



# HOMELESS BUT NOT HOPELESS



## **“Homeless No More” Community Plan**

**Strategic Plan Summary – September 2014**

*The “Homeless No More” Community Plan is a bold and strategic plan to prevent and end youth homelessness in South Los Angeles. Led by the South Los Angeles Homeless Transition Age Youth (TAY) and Foster Care Collaborative, the strategic goals and objectives outlined in this plan represent a partnership among leaders, advocates, stakeholders, and youth who were engaged to develop a community-driven plan to prevent and end youth homelessness in South Los Angeles. We hope this will inspire and motivate funders and investors to work with us strategically to improve the coordination and support of future investments in South Los Angeles for homeless youth. We look forward to your participation, investment, and commitment to help implement the bold six strategic goals outlined in our community plan.*

### **Goal I: Improve the coordination of services, simplify access, and eliminate barriers**

- A. Inform the creation of a universal assessment tool and protocols to screen and identify the needs of homeless TAY when they access resources and services.
- B. Inform the development of unified data systems and data collection protocols to consistently capture TAY data regarding their needs and the services available to them.
- C. Prepare South LA for the implementation of a Coordinated Engagement System for homeless and unstably housed TAY.
- D. In partnership with community and government agencies serving TAY, streamline intake and assessment processes and develop data sharing protocols among partnering agencies.
- E. Improved communication among agencies serving TAY by targeting and coordinating listening sessions, workshops, and encouraging cross training among community-based providers and government agencies.
- F. Work with law enforcement, City and County attorney offices, court systems, and legal organizations to remove or minimize barriers to TAY accessing services, education and housing placements.
- G. Partner with all county agencies serving children and youth, foster care agencies, and supportive services agencies to enhance policies, systems, and procedures that will eliminate youth homelessness.

### **Goal II: Increase and improve housing options for homeless youth in South LA.**

- A. Collaborate with the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, housing developers and intermediaries working to develop housing to ensure that housing developments in South LA are inclusive of the TAY population.
- B. Align housing expansion in South LA for homeless youth with the needs of specific homeless TAY subpopulations: TAY with children, Reentry TAY, TAY with sex trafficking and gang histories and TAY with mental health needs and disabilities.
- C. Expand and support the development of student housing adjacent to community colleges.
- D. Standardize housing provider requirements and criteria for current and potential providers. Clarify prerequisites and streamline the process by developing standards working with all affected agencies.
- E. Increase the number of TAY-serving drop-in centers in South LA to ensure they are available throughout SPA 6.
- F. Increase the array of developmentally appropriate housing interventions targeting TAY, including crisis and emergency beds, bridge housing, supportive housing, and affordable housing. Open up emergency shelters and expand emergency shelter options specifically homeless TAY.

### **Goal III: Coordinate and enhance critical support systems and services targeting homeless TAY and foster care youth.**

- A. Increase employment opportunities and placements for TAY through collaboration and partnerships with businesses, colleges, school districts, universities, community-based organizations, and government.
- B. Work with the business community to expand and support the development of jobs related to high growth industries specifically targeting South LA.
- C. Coordinate and deepen partnerships with school districts, vocational programs, nonprofit organizations, community colleges, and universities to expand job training and preparation programs available to homeless TAY.
- D. Enhance partnerships with health agencies and organizations to provide health education and resources to TAY.
- E. Partner and help coordinate L.A. County Probation, law enforcement, court systems, and appropriate community-based organizations to improve and coordinate critical services focused on re-entry TAY.
- F. Improve linkages and integration of mental health services and resources with supportive service agencies and programs.
- G. Integrate and design job training, mental health support, life skills and education programming in a manner that results in housing, education and employment stability.

### **Goal IV: Improve public policies and systems that address or omit homeless and at-risk youth.**

- A. Create a public policy and legislative platform for TAY in coordination and partnership with other advocacy and policy organizations.
- B. Expand and deepen communication and public relations to better raise awareness about youth homelessness.
- C. Advocate for elected officials and staff to support improvements in on how government agencies coordinate services and provide mainstream benefits for TAY.
- D. Eliminate and reduce administrative policies that create barriers for homeless TAY and agencies who serve TAY.
- E. Increase the advocacy, legislative, and public policy skills of community leaders, stakeholders and the Faith-based community.

### **Goal V: Produce and compile data and research that best describes the opportunities, needs, and gaps of homeless and at-risk youth in the South LA region.**

- A. Expand training and technical assistance that will enhance and build the skills of current and potential housing providers in South LA.
- B. Create an infrastructure to build trust, strengthen relationships, and promote partnerships among faith leaders to increase their participation in addressing youth homelessness.
- C. Strengthen “train the trainer” and cultural awareness education targeting community agencies, service providers, and stakeholders on the needs of TAY in South LA, placing emphasis on youth in communities of color.
- D. Enhance and extend standardized training for contractors and subcontractors with county agencies contracting out TAY services and programs.
- E. Create a South LA TAY leadership development program focused on improving the communication, advocacy, policy, and leadership skills of youth and young adults, ages 16-25.

### **Goal VI: Improve and expand leadership, collaborative will, and service capacity of South-South LA service providers, the faith-based community, community leaders and Transitions Age Youth.**

- A. Complete the community asset mapping to better target interventions to address the service gaps in South Los Angeles when it comes to TAY.
- B. Partner with higher education to complete profiles of TAY and their needs using a participatory action research model.
- C. Partner with LAHSA, government agencies, higher education, and community-based agencies to share, track, and compile TAY specific data for South LA.
- D. Develop an overall evaluation plan to guide and inform the implementation and effectiveness of the community plan.

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