What is A Place 4 Me?

A cross-sector partnership, involving more than 50 public and private partners, working toward the shared vision that every young person belongs and deserves a place to call home.
Shared outcomes for youth

1) Stable Housing
2) Permanent connections with a caring adult
3) Education and employment (financial capability)
4) Social, emotional and physical well-being

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

Strategies & Activities
- Youth engagement
- Partnerships & resources
- Research, evaluation & communications
- Public will & policy

Improved Policy & Practice
- A permanent family
- Access to racial equity services & supports
- A stable education
- Opportunities to achieve economic success
- A place to live
- Access to physical & mental health care
- Opportunities to shape their own future

Improved Youth Outcomes
- Permanence
- Education
- Employment
- Financial capability
- Housing
- Physical & mental health
- Social capital
A Place 4 Me leadership

- YWCA of Greater Cleveland, “backbone” or coordinating entity
- Steering Committee –
  - Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
  - Frontline Service
  - Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
  - Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
  - YWCA of Greater Cleveland

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in Cuyahoga County
Guiding Principles

- Think creatively
- Imagine how systems for both youth & adults collaborate to seamlessly serve youth in transition
- Elevate the voice of youth we are hoping to serve - nothing about us without us

Our Goals

Goal 1: THE SAFETY NET
Goal 2: STABLE HOUSING
Goal 3: SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
Goal 4: THE LAUNCH PAD
Data on Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth
2015 Cuyahoga County Youth Count

Beth Anthony, Ph.D., Rob Fischer, Ph.D., & Seok-Joo Kim, Ph.D.
Center on Urban Poverty & Community Development
Sampling

• Most surveys were completed on paper.
• 31 were entered via a web-based survey.

Total # of surveys collected = 584
12 respondents age 24 or <15
N = 572
14 surveys were duplicates or almost completely blank
Final N = 558

Definition

Q. “Where did you stay last night?”

Outside / Tent
Car / RV
Abandoned building
Hotel / Motel
Unsheltered
Shelter
Transitional housing facility
Unstably housed

Q. Can you stay where you slept last night for the next month?

Homeless or Unstably Housed

Unaccompanied vs. Accompanied Homeless Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unaccompanied n (%)</th>
<th>Accompanied n (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied</td>
<td>19 (14.7)</td>
<td>3 (6.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanied</td>
<td>72 (55.8)</td>
<td>29 (64.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>10 (7.8)</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>28 (21.7)</td>
<td>12 (26.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional housing facility</td>
<td>10 (7.8)</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>129 (100.0)</td>
<td>45 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38% of unaccompanied homeless youth stayed with a parent/legal guardian, other family member or foster family within the last month.
Compared to Never Homeless Peers

- **More likely to:**
  - Have children (who live with other parent)
  - Have been in foster care (and aged out – trend)
  - Have dropped out of high school
  - Have been to jail / detention
  - Be dealing with substance abuse, DV and mental health issues

- **Less likely to:**
  - Be living with their children
  - Be in school
  - Be employed

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences