

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

Combating Homelessness Track – Session Four



Arizona
Department
of Housing

Moderator:

Deputy Director Cindy Stotler

Speakers:

Austin N. Puca, *City of Tucson*

Victoria Tullercash, *Youth On Their Own*

Shannon Fowler, *University of Arizona*

Southwest Institute for Research On Women



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

TODAY'S PRESENTERS

Austin Puca, she/her
Community Services Project Coordinator
City of Tucson



Victoria Tullercash, she/they
Youth Engagement Coordinator
Youth On Their Own



Shannon Fowler, JD, LLM, she/her
Assistant Research Social Scientist
University of Arizona
Southwest Institute for Research on Women



Austin Puca

City of Tucson



Austin Puca, City of Tucson

BACKGROUND AND YHDP HISTORY

2016 HUD released Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

- Development and implementation of a coordinated community approach that promotes equity for Black, Indigenous, Hispanic (non-white), and LGBTQ+ youth
- Expanded capacity to develop innovative services and form non-traditional collaborations
- Centering youth leadership and equitable decision making

Application Process

- Development of Coordinate Community Plan
- Receive approval from Youth Action Committee
- Receive approval from Continuum of Care Board

Review Criteria

- Leadership Capacity
- Community Need
- Collaboration
- Youth Collaboration
- Data and Evaluation Capacity

Austin Puca, City of Tucson

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

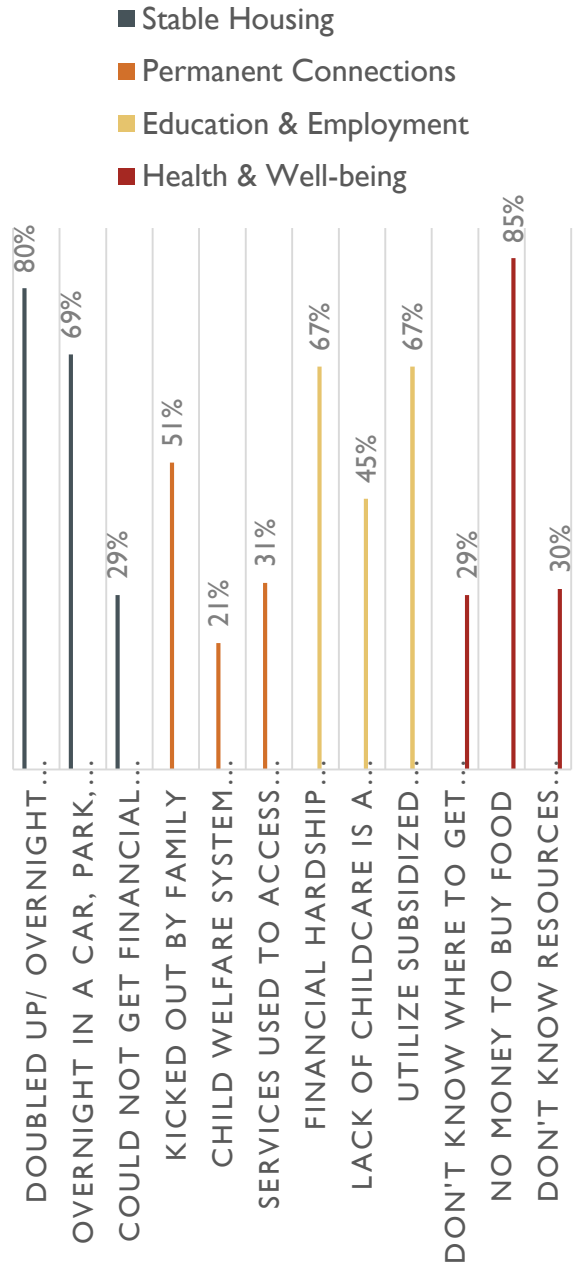
- YHDP guiding principles developed to align with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (2013) core outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability
 - Stable Housing
 - Permanent Connections
 - Education & Employment
 - Health & Well-being
- 2019 Tucson/Pima Continuum of Care selected as one of 15 communities receiving an initial investment of \$4.558M

Established formal CoC Youth Action Committee

Survey of youth needs and perspectives

Comprehensive system analysis of existing data

Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness approved by HUD



Austin Puca, City of Tucson

TARGETED UNIVERSALISM

- In-depth analysis of youth homeless system
 - Needs Assessment
 - Youth Gaps Analysis
 - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Point In Time (PIT) Data
- Participation in Technical Assistance
- System Modeling
 - Project types
 - Funding allocation
- Request For Proposal (RFP)
 - Planning
 - Review panel
 - Site visits

Victoria Tullercash

Youth On Their Own



We envision communities and systems throughout Tucson/Pima County in which the causes of youth homelessness are disrupted, and its solutions are permanent.

This requires radical systems change built on intersectional equity and youth power.

