



collaborate • advocate • transform

Transforming Affordable Housing Access:

How Providers Are Ending Youth Homelessness

May 7, 2025



Welcome!

Webinar Overview

- Introduce yourself in chat: Name, pronouns, organization, location, and an emoji of something you like to do.       
- Ask questions in the Q&A throughout the presentation.
- The webinar slides and a recording will be available on our website.
- **Upcoming Report from NN4Y:** *Transforming Affordable Housing Access*

Our Speakers

Webinar Overview



Dane Valentine
ze/zir/zim
National Youth
Advisory Council



Liz Schoenfeld
she/her/hers
LifeWorks Austin



Tami Di Paolo
she/her/hers
Orangewood Foundation



Bonita Campbell
she/her/hers
Lighthouse Youth Services

About Us

About NN4Y

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



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<http://nn4youth.org/>

NN4Y works youth who have experienced homelessness 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.

Our Programs

- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Youth + Youth Adult Partnerships
- Community-Based Solutions

Our Programs + Approach



Youth Leadership & Partnership

Through our National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC), we partner with young leaders to educate, advocate, and train others to end youth homelessness.



Policy Advocacy

With our network of young leaders and service providers, we advocate for youth-centered, community-driven policies and resources to end youth homelessness.



Supporting Communities

We help communities build Youth Action Boards, strengthen partnerships, and advocate for policies that remove barriers and address the root causes of youth homelessness.

Our Resources



I Am Here: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth | 1-800-870-DOCS

A free national resource to help youth navigate this complicated system with support from legal professionals who know the ins and outs. Begins May 21, 2025.



Take Action Toolkit: In-District Advocacy to Prevent and End Youth and Young Family Homelessness

A step-by-step guide for youth homelessness service providers and advocates.



Become a Member

Join a thriving community of youth advocates, service providers, and change-makers committed to preventing and ending youth, young adult, and young parent family homelessness



Report Coming Soon!

Transforming Affordable Housing Access: How Providers Are Ending Youth Homelessness

Invest in young lives through accessible housing.

NATIONAL NETWORK
 *for* **YOUTH**

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Transforming Affordable Housing Access: **Terms**

Report

- ★ **Youth and Young Adults:** People ages 13 to 17 and 18 to 25, respectively.
- ★ **Area Median Income (AMI):** The median (middle, not average) household income in the area.
- ★ **Low-Income:** Households with incomes greater than 50 percent but less than 80 percent of the AMI.
- ★ **Extremely Low-Income:** Households at or below either the federal poverty guideline or 30 percent of the AMI, whichever is greater.
- ★ **Affordable Housing:** Housing and utilities that cost less than 30 percent of the household income.
- ★ **Available Housing:** Rental units that are both affordable and either vacant or not occupied by a higher income household.

Transforming Affordable Housing Access: **Youth Homelessness**

Report

- Every year in the United States, **3.5 million** young adults ages 18 to 25 experience homelessness each year.
- Accessing housing and services can be difficult because of young people's unique circumstances and more hidden ways they tend to experience homelessness.

Increasing affordable housing options and offering targeted supportive services for young people is key to ending both youth and chronic adult homelessness.

Transforming Affordable Housing Access: **Youth Homelessness**

Report

Nationally, an estimated 29 percent of young men and 43 percent of young women ages 18 to 25 who experience homelessness have at least one child.

This is an estimated 1.1 million minors, including 447,000 infants and toddlers, who live with young parents experiencing homelessness each year.

Serving young parents and their children is necessary to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness among these young families.

