

POINT SOURCE YOUTH

2022

Annual Report

JUNE 2023

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“PSY is focused on finding solutions to the **root causes** of youth homelessness and developing interventions that get at those root causes. It’s important to address symptoms, but if you don’t get at the root, the problem will never go away.”

— Ronald Johnson,
PSY Co-Founder and Board President

Mission

Point Source Youth envisions a world where all young people can enjoy the right to safety, stability, and joy.

We believe that youth should be trusted to direct their own lives and that leadership by and advancement of the young people most impacted by the crisis of homelessness is paramount. We further believe that our society has a moral obligation to collectively amass ample resources to end youth homelessness. To that end, we work alongside communities and partners to uplift the power of young people, especially historically marginalized young people by advancing meaningful and affirming solutions to end youth homelessness and place resources directly in their hands.

Vision

The organization will be known for implementing new, and improving existing, programs and interventions so that the power of young people is uplifted by advancing meaningful and affirming solutions that place resources directly in their hands. We will provide community, affirmation, and a safe space for service providers, funders, youth, allied movements, and policy makers to experiment, explore, and innovate. **As a group that demands hope, acts with courage and integrity, and builds real and lasting connections among the extended national and local youth homelessness community, we will ensure that youth homelessness will become rare, brief, and non-recurring.**

Letter from our Executive Director & Co-Founder



Greetings, and welcome to Point Source Youth's 2022 Annual Report!

When Ronald Johnson, Colin McSwiggen, and I founded Point Source Youth (PSY) in 2015, we were clear that we wanted to end youth homelessness by working on new approaches and solutions, and supporting the young people it serves in a radically new way.

Over the past seven years, we've done just that as we've centered young people in our work — and especially those who are Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, people of color (QTBIPOC), and youth who have historically experienced exclusion and marginalization. I couldn't be more proud of what we've accomplished in that short time.

Some simple, high-level numbers start to show our growth and impact

- In 2015, we began PSY with a budget of **\$81,000**, working in one city with **three** community partners.
- In 2022, our budget reached **\$5.8 million** and we worked in over 70 communities over **90** community partners.

But those numbers don't tell the full story. We created this document — our first annual report — to help people new to PSY learn about who we are and what we do. The report also serves as a reminder for the young people, service providers, and funders we've partnered with of the many things we have accomplished together.

We also use this report to explain how we're prioritizing rest and reflection for our staff. Collectively, we know that our team needs to be centered, rested, and well to do this work. To achieve this, we've begun prioritizing periods of rest and reflection throughout the year. And we view this practice as an act of resistance against political and economic ideologies that not only burn people out of their jobs, but also enable and perpetuate the youth homelessness crisis.

I know these days that we all have more to read than we can handle. So, if nothing else, I hope you remember a few of our core beliefs:

- **Youth homelessness is a policy choice in America, not an inevitable outcome.**
- **Young people, advocates, researchers, government agencies, service providers, and funders can end this crisis when we all work together in new ways.**
- **Expanding youth-centered and -driven solutions — and centering racial justice — will allow us to end the crisis faster than any other path.**

Simply put: We can end youth homelessness if we put money, power, and decisions into the hands of young people themselves. Those in traditional leadership roles and positions of power need to listen to young people with lived experiences of homelessness and housing instability. These young people are experts in their own lives and know how to end this crisis. It's really that simple.

Please consider supporting us in the months and years to come as we work to advance housing justice and equity for the 3.5 million young people in our nation who experience homelessness each year. We're making real progress but there is so much more to do.



Sincerely,

Larry Cohen
Co-Founder and
Executive Director

P.S. We've recently revamped our vision and mission statements. Check them out [here](#). We also established organizational values, and we feature those here. Taken together, our vision, mission, and values provide a snapshot of how we work today and the world we want to see tomorrow (if not sooner!).

Our Work

We work nationally to scale-up affirming, youth-centered interventions to end the youth homelessness crisis.

What are our interventions?

