



MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN 100 DAYS

HUD Cohort 4: 100-Day Challenges on Youth Homelessness in Rural Communities Summary Report



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100-Day Challenges on Youth Homelessness

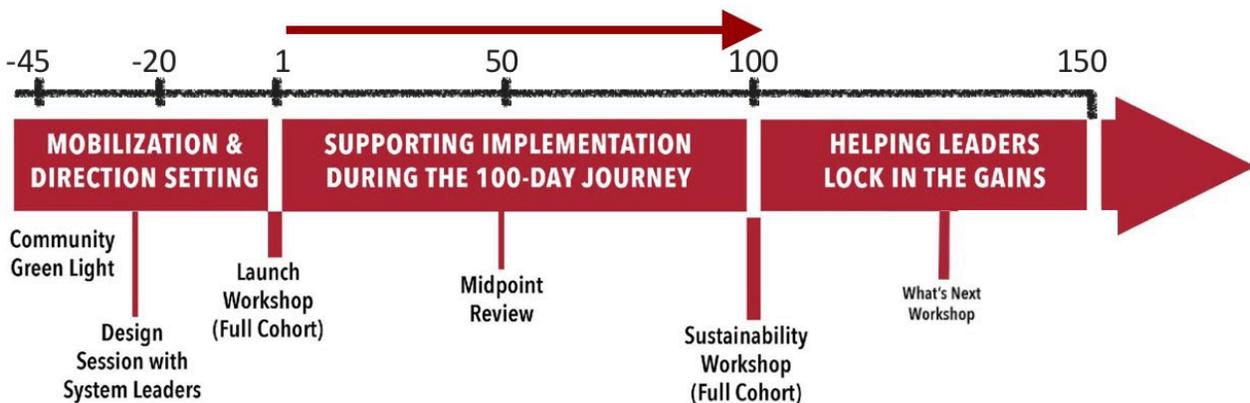
In April 2019, five rural communities launched 100-Day Challenges, representing the 4th U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Cohort to accept the Challenge to prevent and end youth homelessness. The HUD Cohort 4 communities include:

- Northern Michigan
- Horry County, South Carolina
- Ithaca/Tompkins County, New York
- West Tennessee
- Monroe County, PA

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 relentless and intense collaboration, innovation, and execution.

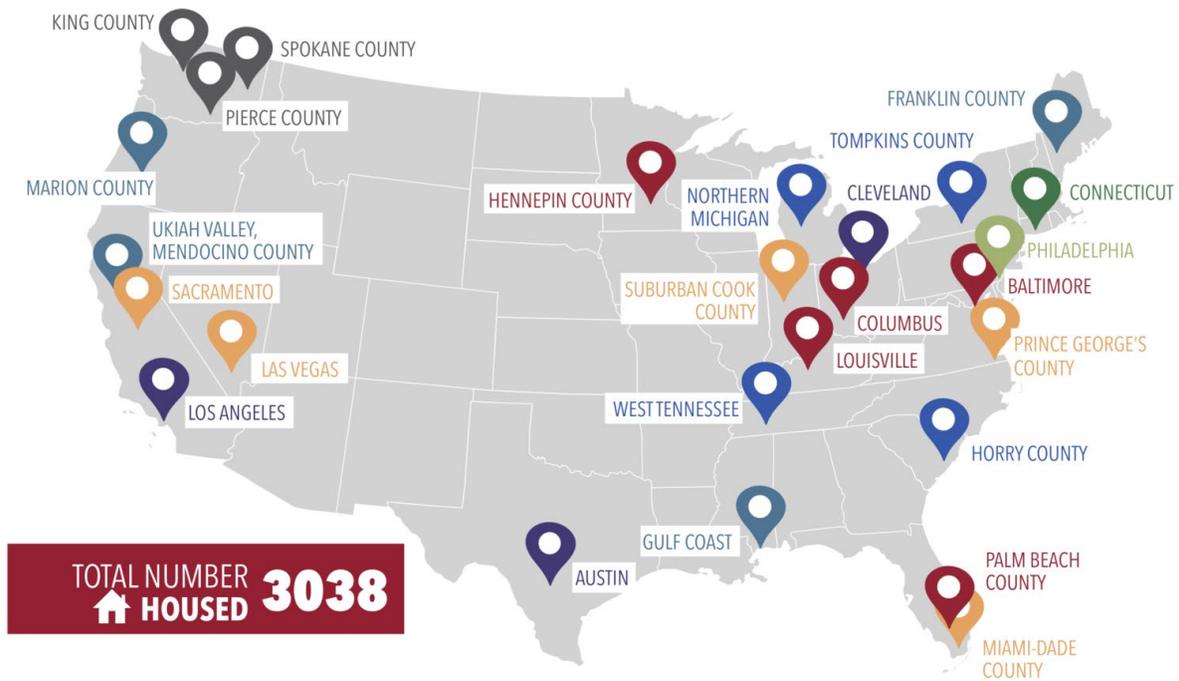
The 100-Day initiative also provides an opportunity for cross-system stakeholders to come together, make new connections, share information and best practices, and create a common vision for preventing and ending youth homelessness.

