

SACRAMENTO, CA

BACKGROUND: WHY AND WHY NOW?

Sacramento began the 100-Day Challenge with significant momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness with new programs and initiatives simultaneously launching at the local level. A new, full-service day center for homeless youth opened in fall 2018, with all key providers of services for this subpopulation collaborating and co-locating at the new site regularly. The Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System (CES) operator, Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF), also worked with this new provider collaborative to begin coordinated case conferencing for youth. The CoC had also recently gone through the process of applying for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funds, which helped them prepare for the 100-Day Challenge by strengthening relationships, fostering innovation, and increasing local understanding of youth homelessness and how to address it.

Additionally, Sacramento received funding from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) in 2012 and 2013 to launch a Homeless Youth Task Force (HYTF), bringing together a group of approximately 25 youth service providers to address issues this subpopulation faces. Although NAEHCY funding ended, the participants worked together to continue the HYTF, which is now a formal committee of the CoC Advisory Board. The HYTF has addressed a wide range of issues, including access to transportation, employment, health and mental health, law enforcement and homeless youth, and improving PIT counts of youth.

100-DAY CHALLENGE PRIORITY AREAS

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

- Increasing collaboration, connections and efficiencies across the crisis response system.
- Ensuring that the interconnected system of care serving youth reaches and responds to the particular needs of those who are highly vulnerable, including youth that have been homeless for a long time and those who are currently disconnected from services.

100-Day Goal

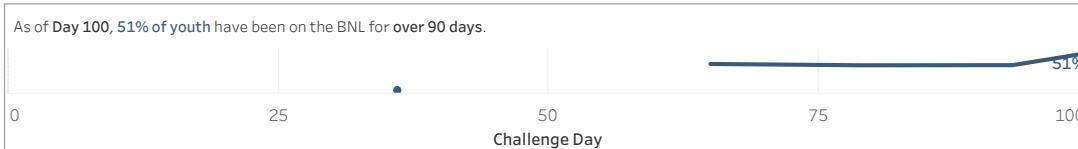
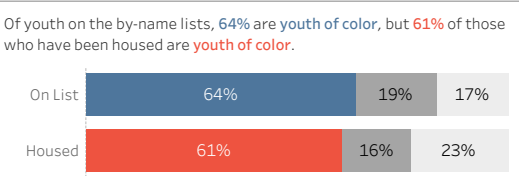
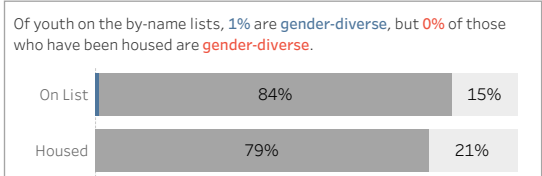
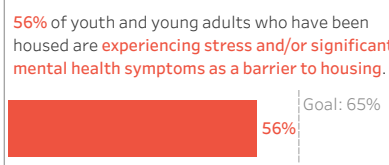
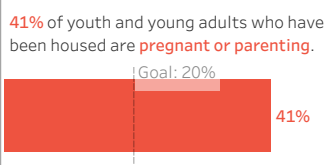
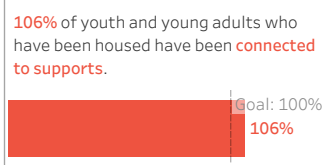
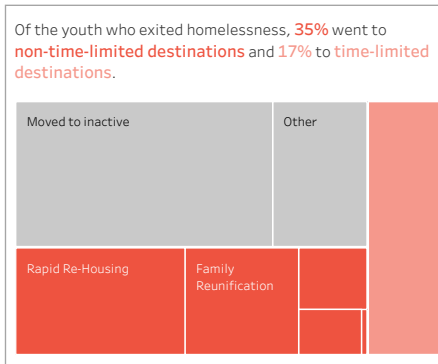
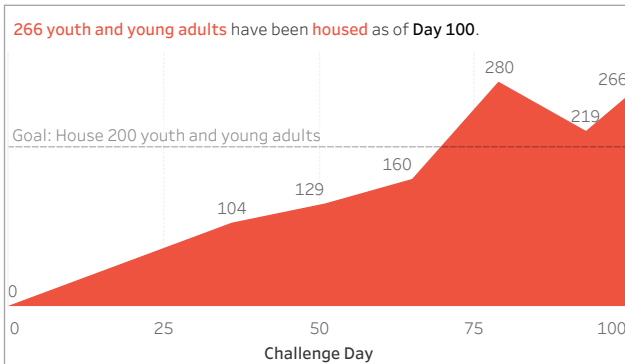
In 100 Days we will house 200 youth and young adults (YYA) ages 16-24 in safe, stable housing with connections to supports, of which 20% are pregnant and/or parenting and 65% are experiencing stress or mental health symptoms that create challenges to becoming stably housed.

PROGRESS, SUCCESSES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL	RESULTS
<p>In Sacramento, in 100 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 youth and young adults (YYA) will be safe and stably housed with connections to support. Of YYA housed, 20% are pregnant and/or parenting youth. Of YYA housed, 65% are experiencing stress or mental health symptoms that create challenges to becoming stably housed. 	<p>As of Day 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 266 YYA were safe and stably housed. 100% of YYA who were housed have been connected to support. 41% of YYA who were housed are pregnant or parenting. 56% of YYA who were housed are experiencing stress and/or mental health symptoms as a barrier.

