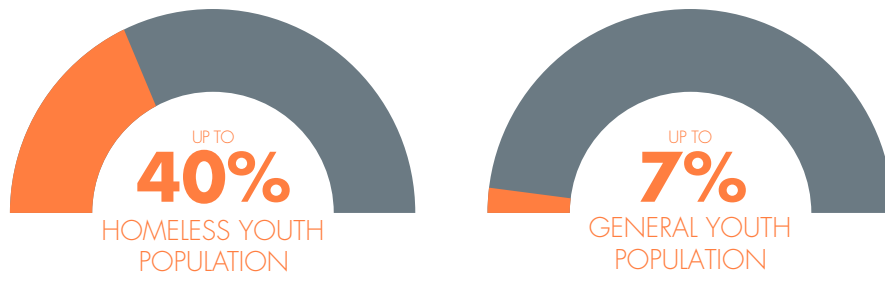


COMMUNITY-WIDE PREVENTION OF LGBTQ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED AMONG THE POPULATION OF YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES.



● LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER (LGBT) ● NOT LGBT

Source: *Serving Our Youth: Findings from a National Survey of Service Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth who are Homeless or At Risk of Becoming Homeless*. (Los Angeles, CA: 2012), p.3, available at <http://truecolor.rs/servingouryouth2012>.

To help address these disparities, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is leading the first-of-its-kind **LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative (Initiative)** to identify successful strategies for ensuring that no young person is left without a home because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

The Initiative began with two pilot communities that developed local, community-wide prevention plans, which they started implementing in fall of 2014. These plans include strategies for preventing LGBTQ youth homelessness and intervening early when it occurs.

The Initiative and the local plans are grounded in the four core outcomes in the **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness's (USICH) Framework to End Youth Homelessness: stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and social-emotional well-being.**

NATIONAL PARTNERS

This initiative was developed by and is supported by five federal partners – the U.S. departments of Housing and Urban Development, Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice, and USICH – in partnership with the True Colors Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending LGBTQ youth homelessness. The support provided by all six partners includes intensive technical assistance to build the capacity of the pilot communities to successfully plan and carry out their local plans.



INITIATIVE GOALS

- Facilitate better local collaboration between stakeholders working with youth and families, including local child welfare, education, and law enforcement agencies; runaway and homeless youth providers; LGBTQ organizations; and other local stakeholders.
- Help federal agencies and local communities learn more about implementing community-wide strategies for preventing homelessness for LGBTQ youth at risk of becoming homeless, and intervening early when it occurs.



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20410

COMMUNITY-WIDE PREVENTION OF LGBTQ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

COMMUNITY ACTION

The two pilot community plans include objectives and activities intended to accomplish the following:

1. Facilitate greater community awareness of issues contributing to LGBTQ youth homelessness and local efforts to address these issues (e.g., through community forums).
2. Facilitate greater local collaboration and systems change among stakeholders to bridge gaps through expanded communication and sharing of best practices.
3. Improve the quality and use of data on sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Improve understanding about risk and protective factors for homelessness, and related tools for screening and assessing youth.
5. Improve the quality of interventions to prevent LGBTQ youth homelessness.
6. Develop and disseminate new resources (e.g., resource guides) and implement programs (e.g., mentoring, family conflict resolution) to address particular youth needs.
7. Foster more affirming experiences for LGBTQ youth in the systems and among the providers that serve them through ongoing policy change, professional development, and resource sharing.
8. Increase the numbers of LGBTQ youth with identity-affirming placements made through the child welfare system.
9. Obtain funding and in-kind resources to support initiative activities.
10. Document the initiative's progress, outcomes, and lessons learned to support quality improvement and enhance impact locally, and inform replication efforts in other communities.

For more detailed information about each community's objectives and activities, visit the link below to access their plans.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Communities can look to the Cincinnati and Houston plans as examples of community-wide strategies for preventing LGBTQ youth homelessness. For information and resources about this community change process and the Initiative's outcomes, visit <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/>. Contact Jeffrey Poirier, Ph.D., technical assistance lead (jpoirier@air.org) or Jama Shelton, Ph.D. (jama@truecolorsfund.org) with questions or to share information about your local prevention efforts.

PILOT COMMUNITIES



NEST GREATER HOUSTON AREA, TEXAS

NEST is a community-wide effort to prevent and end homelessness by 2020 among adolescents and young adults who identify as LGBTQ. NEST could change the futures of as many as 5,000 youth who run away or are kicked out of their homes in the community. This initiative coordinated by the Coalition for the Homeless Houston/Harris County in collaboration with Montrose Center represents more than 60 community youth agencies and service providers. The local lead contacts are Eva Thibaudeau (ethibaudeau@homelesshouston.org) and Deb Murphy (nest@montrosecenter.org).



SAFE AND SUPPORTED HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO

From the beginning, a strong coalition of cross-sector stakeholders has driven the development of Cincinnati/Hamilton County's community plan. The Safe and Supported vision is every LGBTQ young person has stable housing, health care, education, employment, and emotional connections that ensure they thrive. The local lead contacts are Meredith Hicks (mhicks@lys.org) at Lighthouse Youth Services and Meradith Alspaugh (malspaugh@end-homelessness.org) at Strategies to End Homelessness.