



ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN TUCSON AND PIMA COUNTY

Tucson/Pima County Selected to Participate in HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

BACKGROUND: Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH), the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) for Tucson/Pima County, is a coalition of community and faith-based organizations, government entities, businesses, and individuals working to end and address issues related to homelessness. Our Family Services on behalf of TPCH commissioned a strategic plan to identify goals, objectives, and suggested benchmarks that TPCH can utilize to further develop a 3-5-year action plan to prevent and end youth homelessness in Tucson/Pima County. This strategic plan identifies nine goals, objectives, and suggested benchmarks that will be used to inform the recently funded YHDP planning process.

WIDE-RANGING NEEDS: TPCH conducted a needs assessment to clarify the range of needs related to youth homelessness in Tucson and Pima County. Data sources for key findings came from:

- ◆ Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data
- ◆ A TPCH commissioned Needs Assessment of Homeless Youth and Young Adults in Tucson/Pima County, AZ (2019)
- ◆ Youth Gaps Analysis of the Pima County Continuum of Care (2019)

Combined, data from these sources indicated (1) instances and characteristics of homelessness and housing instability (2) the risk factors that they experience, and (3) pointed to potential strategies that would prevent and eliminate youth homelessness in Tucson/Pima County. Full Report Viewable at <https://tpch.net/homelessyouth2019>

GOALS TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN TUCSON/PIMA COUNTY

Working with the needs and potential strategies, nine core goals emerged. These goals will guide the YHDP planning process to create a Coordinated Community Plan by Spring 2020.

1. To engage youth more directly in leading and implementing strategies.
2. To improve housing permanency and decrease repeat homelessness among youth.
3. To increase youth income earning opportunities.
4. To more effectively engage youth in education.
5. To improve access to and use of transportation.
6. To increase access to and use of medical, behavioral, and dental care services.
7. To better identify and immediately assist youth at risk of experiencing homelessness.
8. To increase awareness and promote public policy that positively impacts youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
9. To accurately report on the number and characteristics of youth that are experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

YHDP PROCESS: Expanding community collaborations among providers and youth leaders to build and test solutions that can prevent and eliminate youth homelessness. Innovations include:

Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)

- ◆ A community-wide plan with innovations to prevent and end youth homelessness in Tucson
- ◆ Includes key education, employment, child welfare, justice, and behavioral and physical health system partners.
- ◆ Incorporate a set of values and principles including trauma informed care, positive youth development, family engagement, and youth choice

Youth Action Board (YAB)

- ◆ A decision-making body consisting of youth and young adults with lived experiences without housing instability
- ◆ The board has essential decision-making ability within the grants governance and approve the plan and the project

YHDP Projects

- ◆ Awarded \$4.558M from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- ◆ 2-year grant that is renewable on an annual basis
- ◆ Allows for innovative and expanded use of HUD COC funds