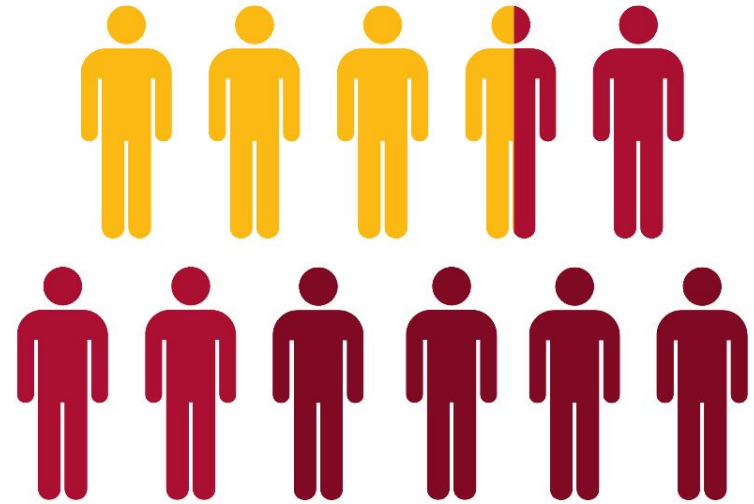


7.1 Million Units Affordable



There are 11 million extremely low-income renters and only 7.1 million rental units affordable to them.

3.7 Million Units Available



However, 3.4 million of these units are occupied by a higher-income household. That leaves just 3.7 million units available for extremely low-income renters.

Transforming Affordable Housing Access: **Current Landscape**

Report

- ❖ Youth and young adults are more likely to have extremely low incomes.
 - Youth-headed households: \$9,080 annually.
 - Young adult-headed households: \$10,960 annually.

The share of youth- and young adult-headed households occupying affordable housing units is very low.

Baltimore, MD:

2 percent

Atlanta, GA:

2 percent

Albuquerque, NM:

> 1 percent

Transforming Affordable Housing Access: **Current Landscape**

Report

Are youth, young adults, and young parents not occupying units because there is no need?

No. Homelessness among youth, young adults, and young parent families has not decreased.

23% increase:
Infants and Toddlers
[SchoolHouse Connection](#)

39% increase:
Families with
Children
[Department of Housing and
Urban Development](#)

10% increase:
Unaccompanied
Minors
[Department of Housing and
Urban Development](#)

14% increase:
K12 Students
[Department of Education](#)

Dane Valentine

Our Speaker



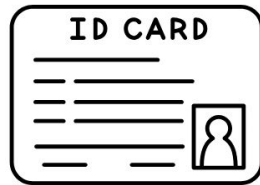
NN4Y National Youth Advisory Council | OK City YAB | Oklahoma City, OK

Transforming Affordable Housing Access: Challenges Faced by Youth

National Youth Advisory Council

Identifying Documents

- ❖ Drivers licenses, social security cards, and/or birth certificates are typically **required to access** rental assistance programs.
- ❖ Obtaining documentation is especially difficult for **undocumented young people** or those with other immigrant or migratory statuses.

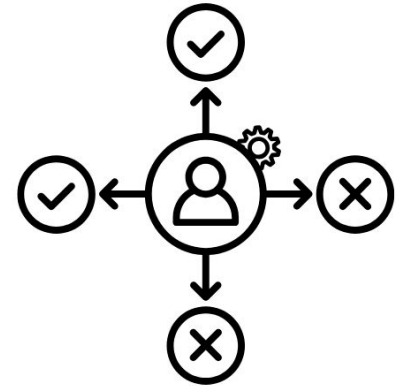


Transforming Affordable Housing Access: Challenges Faced by Youth

National Youth Advisory Council

Navigating Available Options

- ❖ Lack of **support systems** to help young people learn about assistance programs, navigate bureaucratic systems, or go through the rental process.
- ❖ **Discrimination** based on age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, or pregnant/parenting status.
- ❖ Additional challenges for those who must **navigate multiple systems**—parents applying for family-based aid, immigrant youth managing their residency status, and those exiting the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.



Transforming Affordable Housing Access: Challenges Faced by Youth

National Youth Advisory Council

Impacts on Young Renters

- ❖ Young people may not have a **rental history** or **credit score**, making landlords reluctant to rent to them.
- ❖ **Eviction filings** can make it nearly impossible to find housing.
- ❖ **Roommates** make housing costs more affordable, but many rental assistance programs prohibit having roommates.

