

## WHAT WE KNOW

**45,000** young people experience homelessness on any given night

Communities across the country are making unprecedented progress toward proving we can end youth homelessness. Now, we need the full support of, and investment from, Congress to capitalize on this moment and advance these innovative ideas and solutions.



Youth Homelessness most often involves a breakdown or conflict with a young person's family, and failures of systems such as housing, education, child welfare, and justice. These factors, compounded with economic instability, lead to housing crises that ultimately cause homelessness. It is also a major symptom of America's long history of structural racism and systemic inequities, meaning homelessness does not impact all young people equally. Regardless of the cause, young people in rural and urban areas experience homelessness at similar rates.

## RISK FACTORS

- Parenting youth are **200%** more likely to experience homelessness.
- Youth without a high school diploma or GED are **346%** more likely to experience homelessness.

## DISPARITIES

- Youth of color are **83%** more likely to experience homelessness.
- LGBTQ youth are **120%** more likely to experience homelessness.

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

An end to youth homelessness means every community has a system in place to prevent the vast majority of young people from experiencing homelessness, and for those who do, can respond immediately to resolve the crisis and set them up for future stability and success. This requires every community to:

- Bring all community systems and stakeholders to the table
- Collaborate with young people
- Focus solutions on those who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness

GOALS	STRATEGIES	IMPACT
Ensure Youth Homelessness Is Rare	<b>PREVENTION</b> An effective prevention system keeps young people who are at-risk from experiencing homelessness in the first place; coordinating across systems to connect at-risk youth to both housing and a set of supportive services to meet their needs	Fewer young people become homeless
Ensure Youth Homelessness Is Brief	<b>CRISIS RESPONSE</b> An effective crisis response system quickly identifies, shelters, and connects young people experiencing homelessness to housing; coordinating outreach and housing interventions, and moving young people toward stabilization	Communities identify, shelter, and move any young person who does experience homelessness to housing and stabilization quickly
Ensure Youth Homelessness Is One-Time	<b>STABILIZATION</b> Effective stabilization ensures young people remain housed after their crisis by providing supportive services across sectors to meet their needs; creating a set of service options from healthcare, childcare, education and employment, and behavioral health, and case management to help young people navigate those systems	Young people remain stably housed and thrive

# HOW TO GET THERE

The scope and prevalence of youth homelessness require an immediate, comprehensive national response. But new systems can't be built overnight. A foundation for future success is built on these principles:

## THE FOUNDATION

- **Prioritize Racial and LGBTQ Equity** by centering lived experience and ensuring all investments and interventions are tailored to and effective for youth of color and LGBTQ youth.

- **Guarantee Young People a Seat at the Table** by supporting authentic collaboration with young people in every community and system.

- **Invest in Quality Data** collection, sharing, and analysis to ensure every community has the information they need to measure outcomes, address disproportionalities, and test innovations; allowing federal programs to implement performance standards that hold communities accountable.

- **Invest in Innovation**, led by young people with lived experience, to find more efficient and effective solutions at all levels of our homelessness response.

- **Implement Systems in Tandem** so that systems providing prevention, crisis response, and stabilization services work together in a collaborative way; ensuring they overlap appropriately, coordinate often, and implementing a holistic approach that all young people can access and navigate through as they need.

While the work of ending youth homelessness happens locally, federal resources and infrastructure are essential to our progress. With the support of Congress and the Administration, these solutions will put us on the path to ending homelessness for all young people.

<p><b>PREVENTION</b></p> <p>Make Youth Homelessness Rare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>Address Housing Instability Directly</b> with investments for rental assistance paired with supportive services for all young people with unstable housing.</li> <li>□ <b>Support Transitions to Stability</b> for young people in Foster Care and Justice systems through exit planning including housing and services.</li> <li>□ <b>Invest in Long-Term Stability</b> and ensure young people most at risk have access to and can connect to a network of supportive services.</li> <li>□ <b>Fund Solutions to Scale</b>, for both existing and emerging solutions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CRISIS RESPONSE</b></p> <p>Make Youth Homelessness Brief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>Bring Every System to the Table</b> by incentivizing or requiring cross-sector collaboration.</li> <li>□ <b>Coordinate Assistance</b> across systems and providers, with collaboration guidelines and standards.</li> <li>□ <b>Ensure Strategies Are Tailored</b> to address the individual needs of all youth and address racial and LGBTQ inequities.</li> <li>□ <b>Fund Solutions to Scale</b>, for both existing and emerging solutions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STABILIZATION</b></p> <p>Make Youth Homelessness One-Time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>Ensure that Youth Have Access to Housing</b> that is safe, stable and affordable.</li> <li>□ <b>Prioritize Young People Exiting Homelessness</b> for access to educational and employment opportunities.</li> <li>□ <b>Remove Barriers to Services</b> like healthcare, childcare, financial and rental assistance by opening eligibility, increasing case management funding, and ensuring systems are trauma-informed.</li> <li>□ <b>Strengthen Personal and Family Supports</b> by prioritizing young people's personal support systems and providing family reunification, when appropriate.</li> <li>□ <b>Fund Solutions to Scale</b>, for both existing and emerging solutions.</li> </ul>