



***District of Columbia
Interagency Council on Homelessness***



***Youth Committee
June 25, 2020***

ICH Youth Committee

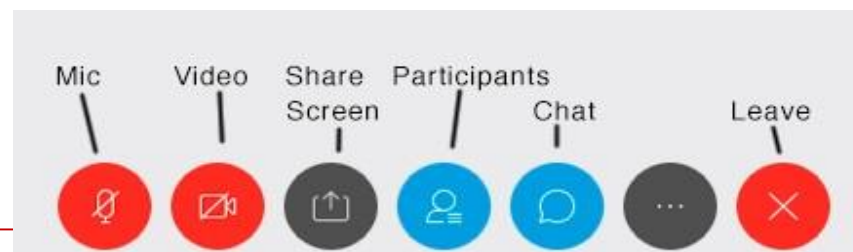


SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:
Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness
Council of Columbia Intergovernmental
Council on Homelessness
March 2017
DC

Welcome to today's meeting; we will begin shortly. In the meantime, please review the reminders below.

WebEx Meeting Participation Reminders

- ❑ Please use only one source of audio – your computer's audio or by calling in with your phone. If you use both, you will get an echo.
- ❑ Your line will be muted via WebEx upon entry; please keep it on mute unless you are presenting or called on for a question or comment.
 - ✓ Note that if you are using your phone for audio, there will be two mute functions – WebEx and your phone. Both must be unmuted for participants to hear you. (We will unmute the WebEx line, but you must unmute your phone.)
- ❑ Please find the “Participants” list by clicking on the Participants button below. Locate your name in that list. If it appears as a number, right-click and rename it as yourself. Everyone is welcome to participate, but you must identify yourself.



Meeting Agenda



SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:
Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

Division of Children's Intervention
Council on Governmental
Accountability
DC

- I. Welcome, Introductions, & Agenda Review
- II. **ICH Co-Chair Vote**
- III. DC SHY & YHDP Fellow Updates
 - I. Let Your Voice Be Heard Listening Series
- IV. Prevention & Diversion
 - I. DHS Emergency Rental Assistance Program
 - II. DHS Youth Hope and Project Reconnect
 - III. Sasha Bruce Strengthening Foundations Program
 - IV. SMYAL COVID Relief Fund
- v. Agency and Partner Updates
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ICH Community Co-Chair Vote



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- ❖ Over the previous months, ICH Youth Committee has sought and interested partner to serve as the ICH Community Co-Chair
- ❖ Lauren Puryear, Associate Executive Director of Covenant House Greater Washington submitted her name for consideration
- ❖ Please take a moment and vote using the link in the chatbox

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Let Your Voice Be Heard Listening Series



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- ❖ DC Supporting Hopeful Youth (SHY) Youth Action Board is hosting a for youth by youth forum to gather feedback and information re: DC's youth homelessness system
 - Goal is to develop a policy recommendation document to guide DC's policies and protocols to improve experiences and outcomes of youth experiencing homelessness
- ❖ Hosted the second virtual youth lead listening session yesterday, Wednesday, June 24th at 6:00pm

Listening Series



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- ❖ July 7th at 3PM ET: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109817059782>
- ❖ July 18th at 1PM ET: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109818066794>
- ❖ August 13th at 6PM ET: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109820124950>
- ❖ August 23rd at 6PM ET: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109822694636>
- ❖ If you have any questions, please contact Kyla Woods at kyla.woods1@dc.gov.

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Prevention & Diversion



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- ❖ **Prevention and Diversion** is an essential aspect of the continuum of resources available for youth who are experiencing homelessness or who are unstably housed
 - Particularly during the Public Health Emergency – potential impact on access to jobs and education, economy shifts, ability to pay rent, etc.

