Using Homeless Youth Evaluation Findings in Community Planning

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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](http://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
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?