



UNITED TO END HOMELESSNESS SM

WHATEVER IT TAKES -YOUTH



Orange County
UNITED WAY



Launch day June 10, 2025

What is WIT-Y?

The goal of Whatever it Takes-Youth is to pair creative housing/diversion conversations with one-time payments to stabilize a housing crisis and prevent a young person from experiencing homelessness.

- **Exploratory, strengths-based conversation** to brainstorm practical solutions for people to resolve an immediate housing crisis quickly and safely outside of the homelessness system
- Focused on helping people get past the **immediate barriers** they face in stabilizing their housing
- Generating **creative ideas** to identify realistic options for safe housing
- Identifying housing options based on the **person's own available resources** rather than those of the homeless response system
- Flexible financial assistance where needed to **fund young people's housing plans**

WIT-Y can be used to...



Eliminate a barrier to housing



Create a new opportunity for housing



Make existing housing safer or more tenable



Resolve a conflict that was threatening housing



Result is a client being housed permanently or temporarily outside of the homelessness system

Who is eligible?

- **Young people 12-24 experiencing homelessness or a crisis threatening housing**
- **Unaccompanied or at imminent risk of becoming unaccompanied**
- **Current Living Situation**
 - Literally homeless or living in a place not meant for human habitation
 - Staying in shelter
 - Unsafely or unstably doubled up/couch surfing
 - Fleeing DV or trafficking
 - At imminent risk of losing housing
- **Has, or can come up with, a concrete, specific plan for stabilizing their housing situation within ~30 days**

Young people are NOT eligible if they are already housed within a Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, or housed with a voucher

Spirit of Diversion

Person-centered and strength-based approach that assists an individual or household to quickly secure a **permanent** or **temporary** housing solution outside of the homeless response system.

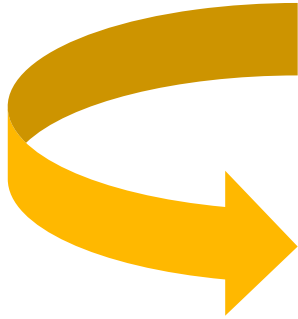
- Crisis Resolution
- Youth, Equity and Trust
- Fast, Simple, Flexible
- Progressive Engagement



- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Immediacy

Eligibility Deep Dive

WIT-Y flexible financial assistance **can be used for virtually anything provided that:**

