

YHDP listening group for vocational services 2/13/23

Attendance:

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Why we're here: We got money! Part of the process is creating a community plan to allot this money to the right areas. This listening group is to make sure each organization gets a piece of this grant, to make our programs even better, and help these individuals even more. Let's talk about gaps and barriers, to better utilize our time and money

Powerpoint notes:

What is YHDP? Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program.

Initiative for reducing homelessness. Supports select communities to prevent & end

\$6.5 million in funding over 2 years from HUD

Timeline includes 4 phases:

Phase 1: Coordinated community plan Now-March

Phase 2: Develop equitable request for proposal Feb-July

Phase 3: Review and rank apps July

Phase 4: Implementation and improvement Oct-Ongoing

Structure & breakdown of responsibilities:

Project management: Core YAB (youth action board) team & Core Adult team

Thought leaders and planners: Full YAB & planning team

Community wide impact: assortment of listening groups for different niches/services

Whats included under YHDP?

Permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, transitional housing or a combo of both rapid and transitional housing, host homes, supportive services only

Questions:

- 1. What are the needs of youth and young adults that you are providing Vocational services to who are experiencing homelessness?**

Financial support and skillsets, competencies, soft skills. Access to work documents, cultural representation and relevance, mental health, financial literacy, clothing, understanding labor laws, transportation, hygiene and nutrition, earlier intervention (receiving them as early as possible before issues go for too long)

- 2. What are some of the situations causing our youth and young adults to become homeless?**

Leaving workplaces too soon or taking jobs too quickly before deciding it's right for you.

Barriers like childcare, transportation. Often see a large percentage are aging out of the foster care system. A big factor is how the youth can access the resources and what is the education surrounding them. (how do we get the resources out into the hands of people that need it) Educating more job providers. Lack of education on housing and finance. Being put into situations where they are forced to take out credit cards or overdraft accounts to survive and end up with poor credit/references/evictions. Lack of support system when in high school. Mental health restricting people from being able to handle important matters, rental costs raising every year, not being able to afford to live alone. COVID also caused a wave of homelessness and folks need time to recover. Being able to take off from work or not leave the house is a privilege not everyone has.

3. How can we prevent youth from becoming homeless?

Really need to tackle mental health from a younger age and give them more support when exiting foster care. Hard to think about their future, so getting to work at a social enterprise really equips them with life skills and acknowledging behaviors to change them. Building confidence. Outreach needs to be amped up to get people the resources they need as soon as they're 18. Getting into schools and educating the younger folks

4. What vocational services do you currently have in place to serve youth or young adults that are experiencing homelessness?

Social enterprises to give supportive employment to build skills, job placement, certificates and training, partnering with civic engagement to give volunteer experiences, enrolling in GED programs, creative outreach like art/rock climbing/writing/singing. Connecting people to different partners and programs that aligns them with something they actually want to do (promotes sustainability)

5. What are system gaps for youth experiencing homelessness and unemployment Sacramento?

Understanding and being more aware of our own biases so that we are not pushing people towards unrealistic goals or projecting what we think is "successful". Folks need to be fully equipped with life skills and basic needs before vocational services can be fully utilized. (how can a person think about career goals when they aren't sure what they will eat tonight) How do we get life skill education to the youth

6. How would you fill those gaps?

Building relationships and rapport so that folks feel comfortable asking for help and sharing things. Building out workshops/programs that recognize our biases and also life skills for folks

7. What are some of the barriers we see that youth or young adults are experiencing in gaining and maintaining employment?

Understanding their own safety and needs, self-advocacy, criminal backgrounds, childcare, past trauma, public transportation, keeping car/license legal, trust issues in authority and systems in place, being villainized for having trauma/needing extra help, having high school diploma or GED, work tolerance, lacking soft skills, not being able to represent themselves in a positive way (hygiene, speaking positively about themselves, knowing their strengths) processing and handling current stress and trauma. Lack of communication because they may not be used to being heard, so being perceived as aggressive or entitled.

If time...

What type of job interests and vocational fields do you commonly see with the participants you provide services to?

What are common factor in youth successful in employment/vocational services and what do you deem as successful?

If you could design your dream vocational or other support program for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, what would it look like?

How do we help young adults to achieve earning a livable wage?

How do we support young adults in career exploration and job certification?

What services could we create that youth or young adults would want to engage with?

What do great youth services look like?

This funding requires us to create programs to ensure homelessness is brief, non-recurring, and swiftly resolved. What do we need to create or change to answer each of those calls?

What are some of the ways homelessness impacts a youth after homelessness is resolved?

Why do youth leave programs?

Why do housing programs exit youth?

Comments, suggestions & final thoughts:

Folks want to meet again! Looking to work on getting more educational programs as far as educating teachers and also students on life skills