



Help Hope Home

Ending Homelessness In Southern Nevada

**Southern Nevada Homelessness
Continuum of Care
Youth Working Group**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Last Revised: October 23, 2019

**Southern Nevada Youth Working Group
Policies & Procedures**

Purpose of the Working Group

The purpose of the Youth Working Group (YWG) is to prevent and address youth homelessness in Southern Nevada. The YWG lifts up the voices of youth and those serving them, advancing youth programming and discussing youth-related issues, challenges, opportunities, and experiences to ensure that homelessness among unaccompanied youth is rare, brief, one-time, and equitably addressed.

Membership Structure

The Youth Working Group is an open meeting and a working group of the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC). Stakeholders of this group include Southern Nevada representatives who serve youth who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, homeless advocates, as well as youth with lived experiences of homelessness. The Youth Working Group also has a subcommittee, the SNH CoC Youth Action Board: *Young Adults in Charge*, which is led by and comprised of young people between the ages of 15 – 24 who have personal experiences of homelessness.

For the purposes of establishing quorum and voting, the Youth Working Group has adopted core membership categories and complementary stakeholders.

Representation of core members and complementary stakeholders is as follows:

CORE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	COMPLEMENTARY STAKEHOLDERS
CoC-funded youth homelessness providers <i>*NPHY *HELP of S. NV *St. Jude’s Ranch</i>	Workforce/Employment
Collaborative Applicant (non-voting member) <i>Clark County Social Service</i>	Youth Service Providers
Education <i>CCSD Title I HOPE</i>	Legal Services
Young people with lived experience <i>Young Adults in Charge</i>	Higher Education
Foster Care <i>*Step UP Program *OliveCrest</i>	Healthcare/Mental Health Providers
Systems <i>*DFS *DJJS *law enforcement *parole/probation</i>	Intersections <i>(immigration/LGBTQ/CSEC/DV/disabilities)</i>
	Jurisdictions within Southern Nevada

Decision-Making Process

The Youth Working Group strives to make decisions through use of “enthusiastic consensus,” in which members engage in an open discussion and come to an agreement. However, in the event that this is not possible, the Youth Working Group will take a vote. The quorum needed to proceed with a vote is for at least 50% of the CoC-funded youth homelessness providers to be present as well as agencies/organizations from at least two other core membership categories (e.g. education, youth with lived experience, etc.). The procedure for voting is that each agency/organization from the core membership categories (with the exception of the collaborative applicant) will cast one vote, regardless of the number of agency representatives who are present at the meeting. Decisions that relate to fiscal or policy matters shall be forwarded to the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board along with the Youth Working Group’s recommendations for discussion and approval (see SNH CoC Governance Charter, section 2.6.3).

Meeting Frequency

The Youth Working Group currently meets once per month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the fourth Monday of the month at Clark County Social Service (1600 Pinto Lane, 3rd Floor Training Room). Electronic means of communication are also available to encourage participation among members who are unable to physically attend. In the event that the meeting date falls on a recognized holiday, the meeting shall be rescheduled to the previous or following Monday if space is available.

Contact Procedure

The Youth Working Group may be contacted via email with any questions or concerns. The Youth Working Group email address is snvywgboard@gmail.com. This email address is monitored by a Youth Working Group representative from the Youth Working Group Chair’s organization. In the event that the Youth Working Group account is unavailable or unresponsive, inquiries may also be addressed to the Help Hope Home general email account at: helphopehome@clarkcountynv.gov

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

The members of the Youth Working Group are committed to promoting a culture of respect, equality, and cultural competence. Accordingly, together with the members of the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Youth Action Board, *Young Adults in Charge*, the Youth Working Group has developed and adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement to demonstrate our commitment to upholding these values. A full version of this statement can be found on page 3.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) is dedicated to eradicating youth homelessness in Southern Nevada. Accordingly, to ensure that homelessness among youth is rare, brief, one-time, and equitably addressed, members of the CoC's Youth Action Board, *Young Adults in Charge*, have created this Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement. The Youth Working Group has adopted this statement to show our commitment to upholding these values.

Youth homelessness is a growing epidemic that impacts and reflects our entire community. Research by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Annual Homeless Assessment Reports show that Las Vegas/Clark County consistently ranks in the top five major metro areas for having the largest numbers of homeless youth and the highest rates of youth living alone, unsheltered on the streets.¹ Assumptions made on youths' situations often discourage youth experiencing homelessness from accessing resources. Often referred to as an invisible population, these avoidable barriers prevent young people from becoming self-sufficient. Young people become homeless as a result of countless factors including, escaping abusive households, being forced out of home due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and financial struggles.

Being that youth homelessness is a major issue among our community, we adhere that all persons will be treated equitably regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, physical/behavioral/mental health, education level or any other basis – no matter what.

We realize that the way that we react to youth experiencing homelessness can create barriers that undoubtedly catalyze and keep youth in homelessness situations, such as perpetuating negative stereotypes, propagating stigma, or general attitudes based in N.I.M.B.Y.ism (Not in My Back Yard). As such, we agree that all youth experiencing homelessness deserve protection not punishment and we commit to dismantling these barriers by upholding this statement. Furthermore, we are invested in promoting advocacy efforts that will achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion to eradicate youth homelessness.

¹ Cook-Craig, P., Carlton, C., Lim, K., Ghafoori, A., & Jacobowitz, M. (2018). *Uncovering Challenges and Opportunities in Addressing Youth Homelessness in Southern Nevada: Community Comparisons*. UNLV Greenspun College of Urban Affairs: Research in Brief. Retrieved from: <https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/creating-roadmap-helping-homeless-youth>

For more information about statistics concerning youth homelessness in Southern Nevada please visit:
www.helpohome.org