

Funders Together

FOR HOUSING JUSTICE



Youth Homelessness Funder Strategy Circles

July 22, 2025

Attending: Casey Trupin (Raikes Fdn), James Crowder (Annie E. Casey Fdn), Daisy Vazquez (Porticus), Paula Carvalho (Raikes Fdn), Shilpa Bavikatte (Crown Family Philanthropies), Kristine Peters (Orange County United Way), Kyrra Rankine (Graves Fdn), Sarah Yun (Whittier Trust), Emily Skehan (Cedars Sinai)

Staff: Michael Durham, Stephanie Chan

Guests: NA

Regrets: Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Lara Tannenbaum, Sommer Green

Agenda:

- I. Welcome, Introductions
- II. Announcements + Logistics
- III. Discussion: how is recent federal policy affecting your work?
- IV. Adjourn
 - a. Next meeting will be September 23

Notes:

Michael initiated the meeting with introductions followed by a welcome to Stephanie who has just returned from sabbatical. While she was away, we officially changed our name to Funders Together for Housing Justice and announced that Stephanie and Amanda's last day at Funders Together will be August 15, transitioning to be Co-Presidents of Neighborhood Funders Group in September. Our interim co-CEOs, Maegan Scott and Jessica Vanegas, start August 4th. Michael also promoted A Way Home America's State of the Movement in October in Chicago, along with this week's co-sponsored webinar with Youth Transition Funders Group and invited contributions to the next youth homelessness newsletter by August 1st.

Michael set up discussion circle-style, inviting participants to share how they're responding to recent federal policy disasters:

- Casey reflected that no public service affected youth experiencing homelessness has gone untouched by the President's budget. From McKinney-Vento to the CoC, nothing is safe. The only glimmer of hope to remark upon is that the Prevention of Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (PYHDP) has secured a republican cosponsor and will be introduced in the next few weeks.
- James shared that Annie E. Casey is considering a broader role in housing justice in response to recent threats, but TBD on details.

- Daisy said Porticus is asking program officers to predict the needs of grantees in 2026, but it is so difficult to assess at this point. In the meantime, they're affording current grantees more flexibility in their budgets and are looking to support more advocacy work.
- Paula described their general pivot from federal to a state focus, including convening the youth-homelessness leads within state governments. They're especially keen to bring in purple and red states. She also shared how Seattle is a host city for the 2026 World Cup and is likely to further criminalize outdoor homelessness in preparation.
- Shilpa described all the impressive state and local work in Illinois and Chicago, respectively, to align homelessness initiatives and compose a five-year plan to end homelessness, which took place in the previous Administration. Many are standing up pooled funds in Chicago to support grantees' legal needs in this new era. At Crown specifically, their strategy refresh includes youth homelessness prevention for the first time, and Shilpa welcomes input on that!
- Kristine said Orange County is still grappling with ICE raids, which also affects their housing and homelessness work: so many are fearful to go to work, which threatens their housing stability. This in addition to the impacts on cuts to Medicaid they anticipate.
- Kyrra reflected on the ongoing impact of the political assassination of Melissa Hortman, including its effect on working with legislators on homelessness issues. In the meantime, grantees are craving acknowledgment from philanthropy on the hell they're experiencing and want to be convened more often.
- Sarah reciprocated the ongoing fear of ICE raids in Los Angeles, and noted her use of a certain fund to support families who are fearful to go to work. All this takes place in the midst of a budget deficit in LA county, LA city, and the state of California. They anticipate a 25-40% cut to the county mental health agency alone. They remain in a holding pattern as the impacts of HR1 are realized.
- Emily shared the same grief as previously mentioned and added that Cedars is offering more direct cash assistance in recent weeks and is changing their internal policies to minimize reporting requirements to a simple phone call as they continue to advocate internally for increasing their payout. In the meantime, the LA Emissary has assumed an impressive role in advocacy efforts on youth homelessness.

We spent the remaining ten minutes discussing Raikes Foundation's interest in convening state-government youth-homelessness representatives and will use Funders Together's platform to extend that invitation. We also raised the idea of convening Funders Together's contacts in World Cup host cities, perhaps including the Super Bowl.

We adjourned three minutes early with enthusiastic anticipation of our September 22 meeting when Becks Heyhoe-Khalil will showcase Orange County United Way's youth homelessness prevention pilot.