



Youth Voice at the Center: Putting a Youth-Driven Care Model into Practice to Better Serve Youth Experiencing Homelessness

September 16, 2026
3:00 - 4:00 PM Eastern

everfree

NATIONAL
NETWORK
for **YOUTH**


**PROJECT
HOPE
ALLIANCE**

Welcome!

Webinar Overview

- Introduce yourself in chat: Name, pronouns, organization, location, and an emoji of how your day is going so far. 😊 😄 😭 😲 😡 🙌
- Ask questions in the Q&A throughout the presentation.
- The webinar slides and a recording will be available on our website.
- Please complete the survey following the webinar so we can improve for next time.

Our Speakers

Webinar Overview



Darla Bardine

Executive Director
National Network for Youth



Kristen Abrams

Senior Advisor
Everfree



Helen Stiver

US Programs Coordinator
Everfree



Shelby Feliciano-Sabala

Chief Partnership Officer Chief
Project Hope Alliance

Agenda

1

Youth Homelessness

2

Freedom Lifemap Overview +
Walkthrough

3

Freedom Lifemap
Implementation

4

Q&A + Odds & Ends

About National Network for Youth

**NN4Y is on a mission to
transform systems so that no
young person in America
experiences homelessness.**

NN4Y works with young leaders and youth service providers from across the country to prevent and end youth, young adult, and young parent family homelessness and human trafficking. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.



Visit our website: nn4youth.org

Join our newsletter: nn4youth.org/subscribe

Youth Homelessness Overview



Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in America

Youth
Homelessness

4.2 million youth and young families experience homelessness in the U.S. annually.

One in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.



One in 30 youth ages 13-17 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.



Who is Most Affected

Youth Homelessness

These disparities do not reflect individual failures or personal deficiencies. Historic and ongoing systemic inequities such as racism, discrimination, and poverty create unequal pathways to homelessness and access to housing, resources, relationships, and opportunities that young people need to maintain stability.

- ★ **Black youth** face an 83% increased risk over their White peers.
- ★ **Hispanic youth** face a 33% increased risk over their White peers.
- ★ **LGBTQ+ youth** face a 120% increased risk compared to their non-LGBTQ+ peers.
- ★ **Young, unmarried parents** are twice as likely to experience homelessness
- ★ **Youth without a high school diploma or GED** are four and a half times more likely to experience homelessness than those who complete high school or an equivalency.
- ★ Youth involved in **foster care**, the **criminal legal system**, **behavioral health system**, or other **public systems** are significantly more likely to experience homelessness.
- ★ Youth who have **experienced the death of a parent or caregiver** are significantly more likely to experience homelessness.

Solutions

Youth Homelessness



- ★ Safe, stable, and affordable housing.
 - ★ Supportive relationships with caring adults.
 - ★ Access to free or affordable healthcare, including behavioral health care.
 - ★ High-quality educational opportunities.
 - ★ Stable employment that pays a living wage.
-
- ★ Reliable transportation and access to technology.
 - ★ Identification documents and other legal records needed to obtain housing, employment, healthcare, and education.
 - ★ Youth-centered services that recognize their strengths, respect their autonomy, and respond to their unique developmental needs.

Freedom Lifemap Overview + Walkthrough

everfree

About EverFree

EverFree breaks cycles of abuse and exploitation through survivor-led, tech-powered care that makes safety and healing accessible for all.

Safe homes and Empowerment centers

At our sites in Uganda and the Philippines, survivors and individuals at risk find shelter, education and job training, medical and mental health care, legal services, and a community that shows up for them. That frontline experience, facing the same operational challenges your organization faces, is what shaped Freedom Lifemap.

Freedom Lifemap

Co-created with survivors. It matches each participant to the care that fits their life, tracks their progress, and turns what works into evidence you can bring to funders and boards.

Live today in 50+ organizations, 10 languages, 12 countries across North America, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Funding and partnerships

We're grateful for the support of the UK Home Office's Modern Slavery Innovation Fund, Atlas Free Network, and the Hovde Foundation, among others, with UC Irvine's Blum Center as our research partner.

everfree



Freedom
Lifemap

YouTube Information Video

EverFree Point of Contact for any questions

Helen Stiver - Partner Coordinator

helen@everfree.org

Freedom Lifemap Implementation



Project Hope Alliance

Mission

End the Cycle of Homelessness, One Child at a Time

What We Do

We journey alongside our youth so they receive personalized guidance, resources, and opportunities to thrive inside and outside the classroom. We partner with local schools to support youth where they are every day.

