

I'll never get used to it:

Young People Living on the Street



PREPARED BY

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The Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) is dedicated to meeting the human services needs of county residents, particularly the county's most vulnerable populations, through an extensive range of prevention, intervention, crisis management and after-care services.

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CONTENTS

Acronyms	1
Summary	2
Introduction	3
About young adults who are homeless	4
A note on definition of “young adults” used here	5
How many homeless young adults are there in the U.S.?	5
Characteristics	6
Where the youth sleep	7
What homeless youth need	8
Reasons for youth homelessness and a typology	9
Typology	9
Interventions that work for low-risk, transient and high-risk youth	10
Goals for interventions	10
Larkin Street (San Francisco)	12
Covenant House (New York City)	13
Lighthouse Youth Services (Cincinnati)	14
Allegheny County	16
How many young adults are homeless in Allegheny County?	16
Services in Allegheny County	16
How the youth know where to turn for help	17
Food	18
Shelter	19
Showers, laundry and phones	23
Where to stay indoors	23
Education and training	25
Employment	26
Healthcare	27

Transportation	27
Clothes and shoes	28
Mail and legal assistance	28

Local Issues	28
--------------	----

Recommendations	31
-----------------	----

Appendices

APPENDIX A: Methods	35
---------------------	----

APPENDIX B: Comments	36
----------------------	----

APPENDIX C: Categories of Homelessness	37
--	----

APPENDIX D: Definitions of Homeless Youth	38
---	----

APPENDIX E: Summaries of Key Legislation	43
--	----

APPENDIX F: Methods of Measuring Youth Homelessness	48
---	----

APPENDIX G: Santa Clara County Methodology for Counting Homeless	49
--	----

APPENDIX H: Counting Couch-Surfers	52
------------------------------------	----

APPENDIX I: Map 1: Resources for Homeless	53
---	----

APPENDIX J: Map 2: Resources to Share with Unaccompanied Youth	54
--	----

APPENDIX K: Calculations	55
--------------------------	----

APPENDIX L: Health Care Clinics with Free or Sliding Fee Scales	56
---	----

Tables

TABLE 1: Where Respondents Usually Stay at Night (2013, Santa Clara County)	8
---	---

TABLE 2: Prevalence of the Subgroups of Homeless Youth	10
--	----

TABLE 3: Federal and State Sources of Homeless Assistance Funding	17
---	----

TABLE 4: Food Sources	19
-----------------------	----

TABLE 5: Sources of Emergency Shelter	20
---------------------------------------	----

TABLE 6: Sources of Transitional Housing (for Youth)	21
--	----

TABLE 7: Sources of Showers, Laundry and Phones	23
---	----

TABLE 8: Places to Stay Indoors	24
---------------------------------	----

Sources	57
---------	----

ACRONYMS

ACF	[HHS] Administration for Children and Families
CHS	Community Human Services
COC	Continuum of Care
CYF	[DHS Office of] Children, Youth and Families
DHS	[Allegheny County] Department of Human Services
DOCS	Downtown Outreach Center and Shelter
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant
GED	[High School] General Equivalency Diploma
GLCC	Gay and Lesbian Community Center
HCEF	Homeless Children's Education Fund
HHS	[U.S. Department of] Health and Human Services
HIC	Housing Inventory Count
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HUD	[U.S. Department of] Housing and Urban Development
ICPH	Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning
NAEH	National Alliance to End Homelessness
OSN	Operation Safety Net
PIT	Point-in-Time
PMHS	Pittsburgh Mercy Health System
PROJECT HELP	[OSN's] Homeless Experience Legal Protection
TLP	[DOCS] Transitional Living Program
UPMC	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
USICH	U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

SUMMARY

Despite Allegheny County's rich array of services to prevent and address homelessness, approximately 240 young people ages 18 through 24 are living on the street, in abandoned buildings, and in shelters. Because local leaders want to be sure that these youth are receiving the help and support that they need at a very crucial stage in their lives, they commissioned this study of homeless youth. The report includes information on the national context, local services available to these youth, and ways in which our region might improve its systems to support this population.

The report begins with a summary of the characteristics of the estimated 55,000 young adults in the U.S. who are homeless, finding that their educational levels are half that of their non-homeless peers and that 30 percent have been in foster care, 30 percent are LGBTQ, and a significant share have been involved in the juvenile or adult criminal justice systems. The roots of their housing issues include loss of a job, being told to leave their parents' home or choosing to run away (often because of their sexual orientation), and behavioral health issues. Younger members of this group are more likely to maintain relationships and the ability to return home at some point, and about 10 percent of this group are chronically homeless — more likely to have dropped out of school, struggled with mental health and substance use issues, and experienced substantial mobility when they were children.

To provide an overview of how other cities have built a system to prevent and address homelessness among young adults, we examine outstanding models of service provision: Larkin Street, in San Francisco; Covenant House, in New York; and the Lighthouse, in Cincinnati. Each offers a comprehensive array of services under the umbrella of one organization.

Looking next at Allegheny County's approach, the report details core services from the perspective of a young person. Based on interviews with homeless youth and service providers as well as the providers' written documentation, the report details the hours and locations of

these services and identifies gaps in availability of services as well as other issues, including the need for more shelter beds for this age range, the difficulty young people have in navigating a system that is so decentralized, and the fact that the system is designed for adults, rather than youth, who are less trusting of authority and less savvy about resources.

This analysis leads us to the following recommendations for local leaders and funders of the housing and homelessness system:

1. Expand the eligibility window for existing youth services to extend through age 24. This matches the HUD definition of “youth.”
2. Plan services for this age group.
3. Open a drop-in center in or near downtown; or open shelters during the day to serve drop-ins.
4. Increase shelter options for youth.
5. Review quality assurance and provide training across the entire continuum of housing and homelessness services and to people at key intervention points where they might encounter homeless youth.
6. Planning and coordination to address the issues that result from multiple funding sources with varying policies and requirements.

INTRODUCTION

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) has a rich and well-integrated network of human services for individuals and families. Multiple studies have shown that DHS programs are strengthening communities and improving the lives of thousands of children, youth and adults.

But youth over the age of 18 who are homeless and living outside of the care and support of the foster care system may not find their way into this rich system of services, even though they need it. Many of these young people are without steady work or a way of supporting themselves, and some have serious mental health issues and are disconnected from people who could help them. So they are living on the streets, in shelters or in other unstable, sometimes dangerous, locations.

Just how many young adults are homeless is difficult to know, since Point-in-Time counts do not enumerate youth who are on a couch at a friend's or stranger's apartment and undercount people who are sleeping in parks, camps and abandoned buildings. Whether that number is 100 or 1,000, however, there needs to be a coherent approach to reaching the young people and helping them get food and safe places to stay, connect with work/education, and access the other services they need to be healthy and stable. This is why DHS leaders commissioned the research to help them better understand:

- the issues that young adults who are homeless are facing;
- effective models for reaching and serving this target population;

- the availability of local services; and
- possible improvements to the current system.

This report begins by providing some context (e.g., the characteristics of these youth, the issues they face, and the reasons for their homelessness), followed by a typology that can be used to target interventions to these young adults. It describes model programs in New York, San Francisco and Cincinnati, and then turns to Allegheny County's service system and local issues, concluding with a set of recommendations

ABOUT YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE HOMELESS

The nation's concern about homeless young adults has grown as research has clarified the cumulative and long-lasting effects of homelessness on these young people and as communities realize that helping them may call for something different from the programs they have established for the adult homeless population:

- *Long-term effects.* A risk-amplification model suggests that the effects of homelessness upon youth become magnified over time. Many youth begin with a history of family and peer conflict, then associate with an anti-social peer group, then are exposed to drugs and alcohol, survival sex, violence and other victimization. These experiences are compounded, so that the longer they remain homeless, the more difficult it becomes for them to transition to stable living (Whitbeck 1999).
- *Young adults who are homeless are not the same as older homeless adults.* Homeless youth have a greater degree of distrust — often born of trauma and repeated disappointment. “Youth are resorting to abandoned buildings, park benches, makeshift shelters, and staying with friends and sometimes strangers. Many of these youth have experienced significant trauma before and after becoming homeless. Often they face struggles across multiple aspects of daily life that contribute to their vulnerability. At the same time, all youth have strengths, but youth experiencing homelessness often lack positive opportunities and supports to apply them. An effective strategy must account for the specific needs of adolescents and youth transitioning to adulthood and the role families can play in both the reasons for becoming homeless and the potential solutions. These considerations make an approach to ending homelessness for unaccompanied youth distinct from an approach to ending homelessness for adults” (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2013).

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness amended the federal strategic plan to end homelessness to add a fourth strategy, focused on unaccompanied youth. But some cities and states have been slow to respond to the needs of these youth because the imperative to act is blunted both because the term is murky and because the size of the problem is unclear.

A note on definition of “young adults” used here

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has clarified that its definition of youth is **up to age 25**. In its Final Rule (reported in the December 5, 2011 Federal Register) says:

HUD agrees that more clarification is needed regarding the use of the term “youth.” HUD determined that defining “youth” as up to age 25 for the purposes of this category will help meet the needs of this uniquely vulnerable population, especially those youth exiting the foster care system. Additionally, this age standard aligns with that provided in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)).

This report adopts that upper limit, further narrowing the subset of young people to those:

- *Ages 18 through 24.* The lower limit of 18 was selected because youth who are under the age of 18 fall within the county’s child protective services system, not its housing/homelessness programs. Note that there is a federally-funded program for runaway and homeless youth that is designed to provide youth ages 12 through 17 with shelter and services.¹
- *Without children.* Young people who have children are considered “families” under the HUD definition and have a different array of services available to them.
- *Without a stable place to live.* DHS uses the HUD definition: lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

The following individuals, whose names have been changed, typify homeless young adults who are the subject of this report:

- James lived in a group home in Wilkinsburg until he was 19, when he signed himself out of foster care and never accepted any other services from Allegheny County’s child welfare office. He is 24 years old and currently sleeps on a blanket at the base of Mt. Washington.
- Timothy, age 18, left home because his parents would not accept his sexual orientation. He is now living in a men’s shelter on Brighton Avenue.
- Molly, age 21, gave up her newborn child for adoption and is living in a shelter in Uptown.

How many homeless young adults are there in the U.S.?

No one really knows. This is because the national enumeration of homelessness, the Point-in-Time count conducted at the end of January in cities across the country, undercounts the number of homeless people who are not living in shelters and intentionally excludes from its count those individuals who are couch-surfing (they are considered homeless only under certain criteria). This is despite the fact that national and county analyses show that four to five times the number of people who are living in shelters or on the street are couch-surfing or living with strangers because they do not have a residence.² It also misses young people who are:

- Squatters — staying in abandoned buildings and seeking to remain out of sight.
- Experiencing homelessness episodically — they were not on the street or in a shelter that particular night, but may be homeless off and on during the year.

¹ For youth under 18, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) makes grants for Runaway and Homeless Youth programs. These grants are made directly to provider agencies, not to DHS. They include programs such as The Loft, the Three Rivers Youth shelter for runaway youth ages 12 through 17 (where youth can stay for up to two weeks, while staff work on reunifying the children/youth with parents or finding stable housing, or, if this is not safe/possible, make CYF referrals). Other programs include FamilyLinks’ YES (emergency shelter) program for 12- through 17-year-olds and the Transitional Living Programs that serve youth under age 18.

² National Alliance to End Homelessness, *Data Snapshot: Doubled Up in the United States*. Updated March 2008; and “Doubled Up and Couch Surfing Estimates,” from *2013 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness, Portland/Multnomah County, Oregon*.

Youth may choose these options because they may “distrust and avoid adults, law enforcement and service providers due to past negative experiences with adult caregivers and other authorities... Youth over 18 may feel intimidated by adult shelters and the older, chronically homeless singles staying in them. Homeless youth are therefore more likely either to reside doubled up with friends, live on the street, or be precariously housed in unusual and hard-to-access locations, seeking to blend in when possible” (Adams, 2012).

“When you’re standing on the Line, people drive by in their cars and scream obscenities at you. Being homeless is just degrading.”

— Homeless youth, Pittsburgh

Following a recommendation from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Education recently launched Youth Count!, an initiative to count homeless youth, up to 24 years old, through innovative implementations of HUD’s 2013 Point-in-Time (PIT) count. Several Continuums of Care (CoCs), including Seattle, Boston and Santa Clara County, already have developed strong plans for supplementing their censuses with surveys, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) recently held a workshop to inform CoCs about approaches to developing more accurate counts and snapshots of the demographics and needs of young people.

Recognizing the limits of the PIT count, the NAEH developed its own estimate of homeless youth using Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data on the unduplicated number of youth served, making the assumption that most homeless youth would come into contact with the housing/homelessness system in the course of a year and, therefore, this unduplicated figure would give a better sense of the number of youth in need of services.³ Using this method, NAEH estimated that, nationally, 55,000 youth ages 18 through 24 are homeless (Opening Doors, USICH 2010).

³ Discussion with Samantha Batko, National Alliance to End Homelessness, August 2013.

