YHDP Community Meeting

Tulsa, OK
January 10, 2023

Agenda

- ★ Welcome, Agenda, and Group Agreements
- ★ Introductions
- ★ Partnership Development and Authentic Collaboration
- ★ Next Steps

Group Agreements

From the Tulsa Youth Action Board:

- ★ Agree to not stay silent
- ★ Participate at my comfort level +1
- ★ Hear others out
- ★ Not interrupt while others speaking
- ★ Stay on subject/task
- ★ Respect others' opinions
- ★ Listen to understand, not to respond
- ★ Keep what is said confidential
- ★ Hold each other accountable
- ★ When someone disagrees, listen harder
- ★ Ask questions (No question is a bad question)

Diversity Welcome

- People of all genders (this may include people who identify as women, men, trans, gender-queer, or others)
- People of African descent, Black, African American, Asian descent, Arab descent, European descent. Those who identify as Hispanic, Latinx, people Indigenous to this land, and people of mixed, multiple descents.
- Languages spoken here
- People with disabilities, visible or invisible
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, pansexual, queer, or others for whom none of the labels fit
- Your bodies and the different ways you experience yours (this may include chronic pain, strength, tension, etc.)
- Survivors
- People who identify as activists, and people who don’t
- Single, married, partnered, dating, in monogamous or polyamorous relations
- Those in their teens, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and beyond

Diversity Welcome

- Your emotions: joy & bliss, grief, rage, indignation, contentment, disappointment
- Those who support you to be here
- Your families, genetic and otherwise
- People with different faiths, religious traditions, faith practices, private practices don’t belonging to a tradition, agnostics, atheists, seekers
- Those dear to us who have died
- Our elders: Those here in this room, in our lives, and those who have passed away
- Anyone else?

Introductions

Why We Lift up Pronouns in Introductions

● **Everyone has pronouns or a way they want us to refer to them**. Naming pronouns reminds us that we cannot know and should never assume we know someone's gender just from knowing their name, seeing their face or body, or hearing their voice.

● Naming pronouns during introductions gives everyone the opportunity to **actively consent** to how they want others in the room to refer to them. By hearing and using the pronouns people ask us to use, we are respecting everyone's identity.

● Someone's **pronouns may change over time** for many reasons. Naming pronouns in introductions gives people the opportunity to name who they are and how they want to be referred to in that moment.

● Some people may use **different pronouns in different settings**, which may be driven by their perceived level of safety in the space.

Introductions

Why We Lift up Racial and Ethnic Identities

- Naming racial identity focuses our awareness on how we show up with each other and particularly with Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other people of color colleagues.
- Naming racial identity focuses our awareness on who is not present.
- Naming racial identity removes our fear of talking about race and instead normalizes it.
- Naming racial identity helps us own our racial identity and what we bring into the space.
- Naming racial identity reminds us that racial groups sit differently in relation to power and resources in the U.S. due to historical and present day manifestations of systemic racism
- Naming racial identity helps us resist habits of white supremacy culture and anti-Blackness and its constant presence.
- Naming racial identity is a proactive disruption of white dominant culture.
- Naming racial identity grounds us in the connections between homelessness and race.
- Naming racial identity names whiteness and invites us to sit with the discomfort of whiteness and the space that it takes up.
- Naming racial identity contributes to doing our work well and building our capacity to build system responses that are equitable.

