



2019 Youth Count DC

ICH YOUTH COMMITTEE | 2/27/2020

Background

- The End Youth Homelessness Act of 2014 requires that the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) conduct a youth-specific homeless census annually.
- DHS has tasked The Community Partnership (TCP) with conducting the Homeless Youth Census (HYC), or “Youth Count DC” since 2015.
- In 2018, the community committed to a methodology change in order to allow for a better understanding of the fluidity of youth homelessness.



Background



- Information gathered informed Solid Foundations the District's strategic plan to end youth homelessness.
- Data is used in Continuum of Care and District planning to make decisions about resource allocation.
- Youth Count data are a powerful advocacy tool for providers and other stakeholder groups.

Methodology

The Youth Census is youth-led and youth-informed.

PLANNING

- Survey pilot with the Youth Advisory Board of the ICH
- Peer-to-peer pre-outreach
- Kick-off event planning

IMPLEMENTATION

- Joining field-based teams
- Conducting and leading site-based surveys



Methodology

Who are we counting?

Age

- **Transitional Age Youth (TAY)**, 18 to 24
- **Minors**, Under 18 and without a parent or guardian

Housing Status

- **Literally Homeless:** Unsheltered or in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.
- **Unstably-housed:** Staying in non-permanent housing arrangement (“couch-surfing”, etc.) or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Household Type

- **Unaccompanied** (single)
- **Young families** (head of household is 24 years old or younger)

Methodology

Data Sources:

Demographic Survey

- Takes places over the course of nine days (September 20th to 28th, 2019)
- Field-based and site-based surveys
- Paper, web, and mobile app versions

HMIS

- Emergency Shelter / Transitional Housing programs
- Virginia Williams / family & youth prevention sites
- Permanent Housing programs (for de-duplication)



Totals

- 1,306 unduplicated youth were counted in the 2019 HYC.
- Singles make up the greatest share of youth counted (57%) and pregnant or parenting youth comprise 43%.
- 5% of youth counted are minors.

2019 Totals by Age and Household Type		
All Youth		
All Youth	1306	100%
Household Composition		
Singles	742	57%
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	689	53%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)</i>	53	4%
Family Heads of Household	564	43%
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	556	43%
<i>Minors (Under 18)</i>	8	1%

Changes, 2018-2019

Homeless Youth Census Count Totals and Percentage Change (2018 - 2019)			
Population	2019 Totals	2018 Totals	% Change
All Youth			
All Youth	1306	1328	-2%
Household Composition			
Singles	742	782	-5%
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	689	712	-3%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)</i>	53	70	-24%
Family Heads of Household (HoH)	564	546	3%
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	556	534	4%
<i>Minors (Under 18)</i>	8	12	-33%

- There was a modest decrease (-2%) in the total number of youth counted in 2019.
- Decrease is driven by singles (-5%), as there is a 3% increase in families counted in 2019.
- Despite decrease, there was a greater number of surveys completed in 2019 v. 2018:
 - 2018: 1085 surveys returned
 - 2019: 1468 surveys returned
- Additional surveys only increased the number of ineligible surveys, could indicate the methodology is working to reach eligible youth.

Totals

2019 Homeless Youth Census System Reach					
Population	HMIS*	Share of Count (%)	Youth Count Only**	Share of Count (%)	<i>Total Youth</i>
All Youth					
All Youth	707	54%	599	46%	1306
Household Composition					
Singles	292	39%	450	61%	742
Family Heads of Household (HoH)	415	74%	149	26%	564

* Includes youth who have also completed a Youth Count survey.

