and referral processes.

The **North Central West Virginia** 100-Day Challenge Team created a YYA-specific by-name list that has assisted in communication between agencies and coordination of housing and supportive services for YYA experiencing homelessness. The Team met regularly throughout the Challenge to review the by-name list (BNL) and explore ways to ensure that YYA on the BNL are given equal access to available housing resources with other populations of focus, such as Veterans and individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Housing providers, Coordinated Entry staff, and referral agencies in North Central West Virginia are continuing to meet bi-weekly to review the YYA-specific by-name list to determine who has been housed, who still needs housing, and who has lost contact in order to make appropriate referrals to housing and services and conduct additional outreach as needed.

Serving YYA Populations of Focus

The HUD Cohort 5 communities were able to use the 100-Day Challenge to increase their understanding and focus on serving YYA populations of focus, including YYA experiencing unsheltered homelessness, LGBTQIA+ YYA, and YYA with histories of systems involvement. The 100-Day Challenge also provided an opportunity for the five communities to learn more about the barriers and

disparities in accessing housing and services that exist for different YYA populations of focus and take a collaborative, community-driven approach to overcoming these disparities.



Spotlight on Charleston, SC

Charleston established a focus over the course of its 100-Day Challenge on providing housing and services to YYA experiencing unsheltered homelessness, particularly given this population's increased vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic. 100% of the YYA housed during the 100-Day Challenge came directly from unsheltered situations and were connected to housing and services through the community's expanded outreach and engagement efforts. The Charleston 100-Day Challenge Team worked to quickly connect YYA experiencing unsheltered homelessness to appropriate and safe housing interventions dependent upon their individualized needs. Charleston was also able to help YYA coming from unsheltered situations overcome barriers to housing, such as a lack of identification documentation, by strengthening relationships with landlords to accept YYA tenants. The Charleston 100-Day Challenge Team and partner agencies worked to ensure that YYA exiting unsheltered homelessness were provided with connections to supportive services based on their identified needs, including employment, mental health, and substance use treatment services.

Monroe County, FL's 100-Day Challenge helped the community learn more about the experiences and needs of YYA experiencing homelessness locally. As part of its 100-Day Challenge goal, the community established a focus on providing housing with connections to supports for people of color, LGBTQ+ YYA, young people who have a disabling condition, and YYA who were previously involved with the Departments of Juvenile Justice or Children and Families. The Challenge confirmed that a significant number of YYA experiencing homelessness have needs related to mental health, substance use, education, and justice involvement and that rates of homelessness are particularly high among LGBTQ+ YYA (40% of YYA engaged during the 100-Day Challenge identified as LGBTQ+). This information has encouraged youth-serving agencies and homeless service providers to evaluate their program models and increase their focus on robust wraparound supportive services, trauma-informed and culturally competent care, and comprehensive case management in order to respond to the distinct needs of YYAs experiencing homelessness in Monroe County.

Central Alabama utilized the 100-Day Challenge as an opportunity to begin collecting and analyzing data on race and gender among YYA experiencing homelessness for the first time. The Team was able to identify substantial racial and gender inequities in accessing housing resources within the community based on data collected during the 100-Day Challenge. Central Alabama found that less than 50% of YYA housed during the Challenge were Black, while Black YYA made up about 65% of the youth by-name list. Additionally, 40% of YYA housed during the Challenge were male, while males made up 65% of the youth by-name list. Central Alabama is committed to using this data to identify and address barriers that result in disparities in accessing housing and services for YYA populations.

North Central West Virginia established a focus for its 100-Day Challenge on providing housing for YYA who have been involved with the foster care or justice system, pregnant and parenting YYA and young people with identified mental health needs. New interventions such as the Resilient Minds behavioral health street outreach program and new partnerships with the health, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems helped the community to increase access to housing and supportive services for these YYA populations of focus.