Introductions

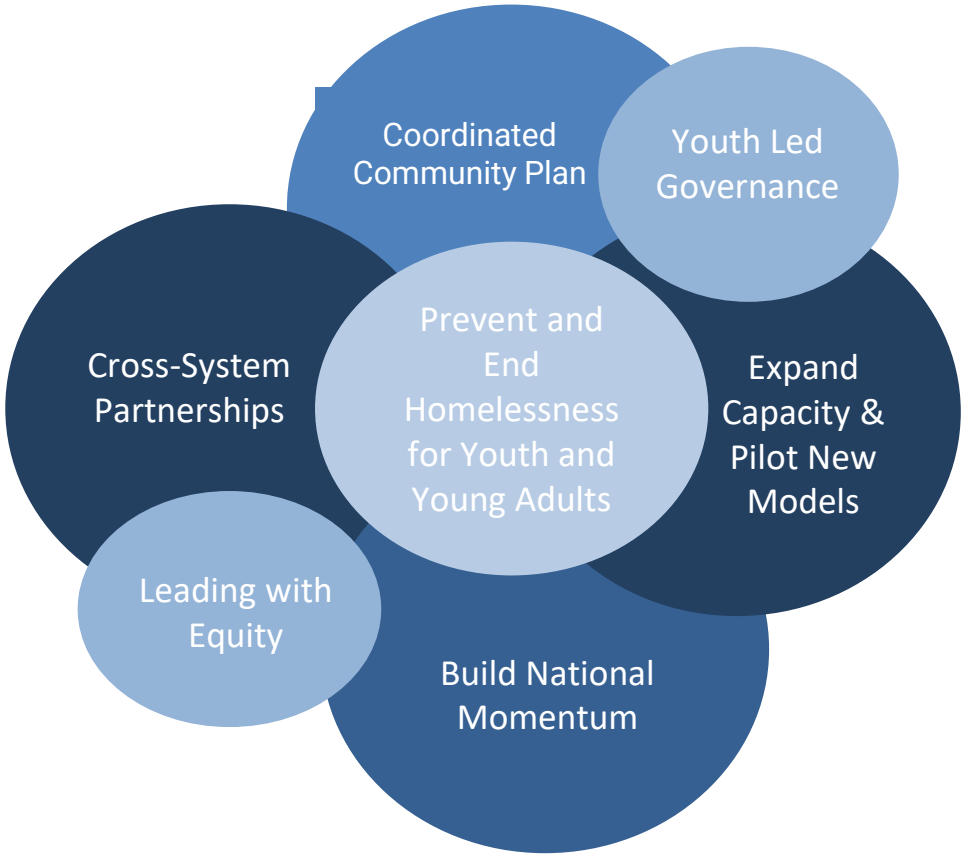
In small groups or chat, please share:

- Name
- Pronouns (optional)
- Racial/ethnic identity (optional)
- Any other identities that you want to share
- What is one quality that you value in your personal or professional partnerships?