National data on utilization of shelter beds show that there is a shortage of emergency shelter beds for this age group. Samantha Batko, director of the Homelessness Research Institute for NAEH, recently wrote, “There are not enough beds for the number of homeless youth in this country. I’d like that statement to stand on its own for a moment: there are not enough beds for homeless youth in this country... Every night, homeless youth are turned away from shelter and housing programs because of a lack of capacity” (Batko, 2013).

Characteristics

The homeless youth population is “heterogeneous and in flux” in the length and frequency of their episodes of homelessness, so it is important to be cautious about drawing conclusions about all youth based upon studies of more (or less) chronically homeless youth. “Studies find rather different profiles of homeless youth depending on sampling strategies, target age groups, gender balance, measures used, and other methodological factors. For example, studies targeting older youth, males and youth from the streets tend to find more problem behaviors such as substance abuse, mental disorders, risky sexual behavior and conduct problems” (Tompsett, et al. 2006).

Even so, young adults who are homeless differ from the general population of youth in significant ways. They are more likely to be:

- **Male.** According to large-scale studies of homeless youth (Seattle and Midwest studies, which also include young teens), more males than females live on the streets. This is because males are less likely to be able to stay with relatives.

“God said, ‘You didn’t appreciate what you had, so I’ll take it away. Now you’ll appreciate it.’ God knocks off the training wheels.”

— Homeless adult who is a sexual minority

- **Sexual minority youth**, who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning (LGBTQ): A 2013 in-person survey of over 200 unaccompanied youth in Santa Clara County found that 29 percent identified as LGBTQ and four percent identified as transgender. Another study reported that 15–40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, which is five times the rate for the general population of youth (cited in Adams, 2012).
- **In foster care** at some point. The Santa Clara County survey found that 33 percent of homeless youth had been in foster care.
- **Abused.** Researchers found that 33 percent of homeless youth reported that they left home because they were being sexually abused (Rew, 1997). Once they are on the street, many youth have survival sex. Of the homeless youth surveyed in Nevada who were sexually active, 14.6 percent reported having engaged in sex for food or shelter. Covenant House found that eight percent of youth over 18 had engaged in survival sex, most often for shelter (Bigelsen, 2013).
- **Juvenile or criminal justice-involved.** A study by Covenant House, New York, found that 30 percent of the youth in their shelters had been in the juvenile justice system (New York City Association of Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Organizations, 2005). It also is true that youth on the street are more likely to come into contact with law enforcement officers over relatively minor offenses that can lead to fines they cannot afford, which, when not paid, can lead to arrest warrants. “Sixty percent of homeless youth had been fined for ‘quality of life offenses’ such as panhandling, sleeping or camping in public, and loitering” (National Center for Homeless Education, 2011).
- **Less educated.** Youth who run away from home at least once before they are 18 years old are 50 percent less likely to have a high school diploma or GED than their “housed peers” (Benoit-Bryan, 2011). Half of Santa Clara County’s homeless youth over 18 had not completed high school.

Where the youth sleep

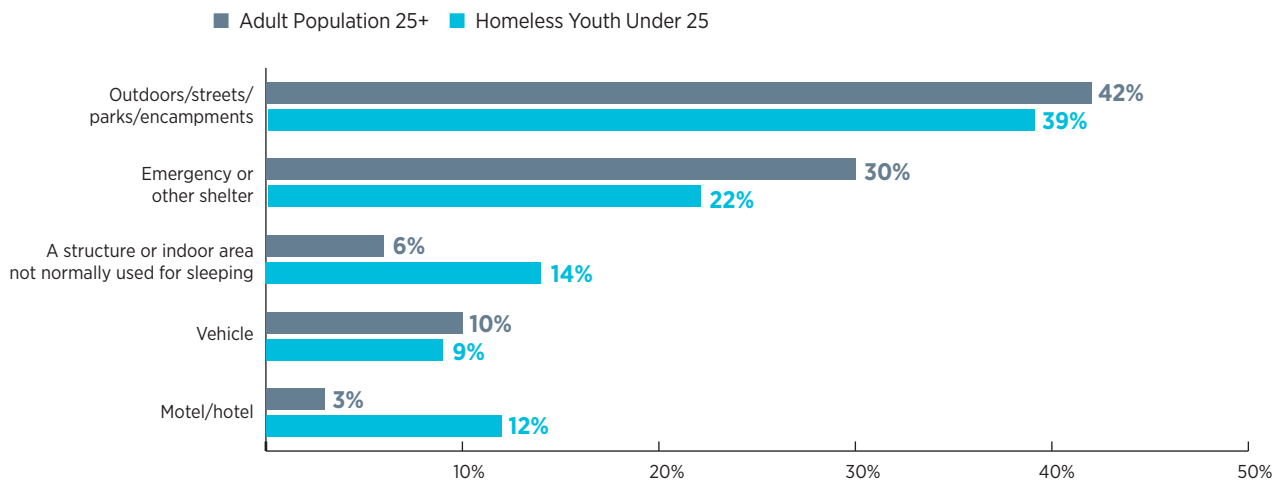
Studies show that young adults are most likely to couch-surf — that is, stay with friends as long as they can, finding one place to stay for a night or two, then another the next night, until they have exhausted their options. When couch-surfing is not possible, they sleep out of doors, in shelters, in vehicles and abandoned buildings. Part of the reason may be that they do not want to stay in traditional (adult) shelters, but it also may be that they were turned away from a shelter, as has been the case in New York City and Washington, D.C.

**“I will never get used to it.
It’s in my heart to get off the streets.”**

— Homeless youth

While the geography and weather differ in Santa Clara, California, the effective outreach to homeless youth that was done there is illuminating for other jurisdictions. To understand where homeless youth are living, they organized a large-scale effort to train and deploy volunteers to look for and count youth (as a supplement to their PIT Count). This effort showed that, compared with adults, the youth were more likely to choose the street over shelters (choosing shelters 22 percent of the time compared with 30 percent for other adults).

TABLE 1: Where Respondents Usually Stay at Night (2013, Santa Clara County)



Homeless Youth N=207 Adult N=623 (Chart from Connery and Green, Applied Survey Research, Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey. Comprehensive Report, 2013)

What homeless youth need

In addition to noting where they slept, the 2013 Santa Clara survey of youth asked them what they needed. Their top responses were: food (66 percent), shelter (62 percent), and clothing (61 percent).

They also said that they needed safety. While homeless:

- 34 percent of the surveyed youth were assaulted,
- 33 percent had been burglarized and 28 percent had been robbed, and
- 27 percent were victims of “gang abuse.”

REASONS FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AND A TYPOLOGY

Even with experiences and backgrounds like these, most young people do not become homeless. What actually causes young people to have unstable housing, if even for a short period?

1. They are **unemployed** or underemployed, and so cannot pay for housing. In the Santa Clara County survey, 32 percent of the young people said that they were homeless because they had lost a job, the most common reason given.
2. They were **told to leave the house**. This reason is more prevalent for youth who identify as LGBTQ; nearly 40 percent of gay males who are homeless reported being thrown out of their house (Whitbeck, 2004).
3. They **ran away** from home or from foster care. Thirty percent of unaccompanied youth in Santa Clara County said that a fight with their parent or guardian was a cause of their homelessness. (About a fifth of the youth had tried to move back in with their parents.) In an older study, 37 percent of the homeless youth who had left home said it was because “their parents disapproved of their drug or alcohol use” (Rew, 1997).
4. Their **juvenile/criminal justice** involvement means that they cannot live with their parents/guardians or do not qualify for public housing themselves; and they do not earn enough to afford a place to live that is not subsidized by Section 8 or other public resource. A local provider said, “Finding subsidized affordable housing is hard now. Landlords can pick and choose. If you have a criminal record you won’t get it.”
5. They have serious **mental health** issues that preclude them from working, finding housing, or retaining housing. Youth in the Santa Clara County study said that they suffered from chronic depression (40 percent) or another mental illness (15 percent). Among Minnesota youth, 60 percent were homeless when they entered an institutional stay and 55.8 percent exited without a stable place to live (ICPH report).
6. They have **substance use** issues, which can be exacerbated by lives without stable homes or work to do. In the Santa Clara County survey, 74 percent of the youth said that they used some form of drugs or alcohol. One young man who had visited the center at Persad in downtown Pittsburgh said, “You think, ‘what more do I have to lose?’ It got me into addiction deeper.”
7. They **choose** to live on the streets. Surveys show that living on the streets is a choice for few young people or adults. Research shows this represents seven percent or less of the homeless population.

Typology

NAEH has outlined a typology that can be useful in tailoring services to subsets of young adults who are homeless. It draws upon the work of Paul Toro, Tegan Lesperance and Jordan Braciszewski, who categorized the behaviors of a probability sample of 250 youth from Detroit who were homeless adolescents whom local agencies were serving, as well as some recruited on the street. Toro et al. interviewed them at baseline (18 years and younger) and then again at intervals of up to 6.5 years later.

After looking at a wide array of possible characteristics that could place them into subtypes (e.g., family cohesion, self-efficacy, risky behaviors, mental health diagnoses/symptoms), the researchers identified a “three-class solution” that described the youth:

1. Low risk
2. Transient but connected
3. High risk

This typology for adolescents is similar to the Transitional, Episodic and Chronic subgroups that Dennis Culhane and his co-researchers suggested for the adult population. As with other adults, most youth are low risk/transitional:

TABLE 2: Prevalence of the Subgroups of Homeless Youth

SUB-POPULATIONS	% YOUTH 18 THROUGH 24
<p>Low-risk / Transitional youth tend to be younger, maintain more stable relationships with their families and school, and experience the least amount of homelessness over time.</p> <p><i>More likely to be low risk: Younger individuals</i></p>	81%
<p>Transient but connected / Episodic youth have less stable connections with school and housing because they’ve moved in and out of homelessness repeatedly. They did not have prominent mental health or substance abuse problems. They retained relationships with their families.</p> <p><i>More likely to be transient but connected: Young women</i></p>	9%
<p>High-risk / Chronic youth are more likely to have dropped out of school, have unstable relationships with their families, struggled with mental health and substance abuse issues, and experienced long stretches of homelessness and substantial housing mobility.</p> <p><i>More likely to be high risk: Young men; white youth</i></p>	10%

INTERVENTIONS THAT WORK FOR LOW-RISK, TRANSIENT AND HIGH-RISK YOUTH

Goals for interventions

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness identified four desirable outcomes for youth who are homeless: 1) stable housing; 2) permanent connections; 3) education or employment; and 4) social-emotional well-being.

Since most homeless youth are transitionally homeless (spending a short time homeless and not returning to homelessness)⁴, the challenge is to respond rapidly so that they are safe during the short term while preventing homelessness stays from lengthening. As one formerly homeless

⁴ Dennis Culhane’s research, as summarized in *An Emerging Framework for Ending Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness*, NAEH

young person in Pittsburgh (now employed and in an apartment) said, “You have to catch it early on, before thinking ‘being at the bottom is at the top for me.’”

⁵ NAEH laments the lack of research comparing interventions for the group as a whole and the fact that there are no studies “examining how different interventions address the issues of the different subpopulations.” It developed its recommendations using the outcomes for Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) and Continuum of Care programs and the prevalence of the subgroups in the typology.

NAEH⁵ cites several good interventions for helping people get off the streets and into more stable situations.

For all young people

- Provide housing and other services within a comprehensive approach, with a consistency of services.
- Deliver an effective crisis response, including having an adequate number of shelters available so that youth are never turned away.

For the low-risk and transient but connected

- Prioritize family reunification, when it is safe for the youth to return — even for the 18 through 24 age group. NAEH says that “family reunification could be seen as a first line of defense” for programs:

“For young adults (18 through 24 years) who fall in the transitional subpopulation, connection with family and caring adults is also a positive outcome and, so again, family intervention could be seen as a first line of intervention, when appropriate... Family-finding can be valuable, whether or not the youth returns home.”

For the transient but connected who are over 18, provide:

- Rapid re-housing
- Transitional housing, making sure to reduce barriers to entry and prevent involuntary exits.
- Permanent supportive housing, where appropriate. This includes connections to education, employment and transition to independent living.

For young adults at high risk (chronic), provide:

- Supportive housing
- Long-term housing
- Permanent supportive housing with low barriers to entry, for youth who have been homeless for long periods and for youth with disabilities.

As examples of this comprehensive approach for unaccompanied homeless youth, we highlight three model programs: Larkin Street in San Francisco, Covenant House in New York City and Philadelphia, and Lighthouse Youth Services in Cincinnati. Each offers services for low-risk, transient and high-risk youth.

Larkin Street (San Francisco)

Larkin Street Youth Services has a very comprehensive set of programs to serve an estimated 5,700 homeless youth in San Francisco. Its services include family reunification, an extensive outreach program, and free van transportation for youth to move among its 25 different programs located across the city, in addition to the other services in a continuum of care:

Outreach and Drop-in: Larkin Street's outreach integrates its Outreach Teams (whose staff are finding and working with youth on the streets) with its Drop-in Center and Referral Center:

Sutter Street Drop-in Center is for all youth and open during the day. It is a safe haven, a place to get food, clothing, and support for education, family reunification, legal matters, and sexual identity issues. It also is the entryway to further services, including shelter.

