



Using Homeless Youth Evaluation Findings in Community Planning

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Chicago Alliance
making homelessness history



Development of Plan 2.0

- **Updated and refined approach**, driven by the experience of implementing the original 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Plan Evaluation.
- Developed over eight months of extensive community dialogue and feedback.
- Over **500 stakeholders** participated in the planning process, including **150 people** who have experienced homelessness.

Youth Participating in Plan 2.0 Meeting






Plan 2.0: *A Home for Everyone*

- Introduced in **August 2012**. Available online at www.thechicagoalliance.org.
- Youth Homelessness is **one of seven strategic priorities**.
- *Goal:* “Create a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate menu of services for youth who experience homelessness in order to prevent homeless youth from becoming the next generation of homeless adults.”




Applying Evaluation Findings to Plan 2.0

- Used data to identify successful program models and opportunities for improvement.
- Fully embraced the notion that homeless youth are **unique** from homeless adults and **require specialized services**.
- Recognize system limitations: **20%** of participants in transitional adult programs are **18 to 24 years old**.




Evaluation Finding:
Youth are active agents
of change in their lives.
They are motivated,
positive, and hopeful.




Plan 2.0 Action Item:
Appoint the Chicago
Task Force on
Homeless Youth
(including youth
leaders) as the key
advisory body.

Youth Leader Testifying Before Congress







Evaluation Finding:
75% of youth cite
chaotic, turbulent
family life as a reason
for becoming
homeless.




Plan 2.0 Action Item:
Improve crisis
intervention and
family mediation
services. Explore
family reunification
when appropriate.




Evaluation Finding:
Intake varies from
program to program. It
is frustrating and
requires the youth to be
responsible for research
and follow-up.



Plan 2.0 Action Item:
Conduct a universal
assessment and
connect youth and
adults to the most
appropriate
intervention.



Evaluation Finding:
Youth system rated
higher than adult
system on caring and
service quality, service
helpfulness, and
usefulness.



Plan 2.0 Action Item:
Increase the capacity
of adult-serving
programs to provide
youth-centered
services.

Youth Centered Services





How to Influence Your Community

1. Make sure homeless youth are a **priority** in your Plan to End Homelessness.
2. Use the opportunities provided by **HEARTH Act** implementation and ***Opening Doors*** to reopen the discussion about your community plan.
3. Broaden the discussion to include **non-traditional partners** (adult shelters, colleges, transportation, etc.)



How to Influence Your Community

4. Review and **coordinate your data sources**.
5. Conduct an **accurate count** of youth experiencing homelessness to inform planning and resource allocation.
6. Ensure positive youth development, trauma-informed, and culturally competent service models are being used universally.
7. Include **youth leaders** in your community planning and service design.



Discussion Questions

- What data does your community collect on homeless youth? How can you use that data to improve planning and services?
- How does your Continuum of Care reflect the unique needs of homeless youth?
- With the right supports, can adult programs effectively serve homeless youth?