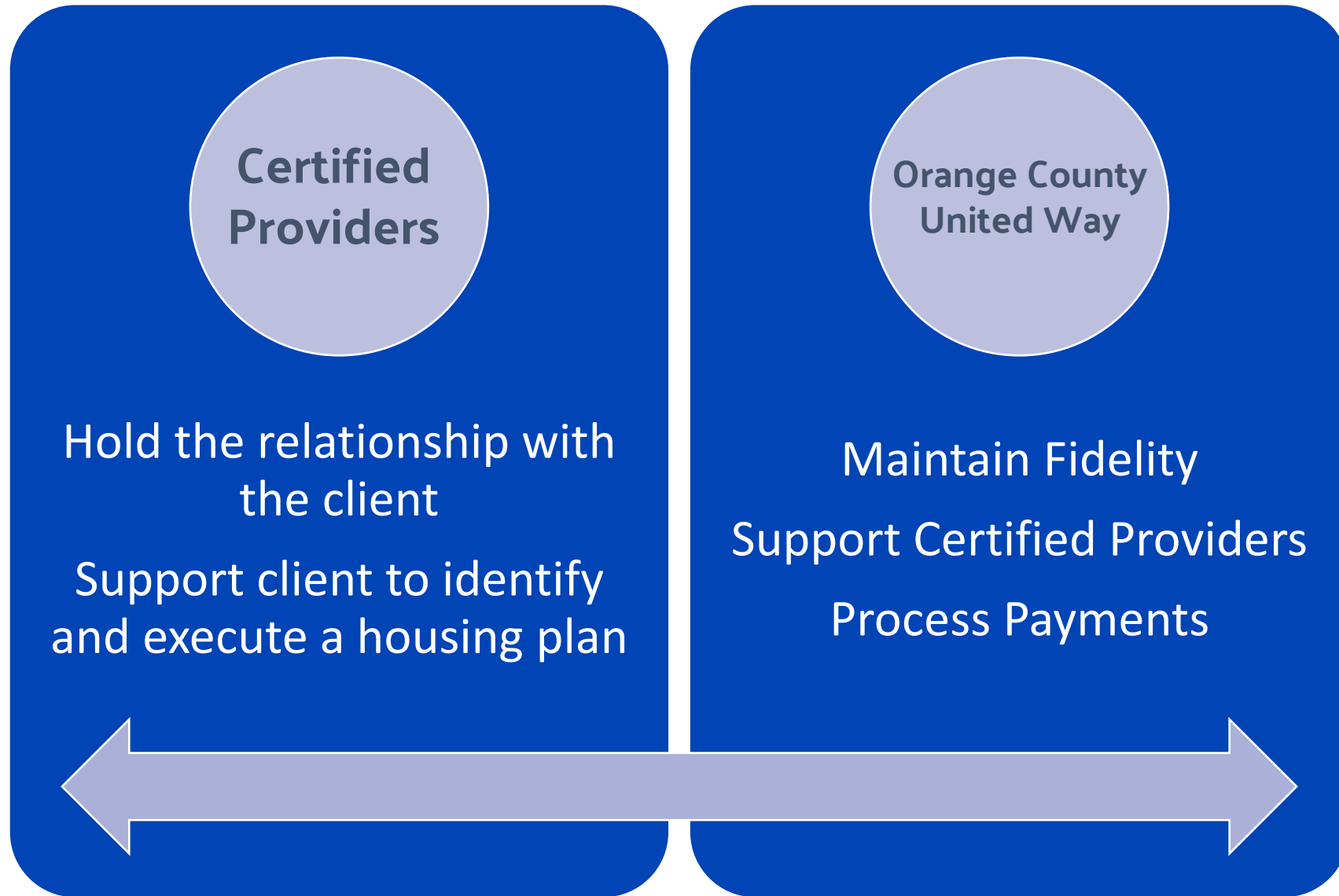


- 1) There is a direct line between that payment and safe, stable housing outside of the homeless response system, and