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DHS ERAP



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- ❖ The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) helps low-income **Washington, DC residents** who are facing **housing emergencies** by providing funds to support:
 - **Up to five (5) months of Overdue rent** (at least 30 days), including late costs and court fees; (up to \$4,250 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
- ❖ Currently income eligibility is based on 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines



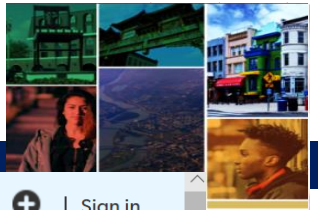
Applying for ERAP

- ❖ The ERAP program recently began an online application process where customers can enter a screening application online:
 - <https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bfpwsjvi2?a=nwr>
 - Once customer completes the screening, they will be sent an email with a link to schedule an appointment

- ❖ There are six (6) ERAP Providers (at 7 locations) in the city

- ❖ 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 ERAP



DC DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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My Apps



Home

Clients > Add Client

Save & close

Cancel

ERAP and CHAP applications may only be submitted via a full web browser on a computer (Internet Explorer, Safari, Google Chrome). Do not use a mobile/wireless device to submit your application as this will likely delay processing

Application Date

Application ID#

In addition to the general Continuum of Care eligibility requirements set forth by Section 8 of the HSRA (D.C. Official Code § 4-753.02), each applicant shall meet the following additional eligibility criteria: (a) Be presented with an emergency as defined in section 7599; (b) Be part of an applicant unit with an emergency with at least one member who is:

- (1) A minor child age eighteen (18) years or younger;
- (2) Age sixty (60) years or older; or
- (3) A person with a disability.
- (4) A single individual who is non-elderly (over 60 years of age), with no disabilities, or a person without minor children.

(c) Demonstrate that he or she has no other available resources for resolving the emergency, including resources actually available from a community resource, but excluding those exempted in section 7503.13; and (d) Demonstrate that the provision of emergency rental assistance services will substantially, if not entirely, alleviate the emergency during the thirty (30) day period immediately following the authorization of payment. If the permissible assistance payment does not entirely eliminate the emergency, the applicant shall provide reliable, convincing information that the remaining necessary amount is actually available from another source or that the landlord will accept a partial payment or longer-term repayment plan, which is within the applicant's financial means to execute. Failure to demonstrate that the emergency can be resolved shall result in a denial of eligibility for emergency rental assistance.

Under penalty of perjury I declare that all statements entered on this form are true. If selected to apply for Emergency Rental Assistance, I agree to cooperate with the Department of Human Services (DHS) or the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) by using my own resources to meet as much as possible of my need. I agree to present all verifying documents requested or to authorize the Department to obtain them. I hereby authorize DHS or DHCD to interview all other adult members of my household with regard to my application. I further authorize DHS or DHCD to contact any third party as necessary with regard to this application. Please Enter Your Initials

Initial Here *

Please check your email regularly for important scheduling updates and notifications after you apply online. You may be contacted by one of our providers by email prior to receiving a phone call

This is a centralized intake system for the District's emergency rental assistance programs including the Department of Human Services (DHS) Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP). Please complete the questions below to determine which program you are eligible for at this time

Tenant Information: Section 1 of 4

WRIT

Program Income Limits

ERAP Provider Information

Section 1 of 4

Are you a DC Resident? *

- Yes
 No

Are you the Lease Holder? *

- Yes
 No





Data

Payment Category	Number of Payments 06/04/2020	Number of Payments 06/19/2020	FY 19 Numbers (10/01/18 – 06/19/2019)	<u>Difference</u> FY20 vs. FY19	Payments during Covid19 Stay Home Order (3/13/2020 – 06/19/2020)	Payments during Same Time as Stay Home order FY19 (3/13/2019 – 06/19/2019)
Back Rent	817	854	983	-129	299	552
Security Deposit	61	63	179	-116	18	87
1st Month Rent	43	44	82	-38	17	46

**Last report "by Payment Category" had Back Rent difference between this year and last was that 2020 was down by 33, now down by 78.*

COVID 19 REFERENCE:

5/13/2020: Back rent requests are down by 195. Security deposit and 1st Month rent requests are also down.

6/04/2020: Back rent requests are down by 241. Security deposit (-57) and 1st Month rent (-22) requests are also down.

06/19/2020: Back rent requests are down by 253. Security deposit (-69) and 1st Month rent (-29) requests are also down.