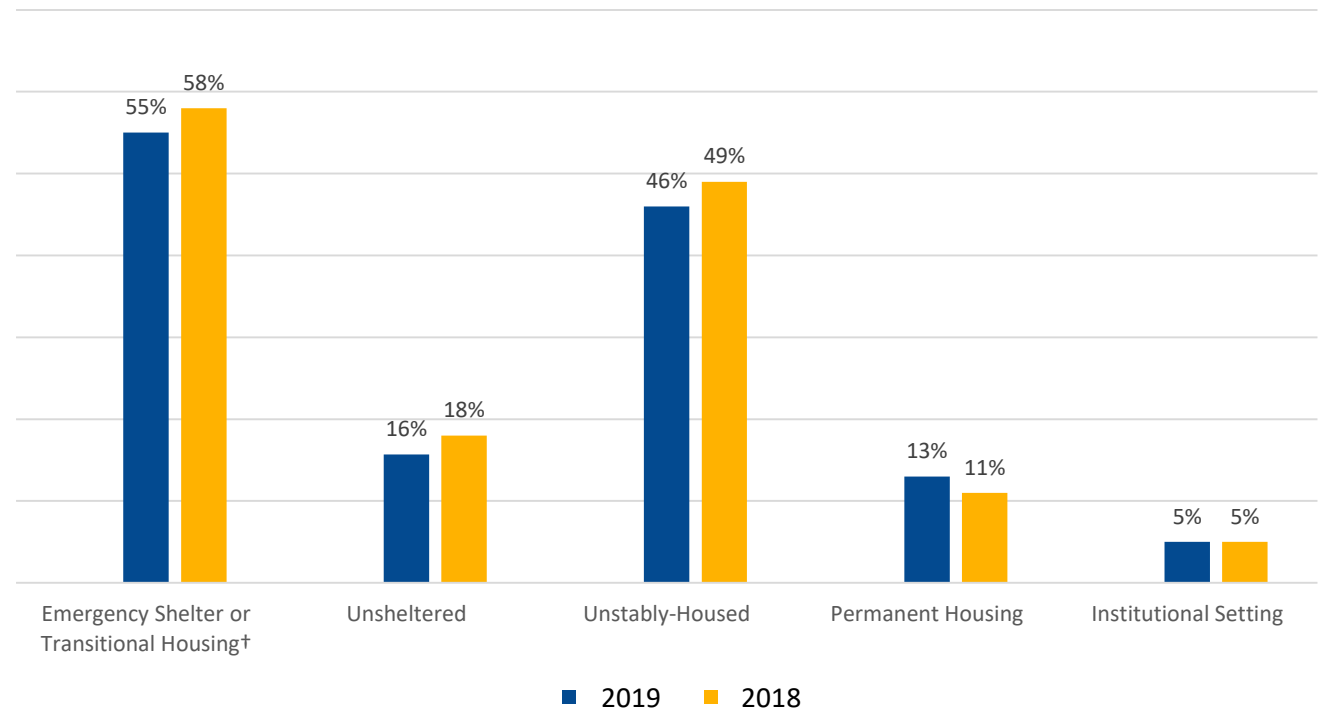
** Youth Count surveys only, does not include ES/TH or Prevention/Virginia Williams records.

- This table indicates where our system can identify youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability. I.e. 707 youth were known to our system and were actively using services, 599 youth were not known to our system or not using services during the week of the Homeless Youth Census.

Totals

- The survey asks respondents to select every type of place that they have stayed in the past 30 days.
- This helps us to understand the fluidity of youth homelessness.
- One quarter (25%) of youth stayed in at least two of these locations in 2019.
- Movement within categories is very common.

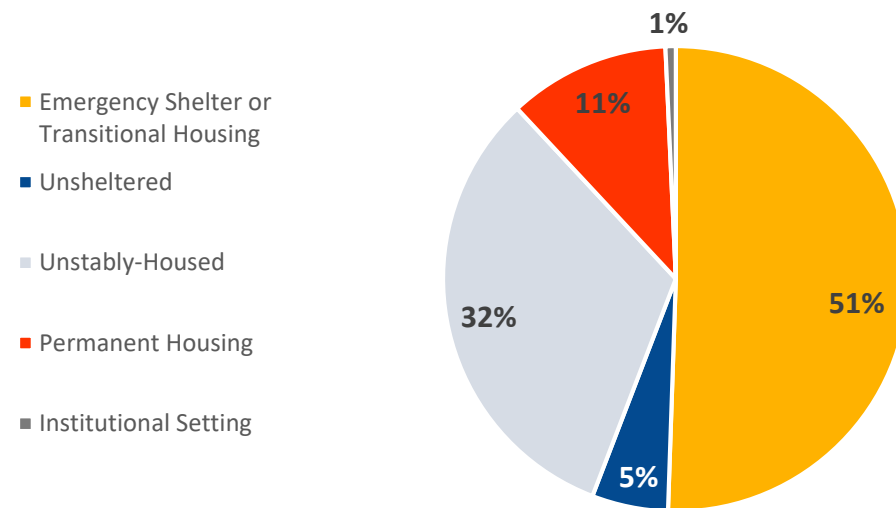
All Places Stayed in Past 30 Days



Totals

- Youth were asked to select the location where they stayed most often over those 30 days (only one location).
- 51% of all youth said they most often stayed in an Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing program.
- Mostly consistent between family and single households, with families slightly more likely to be in an unstable housing arrangement and singles in an unsheltered location.