In these systems, young people drive individual housing solutions and hold equal power at all levels of community decision-making.

YHDP VISION STATEMENT

YHDP Guiding Principles

Trauma informed

Harm reduction strategies

Positive youth development

Youth-centered & affirming

LGBTQ+ affirming and safe

Commitment to racial equity

Deep collaboration & cross-sector integration

Coordinated community approach that promotes equity

- Developing Shared Definitions
 - Capacity building
 - Life skills and employment training
- Transparency
 - Skills to navigate the system and work with different agencies

Expanded capacity to develop innovative services and form non-traditional collaborations

- Paradigm Shift: From Collaboration to Partnership
 - Identifying system challenges and interpersonal barriers
 - YHDP Coordinated Entry Change Team
- Enhance cross-sector response, service provision, and engagement
 - YHDP Education Change Team

Center youth leadership and equitable decision making

- Dismantling Ableism and Advancing Equity
 - Planning and implementation processes
- Compensation for participation
 - TPCH Members Lived/Living Experience \$15/hour
 - Four (4) permanent youth worker positions
- Advocacy and Leadership
 - El Rio Reproductive Health Access Program
 - TPCH Youth Action Committee

YOUTH ADULT PARTNERSHIP

VICTORIA TULLERCASH, YOUTH ON
THEIR OWN

Stable Housing

Review and approval of program participant guidelines

Development and implementation of Youth By Name List

Development and implementation of Youth CE Prioritization and Referral Process

Development and implementation of Youth Case Conferencing

Permanent Connections

Review job descriptions and provide recommendations

Development and implementation of Agency Request for YAC Job Interview Panel Participation

Youth/Adult TPCP Committee Leader Partnerships: DEI, HYC, YAC

Development and implementation of Continuous Quality Improvement

Education & Employment

Creation of four (4) permanent positions for youth workers

Dedicated education and employment programming for youth experiencing homelessness

Partnership with Point Source Youth to launch comprehensive advocacy education and planning

Partnership with the Arizona Department of Education and the formation of a local Education Change Team

Health & Well-being

Memorandum of Understanding with Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) to provide Trans Comprehension training series and facilitate focus groups

Development of YHDP grantee training curriculum

Partnership with Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to improve access to no-cost health services

Development and implementation of the Youth Choice Process allowing young people to state their preferences and needs

YOUTH ADULT PARTNERSHIP

VICTORIA TULLERCASH, YOUTH ON THEIR OWN

Shifting from collaboration *tokenism* to partnership *valuable lived expertise*

Shannon Fowler

*University of Arizona
Southwest Institute for
Research On Women*



Shannon Fowler, JD, LLM

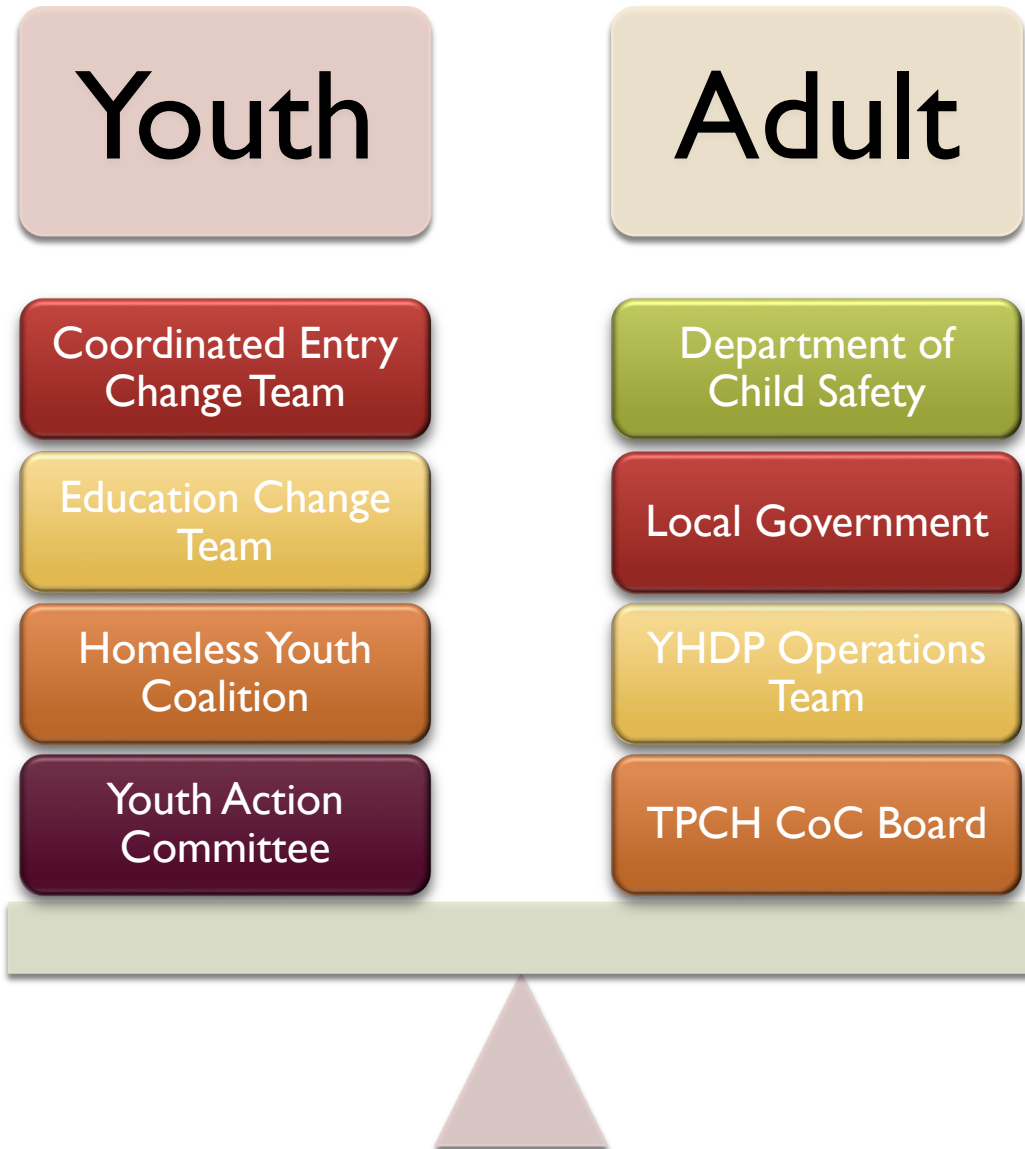
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EQUAL DECISION MAKING