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

RRH provides young people with a lease in their own name in the housing of their choice. Youth receive a tailored rent subsidy for up to two years along with comprehensive case management, centered on youth choice. Wrap-around services include financial planning support, independent living skills, and mental health supports.

Host Homes

Short-term host homes provide youth with an affirming, safe space to stay for 1-6 months with a well screened and well-matched mentor in their community. This intervention builds from the continued legacy of QTBIPOC mutual aid practices.

Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs)

DCTs are a proven way to meet the needs of young people remotely, digitally, and efficiently. Program staff distributes cash to youth either remotely or safely in person at a frequency (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly) that works best for them. Service providers offer optional support programs with a peer navigator, including higher education and career counseling in addition to traditional case management.

Direct Cash Transfers As Prevention

DCT-P is a scalable, youth-driven solution to prevent youth homelessness. This intervention is a one-time cash payment to young people based on the cost of living in that community with the goal of preventing them from entering homelessness in the first place. Alongside the unconditional cash payment are services provided by a local community-based organization that might include housing navigation, financial counseling, and peer support.

How do we do this?

Resource Provision

We provide free resources for any community interested in ending youth homelessness by centering QTBIPOC voices and utilizing our interventions to do so.

Customized Support and Technical Assistance

For communities that want more in-depth support beyond our resources, we provide tailored technical assistance for implementing and scaling up our interventions.

Community Building

We advocate for broad community coalitions to support, fund, volunteer for, and implement our interventions.

Collaborative Learning

We connect communities to experts in the field, experienced providers, movement leaders, and grassroots advocates to foster cross-movement collaboration across the country. We do this via direct connections, trainings, and conferences and events.

Youth Collaboration

We uphold the concept of “nothing about us without us” by co-leading all of our initiatives, events, interventions, and trainings with youth, and encouraging and educating our network to do the same.

“PSY leads with **confidence and optimism**, which is clearly not born out of a sense of naivete. They know the work is hard and that it’s painful to witness the unjust things so many young people face. But PSY is optimistic that the problem will be solved, and that’s a value-add that matters and is unique.”

— **Desiree Flores**,
General Service Foundation (formerly Arcus Foundation)

Partners

PSY partners with and supports local service providers who implement the interventions we know best work to end the youth homelessness crisis. Here are some of our current partnerships:

Trust Youth Initiative: NYC Direct Cash Transfers Project

Provides direct cash assistance to young people experiencing homelessness in New York City, and studies the efficacy of such interventions.

Partners	Ali Forney Center , Chapin Hall (University of Chicago), and Up Together .
How it started	During a focus group of NYC youth experiencing homelessness, Maddox Guerilla and Kay Jackson (now key consultants on the project at PSY) responded with “cash” when advocates and researchers asked what the young people needed the most in their current situations.
Impact	Young people who have experienced homelessness have helped develop and implement the program every step of the way. In 2022, 30 youth have received \$1,100 per month with a \$3,000 one time transfer, along with optional support services.
What’s next	<p>The young people in the program will continue to receive \$1,100 per month in 2023, along with the optional support services. A rigorous evaluation will compare the outcomes and experiences of young people in the project to young people who receive smaller stipends for completing surveys and have continued access to traditional services, such as shelters and existing housing programs.</p> <p>Subject to funding and evaluation outcomes, after the first year of evaluation, the partners will use initial results to enhance and expand the program and evaluation to significantly more youth. The current goal is to reach 90 young people with additional funding.</p>
Key Funders	The Block-Leavitt Foundation, Melville Charitable Trust , New York City , the NYC Fund to End Youth and Family Homelessness , and Robin Hood Foundation .

Chicago Flexible Housing Pool

Provides permanent supportive housing to young people in Chicago, in a way that centers youth voice and experience.