The *Haight Street Referral Center* is another hub for food, hygiene supplies and referrals to Larkin Street services. It is located near the Golden Gate Park, an area of high need.

Shelters and Crisis Care: Larkin Street runs several emergency shelters for youth that it views as entry points to its continuum of programs. One of these is:

Lark-Inn, a full-service shelter for 18- through 24-year-olds. It has 40 beds, a computer lab, a kitchen and dining area, laundry facilities, bathrooms and a pet kennel. Residents who show progress in meeting the goals of their case plans can go to the "Gateway program," which has a semi-private living area with a private bathroom and a TV lounge with fewer restrictions.

Housing: Larkin Street Youth Services provides transitional and permanent housing to subgroups of youth:

Avenues to Independence: For 18- through 24-year-olds. This 15-bed facility provides stable housing for up to two years. Residents pay rent, work or are in training for careers, and complete their education through GED preparation or college classes.

G-House: Also for youth ages 18 through 24, this is a 20-bed facility.

The LOFT: This transitional living program is for youth who are "emancipating from the foster care system." It is a licensed group home with a system of natural rewards and consequences, designed specifically for homeless teens who have been living on the street. (It aims to emulate the family structure, with curfews, chores and other expectations.) Participants receive individual case management, access to health care, mentoring and support. They engage in school or training, career readiness and life skills education.

LEASE: Individual apartments and wraparound services for 18- through 24-year-old "former foster care kids." It emphasizes training in life skills and helps youth create individual life plans. All of the young adults receive counseling and most attend college on a part-time or full-time basis.

Holloway House: A stepping stone to LEASE (individual apartments) for 18- through 24-year-olds who are exiting foster care. Holloway House is group housing with extra support and staff who assist the youth in developing the skills required for self-sufficiency.

Castro Youth Housing: This is housing for youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Residents pay half of their income in rent to encourage responsibility and to gain skills in budgeting. The program also provides weekly case management, life skills training, behavioral health referrals, and access to employment and education in the Larkin Street continuum.

Aftercare: A residential facility for youth with HIV that includes an HIV Specialty Clinic. It provides 24-hour care and medical support and has trained case managers and counselors who assess the youth for mental health or substance abuse issues and link them with psychiatric care as needed. Residents have a voice in how the house is run (e.g., leadership, design activities) and share a large communal area, kitchen, dining facilities, and a living and recreation room.

Routz: For 18- through 24-year-olds who need mental health services. Housing, case management and therapeutic services. Housing is in scattered site apartments as well as the former Aarti Hotel. Routz was launched with funding provided through California's Mental Health Services Act of 2007.

Ellis Street Apartments: Permanent supportive housing in 24 studio apartments. The building is located down the street from Larkin Street's "Hire Up Center" and educational services.

Other services in the continuum include education, vocational education and employment, which are offered at several of the Larkin Street locations.

Covenant House (New York City)

Covenant House has been serving homeless youth in NYC since 1972. It serves more than 5,000 youth each year through its crisis centers, community outreach center, apartment living programs, job skills program and health services. Its continuum of care also includes grief counseling and legal aid.

Unless otherwise noted, the descriptions below are specific to the programs in New York City, even though Covenant House has locations in Philadelphia, Michigan, Alaska and other places throughout the U.S.

Outreach: Covenant House staff conduct outreach on the street, including van outreach, as well as community/school outreach, often with Covenant House youth who are in the program, to try to prevent youth homelessness.

Shelter/Crisis Care: Covenant House maintains an open intake policy and states that no child is ever turned away from its services; and that "within 72 hours of entering Covenant House, every new arrival visits our in-house clinic for medical attention." Teens receive a

warm meal, a shower and a bed to sleep in. Counselors gather basic information about the young people, including where they have been staying, and they will “drive new intake cases to the last place they were staying to pick up any belongings they were forced to leave behind.” If the youth need legal aid, the staff lawyer can “immediately provide assistance in obtaining a restraining order or identity changes to protect against predators.” If youth want to continue in Covenant House’s other programs, the staff will help them develop individual plans.

Housing: *Rights of Passage:* This program provides youth with structured transitional living and life skills training for up to 18 months. The young people are required to do their own shopping, cooking and cleaning, and to turn over part of their salary to Covenant House, which places it into a savings account and returns it to the youth at the end of their stay.

Other services *Education:* Covenant House conducts an educational assessment at intake and helps the youth get their high school diplomas or GEDs. Each of its sites provides tutoring, remedial education groups and flexible GED preparation classes.

At Covenant House’s location in Detroit, it has started its own network of charter schools that also teach life skills.

Training: The agency’s job training programs include certification courses in culinary arts, desktop publishing, medical assistant professions, public safety and computer skills. (At Covenant House’s location in Alaska, it has started a coffee shop that is also a customer service training program for youth.)

Employment preparation: Staff prepare the youth for employment by conducting mock interviews, providing interview clothes and helping them prepare resumes. The agency cultivates relationships with employers and provides help to youth after they get jobs.

Health care: Covenant House provides primary medical care at no charge to youth who are 21 years old or younger. In addition to the initial physical exam shortly after intake, Covenant House staff will accompany the youth to outside health providers. They do not provide, but do make referrals to, behavioral health services.

Lighthouse Youth Services (Cincinnati)

Lighthouse Youth Services is the city’s primary provider for housing and homeless services for youth. Its continuum of care includes:

Outreach: The agency’s street outreach team uses a harm reduction approach, working to assure a basic level of safety for youth on the streets. The team operates out of a van that is stocked with supplies that staff can distribute to homeless youth (blankets, hygiene items, clothing, water and survival supplies). The staff also provide case management and can assess a youth for eligibility to enter a shelter.

Shelter/Crisis Care: *Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth:* This is a combination resource center and shelter, for males and females ages 18 through 24. The Resource Center, which is open weekdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., provides food, hygiene items, clothing, showers, laundry facilities, mail services and access to the Internet. The Center's coordinator also can help with accessing services. A registered nurse is available for first aid and basic health care as well as referrals.

Lighthouse Services recently opened its first 28-bed shelter for this age group. It was filled within the first week. Intake occurs seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. This shelter has counselors, nurses and a therapist, and it provides help in finding permanent housing. (The goal is for residents to exit to housing within 30 days. Aftercare is available for up to 90 days after the youth leave.) It also serves as a hub for youth to access other Lighthouse services, including educational, health and human service programs. The program director, Mark Kroner, said that they opened this new shelter when they realized that youth were not going to the adult shelter because the adults did not want them there, and the youth often preferred to live on the streets rather than abide by the rules of the shelter.

The agency says that it is taking a low-threshold approach in this new shelter: If a young person is high on alcohol or other drugs, he will not be kicked out. "No more than a college dorm would," is how Kroner put it.

Youth Crisis Center: This facility provides shelter services and a crisis hotline for 10- through 17-year-olds. It is a 20-bed emergency facility open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. According to Lighthouse, "Under Ohio law, youth may seek shelter without consent at the Youth Crisis Center while their situation is examined by appropriate child protection investigators."

Housing: *Transitional Living Program:* This program for 18- through 22-year-olds provides housing, case management and self-sufficiency training for up to 18 months. Housing for males is available through clustered and scattered sites; housing for women and children is available through scattered sites. To qualify, the youth has to be "certified homeless," which involves working with a street outreach program or homeless shelter prior to applying for admission. Participants are expected to spend 30 hours a week in productive activity and to develop life skills through the training that Lighthouse provides. The youth pay for an increasing share of their rent until they are fully self-sufficient. Lighthouse also helps to furnish apartments and can help with the costs of getting established, including food and household needs.

Shelter + Care: This program, for 18- through 24-year-olds, provides permanent supported housing at scattered sites for men and women who have "emotional or substance abuse disabilities."

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

How many young adults are homeless in Allegheny County?

We estimate that there are approximately 240 young people (individuals, ages 18 through 24) who are living in a shelter or on the street. The calculation of this figure is as follows:

⁶ PIT Summary for PA-600-Pittsburgh/McKeesport/Penn Hills/Allegheny County CoC, January 30, 2013.

- The county's most recent PIT count⁶ found that 106 people ages 18 through 24 were homeless and did not have children in their care. Of these, 91 were sheltered.
- Since the PIT enumeration is known to undercount the number of "unsheltered" youth and, therefore, the number of services that they actually need, we looked for a more accurate ratio of sheltered:unsheltered. One community that had done extensive outreach during its 2013 PIT count was Multnomah County, Oregon (Portland). The ratio of "emergency or other shelter" to unsheltered locations was 1 sheltered:1.6 unsheltered.
- Applying that ratio to Allegheny County (assuming youth here are as likely as those in Portland, Oregon, to sleep on the street, compared to shelter), the total number of unsheltered youth in Allegheny County would be 146.
- This would mean that a total of 91 sheltered + 146 unsheltered, or 237 youth would be homeless during the PIT count.

This does not count those who are couch-surfing. The number of couch-surfers would increase the figure by a factor of between two and five, according to estimates developed by Multnomah County and Portland, Maine. (See Appendix H on page 52 for information about estimating couch-surfers.)

Services in Allegheny County

Funding

How does Allegheny County find, engage and help these young people? Currently it is through a system that is largely focused on adults 25 and older. The system does have components (like the FamilyLinks shelter in Uptown) that youth use more often than other services.

Most of the funding for the homeless system comes from federal and state grants made directly to DHS, which contracts for services with various agencies in the county. HUD makes smaller homelessness services grants directly to the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, and to the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills. There also are federal grants made directly to agencies like Three Rivers Youth (by the Runaway and Homeless Act), the Veterans Administration and the Veterans Leadership Program. Faith-based organizations and nonprofit organizations also raise non-government funds for homelessness and housing services, and contribute substantially through their volunteer and in-kind services.

An overview of the major government sources for housing/homeless services is provided below:

TABLE 3: Federal and State Sources of Homeless Assistance Funding

SOURCE	PROGRAM	RECIPIENT
HUD	Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive Housing program • Shelter Plus Care • Moderate rehabilitation/SRO program 	DHS
	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street outreach • Emergency shelter • Homeless prevention and rapid re-housing 	Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, City of Pittsburgh ⁷
HHS (ACF)	Runaway and Homeless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Center 	Three Rivers Youth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Outreach Program⁸ 	Persad Center recently lost funding for this service; no local provider funded in 2013 ⁹
HHS	Projects in Assistance to Homelessness (PATH)	DHS, Operation Safety Net and Three Rivers Youth
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Emergency Food and Shelter Program	United Way
PA Department of Public Welfare	Homeless Assistance Program	DHS

⁷ The City uses its grants to fund the FamilyLinks DOCS shelter (Uptown) and the HUB (East Liberty). The County does not use its grants for youth-specific programs (Tammy Pifer, Allegheny County Economic Development).

⁸ Note that the Street Outreach Program requires grantees to “have 24-hour access to local emergency shelter space that is appropriate for youth. Once outreach staff have placed a youth there, they must be able to stay in contact with the young person.” (Report to Congress, page 25)

⁹ ACF’s October 18, 2013 announcement of Street Outreach grantees: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/resource/2013-sop-awards>

These government sources, combined with private sources, purchase the services outlined below. These services are arranged by the most common needs identified by homeless young people. (Note that Allegheny County also delivers a number of other services to young adults, such as behavioral health, independent living support and utility assistance.)

How the youth know where to turn for help

Homeless youth find out what help is available through word of mouth and through the “Street Outreach” efforts of organizations that employ peer or youth outreach staff or deploy volunteers:

- *Three Rivers Youth’s HUB* has a street outreach staff person who visits shelters and agencies to find youth who might need help and to begin to establish a trusting relationship and connect them with the HUB’s drop-in location in East Liberty. The target areas canvassed are shelters on the North Side and community agencies in the City of Pittsburgh.
- *Operation Safety Net’s (OSN)* staff and volunteers conduct street outreach to homeless individuals of all ages, providing “quality medical services to the uninsured and homeless through a well-coordinated system of street outreach and mobile medical van sites.”

OSN volunteers/staff also have cars that they use to bring food, sleeping bags and hygienic supplies to homeless individuals living on the streets. One example of OSN's outreach was provided by a homeless youth who had been living under the Ninth Street Bridge. When the city was going to close camps under the bridges on the North Side, OSN helped to spread the word and relocate people. OSN's target area for canvassing is downtown Pittsburgh, the Strip District, North Side, South Side, Oakland and the Hill District. OSN is part of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS).

- *Community Human Services' (CHS) Operation Save-a-Life* is an outreach team to street homeless of all ages, composed of formerly homeless individuals, community members and service providers. The team provides support, referrals, resources and tangible items such as weekly lunches, socks, hygiene kits and seasonally appropriate items. Rounds start at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, ending by 9 p.m. CHS target the South Side and North Side areas.
- Until October 1, 2013, *Persad's SOS* program had three part-time outreach workers who would go out onto the streets to find homeless youth through age 24. The program lost its federal funding and has been discontinued, although its drop-in center continues to remain active.

