Welcome to the Funders Network for Youth Success e-news! In this e-news, we’ll share various ways you can connect and learn alongside your colleagues investing in solutions to end youth homelessness. As a member of the Funders Network for Youth Success, you’ll receive quarterly newsletters updating you on the latest information, programming, and resources about youth homelessness.

As our nation faces the COVID-19 pandemic and a social uprising in response to ongoing anti-Black racism, philanthropy’s collective learning and action is crucial to support people experiencing homelessness in our communities, especially vulnerable populations, such as young people of color and LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. In the coming months, Funders Together will provide webinars, funder calls, and resources for communities responding to COVID-19 and working toward racial equity in housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. If you have questions, please contact me at tabitha@funderstogether.org

On September 22, Funders Together to End Homelessness submitted a public comment to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) voicing our opposition to its proposed changes to the Equal Access Rule that would allow shelters to discriminate against LGBTQ+, transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming individuals.

In our comments, we expressed our concern to HUD about the proposed rule changes and the harmful implications it will have for transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming individuals and youth, particularly people of color who are already at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness and currently make up a disproportional percentage of the homeless population.

As of September 22, when the public comment period ended, more than 66,000 public comments had been submitted which is the most comments HUD has received on a rule. The prior record was more than 30,000 public comments around the “mixed status” immigrant families rule in 2019 (which was a record itself with previous rules generating around 1,000 comments to HUD).

We are proud to be part of a united front of partners that places equity, justice, and compassion at the forefront to ensure all our neighbors have access to basic needs that can save lives, because we know #HousingSavesLives.

Read our full comments on our blog.
Point Source Youth’s 4th National Symposium
Tuesday and Wednesday, October 20-21, 2020

Join Point Source Youth for conversations that situate the movement to end youth homelessness within current discussions around LGBTQ+ rights, HIV advocacy, the Movement for Black Lives, Indigenous Rights, Affordable Housing movements, and economic justice in addition to the other pressing social justice issues of our time.

REGISTER

Point Source Youth’s 2nd Southern Symposium
Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Point Source Youth’s 2nd Southern Symposium is about intentionality and the power of community. Their virtual gathering will offer a space for attendees to connect with hundreds of providers, advocates, and thought leaders committed to end the youth homelessness crisis in the South.

REGISTER

Point Source Youth’s 1st Annual Symposium: West
Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Point Source Youth’s West Symposium will center on the unique challenges that communities in the western United States face in the movement to end youth homelessness. Led by leaders from the western US, topics will include immigration rights, indigenous liberation and rising cost markets.

REGISTER

Grand Challenge Year In Review
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 | 12:00-2:00pm ET | 9:00-11:00am PT

A Way Home America and Funders Together to End Homelessness will be hosting a conversation about the lessons learned in the first year of the Grand Challenge with faculty, communities, and staff. If you are interested in possibly attending, please email Tabitha Blackwell at tblackwell@funderstogether.org.

Youth Homelessness News

'Get out': LGBTQ youth at disproportionate risk of homelessness during COVID
Newsday (August 3, 2020)

40 Communities Have Completed 100-Day Challenges on Youth Homelessness! - A Message from Sean Whitten
Rapid Results Institute (August 31, 2020)
Funders Together to End Homelessness Baltimore began in early 2019 as a network of funders that align resources behind the public funding and resource development strategy to end homelessness in Baltimore City. One of the public funding opportunities they have been supporting recently is the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) introduced the YHDP to support communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

At the end of 2019, Baltimore City was one of 23 communities selected in the third round and awarded $3,699,336 to implement a local plan. The population to be served by this demonstration program is unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied pregnant or parent youth, where no member of the household is older than 24.

Every community has different needs and requires different interventions in working to end youth homelessness. After analyzing the current gaps in Baltimore City’s supports for young people experiencing homelessness, the following five projects were identified:

- The Diversion project aims to connect with youth and young adults through outreach and coordinated access in order to quickly assess if youth have the ability to be diverted from shelter or housing projects. The project will assess the ability to divert and offer short term (up to six months) of flexible financial assistance and supportive services to keep youth housed or quickly re-housed.
- The Family-Based Setting Support Program will operate as a housing project with referrals through coordinated entry. The project will be able to offer financial support and supportive services, for up to 24 months (with approval from HUD), to young people living with friends, kin, and recruiting host homes.
- The Crisis Transitional Housing project will offer crisis housing units to youth 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness. The goal is to offer short-term (1-3 months) of crisis housing that offers safe and stable housing to youth while they are waiting to be connected to their permanent housing solution.
- The Rapid Re-Housing project will offer up to 24 months of tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to youth 18-24. The project will assist youth in locating and sustaining rental housing through housing search, rental assistance, and ongoing supportive services.
- The Permanent Supportive Housing project will offer non-time limited housing assistance and a deep array of supportive services for youth 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness and have a qualifying disability. The project is targeted for youth and young adults with mental health, physical health, and substance use disorders and requires comprehensive supportive services.

Led by co-chairs Sara Muempfer of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Amy Kleine of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, FTEH Baltimore has been partnering with the City of Baltimore and the
Continuum of Care to coordinate the YHDP efforts. Two members of FTEH Baltimore also serve on the Planning Committee for YHDP, strengthening connections between the groups. Over the last six months, Baltimore has experienced the effects of the global pandemic, the reckoning of racial injustice in our nation, and the turnover in key leadership roles. However, FTEH Baltimore, housed at Maryland Philanthropy Network, has provided consistent ways for its members to engage and learn about the continued work to end homelessness, as well as relief efforts to aid people experiencing homelessness through this unprecedented time.

To date, three members of FTEH Baltimore were able to strategically align their funding to provide $625,000 of matching grant funds to four organizations as well as providing financial support to the YHDP’s Youth Advisory Board. Their philanthropic dollars are supplementing the grantee projects and supporting project components that cannot be covered by the HUD funding, such as furniture, houseware, utility assistance, deposits, etc. While they are still working on finalizing funding for all of the projects, the funders continue to work together as a network to ensure that private dollars are being used in a meaningful way to leverage the public funds awarded to Baltimore City. More importantly, the work they began last year in building a network of funders has helped them mobilize during these challenging times to support the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Webinar Recording: **Cash Transfers as an Emergency Response to Housing Instability**

In this webinar, we explored Direct Cash Transfers as a tool in emergency response, during COVID-19 and in other emergencies. We discussed how philanthropy is currently supporting a pilot of this work in New York and what additional opportunities there are to leverage this intervention in communities. Panelists explored the potential benefits and feasibility of using cash transfers for a multitude of populations, not just as a response to the current pandemic, but as an ongoing emergency response to those experiencing housing instability. This webinar was co-sponsored by Philanthropy New York.

*Access to this webinar recording is only available to Full Members of Funders Together. If you are interested in joining to view this recording as well as gain access to other Full Member benefits, contact Stephanie Chan.*

**Funders Together Youth Homelessness Resource Page**

These resources provide a snapshot of the current youth homelessness landscape for funders and support funders in identifying the role they can play in advancing the working happening both nationally and locally. From upcoming programming to partners in the work to policy updates, we will be updating this page with timely resources as they become available, so bookmark this page and check back often!

**Funders Together COVID-19 Resources for Philanthropy**

In light of concerns surrounding COVID-19 and how it’s affecting our neighbors and communities, we know it’s been top of mind for many funders and partners. This page hosts general resources for funders as well as resources focused on COVID-19’s impact on housing and homelessness.

*Have upcoming programming, resources, or news to share? Let us know so we can include in our next quarterly Funders Network for Youth Success e-news!*