Partners	Center for Housing and Health , La Casa Norte , The Night Ministry , Christian Community Health Center , Unity Parenting and Counseling , and Heartland Alliance .
How it started	The Center for Housing and Health was granted funding by All Chicago to hire consultants to help strengthen their youth engagement and service provision within their new youth housing program, the Flexible Housing Pool. CHH reached out to PSY to provide an assessment of their current youth services. PSY began an organizational analysis, which led to recommendations and action steps to strengthen youth voice within the program.
Impact	In its first year, this partnership helped create new youth-centered communications and housing navigation guides, and helped over 200 young people secure housing. PSY created a safe space for youth to meet and amplify their voice. From these meetings the PSY team guided youth in the creation of a Lived Experience Advisory Council , consisting of five youth FHP participants who meet twice a month to change, build, and strengthen youth services and systems within the FHP program.
What’s next	This partnership is in its third year, during which we’re building out a Lived Experience Advisory Council, to ensure young people have a voice in all aspects of the services being provided. In year three, we hope to expand the number of youth that are receiving housing services.
Key Funder	Polk Bros. Foundation

Oregon Direct Cash Transfers Project

Will provide direct cash transfers to 60 young people experiencing homelessness in the Portland metro area and 20 young people in the rural area around Bend.

Partners [AntFarm](#), [J Bar J](#), [Native American Youth Association](#) (NAYA), and The Oregon Department of Human Services.

How it started The Oregon Department of Human Services was a sponsor of the First Annual Rural Conference on Youth Homelessness, in 2021. Through that engagement, PSY began discussions about creating a DCT project in the state.

Impact Young people are involved in every phase of establishing and launching the program. **120 young people** have been identified and enrolled in the pilot program and are receiving **\$1,000** per month; 85 young people in and around Portland and 35 young people in and around Bend. This project was launched as a 5 month pilot.

What's next Plans are in place to continue this pilot with the same 120 youth for another 24 months. We will work alongside the communities to provide technical assistance and continual training to make the program sustainable long term.

Evaluation of the first 5 months are underway and we will solidify the evaluation plan for the remaining 24 months once funding has been fully secured.

Key Funder [Oregon Department of Human Services](#).

Trust Youth Initiative: San Francisco Direct Cash Transfers Project

Will provide direct cash transfers and optional youth-led services to young people over two years.

Partners [Chapin Hall](#) (University of Chicago), [Larkin Street Youth Services](#), and [Up Together](#).

How it started PSY was working with the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing for some time on getting a DCT program off the ground. PSY was also speaking to Google.org about our work in the Bay Area and DCT. Everything came together when we told Google.org about our work with the Trust Youth Initiative, and the RCT with our research partner Chapin Hall.

Impact Once up and running, the project will provide young people enough funds per month to support housing for **24 months**, with optional youth-led support services. We expect direct cash transfers to have an immediate impact on housing stability, and a longer-term impact on household economics, such as increased savings, as well as increased health, overall wellbeing, and safety.

What's next The program will launch after the pre-implementation work is completed.

Key Funders [City of San Francisco](#) and [Google](#).

“One of PSY’s smartest strategies is that they stay humble and **listen** as they move forward and work with the broader field.”

— **Casey Trupin**, Raikes Foundation

NYC Ballroom Host Homes Project

Will give stipends and support to hosts to provide short-term housing to young people experiencing homelessness, with a focus on the Ballroom community.	
Partners	HUD , Hetrick-Martin Institute for LGBTQIA+ Youth , and NYC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP).
How it started	NYC received YHDP funding in 2022. As part of the project, a Ballroom host home project was proposed, and an RFP was created. HMI and PSY collaborated and were awarded because of strong ties to the Ballroom and a long history of successful host home projects that center the needs of QTBIPOC youth.
Impact	HMI is committed to servicing 40 homeless youths within the Ballroom community, including hiring staff from Ballroom. HMI will provide financial assistance, and support for house parents and/or chosen families in the Ballroom as well as adjacent communities with up to \$1,000 per month for six months to provide homes for young people experiencing homelessness.
What's next	Finalizing the pre-implementation work, which includes creating staffing, interview, and onboarding plans at HMI, as well as other materials to implement the program. Once that work is complete, engagement with potential hosts will begin.
Key Funder	NYC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP).