We had the opportunity to speak with 20 youth through two focus groups. When asked how they learned where to turn, they reported that word of mouth (other homeless individuals) was the primary way. They said that they talk with one another on the Food Line on the Boulevard of the Allies (on weekdays throughout the year, faith-based groups take turns distributing food from vans parked under the walkway near the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette building); and while waiting to get help from Miss Nancy, a volunteer who, along with other volunteers, hands out freshly-washed clothes and groceries at 10 p.m. each Monday at the same location.

While sharing information with one another is an important way to find out how to get the basics, the youth also said that they are cautious about which homeless individuals they talk to and that it is a myth to believe that they are monolithic. One young man said, "We don't stick around each other. We look for outlets to get away from each other."

Food

When young adults are staying in an emergency shelter, they will have one or two meals provided (or three meals and a snack, if they are at FamilyLinks' DOCS); if they are in transitional housing, they will have access to kitchen facilities and likely receive Food Stamps. For those young men and women who do not have the money to buy food and are not staying at a shelter (and for those who are in a shelter and need the second or third meal that is not provided), there are a number of places to go for a meal.

TABLE 4: Food Sources

FOOD	HOURS	NUMBER OF DAYS/WEEK	LOCATION
Bethlehem Haven, daytime drop-in center	4 p.m. dinner (For women only)	6	Uptown
East Liberty Presbyterian	Lunch	5	East Liberty
Food Line	Dinner	7	Downtown
Jubilee Kitchen	Lunch	7	Uptown
Light of Life Soup Kitchen	Breakfast, dinner	7	North Side
New Hope Church	Lunch	3	North Side
Pleasant Valley drop-in	Lunch	3	North Side
Red Door	Bag lunch	6	Downtown
SAY	Lunch	3	Downtown
Shepherd's Heart	Breakfast 5 days and dinner on Sunday	6	Uptown
Veterans Place: Homeless Veterans Day Program	Breakfast and Lunch (Veterans only)	5	East End
Wellspring Center*	Lunch	5	Uptown

*Recommended for adults who are over age 25

Shelter

Young adults who are 18 through 21 can stay at the DOCS emergency shelter run by FamilyLinks (described in detail on the page that follows) as well as any adult emergency shelter.

The emergency shelters in the chart that follows are those that were serving youth in the 18-through-24 age range during 2012. (Note that this is not inclusive of all adult shelters.) Youth also may be able to receive a motel/hotel voucher from CHS (paid through an ESG grant).

Emergency shelter beds are not always available, however. During the 2012 PIT count, emergency shelter bed utilization for individuals without children was **108 percent**.¹⁰

One indicator of the need for shelter beds comes from Pittsburgh Police Commander Maurita Bryant, who said at a 2013 meeting at the Homeless Children’s Education Fund offices, “When the officers try to take people to shelters, they get frustrated because the shelters are full and they don’t have time to drive all over the place.”

¹⁰ See Appendices for calculation, which uses PIT summary information.

TABLE 5: Sources of Emergency Shelter

EMERGENCY SHELTER	NOTES	LOCATION
Bethlehem Haven	Women only	Uptown
Community Human Services	Temporary hotel/motel voucher	Any
Community Human Services	Innovative Shelter LGBTQ (townhouse on Lawn Street for 4 people)	Oakland
East End Cooperative Ministries	Men and women, effective October 2013	East Liberty
FamilyLinks (DOCS)	18 through 21 years, only	Uptown
Light of Life	Men only	North Side
Pleasant Valley	Men only (shelter) Handicapped accessible Serves openly gay, gender undetermined Can keep items locked in during day (keep same bed)	North Side
Smithfield United	Severe weather only Men and women gather, men stay and women go by van to Shepherd's Heart	Downtown
Shepherd's Heart	Severe weather shelter for women	Uptown

The one shelter specifically for youth, ages 18 through 21, is the Downtown Outreach Center and Shelter (**DOCS**), **operated by FamilyLinks**. It is located in Uptown, at 1601 Fifth Avenue, where it has been since it opened 27 years ago.

The first floor houses an emergency shelter for 18 youth where the young people can stay for up to 60 days. Youth receive breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack and, as needed, clothing and transportation assistance. The youth leave during the day for job search, work or school and may return at lunch for an hour. For those youth who decide not to continue sheltering at DOCS, FamilyLinks will hold their bed for five consecutive days.

Intake into the DOCS shelter used to be open/drop-in, but has been changed to a “triage system” in which youth (or a parent or provider) call and answer a variety of eligibility questions (age-eligibility; if they need to be referred elsewhere because they are on the do-not-admit list due to an earlier experience at the shelter that involved drug selling, aggression, or fighting; and where they slept the night before, to determine if they truly do not have a place to stay). If the youth is on the street or says it is an emergency, DOCS will admit them immediately. If they were sleeping on a friend’s couch and can continue to stay there, the staff will schedule a time for admission. These times are on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A number of youth don’t call back or show up on the admission date, and the presumption is that they don’t need shelter at that time. In those cases, the staff will “put a hold on the triage,” and if the youth later decide to come, they can enter right away. Once the youth is admitted to DOCS, they work with the staff to develop a service plan within 72 hours of their arrival.

Whether because of the intake process or because there are not enough 18- through 21-year-olds who need emergency shelter, the DOCS shelter was at just 67 percent capacity during the January 30, 2013, PIT Count.

The upper floor of the building houses the Transitional Living Program (TLP), which serves youth ages 16 through 21. This program provides extended shelter, life skills, counseling services, clothing, transportation and some of the items needed to outfit an apartment when the youth finds a more permanent place to stay. Youth in both the TLP and the emergency shelter receive medical care from an on-site nurse.

FamilyLinks reserves three of its beds for youth who are in independent living; these are young people who are in transition from foster care or other child welfare services.

Other transitional housing programs that served homeless youth during 2012 are listed below.

TABLE 6: Sources of Transitional Housing (for Youth)*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	PROGRAM NAME & NOTES	LOCATION
ACTION Housing	Homeless Youth Transition Phase 1 Teen Program Phase 2	East Pittsburgh
Adagio Health	Step by Step	Duquesne
Auberle	Movin' On	Duquesne
Bethlehem Haven	Step Up Women-only	Uptown
FamilyLinks	Transitional Living Program 16 through 21 years old only	Uptown
First Step Recovery Homes	Men only Dual-diagnosis	McKeesport
Goodwill	Harbor Housing Men only Ex-offenders	Scattered
Mercy Behavioral Health (Pittsburgh Mercy Health System)	Housing Plus Program	Scattered
Pittsburgh Aids Task Force	Pathways	Scattered
Sojourner House	Open Arms Women only	Homewood
Society of St. Vincent DePaul	Michael's Place Men only, 21 and over Ex-offenders	East End
Veterans Leadership Program	Airborne Veterans only	Scattered
YWCA	Bridge Housing Program Women only	Scattered

*Note that there are shelters and transitional housing programs other than those listed above. These are the ones that served single youth in the 18-through-24-years-old range.

Youth who identify as sexual minority have a difficult time in at least some of the emergency shelters. At Light of Life, for example, all individuals are required to take showers at the same time, in a large room — an indignity for anyone, but especially difficult for individuals who identify as transgender but who may not yet be transgender in a physical way. Adrienne Walnoha, chief executive officer of CHS, explained the difficulties for LGBTQ individuals in this way:

“Traditional shelters are congregate, which means it’s a big auditorium space. You don’t have privacy. A very effeminate man in a male shelter system is not usually successful. Neither is someone who may be ‘presenting’ as an opposing gender. The shelter goes by your official identification, so if you show identification that says your name is John Smith, but you’re wearing a dress and trying to get into a women’s shelter, they’re not going to take you. And if it’s a congregate showering situation and your biology doesn’t match the rest of the group, then that could be a dangerous situation for you. And for folks who are intersex and have both gender characteristics, if they are in a facility where they never have any privacy because they have to change in a room with another person or have to shower in a room with another person, they could really be in a difficult place.” — In the Spotlight, The Heinz Endowments

Showers, laundry and phones

Shelters have showers and, in some cases, laundry facilities and a telephone for resident use. But for youth who are not staying in a shelter, these are difficult services to find. Only a few locations in the county have these services available, regardless of the individual's age.

TABLE 7: Sources of Showers, Laundry and Phones

	NOTES	HOURS	NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK	LOCATION
SHOWERS				
Pleasant Valley day program	Showers are for men only	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	5	North Side
Project Silk ¹¹	Subset of LGBTQ	Unknown	Unknown	Downtown
Shepherd's Heart		8:25 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	5	Uptown
Veterans Place: Homeless Veterans Program	Veterans only	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	5	East End
Wellspring Center*		10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	5	Uptown
LAUNDRY				
Jubilee Kitchen		Unknown		
Pleasant Valley day program		9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	5	North Side
Shepherd's Heart		8 a.m. – 10 a.m.	5	Uptown
Wellspring Center*		10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	5	Uptown
PHONE				
Persad	Located at GLCC	12 p.m. – evening	7	Downtown
Pleasant Valley day program		9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	5	North Side

*Recommended for adults who are over age 25

Where to stay indoors

Homeless youth have relatively few options for places to go during the day if they need or want to be indoors. While there is a drop-in center at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh and one at Three Rivers Youth that are specifically for young people, neither of these provides the full array of services and supports that staff and youth need (these two centers are described in detail on the following page).

Beyond spending time at one of those centers, youth can go to drop-in centers for other adults, to libraries (this is the primary place where they access the Internet), to the Greyhound Bus Terminal (for outlets to charge devices and restrooms that are available 24/7), and to coffee shops that allow them to stay for a time.

¹¹ Project Silk is a demonstration project of the PA Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Prevention Project, led by the University of Pittsburgh. It is a “space for the black and Latino LGBT community” that provides a drop-in space, HIV testing and linkages to care for people with new or prior diagnoses of HIV infection. It focuses on 13- through 29-year-olds and their sexual partners at a site downtown, at 810 Penn Avenue.

TABLE 8: Places to Stay Indoors

INDOORS	NOTES	HOURS	NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK	LOCATION
DROP-IN CENTERS				
Bethlehem Haven Drop-In	Women only	1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Wed. – Sun.)	5	Uptown
East End Cooperative Ministries Drop-In	Accessible (new facility)	3 p.m. – 5 p.m.	5	East Liberty
Persad (at GLCC)	Youth (not accessible)	12 p.m. – evening	7	Downtown
Pleasant Valley day program	Accessible	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	5	North Side
Shepherd’s Heart		8 a.m. – 10 a.m.	5	Uptown
Three Rivers Youth	Youth Accessible	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	5	East End
Veterans Place: Homeless Veterans Day Program	Veterans only Accessible	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	5	East End
Wellspring Center*		10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	5	Uptown
CARNEGIE LIBRARY				
Allegheny Center	Accessible	10 a.m. – evening	6	North Side
Downtown	Accessible	8:30 a.m. – evening	6	North Side
Oakland	Accessible	10 a.m. – evening	7	East End
South Side	Accessible	10 a.m. – evening	6	South Side
OTHER				
Greyhound Terminal	Accessible	24 hours		Downtown

*Recommended for adults who are over age 25

Drop-in centers for homeless youth

Persad staffs a drop-in center for youth (24 and younger) at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (GLCC) at 210 Grant Street in downtown Pittsburgh. The Center was the home base for Persad’s three outreach staff until it lost its federal grant in 2013. It is open from noon to 9 p.m. (except when the Center has a meeting); and on Sundays from noon until 6 p.m. The Center has a television, a computer, board games, use of the staff’s telephone, a restroom, kitchen sink, and large room with couches and chairs where the youth can visit with one another. A staff person is available to answer questions, make referrals and provide some tangible assistance, since the Center has a supply closet of donated clothing, and Persad secures donations of other items, including bus tickets. Joanne Goodall, a nurse practitioner for UPMC’s outreach program, provides health care in a designated area within GLCC (she also provides health care at FamilyLinks’ DOCS shelter/transitional housing).

Since GLCC is a good location for providers to reach a number of homeless youth, a group of volunteers and agency staff who have formed Service Access for Youth (SAY) have been providing pizza and an activity there each Wednesday for several hours in the afternoon and an outreach program late on Thursday afternoons. They typically average eight young people on Wednesdays and fewer on Thursdays.

The youth said of the drop-in center run by Persad: “It’s a big help to a lot of us. Anyone can come” and “It’s a place of good keep.”

Three Rivers Youth has a federal Basic Center Program grant from HHS for its HUB program for youth, ages 18 through 21 (through age 24, for youth with mental health issues). The center is located in the Three Rivers Youth administrative offices in East Liberty (near the Target store). It has an open space and a computer lab with Internet access and also offers meals. The HUB is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., but youth need to call to make an appointment. They can receive emergency food, assessment, counseling and crisis intervention, referrals to services, shelter, housing, legal services, linkages with youth and family services, and follow-up care.

Because the HUB is located so far from the downtown, South Side and North Side areas where many youth sleep and live, and because staff do not have bus tickets to distribute, it is not frequented by the homeless youth. If they do visit, they do not come back. In fact, in discussions with the youth and several outreach workers, no one had heard of the HUB; it was not included on the map of services for homeless people that a committee of homeless providers developed. The original HUB program, located in the Strip District, did not have the same problems. One person at Three Rivers Youth said that the “old HUB” may have been more of a draw to young people because of its location — which was less corporate-feeling — and because it had a kitchen, laundry, showers, toilets, large room with computers, clothes and other tangible items to distribute to the youth.