Places Stayed Most Often in Past 30 Days
(unduplicated)



Demographics

AGE

- Transition Age Youth (TAY) make up the largest share of the count: 95.3%.
- Minors make up only 4.7% of all youth counted.

HOUSEHOLD STATUS

- Over half of the youth counted were unaccompanied singles (57%).
- Young families headed by a TAY or minor HoH make up 43% of the population.

RACE/ETHNICITY

- Black/African-American is the most prevalent race (85% singles, 94% families).
- Mostly Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx (13% singles, 4% families).



Demographics

GENDER

- In general, families are much more likely to have a female HoH, whereas unaccompanied (single) youth are more often male.
- The difference in gender between heads of family households who took the survey, compared with those who were counted only through an HMIS record is significant, 22% of youth who took the survey were not female, compared with only 2% in HMIS.

Gender	Singles	%	Families	%
Total	742	100%	564	100%
Female	267	36%	506	90%
Male	391	53%	46	8%
Trans Female	49	7%	5	1%
Trans Male	12	2%	1	0.2%
Different Gender**	13	2%	3	1%
Data Not Collected	10		1	

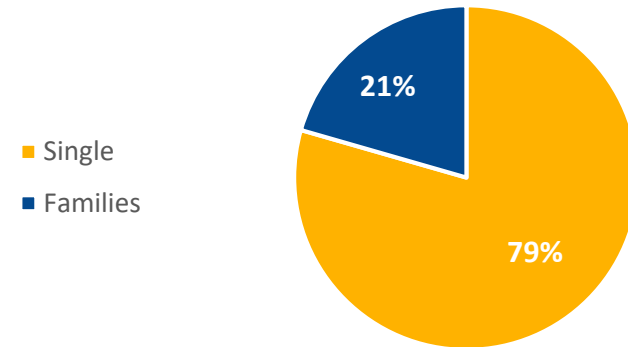
**Includes Gender Queer, Non-Binary, Different Gender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Don't Know.*

Demographics

LGBTQ+

- 34% of singles and 13% of family heads of households are LGBTQ.
- 1 in 5 LGBTQ+ youth are pregnant or parenting.

LGBTQ+, by Household Type



LGBTQ	Singles	%	Families	%
Total	742	100%	564	100%
Yes	232	34%	60	13%
No	458	66%	397	87%
Data Not Collected	52		107	

Demographics

LGBTQ+

- Similar to the 2018 HYC, heads of family households (or pregnant and parenting youth) who took the survey were more likely to be LGBTQ than those who were only counted by their shelter (HMIS) record.
- 19% of heads of family households who took a survey identified as LGBTQ, compared with only 7% counted through HMIS alone.
- Question: is DC's family system designed to meet the diverse needs of young families?

LGBTQ - Families	HYC Survey	%	HMIS Only	%
Total	235	100%	329	100%
Yes	44	19%	16	7%
No	184	81%	213	93%
Data Not Collected	7		100	

Family & Intimate Partner Violence

- 39% of single (unaccompanied) youth and 31% of youth heads of family households had a past experience of domestic violence.
- Unaccompanied youth:
 - Family violence: 35%
 - Intimate partner violence: 25%
- Youth families:
 - Family violence: 36%
 - Intimate partner violence: 31%
- 70% of youth with a past experience of violence report that they started having housing issues because of that violence.