- ❑ Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness
 - TPCH is committed to ensuring that youth homelessness in Pima County is:

BRIEF**RARE****ONE TIME**
 - YHDP Governance Structure
 - Homeless Youth Coalition
 - Youth Action Committee
- ❑ Youth with lived and living expertise are the primary decision makers in all aspects of YHDP
 - Project solicitation and selection
 - Evaluation metrics
 - On-going continuous quality improvement strategies



EQUAL DECISION MAKING

Shannon Fowler, JD, LLM
University of Arizona SIROW

Shannon Fowler, JD, LLM

University of Arizona Southwest Institute for Research On Women

EQUAL DECISION MAKING

- Eight local agencies received funding and technical assistance to launch innovative programs for youth experiencing homelessness using approaches focused on race equity, LGBTQIA+ inclusivity, and youth power.
- A total of 78 new year-round transitional, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing beds were brought online.
 - Crisis transitional housing project centered on LGBTQIA+ youth
- Housing navigation and diversion services help with housing location and implement strategies focused on rapid resolution and host home approaches which subsidize housing costs for young people to reside with fictive kin and other natural supports
- Coordinated Entry process has re-centered experiences more commonly experienced by LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, and non-citizen youth to establish a more equitable response and referral process
- Youth Choice Process allows young people to list preferences and needs for housing and supportive services
- Youth/Adult shared leadership across three (3) TPOCH committees and community coalitions:
 - Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee
 - Homeless Youth Coalition
 - Youth Action Committee



MEET YOUR TUCSON/PIMA YHDP PROVIDERS

Goodwill Metro/REC		Our Family Services w/ SIROW	Our Family Services	Community Bridges, Inc.	Community Partners of Southern Arizona	Old Pueblo Community Services
Peer Outreach, Engagement, and Advocacy	Education and Employment Services	Navigation and Diversion Services	Rapid Rehousing: 27 Beds	Rapid Rehousing: 26 Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing: 20 Beds	Crisis Transitional Housing: 1 Unit/ 8 Beds
\$295,398		\$658,272	\$966,509	\$819,492	\$504,000	\$864,000



*“Not everything that is faced can be changed,
but nothing can be changed until it is faced” –
James Baldwin*

RESOURCES

Ending Youth Homelessness In Tucson/Pima County

<https://tpch.net/youth>

Coordinated Entry for Homeless Services

<https://tpch.net/coordinatedentry/>

HUD Exchange: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/>

Point Source Youth

<https://www.pointsourceyouth.org/>

El Rio Reproductive Health Access Program

<https://www.elrio.org/el-rios-new-reproductive-health-access-project/>

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance

<https://sagatucson.org/>

Arizona Department of Education: Homeless Education Program- The McKinney Vento Act

<https://www.azed.gov/homeless>



Opening doors to
housing and recovery.

CBI
COMMUNITY BRIDGES, INC.



2021 Arizona Housing Forum



Arizona
Department
of Housing

Let's make this event an example of how to be safe in our new normal - No need to ask, just mask.