

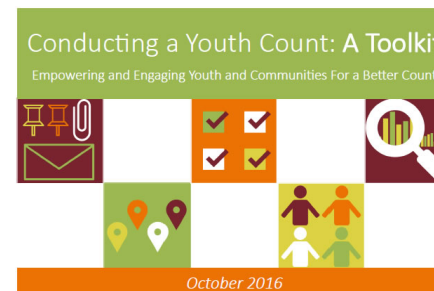
NEWS & NOTES

An interactive newsletter to keep you informed.

VoYC Toolkit Supports Youth Count Planning Across Nation

Communities across the country are leveraging the [VoYC Youth Count Toolkit](#) in planning for HUD PIT Counts in 2017, which HUD has established as the baseline year for counting youth experiencing homelessness.

Highlighted by [HUD](#) and the [USICH](#) as a resource, the VoYC Toolkit maps innovative strategies for engaging and empowering youth and community stakeholders. The Toolkit provides step-by-step guidance and concrete tools including a survey instrument, focus group protocols, and annotated meeting agendas.



"The Toolkit was a real gift," said Mary Ann Haley, Deputy Director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. "We've found it incredibly helpful as we try to create a comprehensive plan across our eight communities here in Connecticut."

VoYC is eager to engage with communities for better counts. If your community is considering using the VoYC Toolkit, [please complete our survey](#) or contact us at voyc@chapinhall.org.



VoYC Engages Partner Sites in Refining Local Data

VoYC Site Coordinators are returning to 22 VoYC partner communities to share local preliminary findings from the VoYC [Brief Youth Survey](#) and [Provider Survey](#).

Together with VoYC, local stakeholders are reviewing and discussing the preliminary data, adding depth of understanding of the local context, and ensuring VoYC findings and recommendations will be relevant and actionable.

In the spring, data will be integrated with VoYC visual count data and local HMIS data to generate local estimates of homeless and unstably housed youth. Ultimately, VoYC will link findings with the results of VoYC in-depth youth interviews, policy/fiscal and evidence reviews, and VoYC's national household survey to produce actionable recommendations focused on ending youth homelessness.



Webinars Prepare Communities for January PIT Counts



VoYC participated in the USICH [Promising Practices Webinar](#) aimed at communities preparing for their 2017 HUD PIT counts. The webinar featured recommendations from federal agencies, recently published resources ([cited in the webinar's PowerPoint presentation](#)), early lessons from VoYC efforts, highlights from a local youth count, and ways to integrate efforts to count youth as part of the broader PIT count. VoYC laid out rigorously tested methodology and planning tools for communities that may be adding unaccompanied youth-directed effort to build on existing methods.

VoYC also presented as part of the National Alliance to End Homelessness' [Prepare for the 2017 Youth PIT Count Webinar](#) alongside our partners at Applied Survey Research, sharing experiences and methodology in conducting youth-centered counts to support nationwide efforts to understand, combat, and ultimately end youth homelessness.

VoYC is grateful to the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the USICH for their leadership in sponsoring these webinars, which provide critical support to communities across the country.

VoYC Joins Chicago's "I AM IN" Campaign



Bryan Samuels presents at the launch of the I AM IN campaign, covered [here](#). Tracy Baim/Windy City Times.

Bryan Samuels, Executive Director, Chapin Hall, spoke at the launch of I AM IN, an exciting new initiative focused on ending youth homelessness in Chicago by 2020. The initiative has united service providers, government agencies, advocates, funders, and more, in creating a plan that will be part of Chicago's application for a HUD demonstration grant.

"We have been building towards this work for the past five years," said Jeri Linas, Executive Director of Teen Living Programs. Jeri also serves as the committee chair for the Chicago Taskforce on Homeless Youth and a local co-lead for

VoYC efforts in Cook County.

Speaking to the role of VoYC in providing an in-depth picture of youth homelessness, Bryan said, "Through our work in Cook County, the experiences of homeless youth in Chicago will be better understood, gaps in services will be identified, and strategies can be crafted with the ultimate goal of ending youth homelessness."

Upcoming Events in the Field

Voices of Youth Count looks forward to joining our allies and the many stakeholders engaged in ending youth homelessness at these upcoming convenings.

National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness: Hosted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, this conference will take place February 23 and 24, 2017 in Houston, TX. [Register here](#).

National Summit on Youth Homelessness: Hosted by the National Network for Youth, this summit will take place March 13 and 14, 2017 in Washington, D.C. [Register here](#).



We hope to see you there!

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