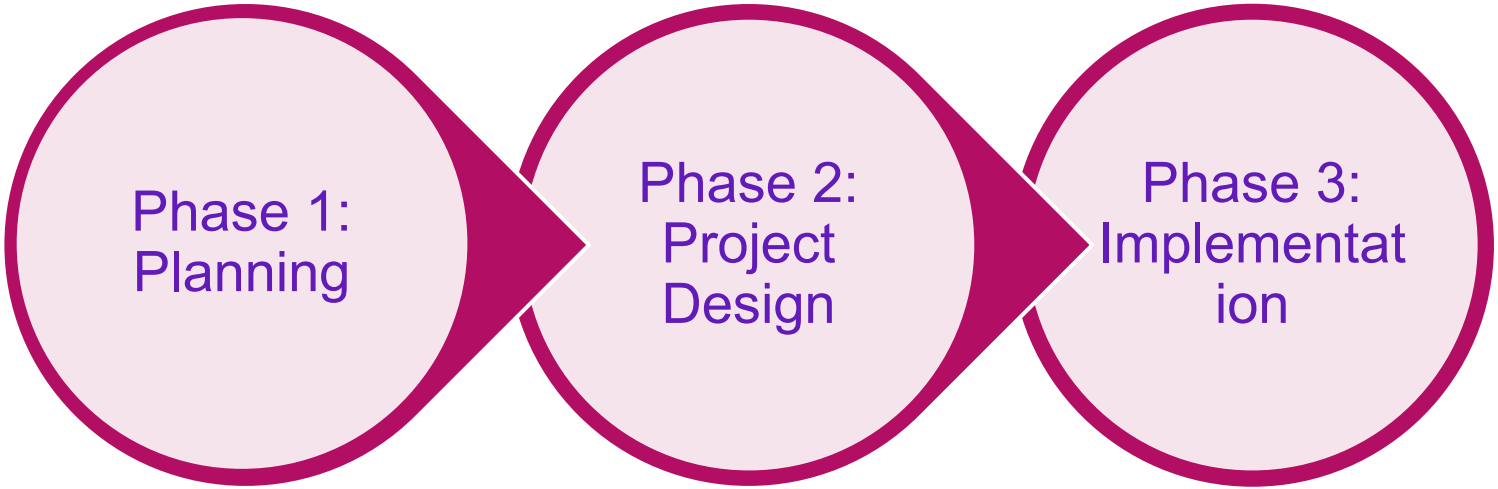
YHDP Basics

What is YHDP?

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a national initiative designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. The goal of the YHDP is to support selected communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.



Phases of YHDP



- Youth Collaboration
- Governance
- Needs Analysis
- System Modeling
- Partnerships
- Goals, Objectives, Action Steps

- Descriptions
- Outcomes
- RFP
- Scoring/Rating/Ranking
- Application Submission

- Project-level
- System-level
- Project Management
- Continuous Quality Improvement

Coordinated Community Plan

- We will spend most of the first six months supporting your community to develop this plan. These cohort sessions will build ideas that will directly contribute to your plan.
  - Mission & Vision
  - Statement of Need
  - Goals, Objectives, & Action Steps
  - Key Partnerships & Roles
  - Governance
  - New YHDP Projects List

Technical Assistance (TA)

- Consider your TA providers part of your team.
  - They will help you navigate this process.
  - They will help you implement strategies, particularly related to youth collaboration, education system engagement, data collection and analysis, and continuous quality improvement.
  - They have technical expertise on the CoC program.
- Conduct regular check-ins

YHDP Basics: Award Info

- The Tulsa Continuum of Care will receive a total funding allocation amount of **$5,380,192**.
- All YHDP grants are for 2-years, except planning grants which are for 1 year
  - There is no limit to the number of projects a community can submit; the only limit is that funding across all projects cannot exceed total YHDP award.
  - YHDP funds, except for planning grants, are renewable. They will become a part of the larger CoC portfolio after the initial 2-year award.
- YHDP communities can implement several special YHDP activities outside of the regular CoC regulations.

YHDP Basics: Who can be served?

- YHDP funding can serve at-risk or unaccompanied youth and pregnant and parenting youth who are:
  - Under the age of 25
  - Meet criteria of HUD's homelessness definition
- Who is eligible for YHDP-funded projects?
  - Category 1 Literally Homeless: Unsheltered/ES/TH
  - Category 2 Imminently Lose Housing (14 days): Lease, doubled up, couch surfing, hotel *(not exiting an institution)*
  - Category 4 Fleeing Violence or Other Life Threatening Conditions
  - Category 3 Unaccompanied Youth & Homeless Families, Other Fed Definitions (Note: requires HUD approval and no community has achieved that yet

YHDP Basics: What can we do with our award?

- Communities can create projects using the following CoC components:
  - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
  - Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
  - Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH)
  - Transitional Housing (TH)
  - Supportive Services Only (SSO)
  - Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
  - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
  - Planning (Note: These are non-renewable.)

YHDP Partnerships & Authentic Collaboration

Why are Partnerships so Important to YHDP?

- We are building a movement to address and end homelessness for young people. It’s going to take all of us to make this happen!
- We need utilize all of the strengths and resources of our community and cross-system partners.
- We want to use the YHDP funding to do new and exciting things with a strong and diverse group of service providers.

Community Poll: Who's in the room?

1. What role are you currently playing in your community?

1. What perspectives can you bring to this effort?

Creating Transformative Partnerships

Creating your YHDP planning team provides an opportunity to:

● Build a more inclusive planning and decision-making team with increased representation from BIPOC and youth leaders.

● Eliminate gatekeeping - the unnecessary restrictions on who has access to information, resources, and decision-making.