For at least a few years, the original HUB also had a partnership with FamilyLinks in which they shared outreach and the HUB could directly refer young people to the DOCS shelter. Both Three Rivers Youth and FamilyLinks said that this arrangement worked well — more young people were using the DOCS shelter then, for example — and allowed them to serve youth more effectively.

Education and training

It is likely that half of the homeless young adults in our area have not completed their high school educations and, for this reason, the federal laws guaranteeing them access to public education are crucial to their taking an essential step out of homelessness and poverty. This law, the McKinney-Vento Act (signed in 2001 and amended by the HEARTH Act in 2009) allows youth without a high school degree or GED to continue their education in a public school until they are 21 (or 22, if they have special educational needs). They can choose to receive academic

and vocational education in the school they attended when they were permanently housed or in the area in which they are now living. Providers expressed the concern that young people do not know this and do not have advocates to help them.

For youth who are interested in career training, the federal Job Corps program is a good option through age 24. Job Corps is a residential, educational and job training program located in the Lincoln-Lemington neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh on Highland Drive. (It has sites throughout the U.S., and youth may choose to attend another site, instead.) The Pittsburgh program offers training in each of the following areas:

- CNA/Home Health Care
- Clinical Medical Assistant
- Medical Office Support
- Electrical Helper
- HVAC
- Facilities Maintenance
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Weatherization (Advanced Training)
- Culinary Arts

The Job Corps website reads, “One of our top goals at Pittsburgh Job Corps is to ensure that every qualified student obtains his or her GED/high school diploma prior to leaving the center. Students who don’t already have a high school diploma upon their arrival at Pittsburgh are enrolled into our GED program. Students who complete the GED program’s core classes may participate in our high school diploma program.” Job Corps also provides basic reading and math, as well as courses in independent living, employability skills and social skills.

To search for work and professional development options, homeless young people, like anyone in the county, can visit a CareerLink site to learn about publicly-funded training opportunities. (See next section for list of CareerLink sites.)

In each of these cases, the young person needs to have a way to learn about the options and guidance, motivation and encouragement to pursue further education. This is part of what they may receive if they are staying in a transitional living program, but not if they are in a shelter or living on the street.

Employment

Most of the homeless youth in the focus groups said that they would like help in finding work, particularly in finding companies that will hire individuals who have criminal backgrounds. The primary place to search for jobs in the county is CareerLink, which has full sites and an affiliate site (offering a subset of services) at these locations:

- Downtown: 425 6th Avenue, 22nd Floor, Pittsburgh PA 15219-1837
- Forest Hills: 2040 Ardmore Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15221
- Lawrenceville: Affiliate site at Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Pennsylvania, 118 52nd Street, Pittsburgh PA 15201. This site has several youth-focused programs.

Pleasant Valley Shelter said that it also refers a number of homeless individuals to the Northside Leadership Conference's Neighborhood Employment Center, located in the Allegheny Center Mall.

Several of the young people interviewed said that they had accessed temporary work through Labor Ready or Manpower, which would get them short-term work, including stints at job sites where they could not walk in and get a job on their own because of their lack of experience or criminal record.

The youth we interviewed are also interested in community service. One person said, "We would do community service to have a tent," and another said, "We want to be able to clean up the camp sites. There are decades of refuse there. We carry it around in trash bags. If we had work gloves and garbage bags, we could clean it up. We want to clean up our area."

Healthcare

Healthcare for the Homeless visits shelters, and OSN goes out in the evenings to provide medical care for the street homeless. There also are free/sliding fee clinics available at locations throughout the county and the Healthcare for the Uninsured program of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, located on Ninth Street in downtown Pittsburgh, which is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A chart of healthcare clinics is provided in Appendix L on page 56.

Transportation

Since there is no one-stop-shop for services for homeless youth, they need to travel among neighborhoods and across the city. This is particularly difficult for youth without bus fare or other transportation options. The exceptions are those youth who:

- Are veterans. They can participate in Veterans Place's "Homeless Veterans Day Program," which has a van service that will take them to its day program, to the VA, and to other appointments, including interviews.
- Are women in Bethlehem Haven's transportation program with Travelers Aid (where they can receive bus tickets).
- Are working with one of the agencies that participate in Travelers Aid's Employment Transportation Assistance Program, or have Medical Assistance and are therefore eligible for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program at Travelers Aid.

- Catch the van at Shepherd's Heart, which leaves at 8:25 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. during the weekday. The van makes 12 stops on the North Side, South Side, downtown and the VA Hospital on University Drive. The van is funded by donations. Shepherd's Heart used to distribute bus tickets, but they "got to be too expensive."

Clothes and shoes

Each of the shelters and drop-in centers has donated clothing available and can access Dress for Success for clothing, but shoes are in short supply and often are not available. One staff person described purchasing shoes for homeless individuals with her own money because "their shoes get worn to the ground."

People who are not in shelters can find clothing and shoes through Miss Nancy, a volunteer who has for many years been distributing coats and boots and washing clothes for the homeless. Dozens of volunteers assist her in these activities on the Line (near the Post-Gazette building) every Monday night at 10 p.m., year round.

Mail and legal assistance

Wellspring Center, which is part of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, provides homeless individuals with a mailing address, which is particularly important for things such as Social Security and job applications. Pleasant Valley residents can use the address at the shelter as their mailing address while they are staying there.

Bethlehem Haven opens its Uptown Legal Clinic once each month, and OSN has its Homeless Experience Legal Protection (Project HELP) program, both of which provide free legal assistance to homeless individuals. Project HELP is staffed by volunteer attorneys and provides services such as "restoring lost identification, filing for government benefits such as Social Security, and assistance in minor criminal cases."

LOCAL ISSUES

With government, private and volunteer support, agencies and faith-based organizations across the county have built a network of housing and homeless services that homeless young adults can access. But this system is highly decentralized and presumes that individuals living on the street can physically get from one service provider to the next within the narrow window of time during which these programs are open, negotiate each of their requirements, and travel across the city and county. It also is built for adults who are more trusting of authority and experienced in how to negotiate for what they need. For those parts of the system that are specifically for younger adults, the age range is too narrow (through age 21 instead of 24) and key services are missing, including a focus on family reunification and employment.

"We've got tons of resources, but they're haphazard and geared to certain ages."

— Homeless person

Issue 1: Being decentralized means people have to travel all over the place

Young people face a crazy quilt of hours and locations when they want to take care of the basics of life. If, for example, a 23-year-old (technically, too old for the DOCS shelter) is street homeless and living on the South Side and learns on a Thursday that he has a job interview on Monday morning, he will need to get to the North Side (Pleasant Valley drop-in) or Uptown (Shepherd's Heart or Wellspring) on Friday to clean his clothes (his last chance, since there is no place to do laundry on the weekend). Over the weekend, he can find breakfast, lunch and dinner at Light of Life on the North Side or dinner at the Food Line downtown. He can then head back Uptown to Shepherd's Heart for breakfast at 8 a.m. and try to catch the free van leaving at 8:55 a.m., which may take him closer to his interview. But if the potential employer tries to contact him by email, he will not have had Internet access at all unless he travels out to the Carnegie Library in Oakland, which is the only site open on Sundays. Even if he can navigate all of this without too much difficulty, he first has to know that these places exist and their hours and criteria.

There is not a "core" set of services identified for any agency participating in this system. The fact that dozens of agencies provide different services at different times of day may, at first glance, be seen as providing choice and flexibility. But young people are walking from place to place or finding case managers who can give them a bus pass (not as a matter of policy, since most agencies do not have funding for this).

Contrast this with Larkin Street in San Francisco, which operates a network of drop-in centers and shelters that it connects through its van transportation. From prevention to street outreach to shelter to employment, one organization works with the youth and helps them with their needs as they change over time.

Issue 2: It's an adult system

The existing set of homelessness and housing programs were created for adults who are more willing to accept authority figures and adult-dominated environments. Youth more often mistrust agencies and authority figures, largely because their own experiences may include abuse, neglect and/or arrest.

Several providers said that adult shelters are not the right place for young adults. One said that when he ran a men's shelter, "I always felt uncomfortable with 21-year-olds in the shelter. The

"If you're old or young or have serious problems, then you can get help. But if you're a regular person who is fighting depression and the desire to do drugs because of your situation, then it's harder to get help." — Homeless person

last thing they needed was one of my crew teaching them something they didn't need to learn." Another provider said that the drop-in center she runs is "not a good place for young people. It's an older crowd." She was concerned for the youth, but also saw that young people brought problems that more mature adults did not (specifically mentioning that they may be more aggressive and may sexualize the environment).

Issue 3: Gaps in services

Because the risk of becoming chronically homeless (and the dangers faced while on that path) can be amplified with time, Whitbeck and others have said that effective interventions for homeless youth should happen immediately and focus on stabilizing them through family reunification (when safe) or through an alternative living arrangement. Her findings apply to minors as well as youth in the 18-through-24 age range.¹² But **active family reunification** is not a stated goal of street outreach, drop-ins or adult shelters, as it is in other cities, and the tools for family reunification, such as family-finding, may not be available to the staff.

¹² In its Framework to End Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness, NAEH writes in its section on 18- through 24-year-olds, "For young adults who fall in the transitional subpopulation, connection with family and caring adults is also a positive outcome and, so again, family intervention could be seen as a first line of intervention, when appropriate."

¹³ 2013 HIC Chart: Inventory of all HIC and PIT

Another gap in services for this age range is **shelter beds**. Other than the DOCS emergency shelter (which serves 18-through-21-year-olds), there is not another emergency shelter in the county for youth ages 18 through 24.¹³ (There are Runaway and Homeless Youth shelters and programs for minors, such as Auberle's McKeesport shelter, which serves youth through age 17.)

One might argue that even if the age range at DOCS were extended through age 24, it still might not be filled most nights — an indication that there are just not enough youth who want or need shelter. But the intake process at DOCS may be suppressing their census. Before assuming that youth do not want or need shelter at DOCS, it would be worthwhile investing in additional staff to provide more frequent intake with fewer barriers to entry.

For individuals of all ages who are **LGBTQ**, and for youth in particular, since they are more likely to be sexual minorities than adults, the lack of **shelter options** is an issue. Pleasant Valley welcomes LGBTQ youth and adults and tries to make sure that they are in beds located close to staff, to help them feel comfortable and safe. The Innovative Housing that CHS recently opened in Oakland is a step in the direction of providing options that are nondiscriminatory and appropriate, but this is available for only four individuals at any point in time. It is likely that, for every 200 homeless youth, 60 (one-third) are LGBTQ.

Another gap is **work** — or information about where to get help in finding a job. Young adults who are homeless want to work (and specifically mentioned doing community service in exchange for housing), but find it difficult to obtain employment because of their criminal record, lack of experience, lack of a telephone, or the difficulty in "getting it together" (haircut, shoes, shave) before job interviews. Only two of the 20 youth in the focus group had heard about CareerLink.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This analysis leads to the following recommendations:

1. Expand the eligibility window for existing services through age 24

Since the FamilyLinks DOCS shelter is not at full capacity and the HUD definition of youth extends through age 24, FamilyLinks should consider extending its age limit. It also should undertake a review of its intake procedures to determine how youth could more quickly and readily access its shelter, including changing the process so that it is less dependent upon youth having access to a telephone. Finally, the staff of the youth drop-in centers (Three Rivers Youth and Persad) should work in concert with the staff at DOCS to ensure that youth learn about the shelter and transitional housing and to coordinate the services and planning for these young people.

2. Plan services for 18- through 24-year-olds

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) recommends that communities develop a plan for serving unaccompanied youth that includes:

- Establishing screening and assessment tools and processes
- Planning strategies and services according to types of risk and protective factors
- Implementing those interventions
- Evaluating impact and using those results for continuous quality improvement and to revise strategies

“We deserve just as much a chance as anybody else. I’m willing to get out and do what I need to do. The most important thing they can give us is a chance.” — Homeless youth

Leaders of the housing and homelessness system in Allegheny County should lead a community effort to develop such a plan for serving homeless youth. Given the significant share of homeless youth who have been in foster care or received other child welfare services, this plan should be coordinated with DHS’s Independent Living program and other resources pioneered by DHS.

The plan may select strategies and services based upon serving either the toughest-to-serve youth (chronicity) or the greatest number of youth (prevalence). Prioritizing chronicity would require a triage tool and investment in strategies that address the array of issues experienced by this relatively small number of youth. Eric Rice of the University of Southern California has suggested that priority be determined using a vulnerability index. He identified six risk factors¹⁴ that correlate with long-term homelessness, finding that only 10 percent of youth have experienced four or more of these risks. NAEH’s Samantha Batko reported that Los Angeles and Chicago are piloting a triage tool.

Choosing instead to target the largest numbers of youth, will most likely result in serving younger individuals in the “low-risk” category. In this case, effective investments would include strategies such as family reunification.

