



L.A. OPPORTUNITY YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

OYC | LAP3 Quarterly Meeting: LAHSA Services for TAY
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Recording of Webinar: [Recording](#)

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List of Registered Attendees: [Contact Sheet](#)

Please complete the evaluation of our webinar, and we appreciate your feedback and ideas for future topics!

- [OYC | LAP3 Quarterly Evaluation](#)

Presentation Questions + Answers:

Current Landscape of Youth Homelessness

Could you describe the homeless count?

- Every year LAHSA does an annual count of how many individuals in LA County are experiencing homelessness. There are different components to the count which include the unsheltered count and sheltered population.

Why does LAHSA do it every year?

- The homeless count is a requirement from the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order for local geographies called "Continuum Of Care" to receive funding from HUD. While HUD requires a homeless count every 2 years, the LA COC and its partners have elected to conduct a count every year to stay on top of trends.

What are some key learning points that have been discovered as a result of the homeless count?

- [Briefing on Youth Homelessness 2020](#)
- The 2020 count showed:
 - 4775 unsheltered youth (18% increase)
 - 2127 sheltered youth that were counted (20% increase)
 - 1575 youth families (42% increase)
- LGBTQ Data
 - 1 in 5 identified as LGBTQ
 - 2% identified as Transgender and 2% as gender non binary
- Race Data

- 42.6% of youth identified as hispanic or latinx
- 32.8% of youth identified as black or AA
- 26.3% identified as caucasian or white
- 0.2% identified as alaskan native/american indian
- Foster Care Data
 - 25% who identified as being in the foster care system
 - 59% who identified as being involved in the justice system
 - 14% who were experiencing a form of mandated mental health treatment

How has LAHSA adapted to address the disproportionalities learned from the homeless count?

- The homeless count data is a primary method to understand the disproportionalities. One example of the direction LAHSA is going in is the [Report and Recommendations](#) by the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness.

What is the impact of Covid-19 on the homeless count for 2021?

- In 2021, the unsheltered count will be on hold. The year will be used to make improvements to the count and implement useful changes.

Overview of the YCES System

- [Youth CES Model](#)

What is the coordinated entry system (CES) , and how did the system come about?

- Coordinated entry is a HUD requirement. Coordinated entry was established to improve our systems ability to quickly and fairly connect folks to the appropriate housing resources.

How does someone access the coordinated entry system?

- [CES and Family Solution Directory](#)
- Families:
 - Serves households with a minor child and at least one parent
 - They can access the system through family solution centers across LA County.
- Adult:
 - Serves households with single adults
 - Can be accessed through access points where folks get connected to CES
- Youth:
 - Services unaccompanied minors and young adults up to 24 and young families
 - Can be access through access points where youth get connected to CES

Can you explain what to do if a young adult falls into two or more systems—for example, a young woman is in the youth category and also a parent.

- If the head of household is 24 years of age or younger and there is a minor child in the house - they would be eligible for both family and youth CES. It ultimately comes down to preference.
 - Each system will provide different appropriate resources

Where are the access points?

- [CES and Family Solution Directory](#)

What happens at an access point?

- CES Access Centers are call-in or drop-in locations where persons experiencing homelessness can gain initial access to or continue contact with housing and supportive services available through LA CES

What is the NextStep tool? How does it work, and what does the score mean?

- The tool is a standardized assessment tool to capture immediate needs and characteristics of the young people that are coming in through the coordinate entry system

What is the timeline for access to housing resources?

- There is a shortage in housing resources so not everyone is able to access housing in a timeline that they would prefer. The process is based on the level of vulnerability of individuals but also based on availability of resources. It could be as quick as a day through Problem Solving but other individuals may need a longer period of time.

Problem Solving

What is Problem Solving?

- [Problem Solving Guide](#)
- [Problem Solving: Web Series](#)

- Problem-Solving is a person-centered, short-term housing intervention that seeks to assist households in maintaining their current housing or identifying an immediate and safe housing alternative within their own social network. This strategy is a strengths-based approach that utilizes conversation and empowerment methods to help resolve the household's housing crisis, or quickly connect them to existing emergency or crisis housing services, by working alongside them in an empowering manner.

What are the main outcomes achieved through problem-solving?

- The 5 main Problem-Solving outcomes include - exploring whether a youth can be housed by staying with friends, family, or a social support network permanently or temporarily, reunifying the youth to a safe place of town where they have a support network, support in maintaining current housing, or support in finding a new unit of their own which they would be able to sustain moving forward.

How long are young adults able to access this resource?

- It is important to note that Problem-Solving is a light touch intervention that taps into youth's own strengths and existing resources
- Youth can receive financial assistance for 1-2 months and case management for up to 60 days
- Problem solving is not a barrier to CES or other traditional resource

What are the eligibility for access?

- In order to access Problem-Solving Assistance Funds (PSAF) households must be literally homeless, fleeing domestic abuse or intimate partner violence, or be at risk of losing their housing within 30 days and they must achieve a Problem-Solving outcome. Foster youth are eligible to use these resources.

How is the problem solving working across Los Angeles County?

