About the Grand Challenge

Grand Challenge Goal
Over a four 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.

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

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 continuous 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 four years, setting the path to ending homelessness for all youth.

A Way Home America: 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.

Grand Challenge 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.*
About the Grand Challenge

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.

During the Grand Challenge the participating communities will:

● Convene with AWHA (virtually until further notice) three times a year to receive focused coaching and support.
● Assess the ability of their community and its homeless response system to know every young person experiencing homelessness and work to make this possible.
● Track a uniform set of data each month, system measures which will indicate if the communities are making progress toward the Grand Challenge goal.
● Work with coaches to use data to inform continuous improvement in practice and systems.
● 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.

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 means that fewer young people are becoming homeless at any given time than the community has the ability to serve, and for those who experience homelessness, it does not last long (less than 30 days on average). (These measures are in alignment with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness [USICH] Benchmarks to ending youth homelessness.) This represents a critical milestone toward ending homelessness for all young people across the community.
About the Grand Challenge

Grand Challenge Coaching & Faculty
Community Solutions
CSH
ICF
Liberation House
National Innovation Service
True Colors United
Youth Collaboratory

Grand Challenge Funding Partners
Ballmer Group
Butler Family Fund
Campion Foundation
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Melville Charitable Trust
Raikes Foundation
Schultz Family Foundation

Grand Challenge Team
Sarah Mikhail, GC National Director
sarah@awayhomeamerica.org
347-404-2096

Hablo Rodriguez Diaz, Community Coach
hablo@awayhomeamerica.org
510-407-5452

Website
awayhomeamerica.org/grand-challenge

Social
@AWAYHOMEAMERICA
#AWHAGrandChallenge #EndYouthHomelessness