TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

The population within the homeless population
What we will cover

- The Population
- The Numbers
- The Problems
- The Solutions
The Population
Population: National Growth trends

From 2010 to 2015 the numbers have been rising nationally.
Population: State Growth trends

The current number is 55,983
28,000 children are currently in foster care in Los Angeles County. 
1,400 children in foster care are awaiting adoptive families.* 
38% of all children in foster care in California reside in Los Angeles County. 
Nearly half of foster youth have learning disabilities or delays. 
Only 58% of young people in foster care graduate from high school. 
Only 3% graduate from college. 
Half of youth who have aged out of foster care end up homeless or incarcerated. 
75% of young women in foster care report at least one pregnancy by age 21, compared to only one third of those in the general population. 
75% of students in foster care are performing below grade level.
Population:

Types of homelessness

- Living in temporary housing programs
- Couch surfing
- Living with partners in toxic relationships
- Emergency shelters
- On the street
- In cars
- Squatting
- Chronically homeless

Types of housing available

- Transitional Housing (limited)
- Rapid rehousing vouchers (limited access)
- Section 8 vouchers (limited access)
- Low-income housing (limited access)
- Community support/relatives/churches/non-profit organizations (limited access)
The numbers
Numbers: Homeless count results

- There were a total of 3,241 homeless youth counted.
- 2,796 were transition age youth.
68% of homeless youth in LA identify as male, 24% female, 1% transgender.

40% are Black/African American, 38% Hispanic/Latino, and 17% white.
Numbers: By Sub-population

Only 370 meet the standard of chronically homeless, 559 are suffering from mental illness, 417 have a substance abuse disorder, and 1,147 have had a domestic/intimate partner violence experience.
Numbers: Rise in homelessness amongst TAY

The most significant increases are within the TAY and 18 and under communities

Youth homelessness has increased by 61% between 2016 and 2017
The Problems
Problems: The reality of the headlines

Los Angeles’ homelessness crisis is a national disgrace
Problems: Homelessness as a national trend

California ranks 48 out of 50 as one of the worst states in homelessness amongst children.

Nationally there are only 4,000 shelter beds for 500,000 unaccompanied youth.
Problems: Big picture for Los Angeles

There is a need for 551,807 more affordable rental homes.

Rent is increasing while the median household income is declining.
Problems

• Many proposed solutions do not meet the needs of the population.
• The voices of the population are often not at the table when solutions are being discussed.
• There is not enough back end research into the people who are receiving these HHH and measure funds and whether or not there are meeting the needs of the populations they serve.

• Many of the options that are available are limited to chronically homeless but the numbers reflect only 370 transition age youth who are homeless meet the standard of chronically homeless.
• The homeless count numbers do not adequately reflect the actual number of homeless transition age youth.
• The numbers are continuing to rise.
• New innovative solutions are being boxed out due to funds being dispersed to same players.
Problems: The burden of the state
The solutions
Solutions: Government proposed solutions
Solutions:

• Ensuring that stakeholders from the Foster youth and transition age community are at the table when solutions are being discussed/proposed.

• The creation of a special council to work between measure H and Prop HHH to ensure that a collaborative effort is being made to meet the needs of the Foster and TAY communities.

• TAY oversight committee to ensure that the funds are not being dispersed to individuals who have failed to meet their needs in the past.

• Priority on housing, low-income, and section 8 waiting lists for Foster and TAY communities – connected to employment and educational resources.

• Change the standard of chronically homeless as it pertains to the TAY population.

• Ensure that at least one representative on the HHH Oversight Commission is from the TAY or Foster Community.
WE ARE NOT PROPOSING THAT WE HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

But it is time that we at least start to have a real conversation.
Testimonials

• Yahnniiie Bridges
• Carmen Noyola
• Jesse Agular
• Johna Rivers
• Myriah Smiley