



Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Youth Action Board

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YAC Mission Statement:

“To eradicate youth homelessness by empowering youth voice via advocacy.”

YAC Vision Statement:

“That youth experiencing homelessness have opportunities to become self-sufficient, be heard, and positively contribute to society.”



Homeless Definitions

	McKinney-Vento (Department of Ed.) & Health and Human Services	Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Shelters	✓	✓
Doubled Up/Couch Surfing	✓	
Hotel/Motel	✓	
Unsheltered	✓	✓

Data

- On any given night in Southern Nevada, there are approximately 979 unsheltered unaccompanied youth and children
- Between Emergency Shelter and Permanent Housing there are only 218 beds available satisfying only about 22% of need (2019 Annual Homeless Assessment & HIC Report)
- For every 10 youth experiencing homelessness, less than 3 would get a bed.

Why is YAC Important?

Young Adults in Charge or YAC was created on the principles of youth advocacy from a youth standpoint.

- ✓ Empowering youth voices
- ✓ Valuable youth insight
- ✓ Inform policy
- ✓ Educating community
- ✓ Breaking down stereotypes



Accomplishments

- ✓ 1st ever plan to end youth homelessness in Southern Nevada (20% strategies made by YAC)
- ✓ Community outreach (including Feel Good Friday)
- ✓ Help Hope Home interviews/newsletter
- ✓ Meeting with public officials
- ✓ 2018 & 2019 S. NV Youth Homelessness Summits



Accomplishments Cont.



AB 363



Regular attendance of Youth Working Group meetings with voting seat



CoC Board Membership with voting seat



2019 & 2020 PIT Count



Letter of opposition (LV City Council Ordinance)



The Southern Nevada Youth Action Board, Young Adults in Charge, was introduced to AB 363 while in draft form and provided input at weekly meetings to ensure the policy reflects a true youth focus.

Many of the barriers that youth experience when in homeless situations, can stem from little or no access to any form of identification. These barriers may include access to medical care, education, employment, and the overall convenience of being able to provide identification when prompted. In order to obtain these documents, one must be able to navigate a system of agencies that inherently expect payment for the services they provide. Most youth experiencing homelessness do not have a way to pay for a birth certificate that is needed to then go pay for an ID, driver's license, and driving testing fees. Without these documents, youth face barriers to basic services as well as educational and employment opportunities that allow them to enlist in building a positive life for themselves.

The passing of AB 363 would mean that youth would have an easier time obtaining essential documents by removing barriers in an otherwise difficult and complicated situation. Ensuring that a licensed social worker or the local school district's McKinney-Vento Liaison can provide proof of homelessness for youth, gives agencies the validity of a youth's situation and establishes legitimacy of their current situation of homelessness.

Passing this bill will also aid in the long process of obtaining records, especially if the youth has a complicated life situation. For example, a member of Young Adults in Charge moved across the country from Tennessee prior to moving to Nevada. While he had an out of state photo I.D., he unfortunately misplaced it while moving, and due to this situation, when he moved to Nevada, he experienced difficulties enrolling into college and gaining employment. He missed two employment opportunities and was delayed in enrolling into school, without knowing what to do or who to talk to for help. He later on found out that he had to contact Tennessee to receive a replacement I.D., a process with a long waiting period while he was fast-approaching his enrollment deadlines. Luckily, he was able to receive help from a case manager to obtain these vital documents but it was no easy task, requiring him to write a letter of appeal, contact Department of Public Records, contact the hospital in which he was born, and much more. In the end, he received the correct documents for his I.D. card, but this process could have easily been avoided if a policy like AB 363 was enacted.

Eliminating the struggle to obtain vital records for homeless youth will not only give them access to health care, education, and employment opportunities, but it will reinforce their determination to exit their homeless situation. Life has many trials and being a homeless youth without access to vital documents makes it all the more difficult to navigate. Youth cannot successfully sustain themselves with the necessities of life in the absence of these vital documents. In turn, the community struggles as homeless youth are unable to grow into the roles of their predecessors.

We appreciate your time and consideration for making a real difference in the lives of Nevada's homeless youth.

Respectfully,

Young Adults in Charge

What can you do??

- ✓ Volunteer within the community to assist youth agencies
- ✓ Encourage Membership (ages 15-24)
- ✓ Advocate to break down stereotypes in your community
- ✓ Invite YAC to participate in your agency's activities
- ✓ Invite YAC to present a training

YAC Engagement

Expectations:

- ✓ Requests from the community to YAC should be directed through YAC's email
- ✓ Uphold YAC's values including respecting the privacy and boundaries of any and all YAC members

Types of engagement:

- ✓ Attend a meeting
- ✓ Provide Trainings
- ✓ Media Request

*All event detail changes must be communicated through our email address in a timely manner

When are Meetings?

YAC Meetings are held every
other Tuesday
from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
remotely via Google Hangouts.

Contact YAC for more details!

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT
TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



Southern Nevada's Youth Action Board, **Young Adults in Charge**,
is looking for youth (ages 15 - 24) who want to:

- **END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN NEVADA**
- **MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**
- **DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS**
- **BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS**
- **EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY**
- **PROVIDE INPUT INTO YOUTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**
- **HAVE A GREAT RESUME BUILDER FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES!**

YAC meets remotely every other Tuesday from
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Google Hangouts!

For more information or to ask a question please contact:
youngadultsincharge@gmail.com

Thank You!



Stay Engaged!
Write Us!



Email: youngadultsincharge@gmail.com

Sources

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2019-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_HIC_State_NV_2019.pdf