● Remove barriers to participation and create more authentic engagement opportunities.

● Engage cross-system partners and others who have not been involved or included in past efforts.

Coordinated Community Plan Requirement: Partnership List

What is it?

A list of partners, and a description of their involvement that includes representation from a variety of stakeholder groups.

Decolonizing Strategies

- Which racial/ethnic groups and/or historically disenfranchised LGBTQ2+ partners may be most affected by and concerned with youth homelessness?
- Have partners from different racial/ethnic groups and historically disenfranchised LGBTQ2+ groups – especially those most adversely affected – been informed, meaningfully involved with shared decision making power and authentically represented in the development of the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan?
- How are barriers being removed to support and sustain partners engagement with racially marginalized and historically disenfranchised young people and underfunded grassroots BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ organizations and organizations serving young people with disabilities?

Key Steps to Build Your YHDP Planning Effort

- ★ Step One: Identify an Organization to Lead
  - Should have convening power to bring people together
  - Usually, but not always, the CoC lead agency / Collaborative Applicant
  - Supports authentic youth collaboration
  - Supports day-to-day planning and logistics

- ★ Step Two: Think Big with the Youth Action Board (YAB)
  - Engaging existing members and recruiting additional youth leaders
  - Should be at every table and step in the process
  - Should hold decision-making power throughout the process

Key Steps to Build Your YHDP Planning Effort (continued)

★ Step 3: Identify, Recruit, and Convene a Planning Team

Youth Action Board (YAB)*	Public Child Welfare Agencies*	Local, State, and Tribal Governments*	Runaway &Homeless Youth Providers*	Continuum of Care (CoC) Board*
CoC and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recipients	Landlords	Juvenile &Adult Corrections & Probation	Local &State Law Enforcement &Judges	Public Housing Authorities
Affordable Housing Providers	Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	Local &State Educational Agencies (K-12)	Institutions of Higher Education	Non-Profit Youth Organizations
Health, Mental Health, &Substance Use Agencies	Early Childhood Education & Childcare Providers	Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Community Development Corporations	Organizations that Serve Culturally Specific Communities

Key Steps to Build Your YHDP Planning Effor

- ★ Step Four: Clarify Expected Roles and Responsibilities
  - Set clear roles, responsibilities, and group agreements
  - Determine the frequency and approach for engaging different partners

- ★ Step Five: Define a Clear Decision-Making Structure
  - May build on existing structures or totally transform into a new governance structure
  - Must clearly outline the decision-making authority of the Youth Action Board
  - Meets another threshold requirement of the CCP

Key Steps to Build Your YHDP Planning Effor

- ★ Step Six: Leveraging Funding to Support Planning Activities
  - Determine if existing public or private funds are available
  - Pursue YHDP planning grant or other funds

- ★ Step Seven: Convene Partners and Orient Everyone to YHDP
  - Schedule an initial convening as soon as possible
  - Provide an overview of YHDP and the work ahead
  - Develop a schedule for regular meetings and topics (with TA support)

Cross System Partnerships

Education & Workforce Development

to acquire knowledge, skills, and values and meet career goals

- Unaccompanied youth in middle and high schools
- Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness with young children
- Youth and young adults in universities, community college, trade schools, or other post-secondary schools

Child Welfare

to promote well-being by ensuring safety and strengthening families

- Youth who are experiencing homelessness who have had previous child welfare involvement
- Youth who are aging out of care and are at risk of homelessness after leaving the care of system
- Youth who are experiencing homelessness while on run from care or while in extended foster care

Legal

to create policy & procedures that interpret & enforce laws

- Youth being discharged from youth or adult jails at discharge
- Youth who are on probation, parole, or being supervised by a diversion program
- Youth experiencing homelessness who are encountering law enforcement

Health

to promote, restore or maintain health

- Youth accessing services who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness
- Youth experiencing homelessness who are accessing health services
- Youth experiencing homelessness who are unable to access health services

Cross-System Partnership Opportunities

Data	Practice	Policy	Integration
Utilizing and sharing data across systems to better understand youth at-risk of entering the homelessness system and to plan intervention strategies to prevent youth homelessness	Changes in the way the community serves youth within a system or across multiple systems to help prevent & end youth homelessness	Changes in laws and regulations that address access and services for youth experiencing homelessness	Bringing data, practices, and policy together to interrogate the system and create something cohesive, yet streamlined, from the individual parts

Community Discussion

Who is in your group?