Conferences and Convenings

From our beginning in 2015, we knew how important it was to bring together the many people, organizations, funders, corporations, and government agencies that are working to end youth homelessness. To that end, Point Source Youth provides multiple opportunities for diverse and intersectional perspectives on solving youth homelessness to be shared nationally and regionally.

We do this work to:

- **Center, uplift and affirm QTBIPOC young people as leaders** (with current or prior lived experiences of homelessness and housing instability).
- **Provide deep dives into PSY's three youth interventions** (rapid re-housing, host homes, and direct cash transfers) with new pathways for collaboration, partnership, technical assistance and more.
- **Create access to additional networks, resources, movements and funding opportunities** to provide supportive connections for folks working to, and interested in working to end youth homelessness in communities nationwide through community specific lenses (Rural, National, Southern & Western).
- **Uplift and affirm the hard work and hard-earned wins** of QTBIPOC and QTBIPOC-allied movements for social justice and equity.

We are committed to bringing our current and potential partners the resources they need to meet us as informed, liberation-driven, equity-focused advocates for young people who are at risk of experiencing homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information on our annual conferences on solutions to end youth homelessness.

“PSY’s convenings have engendered a sense of trust and reliability in the youth homeless field, and especially among young people themselves. We see people returning to the convenings again and again, because PSY has created a sense of **belonging** and empowerment, which is important for everyone working to end this crisis.”

— Ana Oliveira,
The New York Women’s Foundation

Policy

One thing we heard from many of our partners during the recent PSY strategic planning process was that our voice was needed in national policy conversations. To that end, we will start engaging more deeply in policy work in 2023 after hiring policy staff in late 2022.

We and our partners understand that ending youth homelessness will take a lot of resources—and not just a lot of new thinking about how to solve this problem. While corporations and foundations are thankfully investing in this work, the private sector can’t do this alone. Our policy work will create and advance opportunities to encourage the government—at all levels—to

fund homelessness programs not just in bigger ways but in new ways that put money into the hands of young people rather than systems that often end up doing more harm than good.

We’ll work with existing and new partners to encourage the federal government to prioritize funding programs that put young people in control of their lives, including programs that support direct cash transfers, host homes, and rapid rehousing. We know that this work will require a clear vision, a positive mindset, and determination. PSY has all three, thanks to the ideas and passion of the young people who are at the center of our work.

“PSY has committed to the interventions that **they know work**. They are uplifting innovative solutions and building the evidence needed to get the government to change how it funds, and that approach has had a big impact on the field.”

— Aimee Hendrigan,
Melville Charitable Trust

To Rest, Restore, and Reflect

Inspired by Tricia Hersey, Founder of *The Nap Ministry*, PSY has adopted a mindset and practices grounded in the radical idea that rest is a form of resistance. As Hersey says:

“This is about more than naps . . . It is about a deep unraveling from white supremacy and capitalism . . . Rest pushes back and disrupts a system that views human bodies as a tool for production and labor. It is a counter narrative. We know that we are not machines. We are divine.”

Too often, so many of us are driven to work while we are sick or exhausted or on vacation with our loved ones. This is a trap that our society sets for us, forcing us into a “go-go-go” mindset that means we never really heal or rest or connect with our larger lives. Our staff identified PSY’s tendency to adopt this mindset and related habits — which can be found in so many other nonprofit organizations working to solve big problems.

Over the course of the pandemic we’ve had conversations about what it would mean to work and live differently. To that end, we made a few changes, the biggest being that we now **close for two weeks in the summer and three weeks at the end of the year**. We all unplug together, so there is no pressure to keep up with email from your colleagues who are still working while you’re off. Plus, you don’t come back from your vacation to a mountain of work that will require long days of catch-up.

We also provide our staff with a **\$300 monthly stipend** to spend on their home office or self-care. We do this to empower our team to do what’s best for themselves. And to further help make sure we stay physically and mentally healthy, we provide our staff with **free health insurance** (as well as monthly coaching services).