Many housing options need tenants without a credit history to have an income three times the rent, and to pay extra on the deposit. This makes it really difficult for young people trying to access affordable housing.

—Fernando O., NN4Y
National Youth Advisory
Council Mentor

Transforming Affordable Housing Access: Challenges Faced by Youth

National Youth Advisory Council

Supporting Minor-Headed Households



- ❖ May not be able to **obtain legal documents** or identification without parent or guardian consent.
- ❖ Often **cannot consent** to entering into contracts (such as leasing agreements) or a shelter or housing program.
- ❖ Few states offer **specific protections** for unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness.

Liz Schoenfeld, PhD

Our Speaker



Chief Executive Officer | LifeWorks | Austin, TX

The Works III

LifeWorks

Project Overview

- 120 units
- 100% dedicated to youth under 25; 80% of units dedicated to youth transitioning out of homelessness
- 44 studios, 52 1BRs, 24 2BRs
- 24 units = <30% AMI; 96 units = 30-60% AMI
- Includes vouchered units (HCV, FYI), PSH, transitional housing, move-on units



The Works III

LifeWorks

Project Overview, cont'd.

- Will include robust on-site supportive services & space for community partners
- Utilizes trauma-informed design
- Architects partnered with our youth to finalize the design



The Works III

LifeWorks

Funding Mix (\$29.6M)

- \$12.99M in ARPA funding (Travis County)
- \$8M in City funding
- \$5.5M in State funding
- \$3.15M in fundraising

Supportive Services Funding

- Federal & local public funding sources
- \$2.5M in fundraising
- Public Facility Corporation