- This is the first time data on Problem-Solving is being collected at this capacity across LA County. While the intervention still needs to be further socialized, there has been a lot of success thus far. The youth system is seeing a high amount of temporary diversions. Recidivism rates, which still need to be further assessed, are looking very low for reentry into the system.

Housing Continuum

Where do youth go to start the journey for housing resources, and when should the journey start?

- For LAHSA housing - youth should begin at the access points to be connected with the coordinate entry system
- For youth involved with DCFS or probation- youth can access the housing programs through their social worker, former social worker, or contact the [Youth Development Housing Services](#).
- DCFS has 3 housing programs - all service foster youth and probation youth - they all offer supportive services component

- Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP NMD): For youth between 18-21 who are currently in foster care
- Transitional Housing Program+ (THP+): For former foster youth between ages of 18 - 24
 - youth may stay an additional year if they are in school
- LAHSA ILP Program: Youth between 18-21 years old. This is a 3 year program for former foster and probation youth.

What are the range of housing services available in Los Angeles?

- LAHSA funds interim housing programs & shelter programs, transitional housing, permanent housing through rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing support.

Are they all accessed through the coordinated entry access points?

- Problem solving allows organizations outside of LAHSA and DCFS to offer housing support to individuals in need.
- LAHSA funded crisis housing does not require referral through an access point.

Do the housing services differ depending on whether your case is closed or not?

- THPP NMD for 18-21 is open to youth with open court cases
- The LAHSA program and THP+ programs are open youth with closed cases

What is the best way to get support and access to foster youth housing resources?

- Points of contact include:
 - The CSW should be the first point of contact
 - An ILP Transition Coordinator
 - The Children's Law Center
- Youth that have exited foster care can do the following:
 - Contact their former social worker, if they are still in contact with them or they can
 - contact the [Youth Development Services](#) housing section directly

Do all of LAHSA's housing programs require DCFS or Probation cases to be closed?

- Problem solving is open to any and all youth regardless of status
- Crisis housing is also available to all youth regardless if they are in foster care or probation
- Drop-in centers provide basic needs services to all
- For transition housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent housing, you are connected through the CES and that is not open to young people who have open cases.

What happens if a current foster youth NMD is homeless or couch surfing?

- Different avenues that they will approach - any advocate that the youth has is pulled in
- youth is asked what type of housing assistance or resource they want
- establish short and long term goals

LAHSA and DCFS Collaboration

How do LAHSA and DCFS collaborate to support young adults who exit foster care?

- The Probation and DCFS Probation Liaisons are available countywide at each SPA. They are the key access between DCFS and Probation and the CES. They are staffed by TAY agencies and are focused on youth that have had involvement with either DCFS or probation. They can help youth navigate things like problem solving to get connected to CES funded housing resources.

What is the timeline for youth exiting to begin planning?

- [ILP Housing Services](#)
- The goal is to get youth housed as fast as possible but the timeline is dependent on the availability of resources and housing units.

What is the eligibility to get DCFS Probation Liaison to support finding housing?

- General eligibility is that the youth is of age 17-24 and that they've had experience with DCFS or probation system
- If youth is still in care then we ask that youth is within 90 days of exiting care.
- [General Info for Probation Liaisons](#)
- [Contact Info for Probation](#)

Questions + Answers from the Chat

In regards to THP PLUS there are no current openings due to COVID extension for NMD's. Do you foresee any new placements opening for THP+ ?

- We do have some vacancies in our THP Plus at this time
- Please see our website the [ILP Website](#) and it will have our contact information there for any additional questions people may have

What resources are available for youth that are a part of rapid rehousing but will not have the resources they need to pay their own rent when they exit the program?

- Rapid rehousing is up to 24 months rental assistance depending on the unique needs of the individual
- If they need assistance after 24 months:
- One option is to connect a young person to shell subsidy program that will last up to 5 years and is a smaller subsidy assuming that young person is able to meet income requirements. These subsidies are available regularly
- If young person is in rapid rehousing and they are short on rent and the eviction moratorium is lifted: rapid rehousing providers can refer the young person to what is called homelessness prevention programs

Will the 2021 Homeless Count hold or impact funding?

- It won't impact funding or LAHSA's ability to secure resources. In lieu of having a 2021 count, there will be a revised methodology for how resources are allocated locally across each subregion.

What permanent supportive housing (PSH) is in the pipeline?

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Does anyone know resources for individuals who are getting evicted due to COVID eventually and have very high back pays?

- [Stay Housed](#) is a Prevention Program thru CES. Folks can get connected via Access Centers/points. Additionally, there is a legal support program folks can access through the Access Points as well. They also provide legal support around evictions.
- LAHSA Homelessness prevention programs roster

Is LAHSA going to continue to fund the DCFS & Probation Systems Liaisons position after this fiscal year 2020?

- LAHSA fully intends the liaison positions to be funded. Ongoing conversations will continue to happen around which funding source will be used however it is a priority

Additional Resources:

- [Briefing on Youth Homelessness 2020](#)
- [LA Youth Count Website](#)
- [CES Access Points](#)
- [Problem Solving Guide](#)
- [Problem Solving: Web Series](#)
- [DCFS Housing Programs](#)
- [General Info for Probation Liaisons](#)
- [Contact Info for Probation](#)