



WHO WE ARE: A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

A Way Home America (AWHA) is a national initiative to build the movement to prevent and end homelessness among young people. We are homeless youth providers, young people, advocates, researchers, local and federal government agencies and philanthropists uniting behind a common goal:

In 2020, 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.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER: 2016 ACTIVITIES

AWHA efforts are organized in three focus areas: policy, practice and communications. Communications efforts included the launch of AWHA and establishing our presence together nationally. A summary of our policy and practice activities follows.

POLICY

AWHA Transition Plan

The AWHA Steering & Policy Committees, incorporating the direct input of young people, endorsed our first policy blueprint. The AWHA Transition Plan represents our current collective best thinking on administrative actions & resources needed to end youth homelessness.

The Transition Plans is available at:
www.awayhomeamerica.org/awha-transition-plan-actions-strategies-to-edyouthhomelessness/

Maintaining Momentum

In December 2016, AWHA met with federal career staff. These are federal employees who are not politically appointed and who serve regardless of administration. AWHA shared our transition priorities and discussed maintaining momentum and collaboration with federal partners.

Adapting to the New Environment

AWHA consulted with a government affairs firm specializing in strategies tailored to Republicans to support the refinement of our messaging and approach with the incoming administration.

PRACTICE

100-Day Challenge Launch

AWHA launched three 100-Day Challenges in Austin, Cleveland & Los Angeles with coaching by Rapid Results Institute and the support of Health and Human Services, Casey Family Programs, Melville Charitable Trust & the Raikes Foundation. The National Youth Forum on Homelessness offered input to the community selection.

Austin, Cleveland & LA: Success!

Austin, Cleveland and Los Angeles launched on September 7th 2016, and **each city exceeded their 100-Day Challenge goal.** More information about this remarkable community effort can be found via the dashboard.

Community Dashboard

AWHA developed and hosted a community progress dashboard, updated bi-monthly throughout the challenge:
www.awayhomeamerica.org/100-day-challenge-overview

“ I serve on the steering committee because it's a group of leaders who value youth voice and are committed to ending homelessness through innovation. ”

— Rivianna Hyatt, National Youth Forum on Homelessness

OUR COLLECTIVE WORK AHEAD: 2017 ACTIVITIES

The following activities are anticipated in 2017 to sustain our momentum and build the movement to end youth homelessness.

POLICY

Utilize Our Collective Voice

AWHA will focus on federal advocacy to sustain the resources necessary to prevent and quickly end youth homelessness. Our work always includes the voices of young people.

AWHA will promote federal leadership to help state and local governments and partners in the non-profit and private sector come together to end youth homelessness in their communities.

AWHA will seek opportunities to promote the movement to end youth homelessness at the state level.

PRACTICE

Further 100-Day Challenge Efforts

AWHA anticipates the launch of 10 additional 100-Day Challenges on youth homelessness across the United States in 2017, and will partner to spread lessons learned. We will ensure meaningful youth engagement is a core component.

Support Collective Learning

AWHA will support collective learning across 100-Day Challenge communities, Youth Homelessness Demonstration sites and others working to end youth homelessness in their community.

As a movement, we are driving toward answers on:

1. How to measure progress across a community
2. The system and program drivers which create substantial headway

COMMUNICATIONS

Promote Strategic Issue Framing

A friend of the movement said in late 2016, *"If you want to have a chance at ending youth homelessness, simplify your message."*

AWHA will foster a clear, consistent and easy-to-understand framing of youth homelessness, including scope, causes and solutions, to communicate with the current administration, congress, national and state partners.

Our voice is strongest when we speak collectively, consistently, and strategically!

TAKE ACTION

JOIN THE EFFORT

Sign up for our newsletter and be social!
www.awayhomeamerica.org

ADD YOUR VOICE

If you are an organization that wants to be involved or has input for our collective effort, email
megan@awayhomeamerica.org

2017 AWAH STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Butler Family Fund
Campion Advocacy Fund
Casey Family Programs
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Coalition for the Homeless Houston/Harris Co.
Covenant House International
Forum for Youth Investment
Funders Together to End Homelessness
Larkin Street Youth Services
Lighthouse Youth Services
Los Angeles LGBT Center

MANY Network
Melville Charitable Trust
Multnomah County Oregon
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Network for Youth
National Youth Forum on Homelessness
Raikes Foundation
Simmons Foundation
State of Minnesota
True Colors Fund

See our full membership @ WWW.AWAYHOMEAMERICA.ORG

