

JULY 2020

Activating Uptake to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness: National Community Survey Findings

Introduction

The number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness each year in this nation far exceeds existing resources. Currently, only 35% of youth and young adults seeking housing are being served, leaving 65% experiencing homelessness and housing instability*. The small percentage who are served wait, on average, five months before receiving housing support. Furthermore, recent research* has revealed how these inadequate response systems are not only perpetuating homelessness, but are also contributing to national increases in the number of youth and young adults who experience homelessness each year.

Over the last three years, Youth Collaboratory has worked with local community providers, advocates, researchers, government agencies, philanthropists, and youth and young adults to design coordinated system and community level responses that prevent and end youth homelessness. Our work has focused on capturing key learnings iteratively, building evidence, and creating practical tools to impact communities.

Initiatives focused on preventing and ending youth homelessness (known as "catalytic projects") involving 75 communities (as of March 2020), have significantly advanced our understanding of HOW to prevent and end youth homelessness. These catalytic projects include:

- [HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\)](#).
- [Coordinated Entry Learning Collaborative](#)
- [100 Day Challenges](#)
- [Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness](#)
- [Smarter Coordinated Responses Brief \(Holy Grail analysis\)](#).
- [Anchor Community Initiatives](#)
- [Youth Outcomes Project](#)
- [True Colors Community Initiatives](#)
- [Upstream \(U.S.\)](#)
- [Grand Challenge](#)**

**[Toward a System Response to Ending Youth Homelessness](#), created by Youth Collaboratory in partnership with Chapin Hall and University of Southern California*

***Not included as a catalytic project in the analysis due to timing of the launch and survey administration. It did inform development of the community assessment tool.*

From this work, we have an improved understanding of:

1. What it takes to pivot to a coordinated community response focused on preventing and ending youth homelessness, including the incentives and strategies that stimulate systems-level change at a community level.
2. Elements of an effective coordinated response (e.g., representation/decision-making power, effectively using data, centering equity) that set communities on a smarter, faster trajectory toward ending youth homelessness.

We recognize there is more to learn before we, as a nation, are able to prevent and end youth homelessness. This includes an ongoing need to advance research, strengthen evaluation, improve national policy, and create systems that work for those most impacted. And, we also recognize there is a growing divide between the few communities equipped to iterate towards this goal and the vast majority of communities.

While catalytic projects have rapidly moved the needle in what we know, the number of communities utilizing this information remains low. The 75 communities involved in catalytic projects represent roughly 19% of the 402 Continuums of Care* nationally. In fact, a majority of communities have yet to pivot to a coordinated and systemic response to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness. Most community approaches lack essential elements such as centering the wisdom of youth and young adults with lived experience, utilizing data to drive change, and designated leadership -- leaving a wide gap between the 75 communities and the rest of the field (86% of Continuums of Care). To shift the larger field, we need to reach a critical mass of communities. The Activating Uptake initiative is designed to define and address that divide.

This report outlines the first three steps in closing this divide and reaching a critical mass of communities:

1. **Define High Leverage Components** - We distilled and synthesized the critical elements that set communities on a smarter, faster trajectory. Utilizing the work and funding already invested in catalytic projects, eight high leverage components (HLCs) were identified.
2. **Survey Communities** - We surveyed 60 communities to identify the size and scope of the challenge ahead, and identified both barriers and opportunities.
3. **Design National Uptake Strategy** - Increase the percentage of communities actively engaged in preventing and ending youth homelessness over the next two years.

**A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals.*

Defining High Leverage Components

One of the challenges in community uptake is a lack of synthesized information on what sets communities on a smarter, faster trajectory towards preventing and ending youth homelessness. To this end, Youth Collaboratory completed a process to synthesize these high leverage components at a community level. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders involved in catalytic projects, where conversations focused on identification of high leverage components, the priority order of such components, and the role they see catalytic projects playing in efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. Common themes immediately emerged, and when new or less prevalent topics were mentioned, additional details and community examples were collected. This information was analyzed to identify eight high leverage components which are defined on page 5. Each high leverage component is measured by two or three concrete indicators. For example, one indicator of Authentic Youth Engagement is The CoC board having at least two voting seats dedicated to youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness and/or housing instability. A full description of the indicators for each high leverage component is available at the end of this report on page 22.

Together, these eight high leverage components make up the Activating Uptake Framework, a process for organizing efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. It is important to acknowledge that in some communities, similar and complementary frameworks have been developed to advance local efforts. Activating Uptake is not meant to diminish or replace the advancements and structure in communities but rather to offer a framework for those communities where one does not yet exist, and affirm the approach of communities engaged in the work to prevent and end youth homelessness.

High Leverage Components

Authentic Youth Collaboration

The community is engaged in an authentic, transparent, and collaborative decision making process where youth and young adults with lived experience are partners in the work and have power to impact change. The community has an active Youth Action Board representing multiple perspectives of youth and young adults with lived experience who are financially compensated for their time, expertise, and contributions.