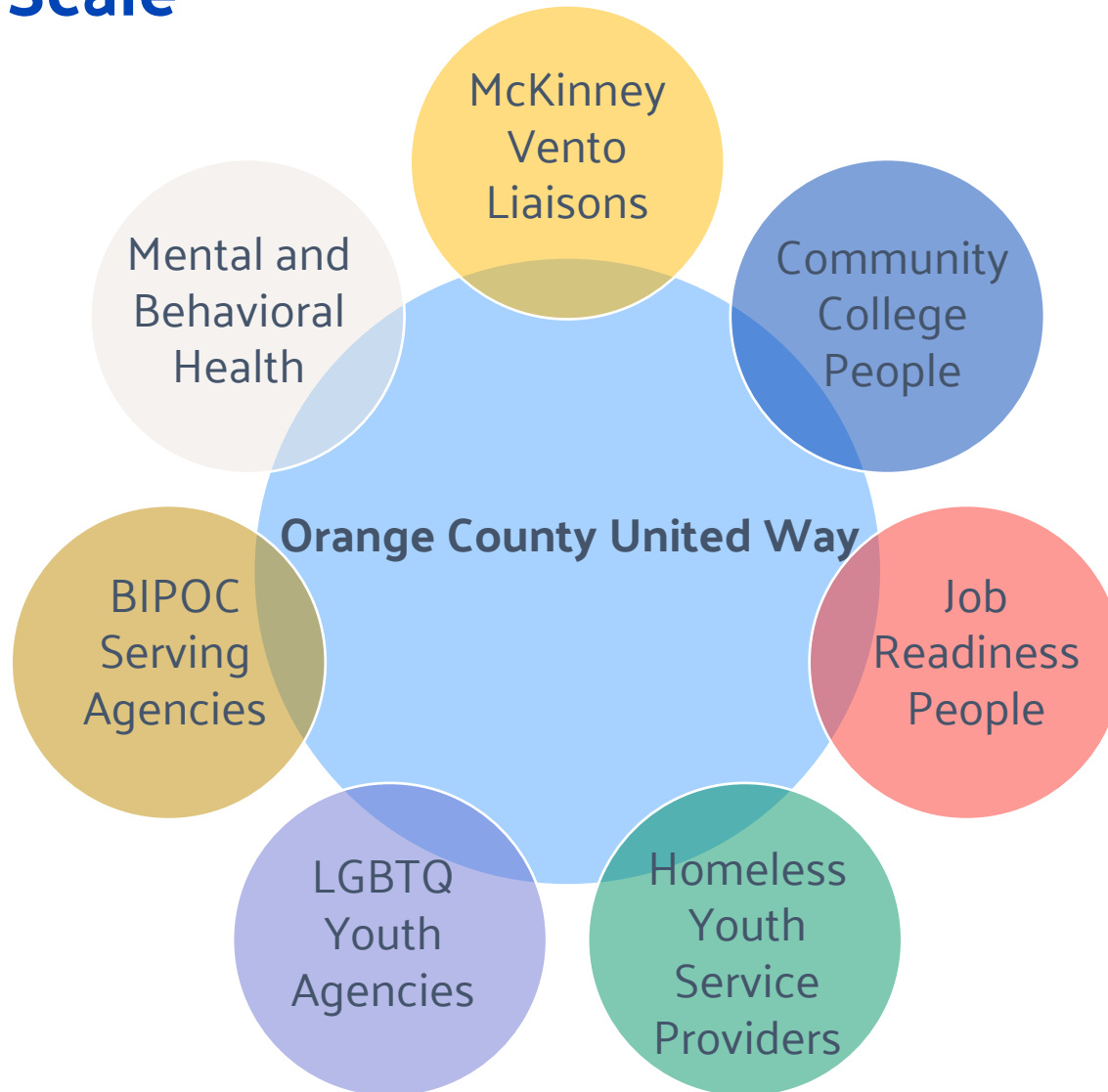


- 2) The housing solution can be implemented within ~30 days

Roles



Centralized Diversion Vision at Scale



- No wrong door
- Can support young people before they enter the “system”
- Community program, rather than program in the community

Whatever it Takes-Youth Overview

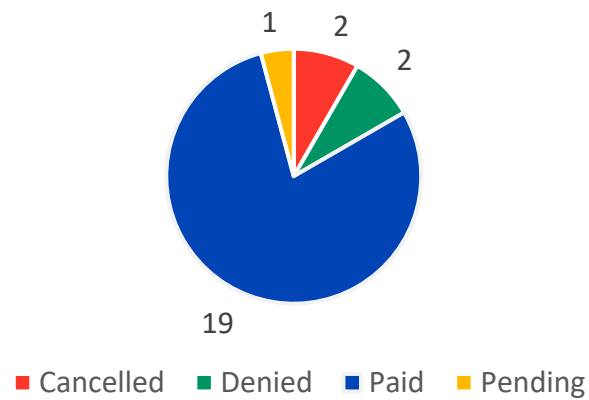
- Total Young Adults Impacted: 19
 - # Households Members Impacted: 50
- Total Amount Spent: \$41,105
 - Average per client referral: \$2,163
- Total Agency Partners: 3
 - Covenant House, Orangewood, Project Hope Alliance
- Total Staff Trained in Diversion/Prevention: 33