¹⁴ These six risk factors are:

- violence at home among family members
- differences in religious beliefs with parents/guardians/caregivers
- left group or foster home
- first marijuana use under the age of 12
- spent time in jail or juvenile detention before the age of 18
- been pregnant or gotten someone else pregnant

Two additional notes on planning:

Engaging young people: Any plan will necessarily include strategies to reach and engage young people, and focus group participants had the following suggestions for how to do so:

- Go to the Food Line to hand out information. “People there know each other and will let each other know.”
- Post information on bridges and drop-in centers.
- Post information on Facebook, which the youth access from the library.
- Let the “church people” know. They have volunteers who work the Food Line and who walk the streets at night and hold services.
- People who do street outreach should “give young people the run-down, the reality. Instead of what I heard from so many people, ‘Oh, it’s going to get better.’” The youth also said, “We need people who were on the streets and who can mentor people one-on-one. There’s a certain mindset they need to have.”

When asked about the idea of an app that would show services, youth said this was a good idea but said that this should be for outreach workers to use since they (the youth) do not have smartphones. The outreach workers could access the app and provide the information to the youth they meet on the street.

They also cautioned against assuming that most youth have phones. Even if they receive a free phone, it usually has only 250 minutes, which they may use within the first two weeks.

Counting young people: While not essential to beginning the planning, decision-makers would benefit from a more accurate count of homeless youth. Following the guidance of the Youth Count! Initiative, this involves a very organized effort to recruit and train a large number of enumerators, including peers, to ask the kinds of questions that people in Santa Clara County, Boston and Seattle have asked. (See Appendix G on page 49 for information on the Santa Clara County Count, which was part of its total enumeration of homeless individuals and families. It is one of several counts conducted by Applied Survey Research.)

In addition to conducting an accurate count of young people who meet HUD’s definition of homelessness, the county could look at the methodology that Multnomah County, Oregon, and Portland, Maine, have used to estimate the number of people who are couch-surfing. These methods are summarized in Appendix H on page 52.

3. Open a drop-in center in/near downtown; or open shelters during the daytime to serve as drop-in centers

Providers often talked about the old drop-in center for youth that had many of the services and supports that youth need, all under one roof. This center, which was the original iteration of the HUB, was operated in the Strip District by Three Rivers Youth. This center closed two years ago when it lost federal grants. No other full-service center has opened in its place.

Youth and providers alike recommended that a drop-in center be located downtown so that it is within walking distance of a number of services or, if that is not possible, that it be located on the South Side and that the agency provide van access to the center and to other services around the city. They also suggested that it be open “all day, every day” and be available for any young person. One young adult who is homeless said, “The key is knowing about a consistent location,” and another suggested, “There needs to be one set spot.”

It is recommended that this center include:

- A service coordinator who knows about resources and can help young people access them, including the Independent Living program available to youth who were involved with child welfare
- A home base where providers, such as nurses, employers, schools and job training agencies, can come to engage young people

“We could have places where there was a kitchen, bathrooms, and four showers and a common area. Not housing, but a place to come to get cleaned up and meet other people. This also could be where outreach workers or program people could come to let homeless know what is available. This is where people who are just starting in jobs can come to get bus tickets.” — Homeless person

- Food and a small kitchen
- Bathrooms
- Phones
- Computers with Internet access
- Showers
- Laundry facilities
- Van/shuttle bus transportation to key sites
- Bus tickets (as rewards for participation, chores, etc.)
- Work and volunteer opportunities

One shelter provider recommended that the youth be allowed to sleep there during the day because “shelters aren’t set up for that” and the youth may be working late at night and have no place to rest during the day. The youth said that they would like it to be gender-neutral and non-religious.

Finally, the drop-in center needs to be in close communication with street outreach staff and shelters for youth. Providers recommended that the staff who serve 18- through 24-year-olds meet frequently for case reviews, similar to the process for providers of adult men.

4. Increase shelter options for youth

Housing and homeless system leaders should develop new options for shelter while working to ensure that staff and policies are LGBTQ-competent. They should also consider developing shelter options similar to those in other cities, where young people can receive vocational training and job placement, even as they are working on substance use and other issues.

Perhaps without realizing it, young people in the focus group described the kinds of programs already in place in San Francisco and New York:

“Find a building, have a common kitchen, some showers, clean clothing, a shuttle bus, small rooms where people live in exchange for working. We’ll clean the streets, do menial tasks.”

“This would be transitional, a stepping stone for the able-bodied. You’d do the screening to be sure that people follow the rules.”

“What we need [are] homes for the homeless. Where you do community services for room and board. You do work in the place for your room. You go out and get employment. If they paid minimum wage, they teach you how to pay for your bills. It could have a shared kitchen and single rooms. You’d go out to work during the day.”

“People could learn to do construction, clean up buildings, and that could be part of the one-stop shop. Then they could have a job reference. Over time, you could move up and get better jobs.”

5. Review quality of entire continuum and increase training

The government and private funders of the housing and homeless services system should monitor the quality of the system against a set of standards/benchmarks for service provision and from the perspective of youth. In this way, they will know if the collective resources spent on outreach, support and services are being used effectively. This regular review also would clarify whether the network of services assumed to be in place actually are available. (For example, county leaders may think that homeless youth can go to RE:Solve or Mercy Behavioral Health

“You need to drop some undercover into shelters. Go check it out. What you think is going on in there — well, it’s not like what you think.” — Homeless person

Crisis Center as a place to get warm during the day or to sleep, if the youth are truly without a place to stay. But this may not be within these providers’ written criteria or understanding of their mission. Similarly, the shelters may say that they are open to sexual minorities, but it would be important to ask them and observe how they handle gay or

transgender individuals in need of shelter or transitional housing. The review would also take into consideration the multiple funding sources with their respective requirements and policies.

Part of the work of quality assurance would be to identify topics and areas for training that would improve services delivered to the youth, such as cultural competence, trauma-informed care and availability of resources in the community.

Training and communication linkages also should be provided to individuals at key intervention points, such as librarians, police and teachers, as they frequently encounter homeless youth and want to understand the issues they face as well as what, exactly, they can do to help to meet their immediate needs and link them with services.

In these ways, Allegheny County can ensure that it has a compassionate and effective system for identifying and helping young adults get the services they need to live safely and take the next steps in building their lives.

APPENDIX A: METHODS

This report was developed by:

- Reviewing national and local research on the reasons for homelessness, the characteristics of homeless youth, the issues they face, effective interventions, and census and survey measures of unaccompanied youth.
- Interviewing (through face-to-face meetings and telephone calls) more than 30 outreach staff and service providers based in Allegheny County, facilitating two focus groups totaling 20 unaccompanied homeless youth, and telephone conversations with administrators at Lighthouse and at the National Alliance to End Homelessness.
- Collecting program descriptions and outcomes information from national and local online searches, and reviewing service utilization data provided by DHS's offices of Data, Analysis, Research and Evaluation (DARE) and Community Services.
- Reviewing the funding legislation for homeless individuals and families.
- Reviewing key conclusions and recommendations with several homeless services providers.

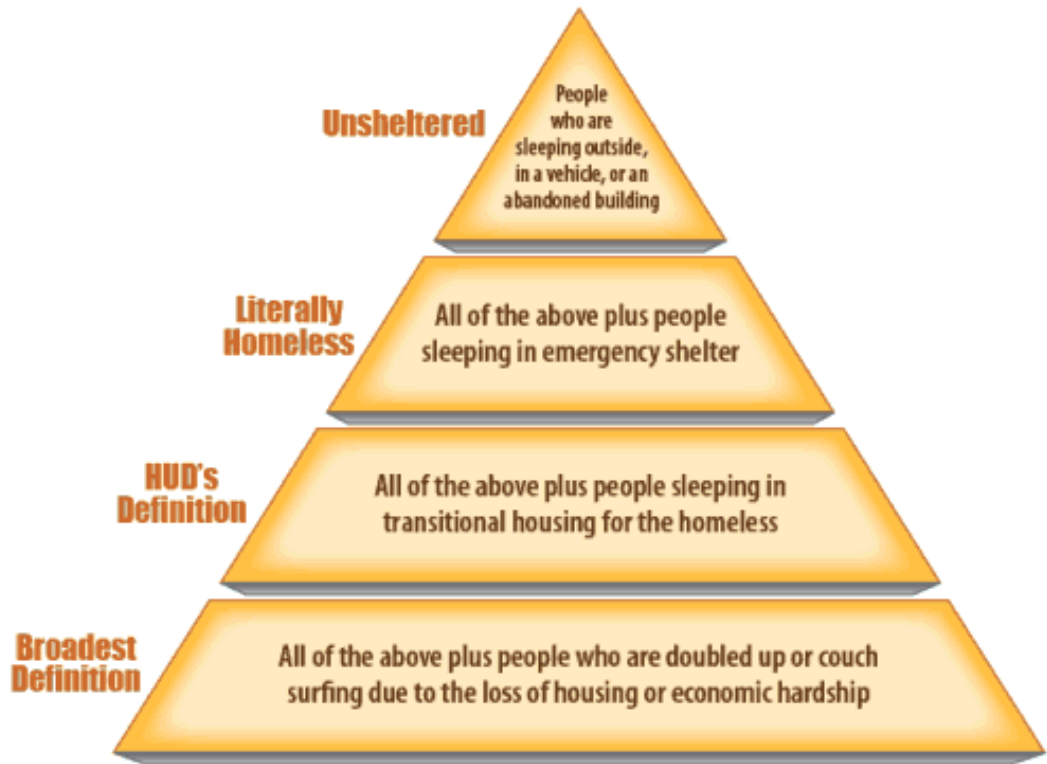
APPENDIX B: COMMENTS

Homeless services providers offered a number of suggestions, many of which are incorporated within the report. Other comments that they made are listed — unedited and in no particular order — below:

- Regarding the chart showing that youth are more likely to use motels/hotels than adults: This is an intervention point... so can we talk with hotel owners about referring youth?
- The listing of concerns about the number of homeless youth should also include the fact that this is economically costly for the nation. Educational remediation, alone, is very expensive; therefore, it is well worth the investment in preventing youth from becoming more deeply enmeshed in homelessness.
- Point out that kids don't want to go to the homeless shelters for adults. They will take the food and then go. With the severe weather shelter, the presence of the cops makes them feel like it is jail. We need to create a welcome space.
- To ask a kid who needs shelter, "Where did you spend last night?" is not always the best way to do triage. If they are calling, they need a place to stay. They may have exhausted their last stay at a friend's or a stranger's place, and they are asking for help.
- Be cautious about concentrating all of the services under one roof. If a young person acted up once, he might be locked out of a lot of services if he's not able to come to that special drop-in or shelter.
- We should be including judges in this, too. They would like training because they have these young people come before them and may not know their circumstances or the resources that are available.
- We shouldn't expect young people to have to take a bus from one service to the next. Wherever we locate the drop-in center (and the best place is downtown), it should be within walking distance of a lot of services.

APPENDIX C: CATEGORIES OF HOMELESSNESS

This graphic, from the Multnomah County, Oregon, PIY Count 2013, shows how HUD's definition of homelessness leaves out a category of individuals and families who are without stable housing:



APPENDIX D: DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESS YOUTH

HUD's rule: includes definitions of other federal statutes

In its Final Rule of December 5, 2011, HUD clarified the term "youth."

"Youth is defined as less than 25 years of age."

HUD then changed the language of its categories of individuals or families who are homeless to add the following:

(3) "Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition."

Those "other federal statutes" are listed on page 75996 of the Federal Register of December 5, 2011. They are the:

- Runaway and Homeless Youth act
- Head Start Act
- Subtitle N of the Violence Against Women Act
- Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act
- The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
- Subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act (which was amended in 2009; see relevant section of the Act, below).

"Other federal statutes"

(Source: Materials prepared by Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition, Wisconsin; amendment to McKinney-Vento is from the HEARTH Act)

Runaway & Homeless Youth Act

Homeless definition under section 387 of the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act: (3) HOMELESS YOUTH — The term 'homeless,' used with respect to a youth, means an individual — (A) who is —

- (i) less than 21 years of age, or, in the case of a youth seeking shelter in a center under part A, less than 18 years of age or is less than a higher maximum age if the State where the center is located has an applicable State or local law (including a regulation) that permits such higher maximum age in compliance with licensure requirements for child- and youth-serving facilities; and
- (ii) for the purposes of part B, not less than 16 years of age and either
 - (I) less than 22 years of age; or
 - (II) not less than 22 years of age, as the expiration of the maximum period of stay permitted under section 322(a)(2) if such individual commences such stay before reaching 22 years of age; (B) for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and (C) who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.

Appendix D:
Definitions of
Homeless Youth
(continued)

This is not to be confused with the definition of Runaway: (4) RUNAWAY YOUTH — The term 'runaway,' used with respect to a youth, means an individual who is less than 18 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian.

Head Start Act

Section 637 of the Head Start Act (the site was last updated in 2008).

