

# NEWS & NOTES

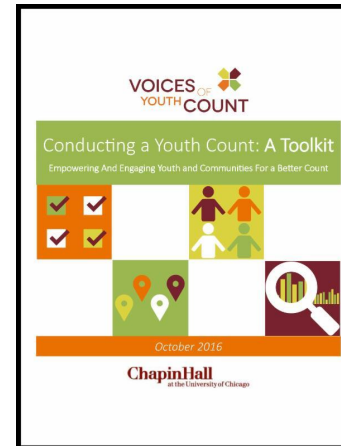
An interactive newsletter to keep you informed.

## VoYC Youth Count Toolkit Launches in October

VoYC resources aimed at galvanizing youth-led counts in communities across the country will be available in October through the Voices of Youth Count website.

Communities looking for new ways to engage young people as a strategy for improving on homeless youth counts in 2017 HUD Point-in-Time Counts (or in future stand-alone counts) will find detailed planning, youth engagement, training and count tools.

"The toolkit reflects VoYC experiences in 22 youth-led counts this summer," said Jennifer Vidis, Initiative Co-Director and Site Coordinator. "Specifically, VoYC communities found that engaging youth to count youth resulted in strong reach and deep learning about young people. We want others to be able to replicate the success."



HUD has declared 2017 the baseline year for measuring progress on ending youth homelessness in the context of its Point-in-Time Counts. VoYC is working to align with HUD's efforts to help communities make that shift.

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## Bringing Findings Home: Sharing Preliminary Data

Voices of Youth Count and our 22 partner communities are in the early stages of looking together at the local results from the VoYC youth count survey and provider survey.



It is exciting to have these preliminary findings in hand, but it is only through engagement with lead agencies, cross-sector stakeholders and youth with lived experiences of homelessness that the data become meaningful and findings can be turned into actionable solutions that work for each individual community.

Knowing this, VoYC Site Coordinators are returning to each site to discuss the findings and deepen our understanding of them.

Sharing data in the early stages of analysis will improve accuracy as VoYC looks to integrate findings from local counts and surveys with other sources of data to generate a more complete picture of homeless youth. Final aggregate results will be publicly released after the analysis is complete.

## VoYC Youth Leadership: Nothing About Us, Without Us

An early and ongoing aim of VoYC has been to engage young people in the nation's efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. Said differently, VoYC stands with youth in believing that their insights are central to decision-making and solutions at the national, state, and local levels.

In our first phase of the work, VoYC partnered with and provided paid leadership opportunities to more than 600 current and formerly homeless youth during the course of 22 youth count efforts in communities across the country. These VoYC Guides, working in teams with over 300 adult Team Leaders, provided critical insight and expertise to the count and survey effort that affirmed our strategy.

As VoYC returns to communities with preliminary youth survey and provider survey results, Guides will be part of the conversation as communities interpret their initial findings. Youth voices are also being heard through the in-depth youth interviews underway this fall in five VoYC communities.



## Introducing Christine Cerven

VoYC is pleased to introduce Christine Cerven, Ph.D. Christine is deeply engaged in the In-Depth Youth Interviews taking place in five VoYC partner sites. Christine worked with Dr. Gina Samuels on a pilot in Chicago that shaped the innovative design of the in-depth interviews and accompanying youth surveys. She is excited to help contribute to building improved and new understandings of the conditions and experiences of homeless youth - all ultimately aimed at preventing and ending youth homelessness.



In other work, Christine is seeking to increase the quality of youth learning and enrichment opportunities by examining data use and evidence-based decision making in city out-of-school time systems. She has also led work investigating the educational pathways of young women from low-income backgrounds. Christine received her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of California.

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