

# NEWS & NOTES

An interactive newsletter to keep you informed.

## Bringing Youth Voice to HUD PIT Counts *An Interview with San Diego Youth Services*

VoYC spoke with Steven Jellá, Associate Executive Director of [San Diego Youth Services](#), to learn how SDYS used the [VoYC Youth Count Toolkit](#) during the January 2017 HUD count.

VoYC really helped us enhance our youth leadership and engagement by thinking more broadly about the work that our youth and youth leadership board are capable of and should be doing.

Our youth-centered approach has increased our partners' confidence in us. After participating in VoYC this past summer, SDYS was called upon to act as coordinating lead for the HUD youth count. Engaging youth and the community empowered us to more effectively lead and partner.

VoYC Guides who were engaged in the summer did come back— about 60% in all. And, even many of the new recruits said they found out about our work from the summer Guides.



Walter Philips, CEO of San Diego Youth Services, with Guides at the San Diego VoYC Youth Count

We have been glad to work with VoYC and return to the field with the support of the VoYC Toolkit.

The VoYC Youth Count Toolkit provides tools to communities conducting youth counts. You can explore the Toolkit and download it [here](#).

## Digging Deeper into Hidden Experiences

### *VoYC Fields Further Questions on Homeless and Couch-Surfing Youth*

One goal of VoYC is to understand the variety of youth experiences of housing instability, including couch-surfing youth, which are often missed in homeless counts.

In July through September 2016, VoYC partnered with [Gallup, Inc.](#) to conduct a large national survey of the prevalence of youth homelessness with over 13,000 respondents. Together with Gallup, VoYC is going back into the field to pose deeper questions about how these youth get by.



The follow up interviews – rolling out this month – will supplement VoYC's national prevalence and incidence estimates of youth who have experienced housing instability in the last year and their histories of systems involvement.



This deeper look at the diversity, severity, and causes of young people's homelessness and couch-surfing experiences will yield additional policy insights.

## California Coalition for Youth's Taking Action Conference VoYC Partner Counties Share Their Experiences

Voices of Youth Count took part in a panel at the [California Coalition for Youth's Taking Action Conference](#) this April. Leaders from VoYC's three California Partner Sites – Alameda, San Diego, and Mariposa Counties – joined Chapin Hall's Sonali Patel to recount the lessons learned from their experiences conducting VoYC Youth Counts.



Panelists discussed the role of youth, strategies for community engagement and shared the [VoYC Youth Count Toolkit](#) with other Californians working to prevent and end youth homelessness.

VoYC was joined by Covenant House California, San Diego Youth Services, the Alliance for Community Transformation, Ethos Youth Center and youth representatives. The slide deck used during the discussion can be downloaded [here](#).

## HUD to Fund 10 New 100-Day Challenges in 2017 Returning to the Field to End Youth Homelessness

We have some excellent news to share: [The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), as part of its commitment to ending youth homelessness, in alignment with the goals set forth in *Opening Doors*, the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, is supporting 10 communities to engage in 100-Day Challenges relating to youth homelessness in 2017. HUD has contracted with technical assistance providers to deliver the 100-Day Challenges in the ten communities that are selected.



VoYC looks forward to the new learning and momentum these additional challenges will bring and how it will build upon the success of AWHHA's 100-Day Challenges in Austin, Cleveland, and Los Angeles in 2016.

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