

## **Our next step to address youth homelessness is to...**

- **Engage youth:**
  - Meet youth where they are (block parties, schools, libraries, community centers, LGBTQIA+ centers), word of mouth – ask engaged youth about friends and family situations
  - Build relationships with youth in our programs, help them advocate for themselves and use their voice to make youth-driven change
- **Incorporate youth voice:**
  - thoughtfully/purposefully create or restart youth action/advisory boards/coalitions to inform planning and development; identify transportation for members
  - Employ youth with lived experience; seek peer representation
- **Develop programs and supportive services for youth:**
  - Look into starting host homes, emergency shelters, drop-in centers, pop ups, and other youth-friendly housing and support service programs
  - Offer programs on healthy relationships, maintaining housing, building and maintaining credit, job readiness and training programs with connections to DSS and school system, relationships building and mentoring
  - School system will hold summer meetings with families who are experiencing homelessness
- **Explore funding and non-traditional partnerships** in the community
  - Develop plan to engage mainstream systems to address youth homelessness through an equity and healing lens; formalize institutional partnerships to combat loss of connections due to turnover
  - Public/workforce engagement: reduce stigma, educate/sharing what we know/what we've learned, challenging ageism, classism, racism, and homophobia among coworkers and in policies, break down silos with communication (build a communication plan), rethink language around youth homelessness
- **Do a system mapping:** identify each system's assets, needs, and where to collaborate
- **Collect and Review Data:** identify regional needs; understand gaps in data collection
- **Continue to learn and stay engaged**

2019  
**Maryland Youth  
Homelessness  
Symposium**

**Results from the  
Community  
Planning**

**Our plan to hold ourselves accountable is to...**

- Formalize CoC youth subcommittee and meet twice over the summer
- Increase youth engagement and include youth in organizational decision making; be thoughtful and purposeful about including AND supporting youth at the table
- Join local CoC/attend CoC meetings
- Place our next step on upcoming CoC agenda and youth committee agenda
- Make youth homelessness a standing agenda item at all CoC meetings
- Announce Next Step plans at the next coalition meeting and ask to be held accountable
- Connect with other coalitions and take collective action
- Identify what performance measures youth coalitions and funders want in reports
- Communicate next steps with advocates, elected officials, parents, and youth