100-Day Challenge Journey



Emerging Practices from Prior 100-Day Challenge Communities

Prior to the HUD Cohort 4 Challenge, 25 100-Day Challenges to prevent and end youth homelessness produced incredible results, including shining a light on a number of emerging practices that have been successful in communities of different sizes, geographies, and capacities across the country. The 25 communities that have previously completed 100 Day Challenges are depicted on the map below (different colors represent different cohorts).



The following are some best practices that are emerging from the 25 communities that accepted the 100-Day Challenge to prevent and end youth homelessness prior to HUD Cohort 4.

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 for their work and time
- Being open to listening and figuring out ways to address adultism across systems

Connecting and Engaging Systems

- Building processes to formally and permanently connect with foster care, juvenile justice, school systems, and other youth-serving systems in order to identify a wide range of youth needing support and create a systemic response
- Coordinating various system supports: supportive services, training and employment services, interventions, resources
- Improving how to identify and communicate with youth who are not connected to any systems with easily accessible tools
- Leveraging existing working relationships and connections between systems for a focus on youth homelessness

Utilizing Mainstream & More Creative Housing Resources

- 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, and JobCorps

Data-Driven Decision Making

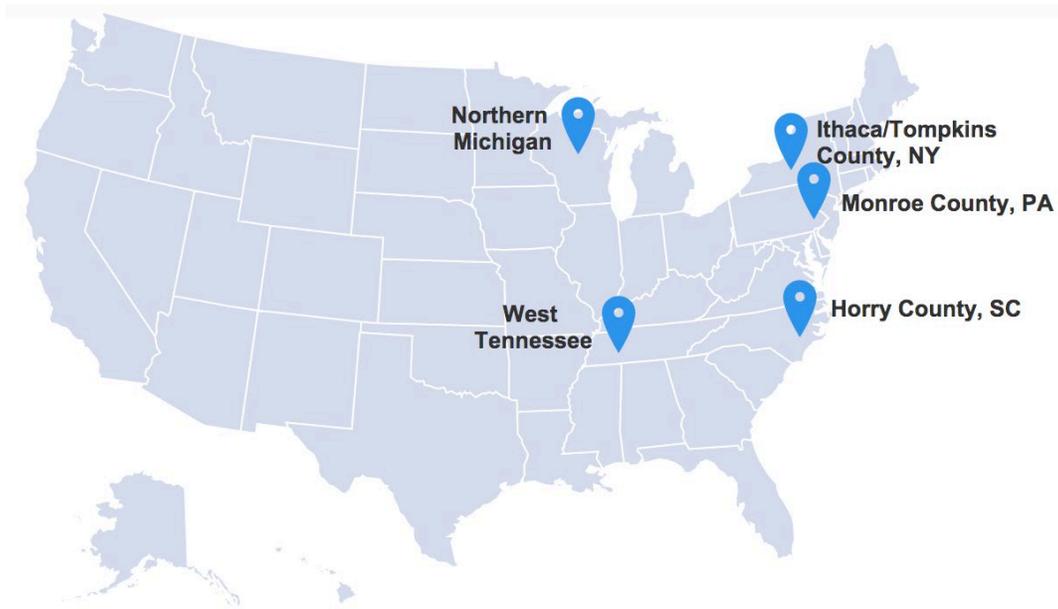
- Using data to make decisions on the team and communicating with system leaders
- Building a by-name list of all youth experiencing homelessness
- Using a standard assessment tool to help understand the needs of homeless youth and young adults and prioritize individuals for different resources
- Creating a standardized way to track and report on all youth being served and housed in the community by all providers supporting homeless youth

Governance Mechanisms

- Testing out ways of communicating insights and lessons learned, identified gaps, data snapshots, and specific requests within the community in order to drive coordinated action
- Creating a culture of experimentation, innovation, and collaboration with clear goals

HUD Cohort 4 100-Day Challenge: Rural Communities

Northern Michigan; Horry County, SC; Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY; West Tennessee; and Monroe County, PA were selected as 100-Day Challenge communities through a competitive process 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 rural geographies across the United States, each with its own unique needs, challenges, strengths, and opportunities.