The term 'homeless children' has the meaning given the term 'homeless children and youths' in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

Violence Against Women Act

Section 14043 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994

(12) HOMELESS — The term 'homeless' has the meaning provided in section 41403(6); http://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic_violence/resources/resources_for_attorneys/legislation/vawa.html

Definition from the most recent revision in section 41403 Definitions:

(6) the terms 'homeless,' 'homeless individual,' and 'homeless person' —

(A) mean an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

(B) includes —

(i) an individual who —

(I) is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;

(II) is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;

(III) is living in an emergency or transitional shelter;

(IV) is abandoned in a hospital; or

(V) is awaiting foster care placement;

(ii) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or

(iii) migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; 20 U.S.C. 6399) who qualify as homeless under this section because the children are living in circumstances described in this paragraph;

(7) the term 'homeless service provider' means a nonprofit, nongovernmental homeless service provider, such as a homeless shelter, a homeless service or advocacy program, a tribal organization serving homeless individuals, or coalition or other nonprofit, nongovernmental

Appendix D:
Definitions of
Homeless Youth
(continued)

organization carrying out a community-based homeless or housing program that has a documented history of effective work concerning homelessness;

Public Health Service Act

Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act A) Homeless individual.

The term “homeless individual” means an individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether the individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing.

Food and Nutrition Act

Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008

(m) “Homeless individual” means —

- (1) an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or
- (2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is —
 - (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including a welfare hotel or congregate shelter) designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
 - (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
 - (C) a temporary accommodation for not more than 90 days in the residence of another individual;or
 - (D) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Child Nutrition Act

Section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966

“Homeless individual” means —

- (A) an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or
- (B) an individual whose primary nighttime residence is —
 - (i) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including a welfare hotel or congregate shelter) designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
 - (ii) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
 - (iii) a temporary accommodation in the residence of another individual; or
 - (iv) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Appendix D:
Definitions of
Homeless Youth
(continued)

McKinney-Vento

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

As amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009

SEC. 103. [42 USC 11302]. GENERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this Act, the term “homeless,” “homeless individual,” and “homeless person” means—

- (1) an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- (2) an individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- (3) an individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- (4) an individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
- (5) an individual or family who—
 - (A) will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, as evidenced by—
 - (i) a court order resulting from an eviction action that notifies the individual or family that they must leave within 14 days;
 - (ii) the individual or family having a primary nighttime residence that is a room in a hotel or motel and where they lack the resources necessary to reside there for more than 14 days; or
 - (iii) credible evidence indicating that the owner or renter of the housing will not allow the individual or family to stay for more than 14 days, and any oral statement from an individual or family seeking homeless assistance that is found to be credible shall be considered credible evidence for purposes of this clause; (B) has no subsequent residence identified; and (C) lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing; and
- (6) **unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes who —**

Appendix D:
Definitions of
Homeless Youth
(continued)

- (A) have experienced a long term period without living independently in permanent housing,
 - (B) have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and
 - (C) can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment.
- (b) **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER DANGEROUS OR LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS** — Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary shall consider to be homeless any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life threatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

APPENDIX E: SUMMARIES OF KEY LEGISLATION

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

Purpose

Targets runaway and unaccompanied youth and provides housing and services to help them exit homelessness.

What does it pay for?

- The Street Outreach Program
- Basic Centers Program
- Transitional Living Program
- Emergency shelters for up to 21 days
- Food and clothing
- Health care
- Counseling
- Employment
- Education
- Mental health
- STD testing
- Shelter for up to 18 months
- Home-based services for youth at risk of separation from family — including individual, family and group counseling

Political context

- Passed in 1974 as Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in reaction to an increasing number of runaways entering the juvenile justice system
- Was expanded to include homeless youth, not just runaways, in 1977
- Reauthorized most recently in 2008 — more funding directed toward studying the prevalence of youth homelessness
- Administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Who is served?

Homeless Youth:

- Less than 21 years of age or, in the case of a youth seeking shelter, less than 18 years of age
- For whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative
- Who has no other safe alternative living arrangement

Appendix E:
Summaries of
Key Legislation
(continued)

Runaway Youth:

- Less than 18 years of age
- Who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian

McKinney-Vento Homeless Educational Assistance Improvements Act (2001)

Purpose

Educational stability for homeless and unaccompanied youth.

Requirements

- Districts must provide equal educational opportunities, transportation, integration into school community, and full access to meal program.
- Homeless and unaccompanied youth have the option to remain in their school of origin even if they no longer reside in the district (transportation must be covered).
- If homeless or unaccompanied youth opt to attend a new school, school must remove all barriers to enrollment (medical and educational records, proof of residency, uniform requirements, etc.).
- Districts must provide training for staff members in how to serve homeless and unaccompanied youth with sensitivity.
- Districts must appoint a homeless liaison to communicate with families in writing, facilitate special services for homeless children, and track data.

What does it pay for?

- Tutoring and educational support services
- Referrals and evaluations of children for gifted and talented, SPED, and ESL
- Professional development for school staff on sensitivity, rights and needs of unaccompanied/homeless youth
- Referrals for medical, dental or mental health services
- Funding for school districts to cover the cost of transporting homeless youth to and from school
- Pre-school program for unaccompanied/homeless children if not already provided through federal, state or local funding
- Programs to attract and engage unaccompanied/homeless youth in school activities that are already being provided to non-homeless youth
- Before- and after-school mentoring, tutoring and homework help

Appendix E:
Summaries of
Key Legislation
(continued)

- Fees and costs associated with transferring school and medical records and any evaluations for special services
- Training for parents of homeless youth on their child's rights and the available resources
- Coordination efforts between schools and outside service providers
- Pupil services (violence prevention, etc.) for homeless/unaccompanied youth
- Activities and services for children exposed to domestic violence
- Space and supplies for any non-school facilities providing the services listed above
- School supplies to be distributed at shelters or other temporary housing locations
- "Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school"

Political context

- Authorized by President George W. Bush as part of No Child Left Behind
- Part of larger bill: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act enacted in 1987
 - McKinney-Vento provides emergency shelter, housing, job training, health care, and education for homeless individuals and families.
 - Continuum of Care system charged with distributing grants and evaluating programs.
- Administered through the U.S. Department of Education Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act (2009)

Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act (2009)

Purpose

To consolidate homeless assistance programs that existed under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. To ensure that homeless families can quickly return to permanent housing.

What does it pay for?

- Construction of permanent and transitional housing
- The purchase and redevelopment of property for housing or services
- Rental assistance and assistance with operating costs for transitional housing
- Supportive services
- Rehousing services: housing search, mediation, credit repair, security deposits
- Homeless management information system for a community
- Administrative costs of program implementation

Appendix E:
Summaries of
Key Legislation
(continued)

Political context

- Signed into law by President Obama as part of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act (2009), which sought to help homeowners avoid foreclosure and bankruptcy
- Consolidated three homeless assistance programs administered by HUD under the McKinney-Vento Act into one grant program
- Amended and reauthorized McKinney-Vento
- Through HUD
- An updated and expanded definition of homelessness to include “at risk” and to define a relationship with substance abuse and mental health (see below)

Who is served?

- **At Risk:**
Expands definition and extends services to individuals and families at risk for homelessness:
 - May lose permanent housing within 14 days and has no subsequent housing lined up
 - Those who have had housing instability characterized by frequent moves
 - Low income, defined as 30% of median in their region
 - Lives in a hotel
 - Lives in an overcrowded home
 - Lives in another person’s home
- **Unaccompanied Youth:**
Unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes who —
 - have experienced a long-term period without living independently in permanent housing,
 - have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and
 - can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment.
- **Homeless Individuals/Families** (per Final Rule, printed in Federal Register of December 5, 2011)
The final rule maintains these four categories:
 - (1) Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;

Appendix E:
Summaries of
Key Legislation
(continued)

- (2) Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
- (3) Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes¹⁴ who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; and
- (4) Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member” (Federal Register Marquez, December 5, 2011, pp. 75995–75996).

¹⁵ These statutes are the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Head Start Act, subtitle N of the Violence Against Women Act; section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, and subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act.

APPENDIX F: METHODS OF MEASURING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

METHOD TYPE	DESCRIPTION	WHAT IT CAPTURES	WHAT IT MISSES
Point-in-Time Estimation	Counting and surveying the homeless living in shelters, on the streets, in cars or in abandoned buildings at a given point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic homelessness • Homeless and unaccompanied youth who live on the street or in shelters • The need for temporary housing on any given night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless and unaccompanied homeless youth who are sleeping at multiple residences (couch-surfing) or who remain out of sight (squatting) • Episodic homelessness, short-term homelessness (youth who were not on the street that particular night but are still considered homeless)
Period Estimation	Surveying a random sampling of youth to ask if they have slept in a nontraditional place in the last 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Episodic homelessness • Short-term homelessness • The random sampling method provides data that are more representative of the population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who cannot be tracked down with an address or phone number • Self-reporting bias
Service Provider Estimation	Compiling the data collected by service providers across the city to tally the homeless youth served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who have participated in any services in the past year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who have remained outside of the system

APPENDIX G: SANTA CLARA COUNTY METHODOLOGY FOR COUNTING HOMELESS

2013 Applied Survey Research (ASR)

Street Count Methodology¹⁶

¹⁶ This is an excerpt from a longer document that includes the methodology for shelter count.

Definition

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used:

Individuals and families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

Research Design

Santa Clara County covers approximately 1,291 square miles. The logistics for conducting a Point-in-Time (PIT) street count of homeless people in a county this large and densely populated required the enumeration to take place over a two-day period. The unsheltered and sheltered homeless counts were coordinated to occur within the same time period in order to minimize potential duplicate counting of homeless persons.

Volunteer and Worker Recruitment

An enumeration effort of this magnitude can only be successful with the assistance of those who possess an intimate knowledge of the activities and locations of homeless people. Therefore, the recruitment and training of homeless persons to work as enumerators was an essential part of the street count methodology. Previous research has shown that homeless people, teamed with staff members from homeless service agencies, can be part of a productive and reliable work force. To work on the street count, prospective enumerators were required to attend a 1-hour information and training session. Training sessions were held at multiple locations throughout Santa Clara County during the week prior to the street count. These sessions were attended primarily by homeless persons, staff from homeless service agencies, and staff from the County of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose, and the City of Palo Alto.

Homeless persons who completed the required training session were paid \$10.00 on the morning they reported to work for the street count. Homeless workers were also paid \$10.00 per hour for their work on the count, and were reimbursed for any expenses (mainly transportation costs) they incurred during the hours they worked.

Street Count Teams

On the mornings of the census, two-person teams were created to enumerate designated areas of the county for the street count. A team was ideally composed of one volunteer and one homeless person who had attended a training and information session. Street count teams were provided with census tract maps of their assigned areas, census tally sheets, a review of

Appendix G:
Santa Clara County
Methodology for
Counting Homeless
(continued)

the census training documents and techniques, and other supplies. Prior to deployment, volunteers and workers were provided with a reminder of how to enumerate thoroughly without disturbing homeless people or anyone else encountered during the street census. Over the two-day census period, all 341 census tracts in Santa Clara County were enumerated.

Safety Precautions

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Precautions were taken to prepare a safe environment in all deployment centers. Law enforcement districts were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. No official reports were received in regard to unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the street census in any area of the county.

Street Count Deployment

Since it was necessary to conduct the enumeration over a period of two days, January 29 and 30, 2013, Santa Clara County was divided into two areas: the area to the east of Highway 17 and Interstate 880 and the area to the west of these freeways. On January 29, the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill, portions of the cities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Milpitas, San Jose, and the unincorporated areas in the eastern and southwestern parts of the county were enumerated. The following morning, January 30, remaining portions of the cities of Campbell, Milpitas, Los Gatos, and San Jose; the cities of Cupertino, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and the unincorporated areas in the northwestern part of the county were enumerated.

The two-day enumeration effort was conducted between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. This early morning enumeration strategy was selected in order to avoid duplicate counting of sheltered homeless persons and to increase the visibility of the street homeless.

All accessible streets, roads, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traveled by foot, bike, or car. Homeless enumerators were also instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets for the street count, if they were not going to be counted by a shelter or institutional census.

Upon their return, teams turned in their census tally forms and were debriefed by the deployment captains. Observational comments and the integrity of the enumeration effort were reviewed and assessed. This review was primarily done to check for double-counting and to verify that every accessible road within the assigned area was enumerated.

Targeted Street Outreach — Youth

Unaccompanied youth tend to be difficult to enumerate in the morning census, since they do not usually co-mingle with the adult homeless population. For this reason, special youth enumeration teams consisting of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth were formed to conduct the targeted count. Youth enumerators were deployed from the Bill Wilson Drop-In Center and were given a general geographical area in Santa Clara County to count rather than specific census tract maps. These teams counted between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., when homeless youth are

**Appendix G:
Santa Clara County
Methodology for
Counting Homeless**

(continued)

most likely to be visible on the streets, and were assigned to specific areas to minimize duplication. They enumerated unaccompanied homeless children under age 18 and youth 18 to 24 years old.

Targeted Street Outreach — Encampments

The City of San Jose and Santa Clara County have explored numerous service and outreach initiatives related to the burgeoning growth of encampments in urban locations near waterways, public works, and other general urban open space areas. The City of San Jose, in particular, funds a homeless outreach and engagement program with Outreach Worker staff dedicated to linking encamped homeless to services and housing. These teams frequent encampments and build relationships that encourage participation in local homeless service initiatives, whether it is housing or other supportive services.