What identities, skills, experiences, interests, and connections do you bring to this effort?

What commitment can you or your agency make to the YHDP effort?

Who and what else is still needed in the effort to address and end youth homelessness?

Intro to Governance

What is Governance?

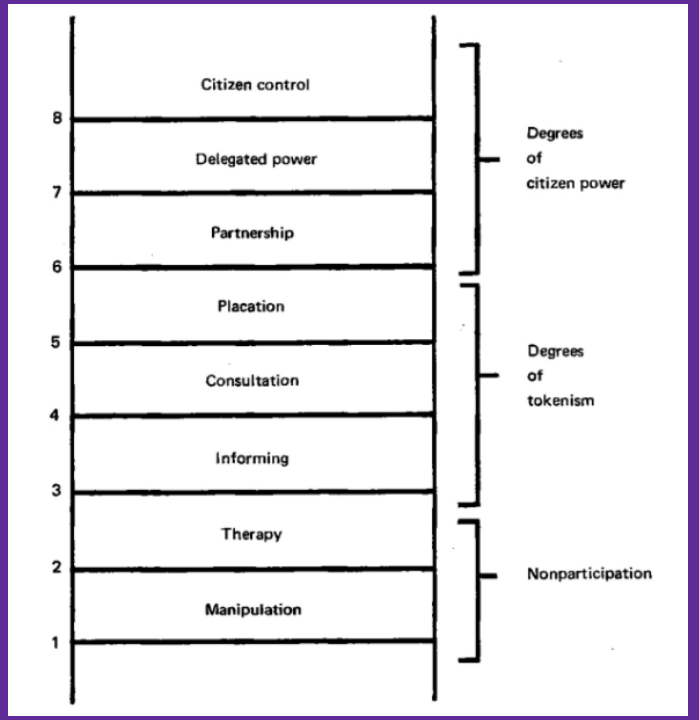
- The agreements, rules, processes, or policies that guide or direct a group of people, often providing written standards and oversight on how they make decisions and carry out their work or activities
- Not all governance structures are the same! Cities and counties, corporate boards, public schools, and homeless service systems all have their own forms of governance.
- Some forms of governance offer very few opportunities for public participation and decision-making and others offer lots.

Why Does Governance Matter?

- Because we aim to do transformational work. Sharing power with young people requires changing the decision-making process and shifting the power within the community.
- Because solutions to homelessness are only effective when those most impacted are leading. This means we need to not only invite people to the table, but also redistribute decision-making power.
- Because a strong governance structure help you address the system level challenges that individual organizations, coalitions, and agencies are otherwise unequipped to address on their own.
- Because we can work more effectively when we work with transparency and everyone understands their role in the decision-making process.

What Does It Look Like to Share Power?

Video Description of Participatory Budgeting



Arnstein, S. (1969.) A ladder of citizen participation. Journal of the American Planning Association, 35(4), 216-224.

HUD Expectations for CoCs and YHDP

The federal Continuum of Care (CoC) program requires communities create and write down a governance structure for how their communities make decisions about homelessness.

Your community is required to develop a governance structure and decision-making process for YHDP and include it in your Coordinated Community Plan (CCP).