Taken together, these practices allow us to center and prioritize our staff’s health and wellbeing. The work we do is hard, so we make sure we can care for one another and care for ourselves. Because if we can’t do that, we can’t do the work needed to end youth homelessness.

“One of PSY’s greatest strengths is its values. PSY is modeling **how modern nonprofits should be built and run** — and ensuring its board and staff embrace those values.”

— Amy Kleine,
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Our Growth



2015

1

Communities where active

1

States where active

3

Number of community partners

0

Number of staff

\$80,740

Revenue

2022

70

26

90

17

\$5.8
million

Our People



Youth Advisory Council

Point Source Youth believes that effective solutions to end youth homelessness can't be created or maintained without the voices of youth with lived experience. We collaborate with incredible youth from all across the country to ensure our programming is youth-centered.

One way we do that is through the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), which is full of talented young people who are experts on youth homelessness, sexual education & HIV, prison abolition, racial equity, and so much more.

These thoughtful leaders share their insight and expertise to drive everything from our interventions to our symposiums. Their dedication makes us smarter and more intentional in our mission to work across movements to end youth homelessness.

Youth Advisory Council Members:

Äscen IGohida X

Kyra Drakulich

ErrDaisha Floyd

Milo Edwards

Kay

Terri Bradley

Board of Directors

Co-Founder & President:

Ronald Johnson

Members:

Joanne Rosen

Amy Flood

John Kimble

Justin C. Smith, MS, MPH

Ana Oliveira

Eric Enderlin

Jane Stafford

Co-Founder, Secretary and Treasurer:

Colin McSwiggen

Vice President:

Dr. Cynthia Lubin Langtiw

Staff

Gracie Aghapour Associate Director, Design	Kenyon Farrow Vice President, Policy	Lauren Knott Vice President, Strategic Partnerships
Isis Awad Manager, Events	Andy Garcia Senior Vice President, Programs, Policy, and People	Kayla Monteiro Senior Director, Conferences and Events
Ashley Barnes-Cocke Director, Direct Cash Transfers as Prevention	Brittany Garner Vice President, Programs	Selima Morrow, LMSW Director, Community Partnership
Pilar Barreyro Vice President, Communications and Strategy	Maddox Guerilla Senior Consultant, Direct Cash Transfers	Julia Terry Associate Director, Technical Assistance
J. Clapp Senior Vice President, Development	Andrew Gutierrez III Director, Youth Leadership and Advocacy	Macy Verges Director, Digital Storytelling and Communications
Larry Cohen Co-Founder and Executive Director	Dajonee Hale Manager, Youth Leadership	Landon (LJ) Woolston Director, Direct Cash Transfers
Slayne De La Cruz Director, Technical Assistance	Anjala Huff Director, Direct Cash Transfers	

“I appreciate that PSY continues to center those most affected, particularly Black trans youth, and making sure that their needs are at the forefront of all solutions.”

Attendee’s review of National Symposium

2022 Financials

Expenses by Function

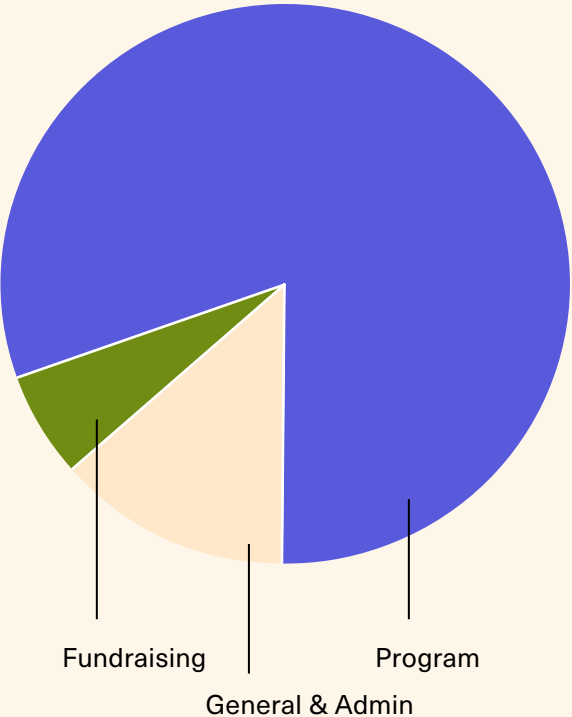
General & Admin (14%)	\$447,028
Fundraising (6%)	\$195,968
Program (80%)	\$2,657,137