Our Work



Shelby Feliciano-Sabala, EdD, MSW

Chief Partnership Officer
Shelby.FS@ProjectHopeAlliance.org

Youth and Families Served

Total Individuals Supported

1362

Children and Youth

579

Graduation Rate

100%

Q&A

Odds & Ends

NN4Y

I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth

A free, dedicated state-specific legal assistance hotline for **youth experiencing homelessness** to help obtain:

State ID cards and licenses

Social Security Cards

Birth certificates

Documents needed to obtain an ID and license

**Text or
Call!**

1-888-870-DOCS

*Voicemails and texts are welcome and will be returned.

Wednesday Hours (Starting May 6, 2026)

9 AM - 5 PM Eastern • 8 AM - 4 PM Central

7 AM - 3 PM Mountain • 6 AM - 2 PM Pacific

**Baker
McKenzie.**

NATIONAL

NETWORK
for **YOUTH**



NEW Job Opening: Vital Doc Hotline

Vital Document Counsel & Pro Bono Coordinator

- Lead the day-to-day coordination and strategic growth of [I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth](#) including attorney scheduling, call routing, chat platform administration, case tracking, follow-up, and documentation.
- Recruit, onboard, orient, train, schedule, and support pro bono attorneys and legal partners
- Develop and maintain systems for complex-case identification, escalation, and referral, coordinating with legal partners to strengthen the national referral network.
- Maintain and regularly update NN4Y's state-by-state vital document database and related resources.
- Coordinate follow-up surveys, interviews, and other feedback mechanisms with young people and service providers.

