



sarah 

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

[Join the Movement to House All Youth](#) #WESAY #HouseAllYouth #YABSA

ABOUT SARAH

SARAH could be anyone without a home, facing a hardship or stressful time in their lives. But together, we will ensure that the homeless experience is a rare, brief and one-time event.

In 2015, the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) was designated as the lead Continuum of Care (CoC) agency for San Antonio and Bexar County. As the CoC, SARAH secures and distributes funding to direct homeless service providers and offers guidance to strengthen policies and programs. SARAH builds alliances and listens to and advocates for those with lived experience to ensure everyone has a place to call home in San Antonio and Bexar County.



A NATIONAL MOVEMENT TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded \$151 M to 44 local communities through its Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). The program advances a national movement to end youth homelessness by providing communities with funding, planning frameworks, support from national experts and opportunities for new partnerships and collaboration. Youth homelessness refers to youth and young adults (YYA) ages 24 and younger, experiencing anywhere from literal homelessness to couch-surfing. The program is in its third round of funding.

HUD developed YHDP in collaboration with young people who experienced homelessness and other federal agencies. These young people directly impacted the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and application review process to ensure the program met the needs of YYA experiencing homelessness.

The 44 communities awarded the YHDP grants collaborated with a broad array of partners and stakeholders to assess the needs of their specific at-risk populations experiencing homelessness, including racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ youth, parenting youth, victims of human trafficking and youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Each community is required to form a Youth Action Board (YAB) responsible for developing a coordinated community plan (CCP) with input from a diverse group of stakeholders to prevent and end youth homelessness and guide the distribution of project funds. YHDP projects have 2-year grant terms renewed by HUD and the local CoC. Serving as national leaders working to end youth homelessness, the 44 communities participate in program evaluations to guide federal youth homelessness efforts.

In September 2019, SARAH received a \$6.88 M grant to create a CCP that prevents and ends youth homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County by funding innovative new housing projects and support services.



THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

There are 4.2 million YYA experiencing homelessness in the United States and 232,600 in Texas. In 2018, SARAH identified 664 YYA experiencing homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. Additionally, 1,000 YYA experiencing homelessness attended local schools in San Antonio and Bexar County.

Truthfully, many young people in our community are one financial crisis away from homelessness. Gender, racial and ethnic disparities among low-income individuals and families place them at higher risk for experiencing homelessness. COVID-19 has exacerbated these disparities. Life on the streets is incredibly difficult for young people. YYA experiencing homelessness struggle to maintain their physical and emotional health and well-being, impacting the economic and social outcomes of individuals and our communities.

Our community is known for its respect, generosity and collaborative approach in addressing complex issues. We are home to a network of public, private and faith-based service providers working to end homelessness. Additionally, SARAH and the City of San Antonio aligned the 2020 Homeless Strategic Plan to support our YHDP programs. We are well positioned to take ownership and collectively build a movement to house all YYA.

“ Through my involvement with the Youth Action Board, I am determined to lay the groundwork for positive change by listening and learning to better address and end youth homelessness

Nina Clarkson, Youth Action Board ”



WE SAY – OUR COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN

We Empower San Antonio Youth, or WE SAY, is our call to action - building upon a national movement to end youth homelessness. **Guided by our movement's mantra, "nothing about us, without us," we believe no youth homeless policy should be decided without the full and direct participation of YYA with lived homelessness experiences.**

WE SAY is the product of six months of planning and collective input from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and a wide variety of community stakeholders, including YYA with lived experiences, homeless service providers, community activists and housing, child welfare, criminal justice, education and workforce stakeholders. It assesses the needs of YYA experiencing homelessness, sets goals to prevent and end homelessness and guides the distribution of YHDP funds to homeless service providers in our community.

OUR VISION

WE SAY is a movement that ensures all YYA experiencing homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County are empowered with the resources and housing they need, by the efficient, collaborative and equitable response system they deserve.



GOAL 1 – Identify

Identify all unaccompanied YYA experiencing homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. We can't end what we can't see and understand.



GOAL 2 – Divert

Divert and provide immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to YYA experiencing homelessness. We need to stop homelessness from happening by acting swiftly to prevent personal and community trauma.



GOAL 3 – Process

Effectively process YYA experiencing homelessness by linking and tailoring housing and support services to specific needs. An efficient, fair and human-centered system effectively lowers barriers and increases trust.



GOAL 4 – Connect

With no pre-conditions, quickly connect YYA experiencing homelessness with permanent housing and individualized client-driven support services. All YYA experiencing homelessness deserve safe, stable housing with support services that work for them.



GOAL 5 – Utilize

Utilize community resources to prevent and quickly end future experiences of YYA homelessness. Housing, paired with resources and community support, is the first step to ensuring YYA at risk of experiencing homelessness thrive.

“

I joined the Youth Action Board because I feel like there is a lot that I can contribute to the community and that I can help the youth that come after me. I hope all the youth who are concerned we are not heard – are heard and taken seriously.

Latonya Richard, Youth Action Board ”





PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Under the direction of SARAH and YAB, Endeavors, Providence Place, Roy Mass Youth Alternatives, Thrive Youth Center and UTSA will execute the CCP by implementing a variety of support services and permanent housing projects. Grant awardees will begin their programs as part of WE SAY in October 2020, with work following for two calendar years.

Using input from our diverse group of stakeholders, YAB and SARAH have prioritized 30% of YHDP funding for dedicated supportive services and 70% for permanent housing (to include wraparound services.) The structure addresses the need for improved access points and the increased capacity for long-term housing with wraparound services.

AGENCY	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
UTSA	Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Housing First Project	Rapid Re-Housing	\$1,341,894
Endeavors	Youth Resilience Project	Rapid Re-Housing	\$1,513,294
Thrive Youth Center	Thrive THDP Rapid Re-Housing	Rapid Re-Housing	\$944,170
Providence Place	Oasis	Transitional Housing to Rapid Re-Housing	\$922,896
Roy Maas Youth Alternatives	Mobile Outreach	Mobile Outreach	\$526,870

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO HOUSE ALL YOUTH

The Movement to House All Youth will target efforts of aligning funding and bringing education, awareness, and advocacy to the community on how together we can ensure all youth have access to safe housing.

We invite all community members dedicated to ending youth homelessness to sign our petition to join the Movement to House All Youth, reinforcing your commitment to partner with SARAH, the YAB, and youth-serving organizations to ensure our youth are safely housed.

#WESAY #HOUSEALLYOUTH #YABSA



THANK YOU – TO ALL WHO HAVE HELPED DEVELOP THE WE SAY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN.

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Cecil King	J. Denise Smalsal	Mark O’Cleirigh	Terrence Littlefield
Chelsea Rangel	Jayde Beebe	Marta Martinez	Timothy Pazderka
Chelsey Viger	Jeannie Von Stultz	Megan Piel	Tina Aranda
Chris Lopez	Jessica Weaver	Melanie Barker	Tyler Shoemsmith
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WE STILL NEED YOU

While the YHDP grant will fund critical projects and help build momentum toward our goal of preventing and ending YYA homelessness, it is not enough on its own. We need the support and commitment of our community to raise additional dollars and in-kind resources in order to achieve our vision. WE SAY is a testament to what a diverse group of committed, informed stakeholders can accomplish when they come together. Will you join our movement to end youth homelessness?

To join us, visit www.sarahomeless.org/movement-to-house-all-youth