DHS ERAP



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Number of Applications 05/13/2020	Number of Applications 06/04/2020	Number of Applications 06/19/2020	FY 19 Numbers (10/01/18 – 06/19/2019)	<u>Difference</u> FY20 vs. FY19	Applications during Covid19 Stay Home Order (3/13/2020 – 06/19/2020)	Appli during Same Time as Stay Home order FY19 (3/13/2019 – 6/19/2019)
1,944	2,463	2,648	2,942	-294	858	1,312

**4/24/2020: "by Provider" difference between this year and last was that 2020 was up by 90.*

**5/13/2020: Down by 231.*

**6/4/2020: Down by 246*

**6/19/2020: Down by 294*

COVID 19 REFERENCE:

5/13/2020: Total Applications are down by 387 compared to same time frame in FY19

6/4/2020: Total Applications are down by 401 compared to same time frame in FY19

6/19/2020: Total Applications are down by 454 compared to same time frame in FY19



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Youth Housing Options and Prevention Education (Youth HOPE)

What is Youth Housing Options and Prevention Education (HOPE)?

Youth HOPE is a homeless prevention program that aims to divert youth from shelters while promoting safe and stable living conditions.

Youth HOPE Objectives:

- ❖ To strengthen and stabilize relationships between youth and their natural supports.
- ❖ To support youth experiencing homelessness by connecting youth to community resources including educational and employment programs.
- ❖ To provide information on pertinent issues that may affect youth's ability to reach self sufficiency.

Eligibility for Youth HOPE, youth must be:

- 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

Services and Duration of Program

Services:

- Mediation and/or crisis resolution between youth and natural supports to promote housing stabilization or reunification.
- Connection to community resources including services offered in the Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Link youth to employers and /or employment services or Workforce Development Programs
- Link youth to Educational Programs

Duration of Services:

The duration of program is determined by the needs of the youth. Services can be as brief as a few meetings or may last for up to six months.

Examples of services:

- ❖ Youth working on housing stabilization with natural supports may work with case managers for up to six months, depending on youth and family needs.
- ❖ Youth seeking employment may participate in on-going case management until a job is secured or for up to six months.
- ❖ Youth requesting assistance with obtaining vital records may meet with a Case Manager once.

Youth Served FY20

FY19 (October , 2018- September 2019)	FY20 (October 2019-May 2020)
93 youth	*** <i>Total for FY still pending</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 76 engaged through outreach and case management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 73 engaged in case management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 17 engaged in workshops 	Three Job Fairs Hosted:
	October 2019: 25 youth attended
	November 2019: 36 youth attended
	January 2020: 58 Youth attended

Youth Served in FY20

FY 20: (October-May 2020)	
FY20 Youth Served	73
Open Cases	30
Program Completion	29
Program Termination	14
Early Closures (not included in the number of youth served)	6

Program Completion: Youth obtained independent housing-apartment/room, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re Housing, youth reunified with family or identified support, youth housing stabilized, youth maintain housing. * Youth obtained employment or achieved educational goal.

Program Termination: Youth did not participate in services and/or has not followed up on recommended support services.

Early Closure: Unable to maintain contact with youth; youth declined Youth HOPE services; and/or youth not eligible for program (over age 24, pregnant, with child or married)

Housing Outcomes on Completed Cases:

Services Sought	Number of Youth
Housing Stabilization with Natural Supports	14
Placed in Transitional Housing:	8
Exited to Rapid Rehousing	2
Permanent Supportive Housing or Independent Unit without subsidy	2
Low Barrier Shelter	2
Transition to Family System	1

Project Reconnect

Program launched April 2019 to provide the following resources:

A shelter diversion and Rapid Exit Program for unaccompanied individuals experiencing *homelessness*

- **Support to Host Households:** Grocery Assistance and Utility Assistance
- **New Lease Support :** Rental Application Fees, First month's rent , Security Deposit, Holding fees
- **Arrears Payments:** Payment of back rent or other legal debt affecting housing stability
- **Moving Costs:** local and out of state
- **Non-local Transportation Assistance:** Bus, train, air ticket when host, and/ youth can prove sustainability out of state (***only one-way ticket***)
- **Local Transportation:** SmarTrip, Automobile Repairs, Gas Assistance, Rideshare Services (service can only be provided if this need is directly related to housing and employment)

Project Reconnect Utilization

(Program launched April 2019)

- Total number of youth referred for Project Reconnect since launch: 26
- Total number of youth who received services: 15

	* Updated: Final	Projected: ** Amount may change if agreement is terminated
	FY 19 Utilization	FY20 Utilization
New Leasing Supports	3	0
Arrears	2	3
Host Supports	3	4
Total Spent	**\$14,572.40	\$8,437