Centering Equity

The community has an explicit commitment to equity for youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth, beginning in the homeless response system, including agreement that if efforts are not scaled up to end homelessness among youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth, youth homelessness will not end. The community acknowledges inequities and makes a commitment to not perpetuate the issues that exist through power redistribution and deep understanding of racial equity and LGBTQ+ equity issues across all data points.

Prevention Focus

At a community level, there is increased capacity to reduce inflow of youth and young adults into homelessness, particularly for youth and young adults with experiences that put them at risk of losing housing. Preventing youth homelessness is a high priority, requiring alignment and collaboration between youth and family systems. The community also takes a holistic approach to partnerships that go beyond typical partners (criminal justice, education, and child welfare) and include faith community, social safety nets, government, mental health, and parenting support networks.

Collective Ownership

The community has and embraces a local or state plan of action for youth homelessness that includes system performance and population outcome indicators. The plan has a concurrent focus on coordinating its response as well as right-sizing the system to invest in an array of program options.

Strong Leadership

There is a clear leader(s) who is a high level champion, acting with urgency, adapting, making decisions, and is respected in the community. Supporting that leader(s) is a specific body and/or entity includes the Youth Action Board and facilitates coordination between all relevant agencies on issues relating to youth homelessness with influence and authority to advance change. Additionally, leadership is able to mediate disparate stakeholder opinions into a common set of values and goals.

Cross Systems Collaboration

The community fully believes that the homeless system cannot end youth homelessness alone; they actively work to create strong cross system partnerships to meet the end goal. This includes a commitment to end siloing of systems such as child welfare, justice, behavioral health, and schools. Communities have strategies in place that demonstrate mutual interest and strong leadership collaboration between systems to solve one another's challenges for the youth they have in common, at all levels of the agencies - from leadership to the front lines.

Having and Using Good Data

The community has built a culture of continuously collecting, improving, and using data to inform decisions, even when the data is not perfect. There is comfort and confidence in data, largely due to having quality data that is available at program, system, and community levels. The community knows who is experiencing homelessness (quality by-name list) and understands inflow, returns to the homeless system, lengths of time homeless, from where youth are coming, and the community's inventory of resources.

Capacity to Drive Change

There is widespread belief in the community in the ability to end youth homelessness, and a specific entity and/or individual that facilitates coordination between all relevant agencies on issues relating to youth homelessness. The core leader(s), system partners, and community stakeholders are brought into solving homelessness at the system level. There is strong investment of infrastructure, specifically data systems. There is a concurrent focus on coordinated response as well as right-sizing the system.

Activating Uptake Community Survey

Following the identification of high leverage components, the 58 question Activating Uptake Community Survey was designed to capture insights regarding the rate in which these components are currently in place and where they are not; and to identify the barriers and opportunities for increased adoption. The questionnaire was organized around the eight high leverage components and combined open-ended questions and multiple-choice questions with predefined answers offering respondents the possibility to choose among several options, or the possibility to grade on a “strongly agree to strongly disagree” scale. A few questions provided optional space for narrative responses. A draft of the questionnaire was subjected to a pretest, resulting in modifications to the questionnaire both in terms of question wording and length.

To demonstrate an adopted high leverage component; we looked for positive responses to all of the related indicators as the threshold criteria. We noted where there was dissonance in communities with multiple responses, but chose to accept at least one positive response for the purposes of this analysis. A complete list of the indicators for each high leverage component is available at the end of this report. Specifically, this survey sought to answer the following questions:

1. How many high leverage components were present in communities?
2. How did participation in a catalytic project impact the number of high leverage components?
3. Which high leverage components showed up most and least frequently in communities?
4. What are the gaps and barriers to having these components in place?
5. What are the strengths and opportunities that support closing gaps and addressing barriers?
6. What can we learn about readiness factors for communities to have more high leverage components in place?
7. What can we learn from the reflections of youth and young adults on what it takes to advance more high leverage components in a community?