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SUCSESSES IN INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION

The 100-Day Challenge helped bring together providers and agencies that were previously siloed and encouraged the involvement of new partners with insights on the specific needs of youth, including the Department of Behavioral Health, the County Office of Education, and programs serving pregnant and parenting youth. The Sacramento 100-Day Challenge Team strengthened this collaboration through the development of a strong communications strategy which incorporates Facebook and Instagram. The Team also developed a newsletter that is regularly distributed digitally to all system leaders in the community to inform them of the Team's progress and to share ways that these leaders can support them in the Challenge.

DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING

Sacramento made great strides in improving their data collection and sharing processes for youth experiencing homelessness during the 100-Day Challenge, which in turn helped improve the community's ability to identify, count and track youth experiencing homelessness across agencies and within the homeless response system. The Sacramento 100-Day Challenge Team improved data quality collection and participation in HMIS for youth experiencing homelessness by working with the HMIS lead agency to validate data and conducting regular clean-ups to ensure data is accurate. The community also began collecting data regarding youth experiencing homelessness from agencies not engaged in HMIS, including the education and foster care systems.

The Sacramento 100-Day Challenge Team utilized their HMIS data to develop a by-name list of youth experiencing homelessness. As part of their 100-Day Challenge efforts, Team members conducted outreach to every youth on the list to ascertain their current housing status, update key information, determine eligibility, and connect each youth to an agency contact. The Team developed screening questions in HMIS related to the 100-Day Challenge goal and created a new field, "HMIS: Agency Contacts" in order to assign agency contacts to each youth to help with client location and updating of the client's information at least every 90 days.

Sacramento also took steps to support data sharing by developing an internal unique identifier system that allows HMIS users to be able to recognize duplicate information and share data with other providers and agencies while honoring client confidentiality.

SERVING VULNERABLE YOUTH SUBPOPULATIONS

The Sacramento 100-Day Challenge Team committed to serving vulnerable subpopulations of youth experiencing homelessness, establishing a goal that 65% of youth housed during the Challenge would be experiencing significant mental health symptoms as a barrier to housing and 20% would be pregnant and/or parenting youth.

Pregnant and Parenting Youth: 41% of YYA housed during the 100-Day Challenge were pregnant or parenting, exceeding the community's goal. Sacramento worked to achieve this goal by working to

quickly identify and refer pregnant and parenting youth through Coordinated Entry; encouraging the use of a youth assessment tool rather than a family assessment tool to more accurately assess young adult families for services; and working with housing providers to begin accepting pregnant and parenting youth into their programs and address any barriers they face in serving this population. Most importantly, Sacramento established that improving connections to housing and supports for pregnant and parenting youth was a community-wide priority.

Youth with significant mental health symptoms: 56% of YYA who were housed were experiencing stress and/or significant mental health symptoms as a barrier to housing. The 100-Day Challenge Team brought the Department of Behavioral Health to the table to help youth housing providers navigate the complexities of behavioral health programs and make better referrals for mental health services for their clients. Mental health leaders also agreed to develop a universal mental health screening tool that can be used across all youth housing programs.

CASE CONFERENCING

As part of the 100-Day Challenge, Sacramento began transitional-aged youth (TAY) case conferencing. The TAY case conferencing process brought housing, service providers, and coordinated entry staff together to scan the list of youth in need to ensure that the providers working with youth can offer feedback and identify the best housing fit so that no youth fall through the cracks. 100-Day Challenge partners have committed to monthly case conferencing to speed up referrals and connection to housing by highlighting youth at the top of the housing list and ensuring they are ready for move-in as soon as a unit is open.

MAINTAINING 100-DAY MOMENTUM

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

- Continue to review the by-name list of 700 youth on the housing queue to ensure quick connection when openings in programs arise.
- Continue to share data across systems to find youth and to coordinate services.
- Meet monthly for Case Conferencing with Coordinated Entry.
- Demonstrate the value of all youth providers using HMIS to facilitate housing placements and track outcomes in housing stability, education, employment, wellness, and parenting.
- Implement a universal mental health screening tool for youth that is used across programs.
- Continue to build a cross agency housing locator team to end competition for apartments and collaborate to retain landlords.
- Offer an annual Point-In-Time Count event to better count the number of homeless youth in the community and extend a plethora of services.
- Continue to partner with local colleges to address the issue of homelessness among college students. Develop a partnership with the John Burton Advocates for Youth to coordinate local funding opportunities with placing homeless college students into housing.

- Continue to add partners into the 100-Day Challenge Team, breaking down silos and creating systems for communication and coordination.
- Support Mayor Steinberg's plan to house homeless adults, while advocating that our community not forget that homeless youth need housing programs designed to meet their developmental needs.
- Work to launch a Smart Shelter to assist partners in making the right placement into housing options within the community.
- Continue Sacramento's social media campaigns to educate the community about youth homelessness.