100-Day Challenge Goals

Each of the five 100-Day Challenge communities established ambitious goals during a Launch Workshop for the initiative. Goals represented cross-system collaboration around a collective local vision for preventing and ending youth homelessness. The 100-day goals were locally-driven and developed by teams in response to the needs of youth in their communities, including the following areas of focus and accomplishment:

Horry County, SC

- Reduction of time homeless
- Improved outreach to youth experiencing and at risk via postcard and text project
- Prioritized youth for housing opportunities beyond youth-designated projects
- More consistent communication with youth on by-name list not yet referred for housing

Northern Michigan

- Increase collaboration within homeless service system and among cross-system partners
- Improve outreach to youth and young adults
- Refine youth prioritization process in Coordinated Entry

West Tennessee

- Youth prioritization in Coordinated Entry process
- Community outreach/education about existing resources so YYA experiencing or at risk of homelessness know where to go and who to call
- Collaboration with local agencies and among team members
- Research nationwide statistics and create a YYA survey for feedback and insight to address lack of youth involvement

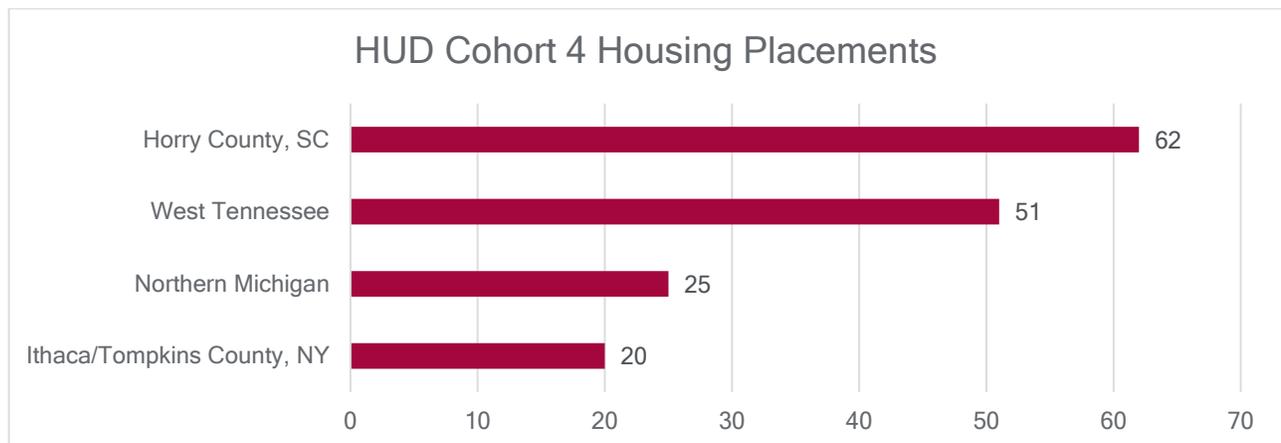
Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY

- Leadership development
- Increased infrastructure
- Sharing info/communication

Monroe County, PA

- Relationship building and collaboration
- Expanding system capacity
- Data collection and improved identification of youth experiencing homelessness

After 100 days, **158 youth and young adults exited homelessness into stable and stable housing** from across the Cohort 4 communities:



**Monroe County, PA focused on building system capacity and cross-system collaboration during their 100-Day Challenge and therefore did not track housing placements*

Lessons Learned from 100-Day Challenges in Rural Communities

HUD has sponsored two cohorts of 100-Day Challenges for rural communities across the United States. These 100-Day Challenges have helped build greater understanding of what youth homelessness looks like in rural areas and the distinct strengths and challenges rural communities face in preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Expansive Rural Geographies

The vast geographic landscape of many rural communities – often encompassing multiple cities, counties, and municipalities – can present distinct challenges for preventing and ending youth homelessness, including:

- Difficulties authentically engaging youth and scaling successful youth engagement efforts to the entire geographic area
- Geographies that include areas with few or no housing or service options for youth
- Transportation challenges for helping youth access housing and other resources
- Logistical barriers to bringing key stakeholders together in-person to further the work of preventing and ending youth homelessness
- Challenges conducting outreach to all parts of the region

Rural communities need to invest in interventions that can be successfully scaled up and made accessible to even the most rural areas of the region. Decentralized housing and service models such as host homes, rapid re-housing, mobile outreach and virtual Coordinated Entry access points are some options that can help communities overcome the challenges of serving youth and young adults across vast rural geographic areas.

