



GREATER HOUSTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS FUND IMPACT SUMMARY

ABOUT

The Youth Homelessness Fund (YHF)- formerly known as the Greater Houston Fund to End Homelessness- was established in 2013. The purpose of the YHF is to build a local network of funders who are committed to reducing youth homelessness through leadership, education, and collaborative grant making.

In 2017, the Youth Homeless Fund was led by steering committee members: Shirley Allen, The Frees Foundation, Lindsey Wise, and Melissa Wise; 2017 YHF donors included: Jane Holston and Di Portanova Charitable Foundation.

IMPACT 2017

- The YHF donors met with collaborative grantees throughout the year to share in grantee learning and to stay abreast of progress on the collaborative grants made in 2016. These grants were a first for Houston's homeless youth service organizations.
- Collaborative planning grants enabled the organizations to learn from national experts, work together in new ways, implement a coordinated case management pilot, and develop an action plan to increase housing options and improve wrap around services.

2016

- To learn more about the gaps in service delivery and opportunities for organizations to collaborate, the YHF donors held a nonprofit listening session in February 2016. Ten nonprofit leaders attended to share their insights and recommendations.
- Based on the suggestions of the nonprofits and YouthCount 2.0 data, the YHF donors issued a request for planning and implementation proposals from nonprofits that would commit to work in collaboration for shared outcomes.
- A Request for Proposal was issued and two planning grants were awarded: \$30,000 was given to Covenant House, HAY Center, and Kinder Emergency Shelter for a Coordinated Case Management Team and \$35,000 was granted to the reVision Homeless Youth Collaborative (Houston: reVision, Coalition for the Homeless, HAY Center, Houston Housing Authority, and Salvation Army YARC).

2015

- Two new state laws were passed in 2015 that used data obtained by YouthCount 2.0:
 - HB 843: Preventing Homelessness of Youth Who Age Out of Foster Care

Incorporates a housing stability plan at the beginning of the transition planning process for youth aging out of foster care

- HB 679: Increase Opportunities to Serve Homeless Youth
Establishes a state definition of youth homelessness that mirrors the federal definition – youth with their families, unaccompanied youth, and youth without stable housing (not “literally” homeless)
- A duplicated YouthCount 2.0 was conducted during Summer 2015 in Montgomery County by Community Youth Outreach, a collaborative of Montgomery County Youth Services, CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County, and Angel Reach, utilizing the same YouthCount 2.0 researchers and methodology. The Coalition for the Homeless integrated many of the survey design ideas and practices into their survey methodology for their annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count.

2014

- The YHF made a \$90,851 grant to administer YouthCount 2.0, the first comprehensive survey of youth homelessness in the greater Houston area.
- YouthCount 2.0 confirmed that homeless youth do not identify as homeless and will not utilize adult homeless service providers. The study also established that homeless youth are concentrated in the Montrose area; very few youth congregate outside of the city’s center. These findings help service providers design interventions and enable funding agencies to better target their spending.
- With YouthCount 2.0 identifying 41% of homeless youth having involvement with the foster care system, a new collaboration between the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) and the Houston Alumni and Youth Center (HAY) was formed to provide 100 Housing Choice Vouchers over the next four years for foster care system alumni between the ages of 18-24.

Current Year Focus

In 2018, the YHF will concentrate on helping collaborative grantees advance the ideas and models developed through the 2017 planning grants. The YHF donors will also explore opportunities to connect homeless youth to local resources through increased social media and communication efforts.

Learn more about youth homelessness and read the YouthCount 2.0 Executive Summary:

<http://ghcf.org/resources/resource-impact/>

Join the Youth Homelessness Fund:

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