Jacksonville, FL ensured that YYA experiencing homelessness who were LGBTQIA+ and survivors of human trafficking were populations of focus for the community's 100-Day Challenge. The 100-Day Challenge Team intentionally engaged staff from local non-profit organizations working with YYA with involvement in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems and survivors of trafficking as part of the Challenge, which helped the Team identify and connect YYA experiencing homelessness within these populations of focus to appropriate housing and supportive services to meet their needs.

Increasing Access to Safe and Stable YYA Housing Options

Increasing access to housing options was vital for the 100-Day Challenge communities to reach their ambitious goals for safely and stably housing YYA at risk of or experiencing homelessness. All five communities worked hard to creatively expand their housing options and better leverage existing housing resources to respond to the distinct housing needs of YYA in their community.



Spotlight on Central Alabama

The Central Alabama 100-Day Challenge Team worked to increase housing options for YYA through a number of different strategies. Team members shared critical information with each other about landlords and began conversations about developing tools and resources to cultivate landlords as a community-wide resource for YYA clients. The 100-Day Challenge Team worked on developing a uniform letter that can be sent to potential landlords explaining services available from each agency, providing education on youth homelessness and breaking down myths around housing YYA tenants, and outlining the types of supports and aftercare services available to YYA tenants once housed.

Central Alabama also began development of a comprehensive and up-to-date housing asset list, including information on landlords who are open to serving YYA tenants and other housing resources that are available to YYA experiencing homelessness throughout the community. The housing asset list includes "traditional" housing options such as RRH as well as less traditional options such as housing available through the child welfare system. The Central Alabama 100-Day Challenge Team also found that family reunification was a significant permanent housing destination for many YYA experiencing homelessness. This has led to new plans in Central Alabama to incorporate stronger supportive services and aftercare for YYA housed through family reunification methods.

Jacksonville identified opportunities to increase access to existing housing options for YYA during the 100-Day Challenge, including streamlining existing housing processes and improving coordination around youth-focused housing opportunities. Jacksonville was able to pilot a shift in the local Coordinated Entry System away from requiring that YYA be “document ready” prior to referral to a RRH or PSH placement, instead referring and placing YYA in housing as soon as possible and successfully gathering documentation while the referral and placement process is being completed. The Jacksonville 100-Day Challenge Team also worked with the local Public Housing Authority and Family Support Services of North Florida to improve coordination and referrals to the Family Unification Program (FUP) for YYA who have aged out of the foster care system.

Charleston, SC leveraged a number of different housing interventions to best meet the needs of YYA experiencing homelessness during the 100-Day Challenge, including housing problem-solving approaches, reunification with chosen family or friends, and RRH placements. RRH was found to be one of the most appropriate housing solutions for many YYA experiencing unsheltered homelessness based on their vulnerability and needs, which led the Team to develop a youth by-name list to improve prioritization and referral of YYA clients to RRH placements. The housing placement rate for YYA increased by 44% during the 100-Day Challenge over the 2019 rate.

The **Monroe County, FL** 100-Day Challenge Team was able to increase local collaboration and coordination around YYA housing, resulting in 8 YYA permanently housed in safe, stable housing with connections to supports (e.g., employment, life skills training, education) during the 100-Day Challenge. Permanent housing destinations for YYA exiting homelessness in Monroe County included market rate housing, PSH, self-resolution, and family reunification.

North Central West Virginia provided housing to 17 YYA experiencing homelessness throughout the 100-Day Challenge. The 100-Day Challenge Team utilized RRH, self-resolution, market rate housing, and family reunification approaches to help increase YYA housing placements and to offer a range of safe, stable housing options for YYA experiencing homelessness.

Youth-Focused Staff Positions

A number of the HUD Cohort 5 communities recognized the importance of having youth-focused staff positions and roles in order to provide dedicated time, energy, and focus to the issue of preventing and ending YYA homelessness. The new staff positions and roles developed during the 100-Day Challenge helped to fill locally identified gaps in the youth homeless response system and increase local capacity to effectively identify and serve YYA experiencing homelessness in the HUD Cohort 5 communities.