COVID Operations

Youth Engagement During COVID:

- Case Management Meetings are occurring virtually
- There are occasional in-person meetings, if needed.
- Overall, we have seen a decline in referrals since Mid-March

Referral Process

- Email referral or reason you are referring youth in addition to the youth's contact Info. **Referrals can be emailed to fsa.hope@dc.gov
- You may also reach out to Program Staff via phone

Youth HOPE Team & Contacts

Case Managers

- Kassein Greene: kassein.greene@dc.gov
- Tamesha Veasley: tamesha.veasley@dc.gov
- Zina Williams: Zina.Williams@dc.gov

Program Analyst

- Marquita Smith: marquita.smith2@dc.gov

Supervisory Social Worker

- Michelle Maringe: michelle.maringe@dc.gov

Program Manager

- Tamara Mooney: Tamara.Mooney@dc.gov

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ICH Youth Committee

June 25, 2020

***GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
SASHA BRUCE FSP Strengthening Foundations***

Sasha Bruce Family Strengthening Program



▶ FSP/DHS missing youth partnership (STEP)

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

▶ FSP Strengthening Foundations

- ▶ Serving youth up to age 24 who are homeless, at risk of losing housing, or unstably housed due to conflict
- ▶ Home and community based family counseling to support family reunification
- ▶ Case management and referrals to services supporting family stability
- ▶ Actively networking with youth serving agencies to identify families in need of services as early as possible



SBY Strengthening Foundations

Importance of Supportive Connections

- ▶ “Youth experiencing homelessness or unstable housing have often lost more than just their homes.” CPEYH Guiding Principles
 - According to homeless youth census of 2016, 37% of youth experiencing homelessness stated that homelessness was a result of conflict with their family and friends.
 - Developing a community of support is a crucial part of development for all transition age youth. For those who are experiencing conflict or instability within their support systems, we can provide support with identifying, rebuilding, or maintaining significant connections.
 - The many benefits of a support network- financial, housing, child care, emotional support, advice, connections, and many others