Resource and Funding Limitations

Rural communities often face more significant resource and funding limitations than urban communities to addressing homelessness. This can include a shortage of shelter and housing options including emergency shelter, affordable housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). A number of rural 100-Day Challenge communities have had few or no dedicated youth homelessness providers in their region, and a shortage of overall resources and funding limits the ability of rural communities to serve youth and young adults as a priority population. Despite these challenges, rural 100-Day Challenge communities have found innovative ways to increase options for youth experiencing homelessness, including shared housing, host homes, tiny homes, diversion, family reunification, and efforts to evaluate and ensure equity in the prioritization of youth within the Coordinated Entry System.

Distinct Characteristics of Rural Youth Homelessness

Youth homelessness often looks different in rural communities than in urban areas. Most rural 100-Day Challenge communities have found that youth are less likely to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness and more likely to be in temporary, sheltered situations that allow them to “hide” their homelessness, such as couch-surfing or in doubled-up living arrangements. Through the 100-Day Challenges, rural communities have come to better understand the characteristics of local youth homelessness and tailor housing and service interventions to reflect their strengths and needs, including leveraging existing resources and supports among sheltered youth through increased diversion and family reunification efforts.

Relationships and Collaboration

Rural 100-Day Challenge communities often have a small but dedicated group of providers serving youth and young adults experiencing homelessness which fosters the development of strong working relationships and a spirit of collaboration across youth-serving providers and systems. A number of rural communities shared that they were able to gain buy-in for increasing local efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness – including creating new resources and establishing youth as a priority population for housing and services – because they already had a strong basis of trust and collaboration among providers in the region. A sense of camaraderie is often present in rural 100-Day Challenge communities built around an established sense of trust and understanding, encouraging partners to come to the table and stay at the table to work through hard challenges in order to reach a shared vision of preventing and ending youth homelessness.

HUD Cohort 4: Successes in Collaboration and Innovation in Rural Communities

Authentic Youth Engagement

The 100-Day Challenge communities confronted the challenges and complexities of authentic youth engagement in rural areas, with all five communities working to establish stronger outreach practices and authentic partnerships with youth beyond the 100-Day Challenge. The continued growth and development of authentic youth partnerships is critical for success as communities move forward in their efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.



Spotlight on Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY

Youth voice and choice were central to the development of the youth circles of support model in Ithaca/Tompkins County. The 100-Day Challenge Team met youth where they were, including the local library and other safe spaces where youth congregate, to consult with them on the initial design and planned use of the service plan template. Their feedback has been incorporated into the plan template, which has been designed to reflect the principle of youth choice by empowering to define their own needs and a pathway to accomplishing their goals.

The 100-Day Challenge Team also identified the need for a coalition of youth with lived experience to help design and launch the Youth Sponsor Pilot Program, in which youth are connected to peer advocates that will assist them to navigate the homeless response system. As part of its ongoing efforts following the 100-Day Challenge, Ithaca/Tompkins County is also working to develop a Youth Peer Advocate position to provide peer-based mentorship to youth experiencing homelessness.

The **Horry County, SC** 100-Day Challenge Team worked closely with youth with lived experience to develop appropriate language for its Housing Access Plan (HAP) and a method of outreach that would be accessible and comfortable for youth experiencing a housing crisis to use. The development of a text-to-access option for the HAP is reflective of youth feedback and preference for a simple and easily accessible tool that can be utilized from anywhere to quickly connect youth to housing and services, without creating an overwhelming experience. Horry County has worked to ensure that all outreach, identification and engagement strategies are developed and implemented from a youth-centered perspective.

Northern Michigan's 100-Day Challenge Team included youth with lived experience at the Challenge launch, and one youth with lived experience remained engaged as part of the Team throughout the process. In its work beyond the 100-Day Challenge, Northern Michigan plans to increase authentic youth engagement in system design through employment and self-advocacy.

West Tennessee utilized the 100-Day Challenge as an opportunity to learn more about authentic youth engagement in rural areas, including strategies for overcoming challenges to engagement presented by the large geography and lack of youth-focused providers in the region. West Tennessee plans to continue its efforts to authentically engage youth and establish an active Youth Action Board in its work beyond the 100-Day Challenge.

Cross-Systems Partnerships

The Cohort 4 100-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 Northern Michigan

Northern Michigan's 100-Day Challenge resulted in new and strengthened partnerships around preventing and ending youth homelessness. Representatives from the local CoC, child welfare system, behavioral health, education, youth housing and service providers and youth with lived experience were involved in designing the Northern Michigan 100-Day Challenge and identifying priority focus areas for the Challenge. The 100-Day Challenge Team determined that one of the most important outcomes for this effort would be to form better connections to connected, mainstream systems such as education, foster care and juvenile justice. Demonstrating this commitment to cross-system partners, one of the team leaders chosen for the 100-Day Challenge was a McKinney-Vento Liaison who was very involved in helping to integrate and form connections between the school system and housing and homelessness system.