- Youth must have decision-making power in all parts of YHDP, including the creation of the CCP and the selection and design of YHDP projects.
- The process is inclusive of a broad range of partners.
- Your community develops a formal and agreed upon process for making decisions and resolving disagreements.
- The process is respectful of the differing systems each partners represent and the goals and resources of those systems
- The process is clear and transparent to the partners and general public
- The process is subject to feedback and continual improvement

Building Strong Governance - Incorporating Youth Leadership

- The governance structure should provide clarity around the YAB's power and purpose
  - Where does the YAB sit in local decision-making processes?
  - Who do they answer to, and who answers to them?
  - What are the boundaries and spheres of influence for the YAB's power?
- Ensuring youth participate in ALL aspects of YHDP decision-making
  - CCP development and approval
  - Funding competition process and project selection
  - Project launch, evaluation, and continuous quality improvement
  - Ongoing planning and project selection beyond initial YHDP decisions
- Ensuring youth participate in ALL levels of decision-making, not just on the YAB

Building Strong Governance - Transforming How We Work Together

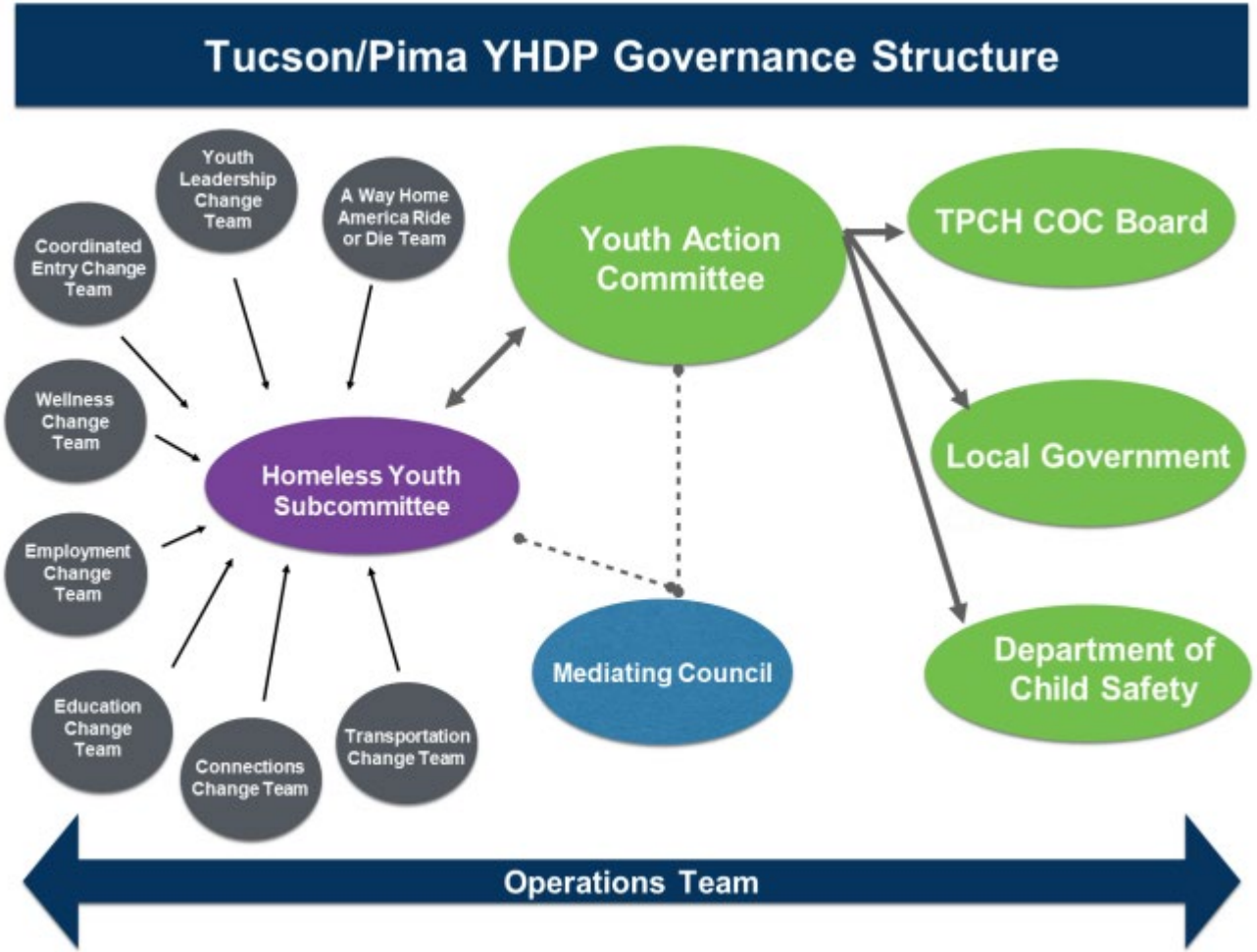
- As the planning process moves forward, pay attention to white dominant culture norms and adultist practices that impact the overall authentic nature of partnering with young people and addressing equity in the community
  - Resource: White Dominant Culture & Something Different
  - Resource: Youth Collaboration Toolkit
- Consider alternatives meeting structures that are more accessible
- Consider new ways of decision-making (majority, consensus, weighted voting, veto options)
- Be clear about the process for amending governance to make improvements