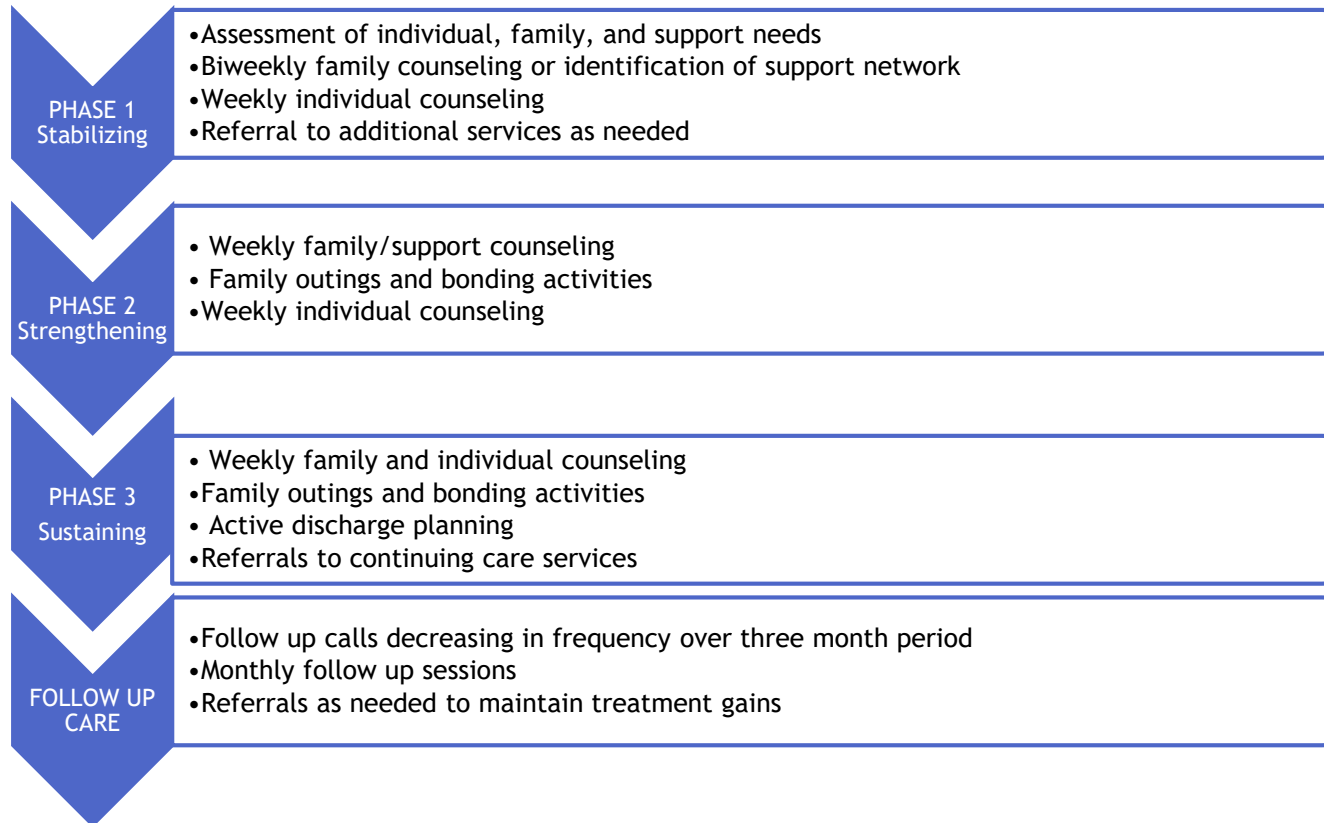


SBY Strengthening Foundations Family Stabilization Grant

- ▶ Overview -
 - Funded through DC Council (Comprehensive Plan to End Youth Homelessness) as part of homeless prevention efforts
 - Serving youth and families up through age 24
 - In home and community based family counseling to support family reunification
 - Case management and referrals for families to support family stability
 - Crisis management assistance and support
 - Actively networking with youth serving agencies to identify families in need of services as early as possible

Sasha Bruce Family Strengthening Program

- Serving youth and families up through age 24
- Home and community based family counseling to support family reunification
- Case management and referrals supporting family stability
- 3 months intensive clinical support with 3 months follow up care



Contact: Sarah Lovett
slovett@sashabruce.org
202-875-3261



SBY Strengthening Foundations- COVID 19 response

- ▶ Services continue during COVID 19- virtual and telephone options available, continued check ins and support, case management needs evaluated on case by case basis
 - ▶ Changing family dynamics during period of isolation
 - ▶ Need for adapted services to meet safety/social distancing without isolating clients
- ▶ Outreach and collaborative efforts are more necessary than ever
 - ▶ Contact Marcus Cade (Clinical Intake Manager) to join discussion about ongoing as well as newly developing trends and how prevention efforts can support the work of your agency. Marcus's role is constant contact with partners, and scheduling new and ongoing partner meetings on a regular basis. Your input is needed as we continue to adapt to clients current needs.
 - ▶ Send us client referrals for youth with increasing family or social conflict or who may need additional support to strengthen social connections (Contact info on next slide)

SBY
Strengthening
Foundations:
Contact info



Clinical intake manager-Marcus Cade

Email: mcade@sashabruce.org

Phone:202-360-1001

Program Manager- Sarah Lovett

Email: slovett@sashabruce.org

Phone: 202-875-3261

(Maternity leave through 7/26/20)

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SMYAL COVID Relief Fund



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❖ SMYAL COVID Relief Funds

- Started with a \$35,000 grant from Greater Washington Community Foundation aimed at supporting LGBTQ+ youth who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness due to the COVID ~~nightmare~~-pandemic
- The funds were divided between our Programs team and our Housing team
 - ✓ Programs outreach launched online and within two weeks we had about 55 requests for support funds
 - ✓ Housing funds were divided so that each resident got up to three months of bill payment support and unrestricted funds/fun money

SMYAL Program



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- After many, many donor presentations we were able to get more funding and have since provided over \$70,000 in direct relief funds.
- The Programs team has referred any youth who have been looking for housing support to me for triage and referrals.
- An extra \$3000 was set aside to support youth who are already connected to the CAHP system to provide up to \$100 in bill support. That money went QUICK.
- Most payments have been made through Venmo, CashApp, or VISA gift cards.

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