

# NEWS & NOTES

An interactive newsletter to keep you informed.

## Over 200 Youth Engage with VoYC In-Depth Interviews

VoYC has completed 200+ in-depth interviews with currently homeless and unstably housed youth in five counties across the country – an unprecedented effort to make youth voices count in the work to prevent and end youth homelessness.

"We are deeply appreciative of the young people who shared their stories, as well as local lead agencies, and VoYC's extensive field and research team," said Gina Samuels, Ph.D., who led the effort. "A project of this magnitude requires a deeply engaged and passionate team and Voices of Youth Count has that!"



Findings will be presented and integrated with analyses generated from other VoYC research activities to create a well-rounded picture of youth homelessness. VoYC is also using the analysis of these interviews to identify critical conditions and tipping points for intervention with an aim of helping the field make decisions about necessary supports and services for youth.

## Putting VoYC Preliminary Data to Work!



VoYC is wrapping up another round of visits to each of our 22 partner sites. Each visit was an essential opportunity for knowledge sharing and refinement, with local partners reflecting on the data collected from the brief youth survey and provider survey as well as discussing their anticipated use of the [VoYC Youth Count Toolkit](#) for their upcoming HUD PIT Counts in January. These discussions continued in this month's VoYC National Learning Community meeting.

"Being one of the VoYC partner sites has been a great experience for us," said Steven Jellá, Associate Executive Director of San Diego Youth Services and a lead on their recent VoYC Youth Count. "Planning the Youth Count pushed us to bring together a group of stakeholders who hadn't been working together on youth homelessness and test an approach for counting youth. We're excited to build from that experience as we recreate the VoYC methodology for our January PIT count."

## VoYC Tips for Counting Youth in January HUD PIT Counts

A goal of VoYC is to provide actionable evidence to those who can utilize it for policy and practice. With that in mind, here are a few key lessons from the VoYC sites and site leads as communities think about improving their count of homeless youth during the January HUD PIT Counts:

- **Youth involvement and leadership is vital.** Unstably housed youth have the best intelligence on where peers are staying and how they are surviving. Peer interviewing also increases the comfort level of unstably housed youth sharing sensitive information.
- **Youth experiences with housing instability are more than just street homelessness.** Think about how to use the PIT count to gather needed information about how youth are getting by in order to truly end youth homelessness.
- **Keep youth in mind when designing youth surveys.** Make sure to use language in your survey questions and responses that resonates with young people so that questions are answered accurately.

**Please engage and consult with VoYC staff for more tips! You can contact us at [voyc@chapinhall.org](mailto:voyc@chapinhall.org).**



## VoYC Partner Communities Apply for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Nineteen VoYC partner communities participated in submitting applications for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program funding opportunity.

VoYC partner communities were able to leverage their experience and early learning from participation in VoYC activities to develop their applications and inform strategies around what it will take to end youth homelessness at the local level.



We wish them and the many other applicants the best of luck!

Stay Connected



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