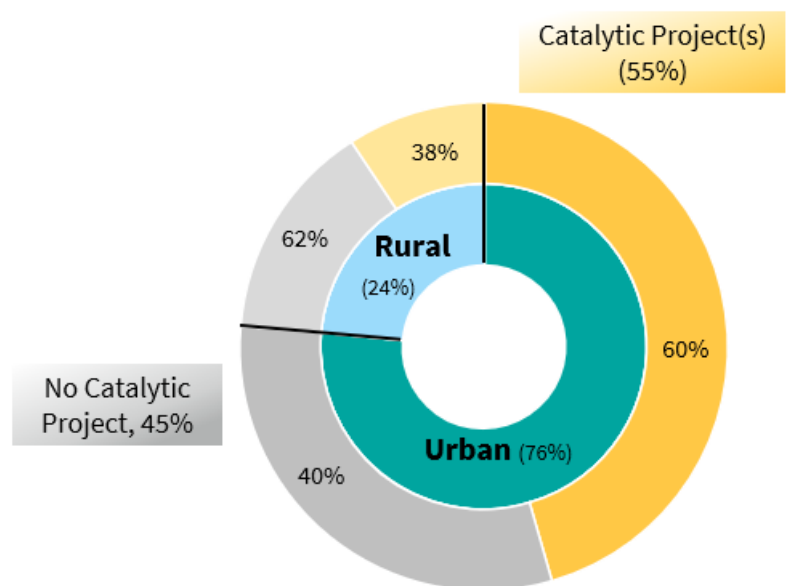
Survey Sample

To conduct the survey, 100 youth service providers across the United States received an invitation to participate. Their identification as a homeless youth serving organization and a Youth Collaboratory member was the criteria for selection. In addition to the service providers, youth and young adults, McKinney Vento Liaisons, Continuum of Care (CoC) representatives and philanthropic partner contacts in the community were identified and received an invitation to participate. Sixty communities represented by 55 Continuums of Care (CoC) were included in the survey sample. A total of 122 surveys were completed between December 2019 and February 2020.

Reaching a representative distribution of all five respondent groups was a difficult task resulting in the distribution of respondent groups and service providers accounting for the bulk of the responses. When looking specifically at the individual groups (see below), service providers clearly emerge as the most represented stakeholder group (51% of total responses), followed by Continuum of Care representatives (30%) and youth and young adults (10%), education partners (10%) and philanthropic partners (4%). Multiple strategies were initiated to identify and engage youth and young adults to complete the survey.

Figure 1 illustrates the Activating Uptake Community Survey sample. Of the 55 CoCs surveyed, 13 were rural (24%) and 42 were urban (76%). Almost half of the CoCs (45%) were not involved in any catalytic project and 55% were involved in at least one catalytic project. Urban communities (60%) were more likely than rural communities (38%) to have participated in a catalytic project.

Figure 1: Activating Uptake Community Survey Sample

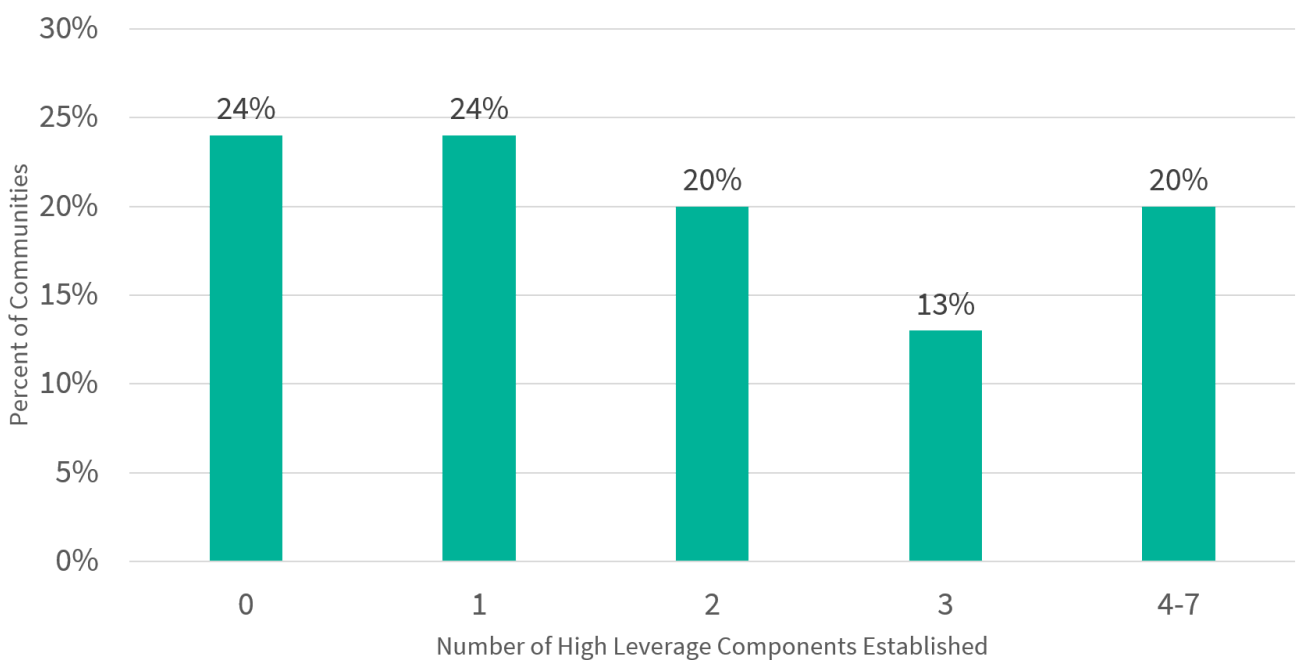


Key Findings

1. How many high leverage components were present in communities?

Figure 2 identifies the percentage of communities demonstrating each number of high leverage components. Twenty-four percent of communities had zero components in place, 24% had one component in place, 33% had two or three components in place, and 20% had established 4-7 high leverage components. No community had all eight high leverage components in place. Note that the percentages total greater than 100% due to rounding.

