



About the A Way Home America Grand Challenge

In September 2019, A Way Home America (AWHA) will launch the Grand Challenge to support communities to reach a measurable, effective end to youth homelessness.

Grand Challenge Goal

Over a two year period, the A Way Home America Grand Challenge will help 10 communities in the United States end homelessness for LGBTQ youth and youth of color, setting the path to ending homelessness for all youth.

Given that the preponderance of youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ and/or youth of color, this result represents a key milestone toward ending homelessness for all young people.

The A Way Home America Grand Challenge to End Youth Homelessness

The Grand Challenge is a problem-solving initiative grounded in several critical approaches: youth collaboration, LGBTQ and racial equity, and quality improvement. The Grand Challenge builds on strategies which have already resulted in significant reductions in veteran and chronic homelessness throughout the United States. AWHA adds an unflinching focus on, and partnership with, the young people most impacted by youth homelessness. We believe this approach is the swiftest way to achieve dramatic progress.

The Grand Challenge will support 10 communities to achieve one shared result: an effective end to youth homelessness for LGBTQ youth and youth of color within two years, setting the path to ending homelessness for all youth.

Who We Are: A National Initiative to End Youth Homelessness

A Way Home America is a national initiative to build the movement to prevent and end homelessness among young people. We are made up of young people with lived expertise, youth homelessness providers, advocates, researchers, government agencies, and philanthropists uniting behind a common goal:

Prevent and end homelessness among all youth and young adults. Ensure that homelessness among youth and young adults is rare, and if it occurs, experiences of homelessness are brief and one-time.

AWHA is the movement that proves it is possible to end youth homelessness.

What We Know about Youth Homelessness

The Grand Challenge is a targeted response to the data.

Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America report revealed that one in 10 young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 and at least one in 30 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year.

**THE
GRAND
CHALLENGE**
TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

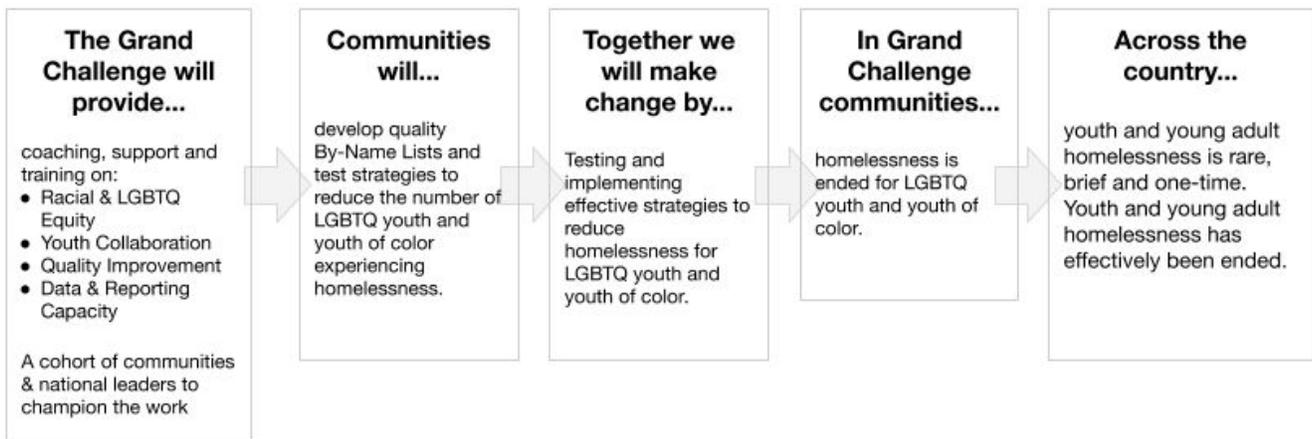
Youth homelessness is devastating and potentially fatal for any young person who experiences it and research proves that *youth homelessness isn't harming all youth equally*. LGBTQ youth are 120 percent more likely to experience homelessness. The Center for Social Innovation's SPARC: Phase One Study Findings found youth of color were most represented among individuals ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, accounting for 89 percent of this group.

Experiences of homelessness are twice as likely to be fatal for LGBTQ youth and youth of color. We cannot afford to leave these young people behind.

Theory of Change

The Grand Challenge is grounded in the theory that if we meet the needs of those young people most impacted by youth homelessness -- LGBTQ and youth of color -- we create a system that effectively meets the needs of all young people. *This is known as targeted universalism.*

By explicitly improving systems for historically marginalized groups we improve outcomes for all young people experiencing homelessness. Put another way, **systems that work for youth of color and LGBTQ youth create better outcomes for everyone.**



What to Expect

The Grand Challenge is, first and foremost, a process of using data to inform and test ideas as a community works to end youth homelessness through a targeted universalism approach.

AWHA will select 10 communities, through a competitive application process. These 10 communities will agree to hold themselves accountable as they reach the goal of the Grand Challenge within two years.

During the Grand Challenge the participating communities will:

- Convene with AWA three times a year to receive focused coaching and support.
- Track a uniform set of data each month, system measures which will indicate if the communities are making progress toward the Grand Challenge goal.
- Be assisted by lead coaches in the use of the data to inform changes in practice and/or system improvements.
- Have access to specialty coaching around youth collaboration and LGBTQ and racial equity.
 - Create a powerful, energized network of leaders doing critically difficult and essential work.

**THE
GRAND
CHALLENGE**
TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Measuring Success

Achieving the Grand Challenge Goal means that the community will end homelessness for all unaccompanied young people of color and LGBTQ young people between the ages of 13 – 24 years. Specifically, success is reaching United States Interagency Council on Homelessness [USICH] Benchmark A.5

and 6 and B.1 for young people of color and LGBTQ young people. This represents a critical milestone toward ending homelessness for all young people across the community, as measured by the USICH Criteria & Benchmarks.

Key Dates

Application Period	Tuesday, July 23 - Wednesday, August 21
Application Webinar	Thursday, August 1 at 3PM EST Friday, August 2 at 12PM EST
Awarded Communities Announced	September 3 – 5 Alongside the True Colors United Impact Summit
First In-Person Strategy Gathering	October 2019

Grand Challenge Coaching & Faculty

Community Solutions
CSH
ICF
JonRah Consulting
True Colors United
True Colors United National Youth Forum on Homelessness
Youth Collaboratory

Grand Challenge Funding Partners

Ballmer Group
Butler Family Fund
Campion Foundation
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Melville Charitable Trust
Raikes Foundation
Schultz Family Foundation

Contact

megan@awayhomeamerica.org
Phone: 206-605-5044

Website

awayhomeamerica.org/grand-challenge

Social

@AWAYHOMEAMERICA
#AWHAGrandChallenge
#EndYouthHomelessness