Spotlight on Jacksonville, FL

The 100-Day Challenge helped Jacksonville identify gaps in the YYA homelessness response system and develop new youth-focused staff positions to strengthen local capacity to address these gaps. A new Youth Coordinated Entry Intake Specialist position was developed in order to dedicate time and resources to the outreach, engagement, and facilitation of connections between YYA experiencing homelessness and the Coordinated Entry System. The Youth Intake Specialist can conduct VI-SPDAT assessments for YYAs over the phone or by traveling to youth-serving agencies across Jacksonville. The Youth Intake Specialist is also able to conduct assessments for YYA referred to Coordinated Entry by systems and agencies that do not currently participate in HMIS, such as the school system. This new staff position has helped increase the number of YYA who are connected to Coordinated Entry and therefore able to access housing and supportive services.

The Jacksonville 100-Day Challenge Team also spearheaded the development of four paid positions for YYA advocates on the Youth and Young Adult Action Committee (YAAC) with the goal of increasing authentic youth collaboration in the work to prevent and end youth homelessness locally. All of the newly created youth-focused staff positions developed during Jacksonville's 100-Day Challenge are paid positions at a living wage and are filled by persons with lived experiences of YYA homelessness.

Charleston, SC established dedicated staff positions within the community to serve YYA experiencing homelessness, including three youth-focused case manager positions who have helped build rapport with YYA clients and make connections to appropriate resources within youth serving agencies and homeless service providers. The youth-focused case managers play a crucial role in coordinating care across different providers and agencies to ensure that YYA experiencing homelessness can easily access the comprehensive housing and supportive service resources they need.

North Central West Virginia significantly expanded local staff capacity to meet the mental health and substance use treatment needs of YYA experiencing homelessness through the development of the Resilient Minds behavioral health street outreach program. The Resilient Minds program provides a new team of youth-focused behavioral health outreach staff to meet the needs of YYA experiencing homelessness in their own environments. The development of new youth-focused behavioral health staff positions also increases the time and capacity for homeless service providers and outreach staff to focus more specifically on meeting the housing and other supportive service needs of YYA experiencing homelessness, such as education and employment.

Monroe County, FL identified a need for additional staffing to integrate housing specialists into local housing programs in order to develop relationships with landlords and identify units across the community for YYA experiencing homelessness as part of their work beyond the 100-Day Challenge. The Monroe County 100-Day Challenge Team also developed a new End Youth Homelessness

Committee to serve as a formal subcommittee of the CoC. This committee brings together cross-system partners to serve a dedicated role in continuing cross-systems YYA case conferencing and work together to identify additional partners, housing opportunities, and funding to respond to YYA homelessness.

Central Alabama utilized the 100-Day Challenge to identify staffing needs in order to build a more robust youth homelessness response system. The 100-Day Challenge Team identified the need for a dedicated staff position to support the development and growth of the Youth Action Council, as well as a housing navigator position that can focus solely on facilitating housing connections for YYA experiencing homelessness.

Engaging Adult Service Providers

The 100-Day Challenge communities identified the need to bring adult service providers to the table around the issue of YYA homelessness and identify ways for them to become more directly engaged in providing housing and services to YYA clients in the community. The opportunity to engage adult service providers in the 100-Day Challenge helped communities expand their network of partner agencies and increase local understanding of YYA homelessness as a distinct experience and area of focus for homeless response efforts.



Spotlight on Charleston, SC

Charleston's 100-Day Challenge helped break down silos between youth serving agencies and adult homeless service providers, helping to increase local capacity to serve YYA experiencing homelessness. Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, Charleston had only one youth-specific provider to whom all YYA clients experiencing homelessness were referred. The Challenge helped bring adult homeless service providers to the table to identify their role in serving YYA experiencing homelessness and to learn more about providing youth-specific services. The 100-Day Challenge Team worked with adult homeless service providers to help them figure out how many YYA clients they were serving and to incorporate more youth-specific services and best practices into their program models such as trauma-informed care (TIC), Positive Youth Development (PYD), and Housing First.