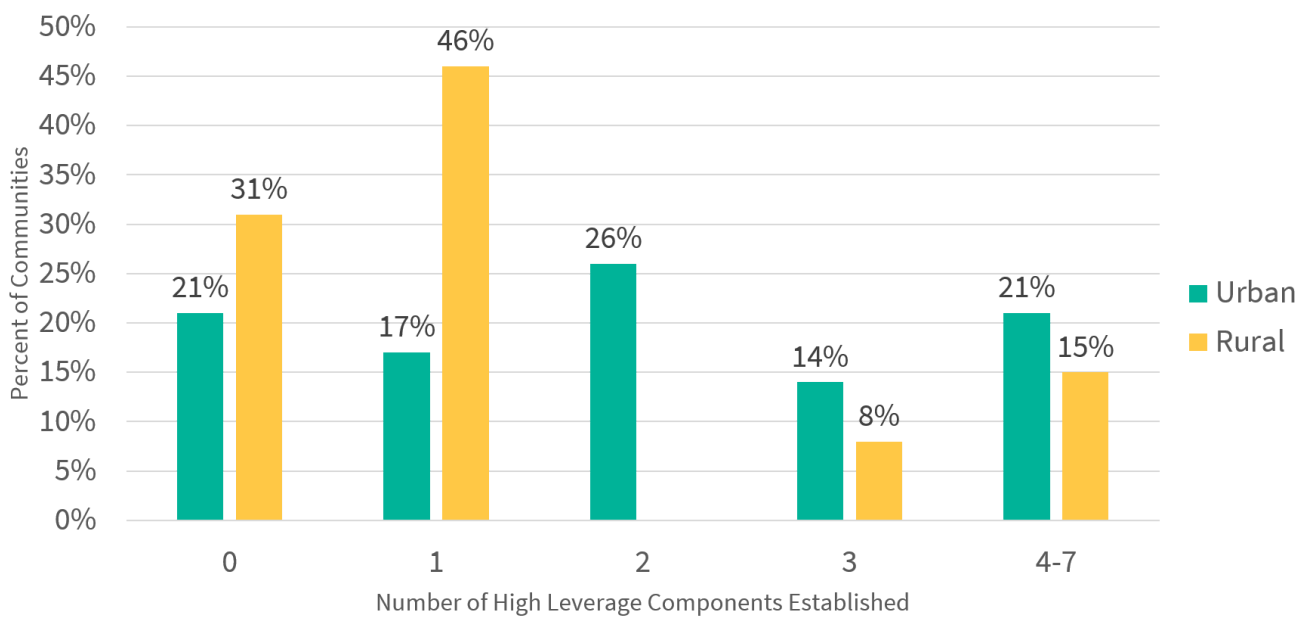
Figure 2: Number of High Leverage Components Present



**Due to rounding, percentage total to greater than 100.*

There was a difference between the number of high leverage components established based on rural or urban location. Figure 3 shows the number of high leverage components present by location. Sixty-one percent of urban communities had established two or more high leverage components, compared to only 23% of rural communities. To view this another way, 77% of rural communities had zero or one component established compared to 38% of urban communities.

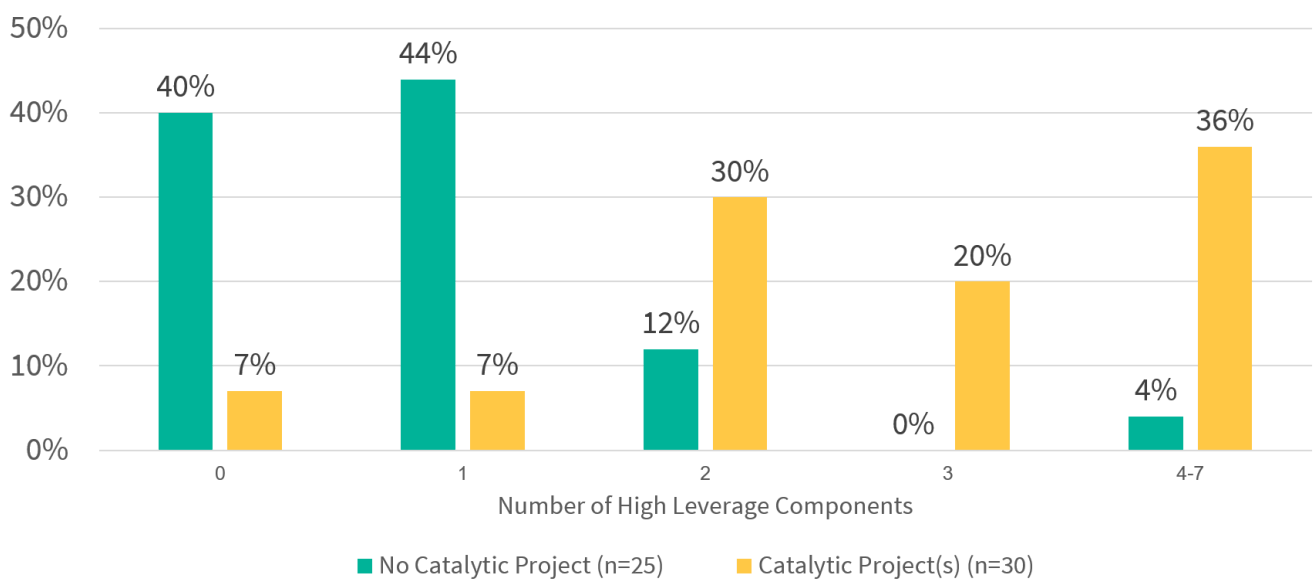
Figure 3: Number of High Leverage Components Present by Urban or Rural Location