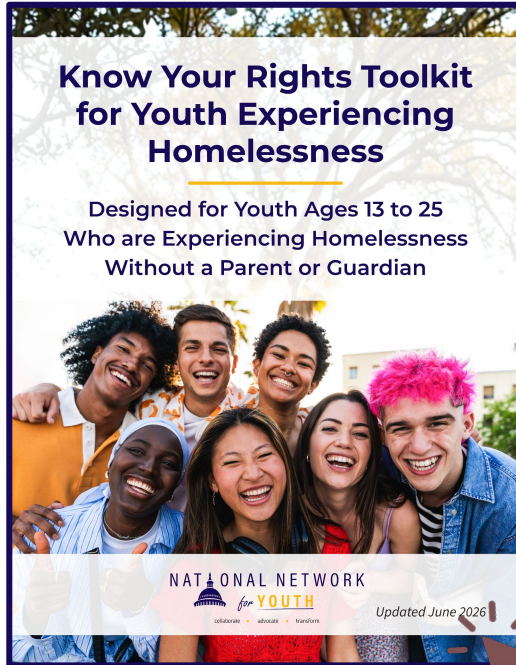
Deadline to Apply: September 18, 2026

View Job Posting



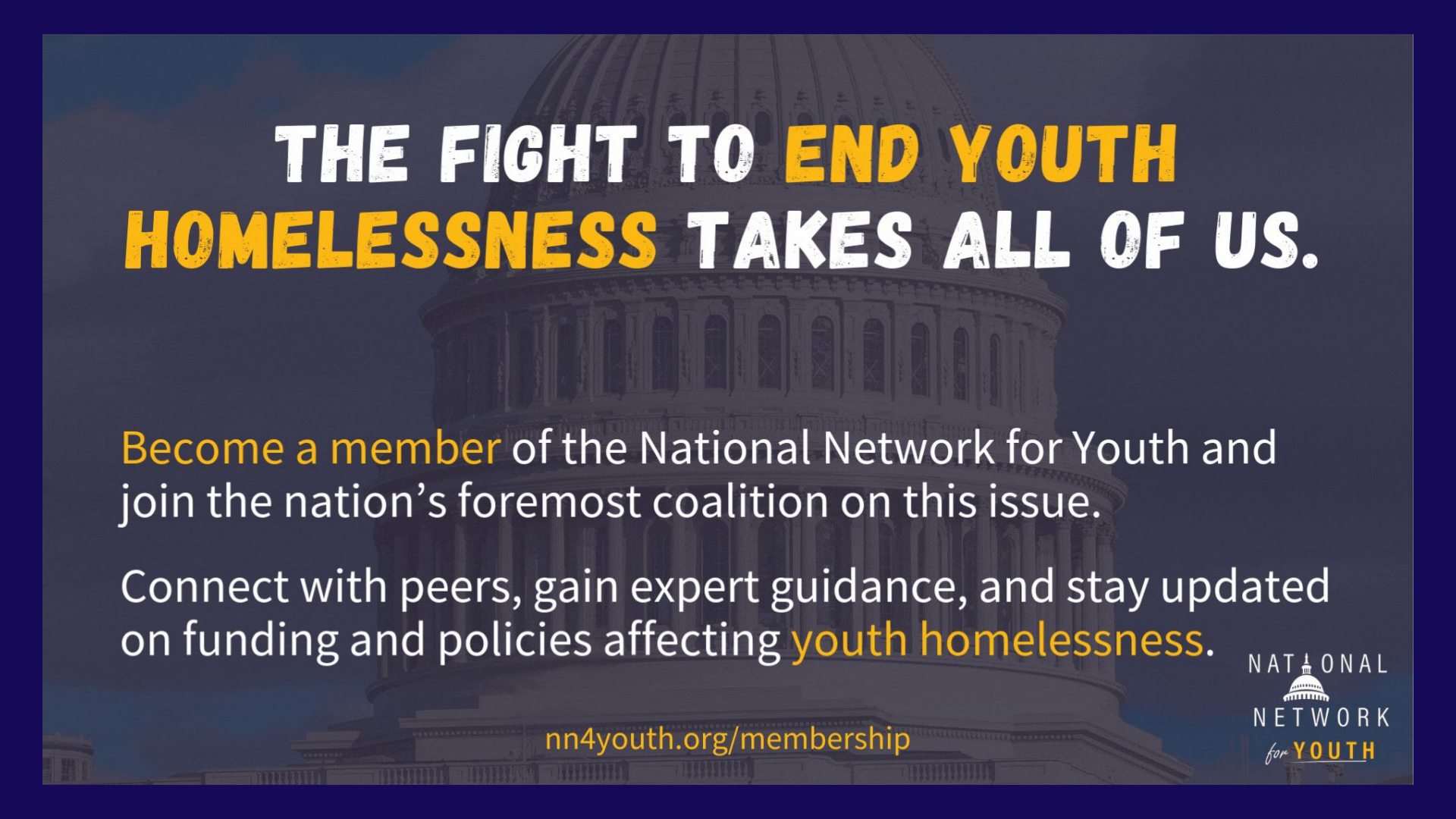
Know Your Rights Toolkit for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

NN4Y



This 43-page toolkit was developed by and for youth ages 13-25 who are experiencing homelessness without a parent or guardian.

- ★ Introduction to Your Legal Rights
- ★ Quick Free Help
- ★ Shelter & Housing
- ★ Food & Health Care
- ★ Public Education
- ★ Antidiscrimination Laws
- ★ Police Encounters
- ★ Vital Documents
- ★ 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth
- ★ Youth with Disabilities
- ★ Immigrant Youth

The background of the entire graphic is a dark, semi-transparent image of the United States Capitol dome, showing its iconic architecture and columns.

THE FIGHT TO **END YOUTH** **HOMELESSNESS** TAKES ALL OF US.

Become a member of the National Network for Youth and join the nation's foremost coalition on this issue.

Connect with peers, gain expert guidance, and stay updated on funding and policies affecting **youth homelessness**.

nn4youth.org/membership

NATIONAL
NETWORK
for **YOUTH**

Get Connected to NN4Y



- **Join Our Network:** [Become a Member](#)
- **Mobilize Your Community:** [Training & Consulting Services](#)
- **Meet with Your Member of Congress:** [Policy & Advocacy](#)
- **Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth:** [Join Our Referral Network](#)

Sign Up for Our
Listserv!



NATIONAL NETWORK
 for YOUTH

**Together, we
can end youth
homelessness.**

Contact Us:

Darla.bardine@nn4youth.org

kristen@everfree.org

shelby.fs@projecthopealliance.org

Visit Our Website:

nn4youth.org

Join Our Listserv:



Follow Us:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)