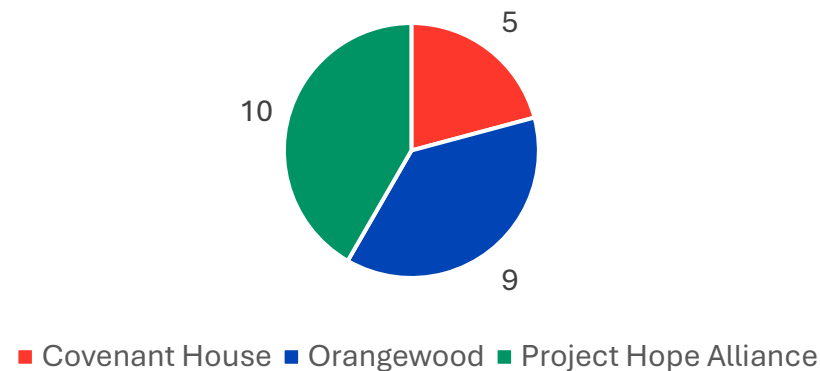
WHATEVER IT TAKES –YOUTH: DATA*

*as of 9/22/25

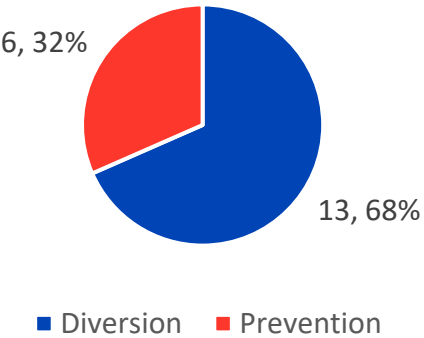
Total Client Housing Plans
Received: 24



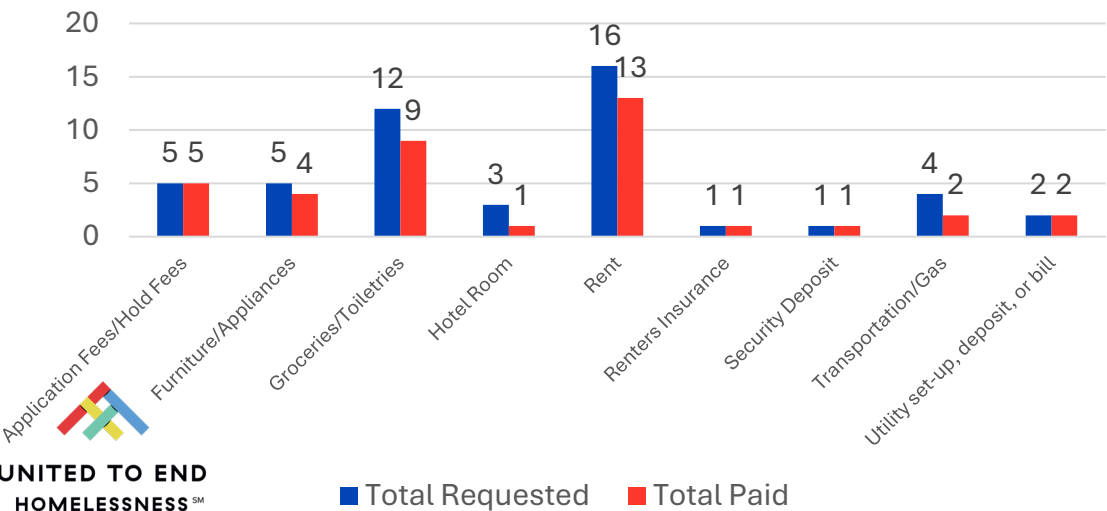
Client Housing Plan Referrals
Received by Agency