2. How did participation in a catalytic project impact the number of high leverage components?

Survey responses demonstrate a relationship between community participation in catalytic projects and the number of high leverage components in place. Figure 4 shows that 56% of communities that participated in at least one catalytic project had 3-7 high leverage components in place compared to only 4% of communities that did not participate in a catalytic project. Of the communities that had zero or one high leverage component in place, 84% did not participate in a catalytic project, and 14% did participate in a catalytic project.

Figure 4: Number of High Leverage Components by Catalytic Project Participation

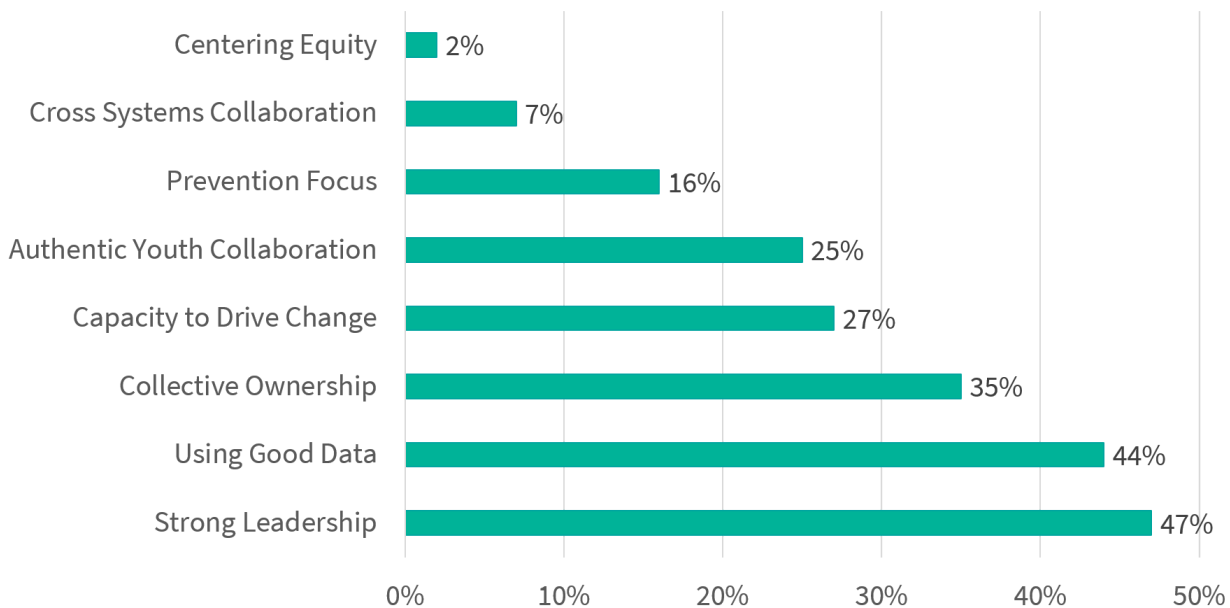


3. Which high leverage components showed up most and least frequently in communities?

Figure 5 shows the percentage of communities demonstrating each high leverage component. The most common high leverage components across all communities were Strong Leadership (47%), Having and Using Good Data (44%), and Collective Ownership (35%). The least common high leverage components across all communities were Centering Equity (2%), Cross System Collaboration (7%), and Prevention Focus (16%).

While only one community had all three indicators for Centering Equity in place, 31% of all communities reported that they had identified racial equity related community goals, which is one indicator of this high leverage component.

Figure 5: Frequency of High Leverage Components



The prevalence of each high leverage component was generally similar across rural and urban communities. The biggest differences were related to Having and Using Good Data, which presented as the second most common high leverage component overall (44%) but it was present in 23% of rural communities and 50% of urban communities. Additionally, Authentic Youth Collaboration (25% overall) was more common in urban communities (31%) than rural communities (8%).