The 100-Day Challenge also saw the successful engagement of the Wexford-Missaukee Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness, with DHHS offering access to one of their housing units for youth in emergency situations. The 100-Day Challenge team also improved communication with adult shelter providers to form stronger connections and begin conversations around serving youth and young adults.

In **West Tennessee**, there are no youth-focused housing or homeless service providers in the region. In order to overcome this challenge, the West Tennessee 100-Day Challenge Team strengthened partnerships with adult-serving providers and worked to build their knowledge and capacity to serve youth experiencing homelessness. Providers from the adult, chronic, and veteran homeless service sectors contributed to the community's efforts to establish a focus area for the 100-Day Challenge and remained engaged throughout the entire process. Local leaders, elected officials, and admission

coordinators for a number of local community colleges became involved in the 100-Day Challenge as it gained momentum and youth homelessness became a greater and greater priority for the region.

The **Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY** 100-Day Challenge brought together agencies that do not often have the opportunity to collaborate to create a community-wide focus on preventing and ending youth homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge Team included representatives from county and local government agencies, local education and employment organizations, and other community partners (such as churches and social service organizations). Additionally, the Team was visited by supporters from other community agencies that learned about the 100-Day Challenge, including United Way of Tompkins County, Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources (OAR) of Tompkins County, and more. This collaboration engaged new partners in the system of care and generated lasting buy-in that continued after the conclusion of the 100-Day Challenge.

Monroe County, PA brought together representatives from across the community, including the United Way, local school districts, Monroe County Children and Youth, Children's Roundtable of Monroe County, faith-based organizations and volunteers to develop a coordinated response to youth homelessness. A key focus for Monroe County was increasing alignment across youth-serving systems and increasing engagement of traditional and non-traditional youth system partners - including domestic violence, education and juvenile justice - to add capacity and develop system goals for local youth homelessness efforts.

Horry County, SC 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 for Horry County's youth experiencing homelessness. 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.

Increasing Awareness and Education on Youth Homelessness

100-Day Challenges help bring momentum to communities around preventing and ending youth homelessness. The HUD Cohort 4 100-Day Challenge communities leveraged this momentum to increase education and awareness of youth homelessness locally among the general public as well as adult services providers, elected officials, community leaders, and partners in systems outside of the homeless system of care.



Spotlight on West Tennessee

West Tennessee utilized the 100-Day Challenge to increase local awareness and understanding of youth homelessness, with a primary focus on building the region's network of informed adult providers who can contribute to a more directed youth effort. The 100-Day Challenge Team created informational materials and conducted meetings with providers and agencies in the community, incorporating a focus on providing youth-specific, trauma-informed care into their provider outreach efforts.

West Tennessee also worked to identify champions in the community to support the 100-Day Challenge and increase local understanding and focus on youth homelessness. The team was able to work with local elected officials to spread the word about the 100-Day Challenge and increase visibility around youth homelessness. Another group of community stakeholders that emerged as champions for youth experiencing homelessness were college admissions coordinators. The 100-Day Challenge Team provided college admissions coordinators with information on youth homelessness and Housing First for youth, while admissions coordinators were able to identify a small amount of funding that could be used to provide housing to unstably housed students.

Across these efforts with different stakeholders, the 100-Day Challenge Team was dedicated to sharing information on the local prevalence and unmet needs of youth experiencing homelessness and having “myth-busting” conversations to address common misconceptions and perceived challenges in serving youth and young adults.

The **Ithaca/Tompkins County** 100-Day Challenge Team operated robust social media campaigns to increase public awareness of the initiative and the community's overall efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. The work of the 100-Day Challenge was also highlighted by the local newspaper, the Ithaca Voice, and gained the attention of the Mayor, county legislators, and concerned citizens.

Horry County, SC found that the 100-Day Challenge not only increased awareness of youth homelessness in the community, but that it also brought new, key stakeholders to the table with new energy around preventing and ending youth homelessness. Horry County utilized the new connections and relationships built from the 100-Day Challenge to continue increasing community awareness and investment around youth homelessness and moving toward the 100-Day Challenge goal.

The **Northern Michigan** 100-Day Challenge Team worked extensively to connect with stakeholders across the region and explain the importance of serving youth and young adults as a priority population among individuals experiencing homelessness. The Team developed strong messaging for use with local housing and services providers as well as the public around what youth homelessness looks like in Northern Michigan and why it is important to focus on preventing and ending youth homelessness now.

Outreach and Identification of Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The Cohort 4 100-Day Challenge communities leveraged the momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to improve their processes for identifying youth experiencing homelessness and connecting them to resources through stronger outreach and engagement efforts. This work involved engaging new partners that serve as touchpoints for youth to help identify youth clients who may be experiencing homelessness and help connect them to resources within the homeless system of care.