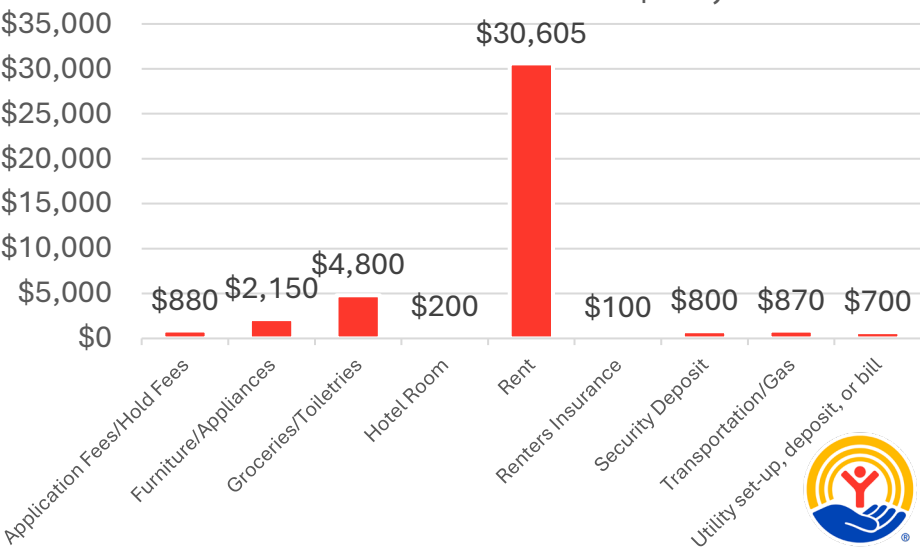
Total Clients Served: 19



Funding Needs Requested



Total Amount Paid: \$41,105



Clients Served: Demographics

Pregnant or Parenting: 11%

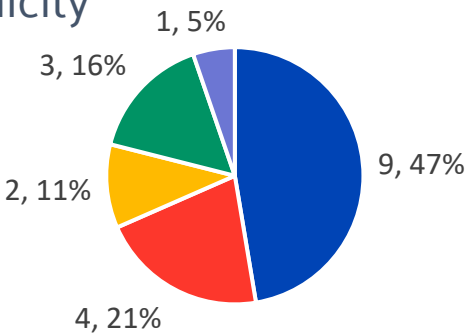


City Most Recently Housed



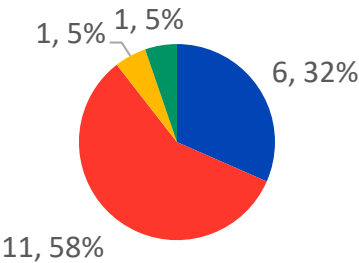
- Anaheim: 4
- Costa Mesa: 5
- Garden Grove: 3
- Huntington Beach: 1
- La Habra: 2
- San Juan Capistrano: 1
- Santa Ana: 1
- Westminster: 1
- Other: 1

Race and Ethnicity



■ Latino/a, Latinx, Latine ■ Black or African American ■ Asian ■ White ■ Other

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation



■ Boy/Man-Cisgender ■ Girl/Woman-Cisgender
■ Boy/Man-Transgender ■ Data not collected

Heterosexual/Straight	11
Gay or Lesbian	1
Client preferred not to answer	4
Data not collected	3

What's Working



- Co-creating program services between financial distributor (OCUW) and TAY focused service partners through a pilot period
- Utilizing expertise of proven program models including A Way Home Washington
- Learning Circles with partners to connect/adapt practices from existing services to the new, innovative program model
- Use of debit cards for direct payments to clients to distribute prevention funds (taking fund distribution from weeks/days to minutes)
- Flexibility of funding allowing for creativity in housing solutions



Opportunities



- Input from funders on data collection as it relates to sustainability
- A robust information system for receiving funding requests, tracking payments, and tracking outcomes
- Scaling up: exiting the pilot phase will require outreach to and collaboration with additional service provider partners



Alexander's Story

Alexander was accepted to Colorado State University where he plans to study biomedical engineering. He was accepted into the university's housing program, but did not have the funds to cover the fall semester dorm rent that was due at move-in. WIT-Y was able to assist by covering this expense so that Alexander could move-in and begin classes while he applies for FAFSA and secures on-campus employment.



Yuriko's Story

Yuriko was approved for an ADU but was unable to afford the first month's rent as she had used the majority of her savings to cover the security deposit. WIT-Y was able to assist with funds to cover rent and some groceries providing Yuriko with some much-needed financial relief as she settled into her new apartment and began her new job.





Q&A