4. What are the gaps and barriers to having these components in place?

Survey results from all respondents highlight key themes regarding gaps and the barriers that communities are experiencing, including reasons for some challenges that may help inform the approach to providing support. This section also goes deeper into some of the indicators for each high leverage component to demonstrate the progress and attention communities are placing on these components, even if they have not yet achieved all three indicators.

Limited Widespread Belief and Inability to Act with Urgency

- Although more communities agreed they have a commitment to ending youth homelessness demonstrated by a local action plan, only 56% of the respondents agree there is widespread belief that their community can end youth homelessness.
- More than half of youth and young adults report their communities are not motivated to end youth homelessness and feel that their community plays it safe rather than taking on new opportunities and ideas.
- Less than 40% agreed that their community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time limited housing options with appropriate services and support.

Tangible Commitments to Creating Equitable Systems

- 56% of communities had conducted a needs assessment in the last year to better understand the needs of youth and young adults in their community. Of those communities:
 - 87% agreed the assessment included a focus on differently abled youth and young adults.
 - 30% agreed the assessment included a focus on youth who are LGBTQ.
- Youth and young adult respondents mentioned how important it is that all parties engage in community level work to understand privilege and power, and how white supremacy and oppression are at work in this space.

-
- Lead entities may be engaging systems stakeholders, and youth and young adults, but have not conducted a power analysis and explicitly named where the power lies and who has access to the power, to advance goals to prevent and end youth homelessness in their community. Furthermore, youth and young adult respondents felt individuals with the most power were not engaged in the process, nor were engaging in authentic relationships with youth and young adults with lived experience.

Limited Authentic Youth Collaboration

- Youth and young adult respondents identified adultism as a consistent barrier in communities and felt they had been exploited and blocked out of opportunities. There was also the concern that motivation to engage in authentic youth collaboration is a “phase,” with one respondent stating, “I think that once the hype dies down the buy in will too.” Youth and young adults are calling for a shift in power, a need for anti-adultism training, and stronger infrastructure to engage youth and young adults.
- 31% of communities had one or two voting seats dedicated to youth and young adults on the Continuum of Care governing body. This shift of power sharing is progress towards authentic youth collaboration and centering equity. However, the youth and young adult respondents shared that even when in a seat of power there is a pattern of "youth and young adults being held back or blocked out" of opportunities, not being consulted, or only being asked for input when someone else with power (providers, city, or state leaders) felt it was needed.
- In addition to youth and young adults having varied levels of participation in decision making power, limited or lack of recruitment and retention strategies for ongoing and diverse representation of youth and young adults, especially black youth and young adults, was also identified as a barrier. This includes strategies to uplift representation through an intersectional lens that includes disability, sex, gender, class, geographic representation, and interaction with oppressive systems.

Limited Focus on Prevention

- A focus on unstably housed youth and young adults has become more prevalent across the board. Over 50% of communities confirmed there is a set of strategies to identify unaccompanied youth who are couch surfing or doubled up. We know this impacts a community's understanding of inflow beyond the front door of their response system, and their ability to engage cross system partners in a targeted way.
- Though only 6% of communities could respond to all of the indicators of a prevention focus, many more communities (63%) indicated they had funding prioritized for prevention-specific interventions and could demonstrate strategies for early identification with their child welfare partners.
- When asked to select which system partners (child welfare, juvenile justice, and/or education) have screening and early identification processes for identifying youth at-risk of homelessness; communities reported strategies in place primarily with their child welfare (78%) and juvenile justice partners (63%), and less so with their education partners (44%).

Other Barriers Identified

- How a local entity is structured to lead systems level change matters and informs the prioritization or deprioritization of funding or efforts to end youth homelessness, opportunities for youth and young adults to engage in the process, and changes in leadership and collective ownership.
- Older adult respondents named the lack of affordable housing and the prioritization of youth specific housing resources as a barrier, while youth and young adults named the lack of infrastructure to engage and support youth and young adult leadership as a barrier.
- Local politics and challenging relationships amongst key stakeholders was the second most prevalent barrier. A respondent clearly described this barrier with their statement, "Everyone wants coordination, but no one wants to be coordinated," and a few respondents mentioned the struggle to bring others along.

-
- Availability and access to funding continues to be a barrier in some communities. For a few, the challenge is related to competing priorities locally, for others the barrier is related to decreases in state funding programs that have impacted youth and young adult services.
 - There is also a need to recognize that there can be unique trauma and mental health issues that may have led or contributed to a young person's experience of homelessness. These are difficult to fully address in the short amount of time allowed for homeless response services. Youth service providers may not be able to stay connected long-term with youth and young adults who have accessed their programs, and adult serving providers may not fully understand the needs of youth and young adults.

“Nobody knows anybody better than themselves - youth will shepherd you through their challenges and deliver you to the solutions if you genuinely put them in the positions to lead, and put yourself in the position to be led by them.”

