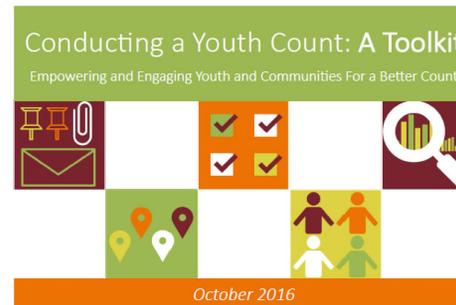


NEWS & NOTES

An interactive newsletter to keep you informed.

VoYC Youth Count Toolkit Now Available!

The [Voices of Youth Count Toolkit](#) is now available to the public via the VoYC website! The VoYC Toolkit maps the unique youth-centered VoYC Youth Count approach, executed in collaboration with 22 VoYC communities throughout the summer of 2016. The aim of the VoYC Toolkit is to provide guidance and tools to communities looking to engage and empower youth and critical stakeholders for a better youth count.



The VoYC Toolkit provides step-by-step guidance, broken down into five phases from planning to analysis; each with a clear objective and tools tested in 22 urban, suburban and rural counties. It is our hope that the VoYC Toolkit will be an essential addition to the work of our allies across the country who are counting and serving runaway, unaccompanied homeless, and unstably housed youth.

The VoYC Toolkit is best used within a leadership structure where a small set of primary planners receive strong support and involvement of a broad community group of stakeholders who are engaged at critical points in the youth count.

Opening Up the VoYC Toolkit

Who: The VoYC Toolkit is intended for any community looking to conduct a youth count. The tools inside may best be harnessed by those leading the organization and execution



of youth counts.

What: The VoYC Toolkit provides guidance from the early planning stages of a count through its execution and even into data analysis. The Toolkit includes lessons learned, training and focus group protocols, survey tools, and outreach templates. Innovative methods such as developing community level "hot spot" maps are clearly explained so that they can readily be recreated.

Why: Successful youth counts rely on significant investments of time from many people, and having a roadmap for each important stage ensures success. If your community has never conducted a youth count before, we recommend reading through the VoYC Toolkit in full before beginning to plan your youth count.

VoYC Toolkit: For Communities, By Communities!

The VoYC Toolkit resulted from the input and expertise of a diverse array of partners nationwide. Tools were used and refined throughout the VoYC Youth Counts all summer, and, just prior to release, local lead agencies and national youth homelessness experts worked with VoYC to ensure that the Toolkit is clear, concise, and reflective of our shared commitments and experiences.

Efforts to count youth as part of the 2017 HUD PIT Counts provide opportunities for communities across the country to use the youth and community engagement strategies included in the VoYC Toolkit. Although the VoYC Youth Counts were conducted on a stand-alone basis, we have organized the tools in such a manner that they can be taken and used to focus on the youth population within the context of a broader PIT Count. Voices of Youth Count plans to learn from these new efforts. Let us hear from you!



HUD PIT Counts and the VoYC Youth Count Toolkit

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has declared 2017 the baseline year for measuring progress on ending youth homelessness in the context of its Point-in-Time Counts. Counting unaccompanied homeless youth using methods developed for counting homeless adults and families has proven especially difficult.



VoYC has built upon existing, promising practices to develop a youth-centered count methodology. Although the VoYC initiative and youth count have a broader scope than the HUD PIT Count requirements, the VoYC Toolkit has been developed to be an accessible resource that can help communities engage and focus on the youth population and build on existing Point-in-Time methods for a more effective count this coming January and beyond.



Learning Together: Feedback on the VoYC Toolkit

VoYC is eager to continue to learn how methods can be improved around engaging and empowering youth and communities for better counts as part of this nation's collective efforts to understand, prevent and end youth homelessness. If your community is planning a youth count and would like to provide feedback on the VoYC Toolkit, please contact voyc@chapinhall.org.

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1313 East 60th Street Chicago, IL 60637

Chapin Hall, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

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