1 in 3 youth are survivors of family or intimate partner violence

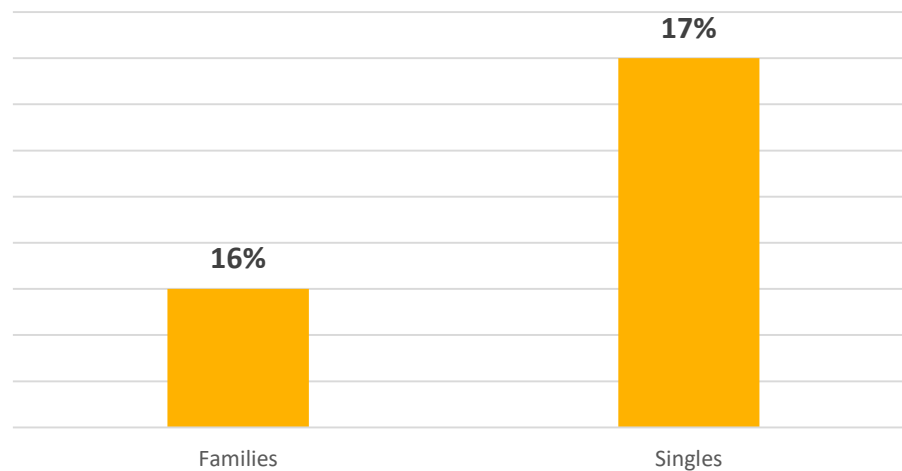
Violence Since Being Homeless

- Since having housing issues 43% of unaccompanied youth and 42% youth families have had violence occur against them.
- 11% of single (unaccompanied) LGBTQ+ youth have been a victim of a crime due to their sexual orientation or gender identity

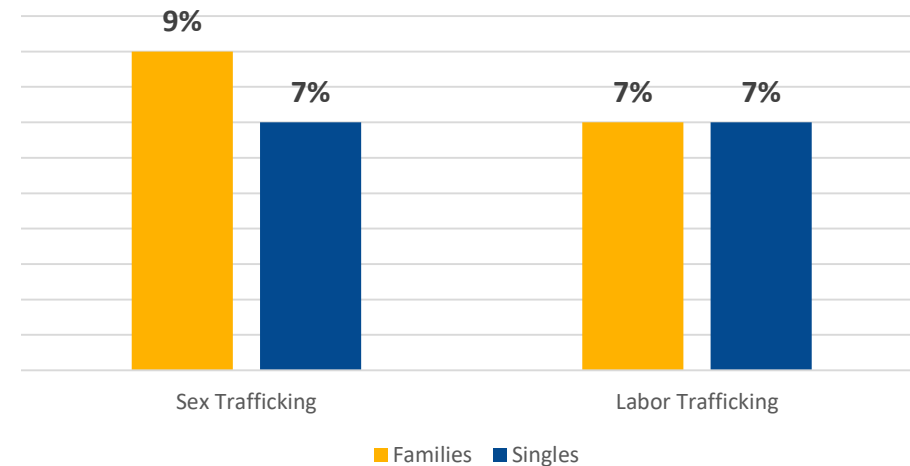
Violence/Threats Against Safety	Singles	%	Families	%
	742	100%	564	100%
Any Violence/Threats Against Safety	188	43%	76	42%
<i>Robbed or Burglarized</i>	95	22%	27	15%
<i>Physically Assaulted or Attacked</i>	103	24%	47	26%
<i>Sexually Assaulted or Attacked</i>	62	14%	30	17%
<i>Stalking</i>	52	12%	19	11%
<i>Victim of a crime because of sexual orientation/gender identity</i>	23	5%	8	4%
<i>Been forced to do something because someone threatened you with violence</i>	38	9%	21	12%
<i>Data Not Collected</i>	305		384	

Survival Sex, Sex & Labor Trafficking

Survival Sex, by Household Type



Sex & Labor Trafficking, by Household Type



Mental Health

- Nearly half of all youth surveyed reported that they had a mental health condition.
- The rate of mental health conditions reported in youth counted in HMIS records only is significantly lower in both families and singles.
- Question: why is self-reporting in the HYC survey significantly higher than what is being reported at intake in HMIS?

Mental Health Condition	HYC Survey	HMIS Only
Singles	54%	19%
Families	51%	8%

Systems Involvement

Child Welfare

DC Only	Singles	%	Families	2019 %
	742	100%	564	100%
Lifetime Experience				
Yes	122	23%	45	21%
No	414	77%	168	79%
Data Not Collected	206		351	
Exited at 21 years old*				
Yes	54	50%	18	44%
No	54	50%	23	56%
Data Not Collected	14		4	
Housing Problems Immediately After Exit**				
Yes	46	87%	15	88%
No	7	13%	2	12%
Data Not Collected	1		1	

* Out of "Yes" Lifetime Experience
** Out of "Yes" Exited at 21 years old

Outside of DC	Singles	%	Families	%
	742	100%	564	100%
Lifetime Experience				
Yes	72	15%	21	11%
No	405	85%	176	89%
Data Not Collected	265		367	
Exited at 18 or 21 years old*				
Yes	42	63%	10	56%
No	25	37%	8	44%
Data Not Collected	5		3	
Housing Problems Immediately After Exit**				
Yes	39	93%	8	80%
No	3	7%	2	20%
Data Not Collected	0		0	

