

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Youth Committee

Thursday, June 25, 2020 | 10:00 AM ET

ICH Co-Chair Vote

ICH Youth Committee, Community Co-Chair position has been vacant for 6+ months

- Lauren Puryear, Associate Executive Director of Covenant House Greater Washington has expressed interest in the vacant seat
 - Lauren has been at Covenant House for over 1 year and has previously worked in homeless services.
 - A vote was taken and the Youth Committee unanimously approved Lauren as co-chair.

IV. Youth Action Board (DC SHY) & YHDP Fellows

Youth Listening Sessions:

- DC Supporting Hopeful Youth (SHY) Youth Action Board is hosting a for youth-by youth forum to gather feedback and information to develop a policy recommendations to guide CoC.
- SHY YAB hosted the second virtual youth lead listening session yesterday, Wednesday, June 24th at 6:00pm

Upcoming Sessions:

- July 7th at 3PM ET
- July 18th at 1PM ET
- August 13th at 6PM ET
- August 23rd at 6PM ET

If you have questions, contact Kyla Woods at kyla.woods1@dc.gov.

V. Prevention & Diversion

DHS Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) helps low-income Washington, DC residents who are facing housing emergencies by providing funds to support:

- Currently income eligibility is based on 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- There are six (6) ERAP Providers (at 7 locations) in the city
- Online application link provided – see PowerPoint attached

Includes:

- Up to five (5) months of Overdue rent (late costs and court fees)
- 4,250 limit for non-disabled household and up to \$6K for disabled household or household with seven or more children
- Security deposit and/or first month's rent for a new residence. (\$900 each)

ERAP cannot help to pay for utilities, mortgage payments, or any housing expense other than those listed above

New Rental Assistance Program through DHCD

- DHS is partnering with DHCD to schedule for the Covid-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)
- Customers who do not qualify for ERAP due to income guidelines may be eligible for CHAP
- Screening takes place on the same platform
- DHS reviewed data – see PowerPoint slide attached

DHS Youth HOPE

Youth HOPE is a homeless prevention program that aims to divert youth from the homelessness system.

- Objective to strengthen and stabilize relationships between youth and their natural supports and connect youth with education/employment opportunities and community supports

Eligibility:

- Unaccompanied youth below the age of 25
- At risk of experiencing homelessness, unstably housed or experiencing homelessness
- Open to returning to family or natural supports when possible, and safe to do so.
- Open to conflict resolution with family or natural supports, if applicable
- Duration of program is determined by the needs of the youth.
- Specific services highlighted – Please see PowerPoint presentation attached
- DHS reviewed data – see PowerPoint slide attached

Project Reconnect (DHS)

A shelter diversion and Rapid Exit Program for unaccompanied individuals experiencing *homelessness* (Launched in April 2019)

Services:

- Support to Host Households
- New Lease Support
- Arrears Payments
- Moving Costs
- Non-local Transportation Assistance (*only one-way ticket*)
- Local Transportation

COVID-19 Operations:

- Case Management Meetings are occurring virtually.
- Overall, we have seen a decline in referrals since Mid-March

Referral Process:

- Referrals can be emailed to fsa.hope@dc.gov
- Provide reason for referral and youth contact information.
- Team contact info shared – Please see PowerPoint attached

Sasha Bruce Strengthening Foundations Program

FSP/DHS missing youth partnership (STEP):

- Focus on Family counseling, individual counseling, case management, crisis stabilization
- Community based stabilization services
- 3 months stabilization services + 3 months follow up support
 - *(Automatic referral if under 18 and on missing persons list and not involved in other systems)*

FSP Strengthening Foundations:

Serving youth up to age 24 who are homeless, at risk of losing housing, or unstably housed due to conflict. (Funded through DC Council)

- Program Provides:
 - Home and community based family counseling to support family reunification i.e. crisis management assistance and support.
 - Case management and referrals to services supporting family stability
 - Includes 3 phases including aftercare
 - Program outreach prioritized – preventing isolation is vital in supporting youth
 - Virtual case management is utilized.
 - Staff contact information shared – Please see PowerPoint attached

SMYAL COVID Relief Fund

- Started with a \$35,000 grant from Greater Washington Community Foundation aimed at supporting unstably housed LGBTQ+ youth affected by COVID, funds grew to over \$70,000 in direct relief funds for youth.
 - Most payments have been made through Venmo, CashApp, or VISA gift
 - W-9's utilized for auditing purposes.
 - The funds were divided between our Programs team and our Housing team.

Agency and Partner Updates

- DASH has a Survivor Resilience Fund (SRF) for similar needs for individuals AND families that are trying to escape domestic and/or sexual violence.
- OSSE Reengagement Center now has online referral process/ chat serving youth who are interested in being connected with educational opportunities. Contact Info: backontrack.osse.dc.gov
- OSSE is starting a Youth Advisory Board;
- DBH is soliciting members for their Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
- The Certification School Worldwide is having free IT courses July 6th 2020 anyone interested please email Jeremy.Gibson@cswpbc.com
- MOLGBTQA continues to offer LGBTQ Cultural Competency trainings virtually which is mandated for all youth providers serving homeless youth in the District
 - Register on EventBrite: Creating Safe Spaces for LGBTQ Youth
- Homeless Youth Count will be Sept. 18-26. Tamara and Kimberly will be sending out the Save the Dates and Fact sheet.
- DCPS sending distant learning packages and gift cards to shelters as well as toiletries.

VI. Adjournment