Building Strong Governance - Building on Your Existing Efforts

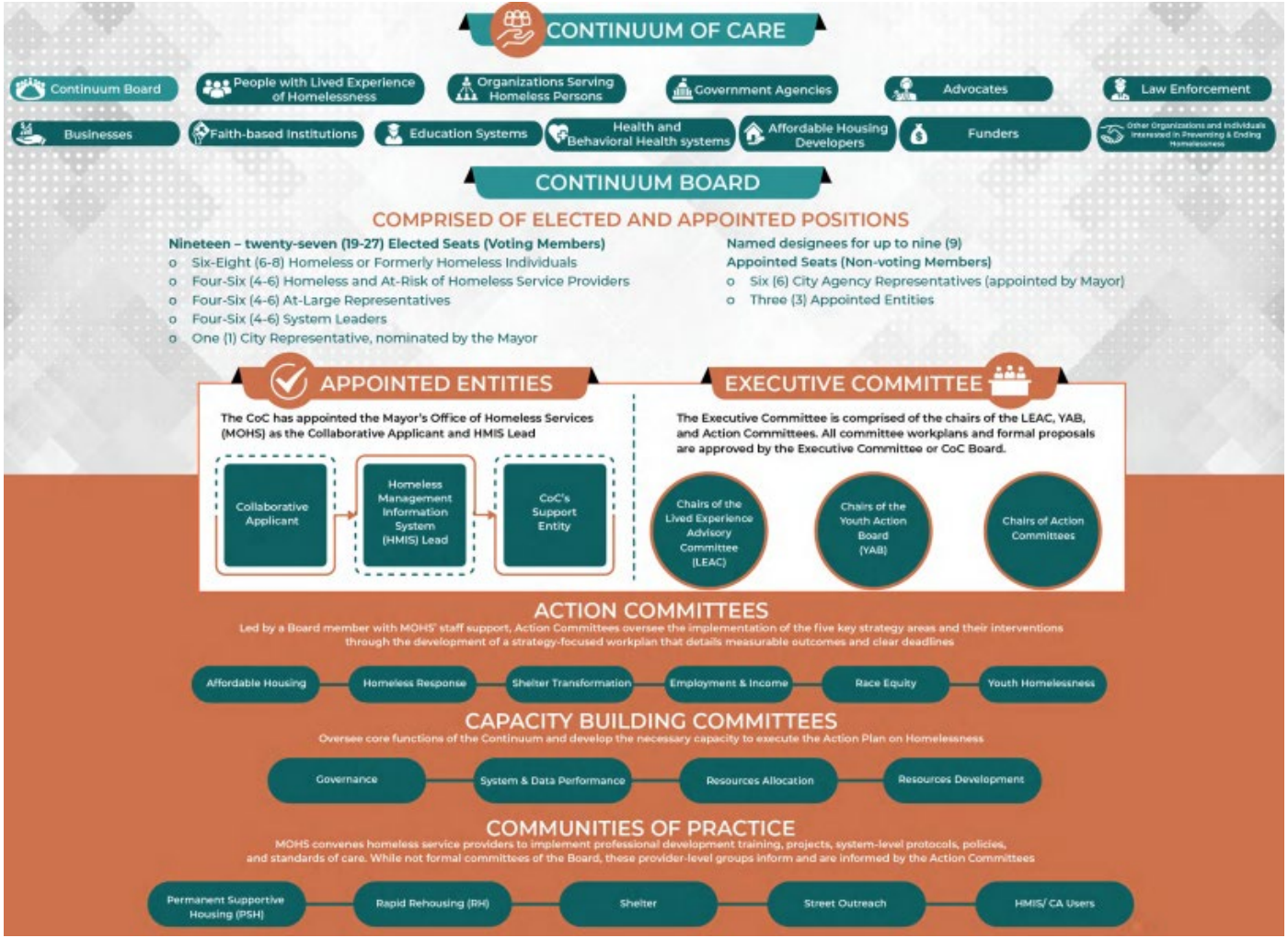
Your YHDP governance may rely on an existing structure (for example, an existing CoC youth committee) OR create a new one to account for the breadth of stakeholders involved in the YHDP process.