Spotlight on Horry County, SC

During the 100-Day Challenge, Horry County launched an innovative new way of identifying and engaging 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 and 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 is able to reach out to the youth and walk through a HAP conversation to determine appropriate housing and service interventions to meet the youth's needs. The YYA Access Card and HAP have provided Horry County with a new method for identifying and engaging youth who are not yet connected with the homeless response system. The YYA Access Card and the HAP helped Horry County identify and engage youth who had not yet been engaged in the homeless response system, including 10 youth identified and engaged in housing and services during the 100-Day Challenge. The community continues to work 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.

Horry County also leveraged new and strengthened partnerships with youth-serving providers formed during the 100-Day Challenge to ensure that they are all trained and comfortable in identifying and referring youth to appropriate housing and services. Since the 100-Day Challenge, an increased number of community partners have begun identifying youth experiencing homelessness and providing referrals across agencies based on each youth's housing and service needs. Horry County plans to work with cross-systems partners to develop new Coordinated Entry access points for youth to increase local capacity to quickly identify, engage and assess youth as well.

West Tennessee established improving outreach and identification processes for youth homelessness as one of its primary areas of focus for the 100-Day Challenge. West Tennessee utilized the 100-Day Challenge to improve its ability to meet youth where they are, both physically through expanded outreach and engagement efforts and through more targeted utilization of resources in response to youth needs. The 100-Day Challenge Team created flyers to begin educating youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness of the services and housing options available to them. West Tennessee is

looking to sustain momentum around youth outreach and identification through the development of a text-based information dissemination and identification system that can be run by the CoC.

Monroe County, PA improved compilation and analysis of youth homelessness data from across local systems of care, resulting in better identification of youth experiencing homelessness and a deeper understanding of what youth homelessness looks like in Monroe County. During the launch of the 100-Day Challenge, the Team identified gaps in local data collection around youth ages 18 to 24 experiencing homelessness, including youth in unsheltered situations who were not engaging in services and therefore not being captured on the by-name list. Data on youth homelessness was compiled from all know sources – including school level data – through the coordinated efforts of 100-Day Challenge Team members, resulting in improved identification of youth experiencing homelessness in Monroe County. This information will help Monroe County develop targeted goals and strategies for addressing local need.

Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY improved its efforts to identify youth and meet them where they are throughout the 100-Day Challenge, including making connections with youth at the library and other safe spaces within the community. Beyond the 100-Day Challenge, Ithaca/Tompkins County is looking to establish a paid position for one or more youth peer advocates, whose responsibilities would include outreach to and engagement of youth currently at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Northern Michigan strengthened relationships between the local school system and housing and homelessness system through the 100-Day Challenge, helping the community better identify and engage youth experiencing homelessness who are currently in school. Northern Michigan is looking to build upon its youth outreach and identification efforts in its work beyond the 100-Day Challenge, including strengthening and expanding street outreach in the region for youth ages 14-24.

Improving Supports and Systems Navigation for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The Cohort 4 communities recognized that youth experiencing homelessness have service needs that go beyond housing, including case management, systems navigation, and other supportive services to help youth achieve success and stability in exiting homelessness. They addressed these needs through their 100 Day Challenge work.

Spotlight on Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY



Ithaca/Tompkins County utilized the 100-Day Challenge to develop new tools and processes for providing youth experiencing homelessness with necessary supports to attain and sustain housing. The 100-Day Challenge Team developed a service plan template to be used in creating circles of support for youth to help ensure that their comprehensive needs are met, including housing, education, employment, and health needs.

Ithaca/Tompkins County also launched an effort to connect each youth seeking housing and services with a designated sponsor or advocate during the 100-Day Challenge, with the goal of supporting youth to navigate the homeless system of care and to choose the housing and service interventions that will work best for them. The community is working beyond the 100-Day Challenge to launch the Youth Sponsor Pilot Program with youth experiencing homelessness on the By-Name List. Ithaca/Tompkins County is also working to develop a Youth Peer Advocate position to support youth as they navigate the homeless response system and provide youth with critical trainings and support on maintaining housing stability, including life skills and tenants' rights.

Northern Michigan's 100-Day Challenge helped local service providers to reflect on current case management practices from a new youth-specific, needs-focused lens. Service providers utilized the 100-Day Challenge as an opportunity to educate themselves and other community partners on youth-based case management, including the adoption of youth-specific case management methods to best support youth experiences and strengths.

Horry County, SC developed a Housing Access Plan to more quickly and effectively ascertain the current situation and needs of youth seeking assistance via a short survey. Once the youth completes the survey, a Housing Access Planner is able to connect with the youth to have a more in-depth conversation about their comprehensive housing and service needs and connect them to appropriate housing and service interventions.