Total Expenses	\$3,300,133
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Revenue By Source

Individual	\$178,599
Symposium	\$651,663
Corporate/Foundation	\$4,527,436
Technical Assistance	\$522,550
Unrealized Investment Loss	\$(76,012)

Total Revenue	\$5,804,236
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Major Donors and Supporters



Individuals (\$5,000+)

- Milo Pinkerton and Virgil Taus
- Joanne Rosen and Ron Daniels
- Betsy Sherman
- Tara Smith and Patrick McSwiggen

Corporate & Foundation Giving (\$20,000+)

AIDS Healthcare Foundation	Google	Public Health Solutions
Annie E. Casey Foundation	GreenLight Fund Baltimore	Raikes Foundation
Bernstein Family Charitable Fund	The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation	Sherman Family Foundation
Deutsche Bank	KKR & Co. Inc.	The Schultz Family Foundation
Educational Foundation of America	Liberty Mutual	Trinity Church Wall Street
Elton John AIDS Foundation	Melville Charitable Trust	ViiV Healthcare
Youth and Families Forward and the Community Foundation of New Jersey	NYC Fund to End Youth & Family Homelessness	Wells Fargo Foundation
	Oak Foundation	Anonymous
Gilead Sciences	Porticus	

Future



- Thank you for your support of PSY! We hope that our first annual report helped you learn more about who we are, what we do, and — most importantly — why we do it.
- Our record of growth and impact will continue throughout 2023, as we expand our capacity and reach. Here are just a few highlights:
- Launching **direct cash transfers nationally**, and adding additional sites, including in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oregon, Vermont, and Baltimore.
 - Deepening our work around **youth leadership**, with the release of our first Youth Leadership handbook and the Hire Youth! handbook.
 - Launching a **host home program in the Ballroom Community** in New York, the first of its kind.
 - Holding our first **in-person conferences** since 2019 (National and Southern will be in-person)
- Please stay tuned for more exciting news and programming in the months to come!

Thank you again for joining us in this important work. Together we will not only change systems and structures, but also the lives of so many young people. We are grateful for your support.

PSY's Values

These values encapsulate Point Source Youth's core ethics, guiding principles, and worldview. Point Source Youth recognizes that some of our values remain aspirational and we commit to doing the deep work to bring them fully into practice, manifestation, and operation.

Youth

We center and prioritize youth that are currently, or historically have been, systematically marginalized. We co-create safe, affirming, and equitable environments for meaningful youth collaboration to take place.

Freedom & Liberation

We believe we are not free unless everyone is free. We use anti-racist, trauma-informed and healing-centered practices in our internal and external work.

A Sustainable & Restful Workplace

We know that self-care, rest, and reflective time are crucial to building a sustainable workplace and maintaining a sustained workforce. Therefore, we strive to provide the resources and systems needed for care and rest. We are a trauma-informed organization and act accordingly.

Thought Leadership

We understand that the youth homelessness crisis is part of a larger movement for equity and social justice. We work to uplift, expand and support local, community and grassroots solutions through thought leadership and advocacy.

Advocacy & Systems Change

We believe ending youth homelessness won't happen without structural change. We work to dismantle the root causes that inform and maintain the youth homelessness crisis while decreasing the barriers for communities to implement innovative, affirming solutions to end youth homelessness.

Internal Accountability & Support

We believe that accountability and transparency are critical to ensuring that we are continuously working in service of our mission. We work to always uplift and center collaboration and transparency within our organization. We continue to make and strengthen space for critical feedback and we co-create, safe and affirming systems of accountability.