- The CoC governance structure can be used as a starting point but should not be the default.
- Consider changes that need to be made to incorporate the YAB's position in the work, as well as other new partners.
- Meet with the CoC board (and/or governance committee) to jointly plan how to change the governance structure and incorporate the YAB.
- Consider how YAB governance/bylaws may need to be different than other committees of the CoC
- Revisit conflict-of-interest policy to ensure it facilitates participation of people with lived experience who may be participating in programs

Examples of Governance Structure - Tucson/Pima County, AZ



Examples of Governance Structure - Baltimore, MD



YAB Governance

YAB governance has its own unique considerations and its structure may not be exactly like other CoC committees. Communities should support the YAB to make decisions about its governance and consider alignment and coordination with the overall CoC governance.

True Colors United and CSH will work with your community and YAB members to consider:

- **YAB Values**: Establishing group values will be the foundation of what the YAB will choose to work on and how they can collaboratively do it together.
- **Models of Decision-Making**: Making decisions can be challenging. YABs are encouraged to identify and decide on a decision making model that works best for the collective. Examples: majority rule, consensus voting
- **YAB Structure and Roles**: The YAB should decide on a structure and roles. Examples: chairs, co-chairs, secretaries, presidents, contributors, leads, flat/non-hierarchical structure.
- **YAB Goals**: Once the YAB members are selected and start meeting, they should start working on identifying SMARTIE goals for their functionality as a unit and for the collaborative efforts of your YHDP team. SMARTIE goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable.

For more, see True Colors United's Youth Collaboration 201 Roadmap.

YAB Governance - Membership

True Colors United and CSH can also support your YAB to establish membership expectations and strategies for recruitment and retention.

- **Membership Requirements**: It is important to establish membership requirements before you begin YAB recruitment so they are clear and transparent from the beginning. Criteria to consider:
  - Lived experience and/or expertise
  - Other forms of experience
  - Commitment to addressing youth homelessness and housing instability
  - Representation of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ individuals
  - Other identities or experiences important in your community
- **Membership Expectations**: Any details on the process, terms, and expectations for becoming a member.
- **Recruitment and Retention**: Existing YAB members and youth leaders should lead these efforts.
  - Spread the word widely and focus on reaching people who meet the membership priority areas
  - Assess needs for continued participation and make plans for successfully transitions

For more, see True Colors United's Youth Collaboration 201 Roadmap.

NEXT STEPS ON **GOVERNANCE**

YAB Development

Partner with TCU to set goals for developing YAB governance

YHDP & CoC Governance

Partner with CSH to continue discussion on overall governance

Partnership Development

Continue developing your partnership list and consider how it connects to governance

Next Steps

Join us on January 18th!

What will we be going together?

- ★ Mission and Vision Development
- ★ Deeper Dive on Equity
- ★ YHDP and Homeless Response System Basics
- ★ Intro to System Planning
- ★ What is your ideal system?

If you have questions, please reach out to Len Dittmeier at ldittmeier@housingsolutionstulsa.org.