Monroe County, FL utilized the 100-Day Challenge as an opportunity to bring together youth-serving agencies and adult homeless service providers to tackle the shared concern of YYA homelessness. Prior to the 100-Day Challenge, there were a number of agencies in Monroe County, FL that worked with youth but were not engaged in addressing homelessness among their YYA clients. Similarly, there were organizations dedicated to addressing the issue of homelessness that did not focus on or specifically address YYA homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge helped bridge the gap between homeless service providers and youth-serving agencies and create a sense of shared accountability and ownership for preventing and ending YYA homelessness in Monroe County, FL.

Central Alabama's 100-Day Challenge allowed the community to establish a focus on preventing and ending youth homelessness among agencies beyond those dedicated to addressing YYA homelessness. Central Alabama has only one youth-specific housing and service provider and very few youth-dedicated resources to respond to YYA homelessness. Through the 100-Day Challenge, Central Alabama was able to engage adult service providers and other system partners in understanding their role in addressing YYA homelessness and identifying opportunities to adapt their processes and resources to better serve YYA clients in the community.

Jacksonville, FL and **North Central West Virginia** both engaged adult service providers as members of their 100-Day Challenge Teams. Representatives of adult service providers were able to help identify YYA experiencing homelessness they were serving within their agencies; provide access to housing and supportive service resources for eligible YYA experiencing homelessness; and help brainstorm solutions for addressing gaps in the youth homeless response system.

Beyond the 100 Days: Sustaining Momentum and Moving Forward

The 100-Day Challenge begins with an intentionally short timeframe and limited scope of work in order to spur action, focus, progress, and innovation. The work in each community is not over when the 100 days are completed, as communities leave with new momentum and buy-in from cross-system partners to keep pushing forward toward the goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Each 100-Day team identifies priorities and recommendations unique to their community and to their progress for their work beyond the 100 days. Teams are encouraged to adopt a monthly or quarterly meeting structure, ideally with monthly or quarterly targets, in order to sustain their momentum, lock-in gains, and continue making system improvements.

100-Day Team Priorities for Sustainability

100-Day Challenge Community	Action Plan for Ongoing Work
<p>Central Alabama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the MOU and the process for sharing information for cross-system case-conferences; • Publish and keep updated the database of wraparound services; • Investigate the best platform to house the youth by-name list; • Perform a Youth Needs Assessment; and • Perform a Providers Assessment.
<p>Charleston, SC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a 100-Day Challenge communication network; • Continue to meet regularly and expand 100-Day Challenge Team participation; • Conduct weekly outreach to YYA experiencing homelessness at One80 Place; • Establish regular review and case conferencing for youth on the by-name list; and • Expand existing youth outreach and engagement efforts.
<p>Jacksonville, FL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to meet regularly to discuss progress on youth homelessness; • Use online collaboration tools for improving Coordinated Entry to better identify, prioritize, and connect YYA to housing and resources; • Conduct case conferencing to prioritize YYA for housing and services;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and strengthen the Youth/Young Adult Action Committee, including securing funding and problem-solving meeting participation issues, e.g., technology needs of members; • Provide support for the Youth Intake Specialist position; and • Share resources and tools (e.g., document checklist) across the system.
<p style="text-align: center;">Monroe County, FL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen collaboration with new partner agencies and organizations; • Continue to hold monthly case management meetings; • Maintain and update the “Trusted Landlord” list; • Further develop the YAB (Keys Youth Action Network); and • Address and overcome COVID-related challenges in the provision of housing and services.
<p style="text-align: center;">North Central West Virginia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet bi-weekly to discuss youth specific housing placements utilizing the youth by-name list by CoC region; • Increase awareness of existing youth resources; • Develop and enhance cross-agency approach to address youth homelessness in West Virginia; and • Continue to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder support for youth.