* Out of "Yes" Lifetime Experience
** Out of "Yes" Exited at 18 or 21 years old

Systems Involvement

Justice System

DC Only	Singles	%	Families	2019 %
	742	100%	564	100%
Lifetime Experience				
Yes	134	26%	52	24%
No	385	74%	163	76%
Data Not Collected	223		349	
Housing Problems Immediately After Exit*				
Yes	76	64%	23	51%
No	42	36%	22	49%
Data Not Collected	16		7	
* Out of "Yes" Lifetime Experience				

Outside of DC	Singles	%	Families	2019 %
	742	100%	564	100%
Lifetime Experience				
Yes	170	33%	64	30%
No	345	67%	152	71%
Data Not Collected	227		348	
Housing Problems Immediately After Exit*				
Yes	90	61%	34	59%
No	57	39%	24	41%
Data Not Collected	23		6	
* Out of "Yes" Lifetime Experience				

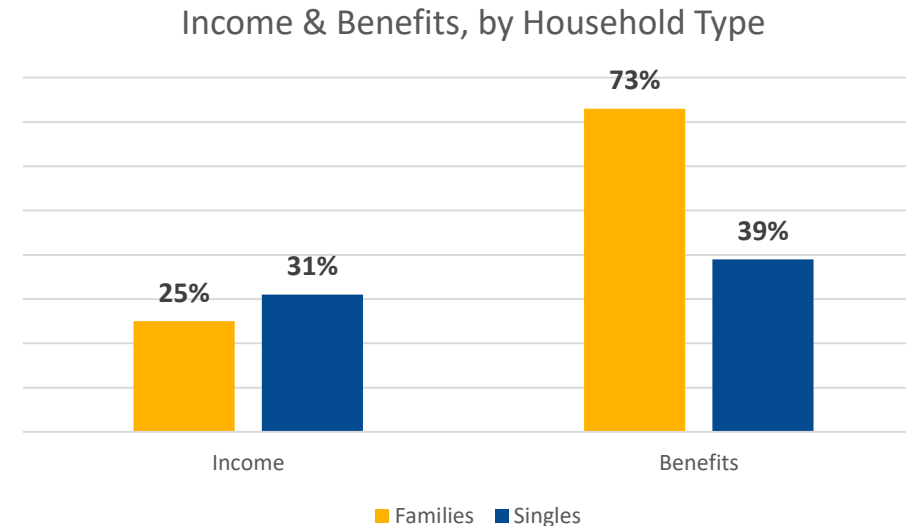
Education

- Only 47% of single (unaccompanied) youth and 54% of heads of family households report that they have at least a high school diploma or GED.
- 72% of unaccompanied minors and 71% of minor heads of family households are currently enrolled in school.
- Question: what can our system do to improve educational outcomes for youth?

Highest Level of Education	Singles	%	Families	%
	742	100%	564	100%
12th Grade or Lower (No HS Diploma)	281	41%	170	38%
High School Diploma/GED	320	47%	242	54%
Some College	61	9%	30	7%
College Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)	13	2%	5	1%
Other Education (Including Vocational)	8	1%	3	1%
Data Not Collected	98		114	

Income & Benefits

- 73% of heads of family households and 39% of single (unaccompanied) youth report receiving some kind of benefit, including: SNAPs, TANF, SSI, and unemployment.
- 25% of families and 31% of singles have some form of cash income.
- Question: what can we do to increase income and access to eligible benefits for youth?



What is next?

