

# The Key Action Plan

## Opening Doors for Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

Twenty-two agencies are collaborating to develop several near-term objectives that can be put into action within the next 12-18 months, while also establishing a shared vision for a long-term solution for Nashville. The Key Action Plan is NOT intended to be an all-encompassing strategic plan, but rather a framework from which to build on as we learn from our initial solutions.



### Long-term Vision



To meet the complex needs of youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness in Nashville, it is essential to:

- ✓ Create a continuum of housing options from emergency shelter to temporary/bridge housing to a variety of more permanent, independent housing options (shared living, dedicated apartment complexes and scattered units)
- ✓ Provide a comprehensive range of supportive services
- ✓ Connect individuals with education, work and social support systems to ensure long-term stability
- ✓ Coordinate! A coordinated system of entry and assessment will help determine the best fit for each young person, and an intentional, coordinated prevention program will help minimize the number of YYA experiencing homelessness.

### Youth and Young Adult Voice

We have been intentional about letting youth and young adult (YYA) voice inform as much of our process as possible. Initial input was sought on general issues prior to the kickoff, YYA focus groups have provided insight on current services and needs, a YYA representative served on the immediate response subcommittee and focus groups reviewed the objectives of the plan. We will continue to rely upon YYA input as we shift to implementation.

We acknowledge that there is very understandable frustration and skepticism about our abilities to turn their thoughts and ideas into reality.

### Participating Agencies

Crossroads Campus  
Department of Children  
Services  
Family Life Center (Women's  
Mission)  
Juvenile Court  
Lipscomb University  
Mayor's Office  
Metropolitan Development &  
Housing Agency  
Metro Homelessness  
Commission  
Metro Police Department  
Metro Social Services  
Metro Nashville Public Schools  
Monroe Harding  
Nashville Rescue Mission  
Neighborhood Health  
Oasis Center  
Park Center  
Room In The Inn  
Safe Haven Family Shelter  
True Colors Fund  
United Way  
Urban Housing Solutions  
Youth Representative



### Additional Contributing Agencies

End Slavery Tennessee  
Metro Public Libraries  
Mid-Cumberland Resource  
Agency  
Mental Health Cooperative  
Woodbine Community  
Organization  
Youth Villages

For information about the Key Action Plan, visit <https://www.keyplannashville.org> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KeyPlanNashville>

Contact Judith Tackett ([Judith.Tackett@nashville.gov](mailto:Judith.Tackett@nashville.gov)) or Mark Dunkerly ([mdunkerley@oasiscenter.org](mailto:mdunkerley@oasiscenter.org)) with questions or to get involved.



## Recommendations



Below are the four focus areas developed by the action committees and the initial solutions:

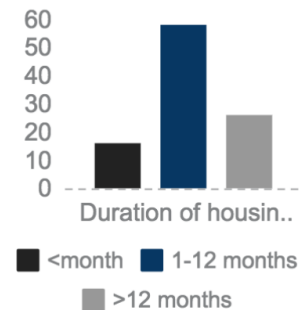
- ✓ **Prevention:** Focused on the resources needed to prevent youth from experiencing homelessness. Heavy focus on the systems (Schools, Child Welfare, Criminal Justice).
  - Expand access to extension of foster care resources for 18-21 year olds
  - Implement workforce development training for foster and juvenile justice youth in custody
  - Increase public awareness through a media campaign
  - Offer cultural competency trainings re: LGBTQ youth
  - Outreach to and engage local police department
- ✓ **Coordinated Entry and Assessment:** Focused on outcomes to create a coordinated system that gives YYA youth housing options and support services based on needs/available inventory.
  - Create and implement a screening and prioritization tool that links youth with developmentally appropriate services (including prevention/diversion, housing and support services)
- ✓ **Immediate Response-** Focused on creating youth-centric solutions for YYA who are in immediate need of help (Drop-In Center, Shelter, etc.).
  - Create a system for the daily communication of resources
  - Establish a dedicated YYA family reunification travel fund
  - Host a weekly YYA dinner at Room in the Inn with cross-agency case managers
  - Expand warming shelter to 7 nights/week for 2016-17
  - Double shelter bed capacity by creating YYA focused sites through Room in the Inn
  - Long-term solution: Creation of 365/24-7 YYA shelter
- ✓ **Path to Long Term Stability -** Focused on creating a path to independent living and stability. This includes a range of housing solutions and the services needed to help YYA stay in housing (education, sustainable employment, healthcare/behavioral health, and permanent connections).
  - Launch pilot project with Urban Housing Solutions to create YYA apartments
  - Develop YYA shared living model
  - Engage landlords for scattered site housing
  - Explore university partnerships/programs for YYA
  - Developing a system of coordinated care for YYA in housing

## The Issue

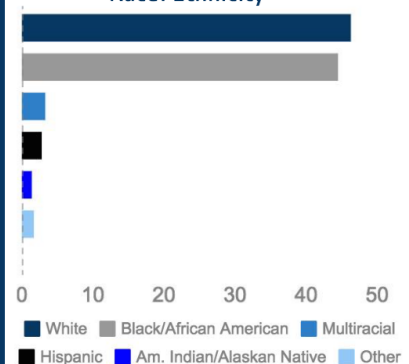
Between February 15, 2015 and February 15, 2016, 929 youth and young adults ages 18-24 accessed services at shelter locations provided by Launch Pad, the Nashville Rescue Mission (men's and women's shelters), Oasis Center and Room in the Inn. Since Nashville does not have a year-round dedicated YYA shelter and adult shelters are not intended to meet the needs of this population, we believe the actual number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness to be much higher.

### YYA Homelessness Data

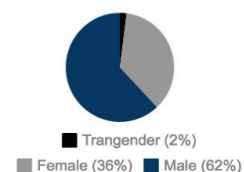
#### Duration of Housing Instability



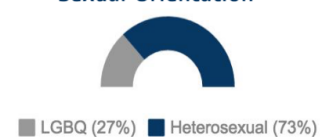
#### Race/Ethnicity



#### Gender



#### Sexual Orientation



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