Tami DiPaolo

Our Speaker



Program Director of Support Services | Orangewood Foundation | Santa Ana, CA

Foster Youth to Independence Voucher Collaborative Partnership

Orangewood Foundation





Social Services
Identifies Eligible
Youth

Public Housing
Authority Issues
Vouchers

Service Provider
Provides Supportive
Services

WelcomeHomeOC
Provides Housing
Navigation



Funding Structure

**Housing Navigation
and maintenance
Program**

Provides funding for housing
navigation, stability, and
ongoing support

Calaim

Move-in Costs up to \$5,000

**Welcome Home
OC**

Landlord incentives, mediation,
and move-in bundle



COLLABORATIVE IMPACT

Orangewood Foundation

Since 2021, we have supported
190 FYI voucher holders

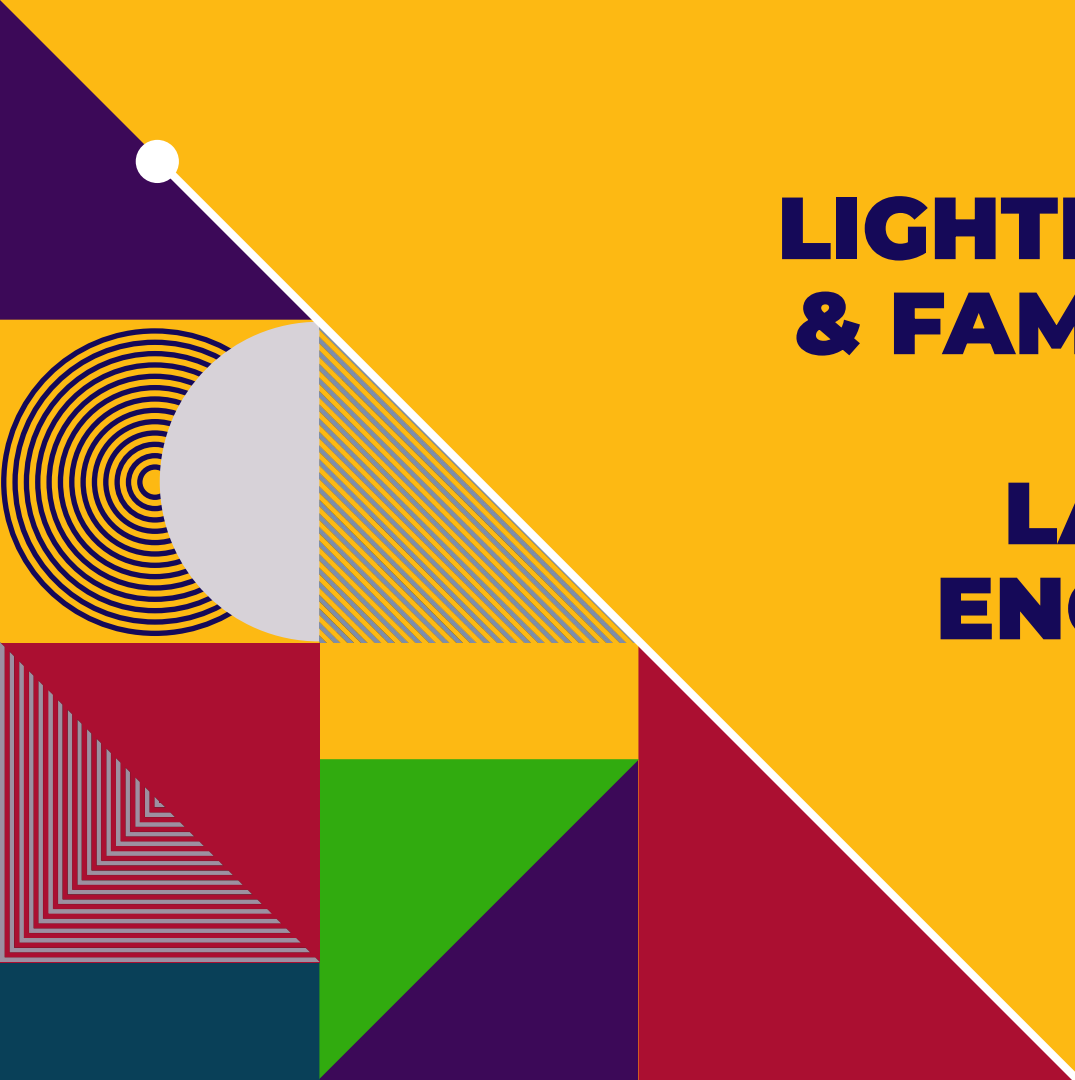


Bonita Campbell

Our Speaker



**Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Lighthouse Youth & Family Services | Cincinnati, OH**

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, divided by a diagonal white line. The top-left triangle is dark purple and contains a small white circle. The bottom-left area is composed of several colored triangles: a yellow triangle with a series of concentric dark blue circles, a light grey semi-circle, a yellow triangle with diagonal grey lines, a red triangle with concentric white lines, a green triangle, a dark blue triangle, and a large red triangle at the bottom. The rest of the slide background is yellow.

Lighthouse Youth & Family Services

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

LANDLORD ENGAGEMENT

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



Dedicated Housing Staff

Consistent Point of Contact

Tenant/Landlord Relationship PLUS

Mediation

Relocation

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

- ★ Direct Deposit
- ★ Electronic Database (DotLoop)
- ★ Video Surveillance
- ★ Number of youth in buildings/complex
- ★ Lease negotiations



Lighthouse Youth & Family Services

THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION



THANK YOU

Bonita Campbell, MS, LSW
Chief Operating Officer
Lighthouse Youth & Family
Services

513-487-6778

bcampbell@lys.org

www.lys.org

Lighthouse Youth & Family Services

Questions?



Starting May 21, 2025!



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

1-800-870-DOCS

****Voicemails are welcome and will be returned.**

Every Wednesday

12 to 8 PM Eastern | 11 AM to 7 PM Central

10 AM to 6 PM Mountain | 9 AM to 5 PM Pacific

**Baker
McKenzie.**

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for **YOUTH**



Take Action Toolkit

In-District Advocacy to Prevent and End Youth and Young Family Homelessness



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for **YOUTH**



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Join the National Network to End Youth Homelessness

Strengthen Your Services

Expand Your Impact

Shape Policy

Share Power

**Become a
Member Today!**

