

Youth Homelessness Funder Strategy Circles

FTEH | Notes

May 20, 2025



Attending: Joe Womac (Specialty Family Foundation), Lara Tannenbaum (Tipping Point), Daisy Vazquez (Porticus), Sarah Yun (Whittier Trust), Casey Trupin (Raikes Fdn), Ash Hyatt (Tipping Point), Cole Giannone (NYC Fund), Paula Carvalho (Raikes Fdn)

Staff: Michael Durham, Joshua Perrin

Guests: NA

Regrets: NA

Agenda:

- I. Welcome, Introductions
- II. Announcements + Logistics
 - a. [Upcoming programming](#)
 - b. Synchronized meetings with prevention roundtable
 - c. Youth organizing webinar
 - d. Convening youth funders
- III. Peer Circle: spotlight one youth homelessness initiative that feels most present for you right now
- IV. Crosstalk: what follow-up questions and comments do you have for your peers?
- V. Adjourn
 - a. Next meeting will be July 22

Notes:

Michael initiated the meeting with a round of introductions, welcoming Joshua Perrin to the Funders Together staff!

In addition to the [Funders Institute](#) coming up June 30-July 1 in DC, Michael plugged the [May 21st funder briefing](#) he's moderating that's hosted by Neighborhood Funders Group. The discussion will elevate a cross-sector decriminalization table that represents the kind of coalition work we need in this moment. Michael also called attention to the new sequencing of the Youth Homelessness Prevention Roundtable hosted by Raikes Foundation and Child Focus Partners: it will meet on the third Tuesday of the even months to complement this meeting's recurrence on the odd months. If you aren't on that list and want to be, email Michael.

Michael also previewed the next edition of our webinar series that will encourage funders to support youth-led organizing, which may include housing justice, as opposed to bringing young

people to tables set by philanthropy or nonprofits led by people without lived experience. Michael is also looking for connections to the Funders Collaborative for Youth Organizing to cohost this conversation. Participants messaged several recommendations for a funder perspective.

Rounding out logistics, Michael acknowledged that Funders Together had hoped to gather youth homelessness funders for a special convening in conjunction with the Funders Institute next month, but instead have decided to prioritize a standalone event in the future. That will require significant planning and a long runway, so we will follow up separately about what's needed to move that idea forward.

Michael opened the [Circle](#) for participants to share the most relevant updates from their youth homelessness work, which included the following.

- Joe provided an update on their role in LA county's prioritization of Transition Aged Youth for homelessness prevention, aiming to move toward a guarantee of housing assistance for this population.
- Lara announced that their three-year youth homelessness program is coming to an end, even as they had hoped to continue the work beyond that cycle. Some youth homelessness work will continue to be funded as part of their core portfolio, but otherwise, they're focusing energy on digesting what they've learned from the project and how to move forward in its absence.
- Daisy celebrated the recent press conference by Point Source Youth that reported successful 30-day findings from their Direct Cash Transfers for Prevention program, recently rebranded as Targeted Housing Assistance Program (THAP).
- Sarah said that their One Roof Collaborative composed of funders and youth advocates just merged its private and public arms, which has proven frustrating. No one is taking responsibility for the TAY initiative and instead the conversations get mired in bureaucracy.
- Casey reported that Raikes has been funding C3 and C4 advocacy work in defense of YHDP and federal street outreach dollars, in addition to prevention funds. They also continue to support the National Prevention Learning Collaborative, which has now moved out of the federal government.
- Ash said his work has focused primarily on gathering feedback on grantees' experience with the project, which has pointed to the discrepancies in outcome measures between workforce programs and homelessness providers.
- Cole said the Fund has been focusing more on family homelessness than youth, but includes a focus on parenting youth. They are also funding PSY's THAP initiative and encourage others to support expansion of it in their own communities.
- Paula lifted up the national youth homelessness partnership that moved from USICH to Virginia Commonwealth University: they're releasing their priorities soon and seek input from partners. She also said they're convening the state-government youth homelessness offices in their spheres of influence for problem-sharing and support and hope to fund a facilitator to keep the work going.

Opening it up to broader conversation, we continued discussion of the frustrations and nuances of public-private partnerships and otherwise working with obnoxious bureaucracies. We also

discussed how we can support Tipping Point as they wind down their project and invited offline connections for those who shared.

We adjourned at 3:00ET.