Larger encampment areas in the City of San Jose were identified prior to the census count, and special teams of Outreach Workers, familiar with these areas, were organized to count those residing in these larger encampments on the dates of the count. Targeted encampment areas were identified on general street count maps, and those homeless persons residing in those encampments were counted by the Outreach Workers rather than the census street teams. The result was the most comprehensive profile of homeless encampments in San Jose that has been done to date.

Targeted Street Outreach — Vehicles

Identifying individuals residing in vehicles is difficult during the morning hours of the census count. By the time the sun rises, those residing in vehicles have often moved on to more remote locations or have found places where they blend in. North Santa Clara County recognized the need for targeted outreach and provided a dedicated outreach worker to enumerate vehicles prior to sunrise. All enumeration teams, including North County outreach, were asked to gather the first four digits of license plates to ensure that vehicles were not double-counted.

APPENDIX H: COUNTING COUCH-SURFERS

Two examples of how counties have estimated the number of people in their area who were doubling up:

Multnomah County, Oregon: “The Department of Human Services reported that 11,846 of the 74,006 households in Multnomah County enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) during the week of the count identified themselves as homeless. This figure includes households who were sheltered, unsheltered, and doubled up (as well as 166 households who did not self-identify as homeless but who listed a shelter as their address). If this figure included all of the sheltered and unsheltered households counted in the Street Count and ONSC (a conservative assumption), the number of households who were doubled up would be 4.13 times the number who were literally homeless.”

Portland, Maine: The county calculated the average person-days between when an individual reported their last permanent residence, then subtracted the average number of shelter days to derive the number of days during which someone was not in a home and not in a shelter — and therefore presumed to be couch-surfing. This led them to a fairly low number (86 couch-surfers, compared with 232 people in shelters — for all adults, not just youth).

TABLE 1: Estimation of number of people homeless who are not found in shelters nor on the streets

VARIABLE	DEFINITION	PIT SURVEY
A	Number of people in shelters	232
B	Number of survey participants (N)	222
C	Estimated total person-days since leaving last permanent residence, of N	101,131
D	C/B average number of days homeless per person	456
E	Estimated total person-days in shelter, of N	63,484
F	C-E total person-days not in a shelter, of N	37,648
G	F/D estimated number of people without a residence but not in a shelter, per N	83
H	G/B estimated percent increase of homeless population over number of people found in shelters, based on N	37%
I	H+I estimated number of “couch-surfers”	86
J	A+I estimated number of homeless on the night of the survey	318

APPENDIX I: MAP 1: RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS

Developed by a Committee and produced by Community Human Services, 2013



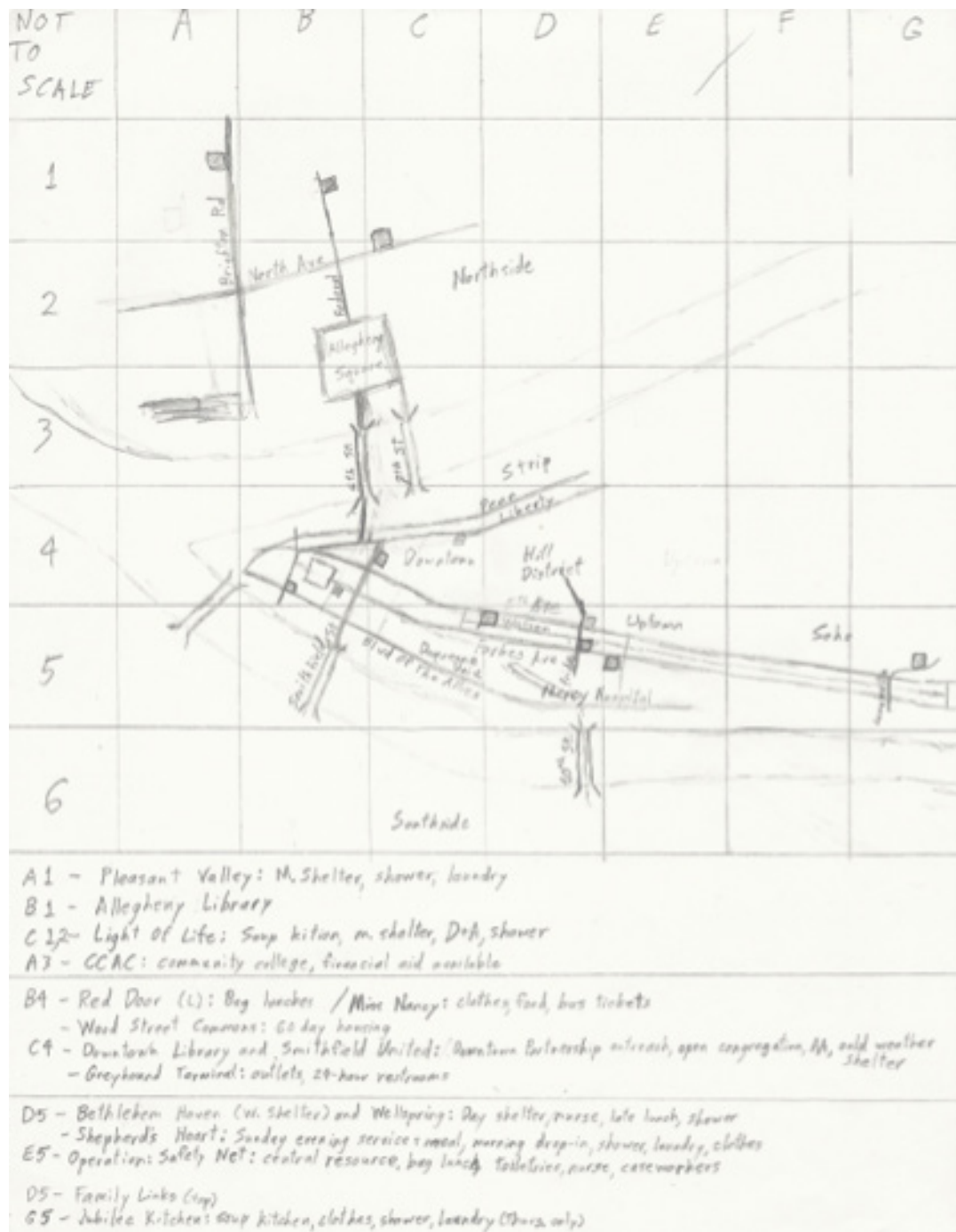
- A. Food Line, M-F 7 p.m.** ●
across from the Post-Gazette Bldg. on the Blvd of the Allies.
- B. The Red Door, Open M-S 9-11:45 a.m.** ●
Stanwix St (x Blvd of the Allies)
- C. Wood Street Commons, ▲ (W) (M)**
301 Third Ave (x Wood St). (412) 765-2532 +
apply M, Tu 9-10 a.m.
- D. Severe Weather Shelter ▲**
620 Smithfield St (x Strawberry Way) (412) 779-1329
open if weather is severe and/or 25 or below, 11/15 - 3/15 | 7p-7a
- E. 1. Department of Human Services 1-800-662-6700**
1 Smithfield St (x Fort Pitt Blvd) open M-F 9a-5p
2. Traveler's Aid (412) 281-5474
103 Smithfield St. (x First Avenue) open M-F 9a-5p
- F. 1. Bethlehem Haven ▲ (W)**
905 Watson St. (x Chatham Square)
for intake call (412) 391-1348 x144, FCPS
2. Wellsprings ● ■ ★ | / + open M-F 10a-5p
903 Watson St. (x Chatham Square) (412) 263-2545
- G. 1. Miryam's (W only) ★ ● +** open daily 10a - 6p
1410 Forbes (X Cross St) (412) 281-4645
2. Shepherd's Heart ● | ● open 8a-10a
13 Pride Street (x Forbes Ave) (412) 281-1305
3. Operation Safety Net / open M, W, Th, F 7a-4p
1518 Forbes Ave (X Marion St.) (412) 232-5739
4. Family Links ▲ (W)(M) (ages 18-21)
1601 Fifth Ave (x Vine) for intake call (412) 471-6160
- H. 1. Community Human Services /**
1945 Fifth Avenue (x Ligonville) open 9 - 5p (412) 246-1640
2. Jubilee Kitchen ● / + ★ open daily 8:30a - 1p
2005 Wyandotte Street (x Fifth Ave) (412) 261-5417

+ Clinic days and times are subject to change. Please contact site or Health Care for the Homeless at (412) 244-4775 for up to date information.

- L.1. Mercy Behavioral - Crisis (24/7)**
264 South 9th Street (x Bingham) 1.877.637.2924
- 2. Operation Safety Net - Trail Lanes /**
249 South 9th Street (x Bingham) (412) 246-2900
- 3. Birmingham Clinic +**
44 South 9th Street (x Cabot Way) (412) 431-4280
- J. ONALA Club - NA, AA Meetings (412) 566-9220**
1625 West Carson Street (x West Station Square)
- K. Pleasant Valley ▲ (M) ● ★ + | /**
1601 Brighton Road (x Freedmore) drop-in M-F 9a-12p
shelter intakes no later than 8:30 a, FCPS (412) 321-4272
- L. Light of Life Rescue Mission ▲ (M)**
10 E. North Avenue (x Federal)
intakes start at 3:30p, FCPS (412) 803-4120
- M. Salvation Army Northside +**
100 W. North Avenue (x Reddour) (412) 321-0290
- N. Veteran's Leadership Program /**
2417 E. Carson St (x S. 25th) (412) 481.8200
- O. East End Cooperative Ministries**
(412) 361-5549
▲ (M) Church at 116 S. Highland (x Penn) intake starts at 6:30p
★ + Church at 5450 Friendship Avenue (x Roup) M-F 1:30p-5:30p
- P. Alma Illery + (412) 244-4700**
7227 Hamilton Avenue (x Albion)
- Q. RE: Solve Crisis Center (24/7)**
333 North Braddock Avenue (x Penn Ave 15208) [1-888-796-8226]
- R. Veterans Place Homeless Day Program (412) 363-0592**
945 Washington Boulevard (x Shetland) open 8-3p
- S. Veterans Affairs (the VA) ● / ● ★**
H.J. Heinz Facility 1010 Delafield Rd (x Patriot Way) ASPINWALL
building #69 | (412) 822-1275 open daily 7:30a-4p
VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 1.877.424.3838
- T. No Walls Ministries (under 279 overpass X 9th street)**
(412) 779-4651 Saturdays 12:30p-4:30pm

APPENDIX J: MAP 2: RESOURCES TO SHARE WITH UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

Drawn by a homeless person



APPENDIX K: CALCULATIONS

TABLE 1: Calculation of Number of Homeless Youth without Children in Allegheny County (does not include couch-surfers)

18-THROUGH-24-YEAR-OLDS IN:	2012 PIT COUNT	ADJUSTED
Emergency shelter	29	29
Transitional housing	62	62
Unsheltered	15	109*
Total	106	200

*Applying the 1:1.2 unsheltered ratio of sheltered:unsheltered, the rate found by enumerators in Portland, Ore. Calculated as ((29+62) * 1.2)

Source: January 30, 2012 PIT Count

TABLE 2: Calculation of Shelter Bed Utilization (homeless consumers, PIT counts for individuals of all ages, without children)

	2012	2013
SHELTER STATUS ON EVENING OF POINT-IN-TIME COUNT:		
Emergency shelter	323	253
Unsheltered	56	91
Subtotal	379	344
EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS:		
Bed utilization: Those in shelter	108%	70%
Bed utilization: If sheltered and unsheltered had used available beds	127%	95%

APPENDIX L: HEALTH CARE CLINICS WITH FREE OR SLIDING FEE SCALES

NAME OF CLINIC	LOCATION	OPERATED BY / DETAILS
Birmingham Free Clinic	South Side	Operated by Pitt, UPMC, Salvation Army
Catholic Charities Free Healthcare Center	Downtown	Make appointment
Community Human Services Corporation	Oakland	Registered nurse available for walk-ins
Healthcare for the Homeless	At each shelter/site+ GLCC, Wellsprings	
Jubilee Association	Uptown	Operated by Community Human Services
Hilltop Community Health Center	South Hills	
North Side Christian Health Care Center	North Side	
Primary Care Health Services (health care)	Hill District	Hill House Health Center
	Hazelwood	Hazelwood Family Health Center
	Steel Valley	Steel Valley Family Health Center
	East End	Alma Illery Medical Center
	East End	East End Community Health Center
	Wilksburg	Wilksburg Family Health Center
	Braddock	Braddock Family Health Center (walk-ins 5-9 on Tues and 11-3 on Sat)
	Duquesne	Duquesne Family Health Center
	McKeesport	McKeesport Family Health Center
	Rankin	Rankin Family Health Center
Primary Care Health Services (dental)	East End	East Liberty Family Health Center
	East End	Lincoln-Lemington Office
	East End	Lincoln-Lemington Office
Squirrel Hill Health Center	Squirrel Hill	
Sto-Rox Neighborhood Family Health Center	McKees Rocks	
The Free Clinic at Braddock	Braddock	

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