- Youth Stakeholder

5. What are the strengths and opportunities that support closing gaps and addressing barriers?

While gaps and barriers are clearly documented and understood, so too are opportunities that exist in each community. Survey participants were asked about strengths and opportunities that might support closing gaps and addressing barriers; below are the themes that emerged.

- Across all communities, **opportunities for additional funding**, including creative funding partnerships and participation in catalytic projects, were seen as motivating factors that lead communities to implement high leverage components. Creative funding partnerships include new private funders, public-private partnerships, state-level resources, and Housing Trust Fund.
- A majority of responses indicated significant levels of **engagement with system partners on funding collaboration, policy coordination, and leadership engagement**. The primary system partners include child welfare (older youth), juvenile justice, and education stakeholders.

-
- Advancing community goals through **broadening partnerships**, especially with the education system and the employment service system, and leveraging interest among newly engaged funders and providers were identified as opportunities.
 - Additional opportunities were identified to **improve governance structures and decision making processes**, by including youth and young adults with lived experiences, as well as decision makers of system stakeholders.
 - Youth and young adults felt the **increase in available funding and resources prioritized for youth homelessness** as an opportunity, but were clear that with these new investments communities should invest in infrastructure to engage and support them in positions of power.

6. What can we learn about readiness factors for communities to have more high leverage components in place?

Readiness is important as it indicates which communities are positioned to apply for and be selected for catalytic projects such as YHDP. Catalytic projects bring in additional resources and support for the community, resulting in uptake in the high leverage components.

Through survey responses and feedback from community members a tension between readiness and urgency emerged. Regarding readiness, there was a belief that everyone can take the first step towards ending youth homelessness but there is a limit in how far a community can go without the resources and leadership in place. This is balanced with the urgency of the work and the importance of all eight high leverage components. There was a belief that all of the components matter; they all matter at the same time; and they all matter right now. This was especially clear in the survey responses from youth and young adults.

The Activating Uptake framework is iterative. Advancing in one high leverage component leads to intentional gains in others. This momentum, paired with intentionality and focused efforts, may advance all eight high leverage components.

7. What can we learn from the reflections of youth and young adults on what it takes to advance more high leverage components in a community?

Based on discrepancies observed and experienced in their communities, youth and young adult survey participants were particularly clued in to the relationship and interconnectedness between the authentic youth collaboration, strong leadership, and collective ownership of goals. Responses also explicitly named the continued practice of tokenism instead of power sharing and participation at the convenience of other older adults.

Across youth and young adult responses, there was a recurring theme that spoke to the lack of urgency and radical thinking in the efforts to end youth homelessness. Again, youth had observed and/or experienced the lack of risk taking and a sense of maintaining status quo in the development of a plan or set of strategies in their communities.

Key Takeaways

Analysis of the survey responses identifies the size and scope of the challenge ahead, helps determine where and how we can support groups of communities to adopt more and/or all of the high leverage components, and more clearly defines incentives/barriers to doing so. However, the Activating Uptake Survey was unable to fully answer all of the questions we began with. More information is needed to determine the incentives and motivating factors for communities to incorporate high leverage components and to learn more about readiness factors. Additionally, the Activating Uptake Community Survey was designed and administered before the COVID-19 pandemic began. As we think through application of findings and takeaways we need to ensure we are accounting for the new realities and changes to our local and national landscape, and the direct impact on youth and young adults.

The Activating Uptake Survey generated insight and learning, and as often happens, more questions. After discussing the findings with community members we have identified some key takeaways:

-
- **Increasing Access for Rural Communities:** Survey results demonstrated an increase in the number of high leverage components established in communities that participated in a catalytic project. Catalytic projects often include additional resources such as funding, technical assistance, and momentum that advance the work. There was also more participation of urban communities in catalytic projects than rural communities. Additional support is needed to ensure that rural communities have equal or greater access to catalytic opportunities that increase their ability to advance in these high leverage components.
 - **Differing Perspectives:** Survey respondents had differing perspectives on which indicators had been achieved in their community. This may be related to their position of power or their centrality to the work and leadership, or their perspective on how authentic youth participation really felt.
 - **Centering Equity:** This high leverage component was the least frequent across all communities, and is critical to the process and success of preventing and ending youth homelessness. Additional support is needed for communities to continue to achieve this high leverage component and meet the needs of youth and young adults in their communities.
 - **Youth and Young Adult Leadership:** Responses from youth and young adults indicate that they are ready for more decision making power and crave the structures and supportive relationships to advance their leadership within communities. Communities need continued support to eliminate adultism and strengthen authentic partnerships with young leaders.
 - **Best Practices:** Developing and implementing best practices and youth and young adult specific practices, advance the work to end youth homelessness. However, they are not currently measured by the high leverage components and indicators.
 - **An Iterative and Ongoing Process:** Activating Uptake is a framework to guide the process and the focus within a community. The measurable indicators reflect progress within each high leverage component. Activating Uptake is an iterative process which is ongoing. Communities and leaders must always strive to advance within each high leverage component. The work is never done until youth homelessness has ended.