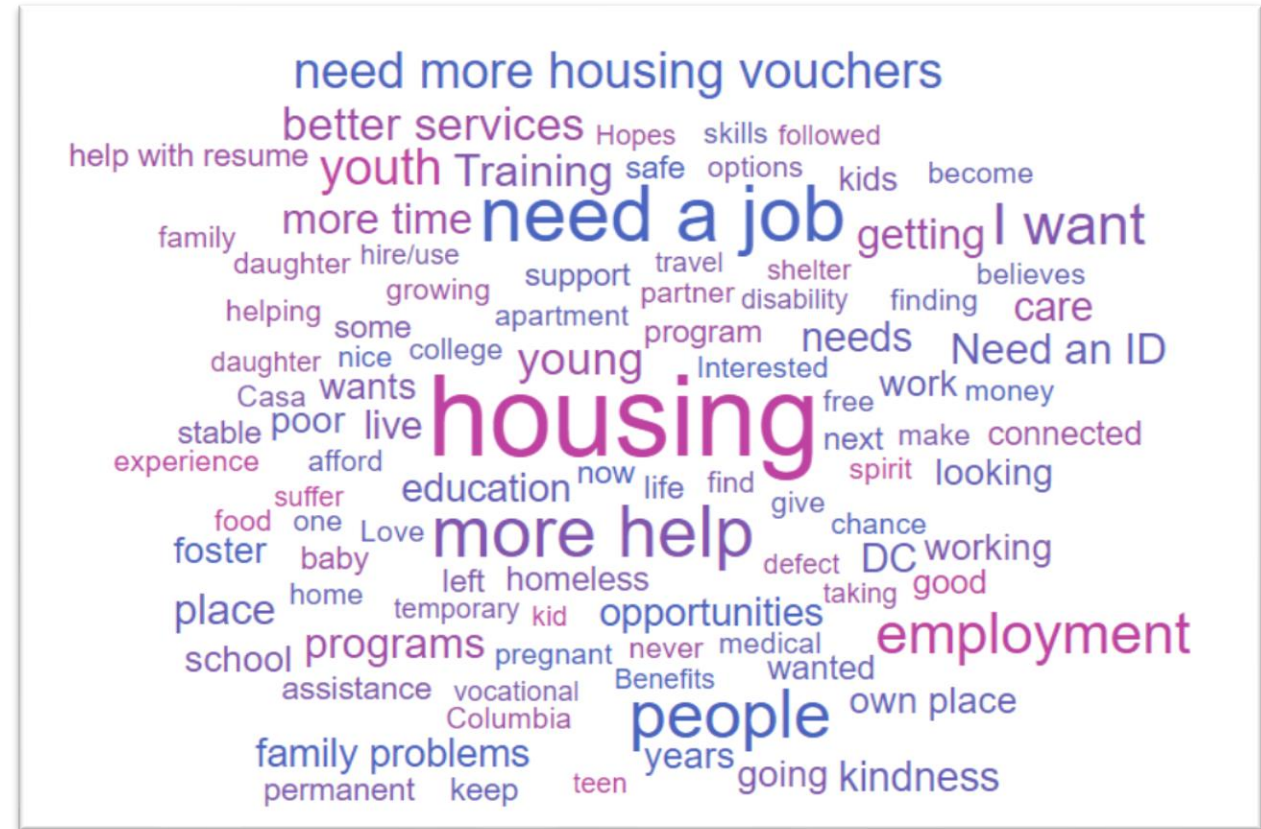
Deeper dive on 2019:

- HMIS history of youth counted – How long have they been in the system? Were youth counted in this year's HYC previously a child in a family in our system? How many youth counted in unsheltered or unstable locations have previously been in shelter?
- What needs do young families have that are not being met in the mainstream family system?
- Mapping locations where surveys were completed to aid Youth Street Outreach work.

What is next?

2019 HYC Data Online:

- Youth Count dashboard on TCP's website
- Full 2018-2019 datasets available for download
- Executive summary



What is next?

2020 Youth Count DC Planning:

- Get ready!!!
- Kick-off planning has started
- Web & app-based surveys only in 2020 to improve locations information and overall data-quality.
- Provider planning to start in April.



Thank you!

Calvary Women's Services
Casa Ruby
Catholic Charities
Children and Family Services Administration (CFSA)
Coalition for the Homeless
Community Connections
Community of Hope
Courtney's House
Covenant House Washington
DBH Our Time
Dept. of Behavioral Health D.C. (DBH)
Dept. of Human Services D.C. (DHS)
Dept. of Youth Rehabilitation Services D.C. (DYRS)
DC Alliance of Youth Advocates (DC AYA)
DC Doors
DC Public Libraries
DC SAFE
DCCADV
District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH)
Echelon Community Services
Edgewood-Brookland Family Services Center
Everyone Home DC
Friendship Place
Georgetown Ministries Outreach
Healthy Babies
HER Resiliency Center

HIPS
House of Ruth
Jobs Have Priority
Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)
MBI Outreach
Metropolitan Memorial UMC
Miriam's Kitchen
Mayor's Office on LGBTQ Affairs
My Sister's Place
N Street Village
National Community Church
New Endeavors By Women
OSSE ReEngagement Center
Pathways to Housing DC Outreach
Sasha Bruce Youthworks
SMYAL
SOME
The DC Center
The Salvation Army
The Wanda Alston Foundation
Through the Eyes of Youth
Thrive DC
Total Family Care Coalition
Wayne's Place



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