West Tennessee developed a resource directory during the 100-Day Challenge to help identify resources and supports to meet the immediate needs of youth experiencing homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge Team also increased supports for youth at-risk of homelessness such as case management, mediation services, and family reunification.

Prevention, Diversion and Family Reunification

The 100-Day Challenge communities worked throughout the Challenge to identify the best interventions to serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in their regions. A number of the communities found diversion and family reunification to be very successful interventions for connecting youth to safe, stable and non-time-limited housing options.

Spotlight on Northern Michigan



During the 100-Day Challenge, Northern Michigan found that there are less youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their communities than they had thought, leading the team to increase its focus on how to best identify youth who are unstably housed in order to divert them from experiencing homelessness. Northern Michigan also determined that family reunification is the most successful type of housing placement

for youth across the three counties, with 66% of youth and young adults who exited homelessness during the 100-Day Challenge doing so through family reunification efforts. This led to a realization among stakeholders that youth service providers should increase services that facilitate and support family reunification for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Housing navigators and outreach staff are trained in diversion and family reunification, with the goal of preventing and diverting youth from entering homelessness as a result of family crisis or instability.

In **West Tennessee**, the 100-Day Challenge helped build momentum around diversion and family reunification as youth-appropriate interventions. During the 100-Day Challenge, 33% of all youth who exited homelessness were housed through family reunification, all of whom were experiencing literal homelessness per the HUD definition. A resource-scarce environment also makes diversion an important first step in preventing and resolving homelessness for unstably housed youth. Case managers have problem-solving conversations with every youth and determine if there is any assistance that can be provided to them or their family to create a stable housing situation. The 100-Day Challenge Team was also able to work with churches and other community resources to help provide support, such as utility assistance, for youth who could be diverted from experiencing homelessness.

Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY also found family reunification to be a successful intervention; 15% of the youth and young adults who exited homelessness during the 100-Day Challenge were housed through family reunification efforts. Ithaca/Tompkins County has identified a need to increase its focus on diversion efforts in its continued work to prevent and end youth homelessness beyond the 100-Day Challenge.

Horry County, SC utilized family reunification to exit 23 youth and young adults from homelessness during the 100-Day Challenge. Additionally, Horry County prevented 9 youth and young adults from entering homelessness during the 100-Day Challenge through the creation of a housing action plan.

Expanding Housing Options & Increasing Housing Placements

Increasing access to housing options was vital for the 100-Day Challenge communities to reach their ambitious goals of safely and stably housing youth experiencing homelessness. All five communities worked strategically and creatively to expand their housing options and better leverage existing housing opportunities for youth.



Spotlight on West Tennessee

West Tennessee placed 51 youth and young adults into safe, stable housing during its 100-Day Challenge, exceeding its Challenge goal. The community achieved a 100% success rate during the Challenge of connecting youth identified as experiencing homelessness into appropriate housing options, including family reunification and

permanent supportive housing. Additionally, new partnerships with adult providers in West Tennessee supported the targeting of housing and services for youth that had never before been utilized for this population, including rapid re-housing. For youth experiencing homelessness who could not be immediately placed into housing or reunited with family, the West Tennessee 100-Day Challenge Team was able to provide hotel and motel vouchers until housing could be secured, ensuring that no youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness went unsheltered once they were identified by the CoC.

Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY worked to expand housing options for youth through a variety of different methods that worked within the unique housing landscape of the community. Ithaca/Tompkins County is home to a large number of students attending local colleges and universities who need rental housing only during the academic school year. The 100-Day Challenge Team developed a "Sublet Survey" for college students to explore the possibility of making student housing available to local youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness during academic breaks through a subletting process. Additionally, the 100-Day Challenge Team created a shared housing matching form to help connect youth to potential roommates and increase access to housing options in the tight, high-cost rental market of Tompkins County. Ithaca/Tompkins County also began the process of engaging landlords and breaking down barriers to effective landlord partnerships for serving youth.

Horry County, SC 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. 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.

Monroe County, PA utilized the 100-Day Challenge to begin development of a coordinated community response for minors (youth under the age of 18) experiencing literal homelessness. The 100-Day Challenge Team engaged diverse stakeholders from across the community in discussions around developing a same-day crisis response for minors that will allow school representatives and first responders such as 211 to immediately make referrals to a safe shelter or housing placement. The community identified Family Promise hotel vouchers as a resource to help minors experiencing homelessness and their families reside in safety and security when shelter space is not available in the county.