National Strategy

This information is intended to support coordination of national strategies and to provide more targeted support to communities as they focus on and adopt the high leverage components, putting them on the path to prevent and end youth homelessness. Furthermore, this information is intended to push Youth Collaboratory and our partners to increase our collective investment in clearly documenting the evidence of what works, and its impact on preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Next steps:

- Scaling and learning transfer to support more communities doing the work and advancing in the eight high leverage components, leading to achievement in preventing and ending youth homelessness nationally.
- Integration of the Activating Uptake Framework into the many initiatives happening nationally such as: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, Youth Built for Zero, Child Welfare Engagement on Minors, National Prevention Diversion Survey, The National Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative, A Way Home America, Collaborating for Change, Massachusetts Youth Homelessness Racial Inequity Root Causes Analysis, Locally Organized 100 Day Challenges.

Closing Inspiration

What would it take to double or triple the number of communities on a faster, smarter trajectory towards preventing and ending youth homelessness? How would that change the lives of hundreds of thousands of youth and young adults at-risk of homelessness in cities, suburbs, small towns, rural areas, and tribal lands across the nation?

The Activating Uptake Framework gives us new momentum and focus to support more communities in the work to prevent and end youth homelessness. Contact Youth Collaboratory to get involved: info@youthcollaboratory.org.

Acknowledgements

We express a tremendous amount of gratitude to all of the community members, partners, and youth and young adults who participated in the Activating Uptake Survey and shared their initial reactions and feedback on the results. Their truth helped guide the development of this framework and shape the landscape. Special thanks to Margaret Woley from A Way Home America for partnering on the analysis and allowing us to continue exploring and asking questions.

This work was made possible by generous contributions from The Raikes Foundation, Champion Foundation, Melville Charitable Foundation, and Butler Family Foundation.

Suggested Citation:

Blondin, M.K., Garner, O., Hicks, M.S., Pufpaff, J. (2020). Activating Uptake to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness: National Community Survey Findings. Pittsburgh, PA: Youth Collaboratory.

Threshold Criteria for High Leverage Components

High Leverage Component

Indicators

Authentic Youth Collaboration

- There is a convening body of youth and young adults for the purpose of designing, monitoring, and evaluating homeless responses and strategies in the community. For example, there is a Youth Advisory Board, Youth Leadership Council, or Youth Action Board.
- Community level goals towards ending youth and young adult homelessness are determined with participation of youth and young adults with lived experiences of homelessness and/or housing instability.
- The CoC board has at least 2 voting seats dedicated to youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness and/or housing instability.

Centering Equity

- There are community level outcomes and indicators related to equity in place.
- The community assessment includes a focus on the following subpopulations of youth and young adults at risk of experiencing homelessness and housing instability: pregnant and parenting youth, minors, LGBTQ+ youth, youth with experience of child welfare, youth with experience of juvenile justice, and victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.
- A shared power analysis has been conducted to determine who has decision making power and who does not within the coordinating body of stakeholders advancing the goals to prevent and end youth and young adults homelessness.

Prevention Focus

- Available funding has been prioritized for prevention specific interventions.
- A set of strategies is in place to identify unaccompanied youth and young adults who are doubled up or couch surfing and are considered to be experiencing homelessness under any federal definition.
- Public systems - child welfare, juvenile justice and education services - have screening and early identification processes for identifying youth and young adults at-risk for homelessness.

Collective Ownership

- There is a commitment to preventing and ending youth and young adult homelessness demonstrated by a Local Action Plan.
- There is a community level set of indicators that align with the community's goals to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness.

Strong Leadership

- There is a specific entity responsible for implementing the community's action plan.
- The leading entity has the capacity to make and/or influence decisions that advance an end to youth and young adult homelessness.
- The leadership team includes individuals with authority to create systems changes to support the implementation of the action plan.

Cross System Collaboration

- Mechanisms are in place to coordinate funding streams to fund services and interventions with juvenile justice, child welfare and education partners.
- There are efforts to enhance policy coordination with system partners to advance goals and resources to end youth and young adult homelessness.
- A high level decision maker within each system is engaged in cross system strategies to advance goals to end youth and young adult homelessness.

Having and Using Good Data

- Data is available on the following points to understand the experience of youth and young adults accessing the homeless response system during a specific time period (total number, inflow, outflow, and housing placement).
- A strategy is in place to identify youth and young adults who may never enter the shelter system, and who experience "hidden" homelessness (doubled up, couch surfing, fleeing from violence, and immigrants).

Capacity to Drive Change

- There is a widespread belief in the ability to end youth and young adult homelessness.
- The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth and young adults to move into permanent or non-time limited housing options with appropriate services and support.