Northern Michigan identified a need to think creatively regarding housing interventions for youth in order to maximize the use of existing but limited housing resources. The community experienced success in working with a state funding organization to adjust ESG policies to allow for the utilization

of ESG resources for youth and young adults who are "at risk" of becoming homeless. Northern Michigan plans to make a continued investment in host homes, identification of existing affordable housing options, and the creation of new and innovative housing solutions beyond the 100-Day Challenge in order to better meet the needs of local youth experiencing homelessness.

Coordinated Entry

The Cohort 4 communities utilized the momentum of the 100-Day Challenge to assess the effectiveness of their coordinated entry processes for youth. This included identifying gaps and developing solutions to ensure that the coordinated entry system – and particularly, prioritization processes – are appropriate for youth. With systems leaders at the table, communities were able to tackle challenges related to coordinated entry for youth and build stronger, more effective systems.



Spotlight on Horry County, SC

During the 100-Day Challenge, Horry County brought community partners and stakeholders together to evaluate the existing Coordinated Entry System for youth.

The 100-Day Challenge Team recognized that youth were not being highly prioritized within the Coordinated Entry System, and thus were remaining on the by-name list for extended periods of time. As a result, Horry County increased equity in the prioritization of youth within Coordinated Entry beginning with the 100-Day Challenge and continuing to present by creating a “zipper” prioritization approach. Under this “zipper” approach, youth are guaranteed fair and equitable access to all the housing and service resources for which they are eligible through alternating referrals between the most vulnerable members within each subpopulation. 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 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.

Northern Michigan was able to leverage the 100-Day Challenge to critically evaluate the current Coordinated Entry prioritization process and reprioritize youth across the region. The 100-Day Challenge Team chose to address the reprioritization of youth experiencing homelessness as part of a

larger conversation with community partners about effectively preventing and ending homelessness through strategic prioritization efforts. As a result of these efforts, Northern Michigan was able to develop a new “zipper” prioritization process, whereby high-vulnerability individuals from across subpopulation groups – including youth, veterans, and individuals experiencing homelessness – are alternately prioritized for available resources. This process creates consistent movement from the by-name list into housing and services and allows for the improved prioritization of youth experiencing homelessness without taking away focus from other priority populations among the Northern Michigan CoCs.

West Tennessee recognized that at the onset of the 100-Day Challenge that youth and young adults were not being equitably prioritized for available resources. This was because existing assessment tools and the community’s prioritization scheme heavily weighed certain factors (such as length of time homeless, chronic health conditions, etc.) that are less applicable to youth by virtue of age. As a result, West Tennessee decided to change the Coordinated Entry assessment process to more accurately reflect vulnerability for youth and thus improve prioritization and referral to housing and services through CoC and ESG funded programs.

Ithaca/Tompkins County, NY leveraged the 100-Day Challenge to improve its use of Coordinated Entry to prevent and end youth homelessness. Ithaca/Tompkins County focused its 100-Day Challenge goal on housing youth and young adults from the community’s by-name list. Throughout the 100-Day Challenge, the community recognized the importance of having a separate youth by-name list in Coordinated Entry to improve the process of connecting youth quickly and effectively to appropriate housing and services.

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 continue 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>Horry County, South Carolina</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House all youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and • Support identification of youth at risk of and experiencing homelessness through improved communication with McKinney-Vento liaisons.
<p>Ithaca/Tompkins County, New York</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Youth Sponsor Pilot Program with 5 youth from the community's By-Name List; • Develop Youth Peer Advocate position(s) to assist youth to navigate the system of care; • Provide training and education for youth and young adults on topics and skills to help successfully navigate systems and secure and maintain housing (e.g., life skills, tenant rights, etc.); and • Bring key people to the table for conversations and planning who have not been involved in the Challenge and/or the community's overall efforts to end youth homelessness generally.
<p>Northern Michigan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness for the first time. • Increase authentic youth engagement in system design through employment and self-advocacy. • Grow street outreach in Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties for youth ages 14-24.

<p style="text-align: center;">West Tennessee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve outreach to youth, including developing digital communication materials. • Reshape existing views <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish and maintain an environment of agency and mutual respect ○ Ensure program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimizing power differentials • Create a youth subcommittee of the CoC • Host Landlord Luncheon to thank and educate members of the community and to encourage availability of more units for youth
<p style="text-align: center;">Monroe County, Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Goal #1 – Shelter for Families with Children Under 18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure school liaisons are aware of Family Promise hotel vouchers as an immediate resource when shelters space is not available. • Share information at Monroe County Homeless Advisory Board. <p>Goal #2 – Pad Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work with Pad Mission, including encouraging recruited landlords and resources to input their information into the app. • Work with 2030 Affordable Housing Strategic Doing Committee to arrange landlord engagement meeting.