



Hitting a Brick Wall:  
Youth Housing Models to  
Prevent Homelessness Upon  
Re-Entry for Juveniles

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# Youth Homelessness

- 1 million to 1.6 million youth per year
- Contributing Factors
  - running away from home
  - being locked out or abandoned by their parents or guardians
  - running from or being emancipated or discharged from institutional and other state care



# Homeless Youth

- Unaccompanied youth who do not have familiar support
- Aged 12 to 24 years
- Who are living in:
  - On the streets
  - In shelters or In transitional living programs
  - Places not meant for human habitation (i.e. cars, abandon buildings)
  - Unstable temporary nighttime residence (i.e. other people's homes for short time periods)



## Youth Homelessness cont.

- **Runaway Youth**
  - Fleeing youth
- **Shelter Users**
  - Shelter Hoppers
- **Couch Surfers**
  - Transitory
  - Episodic
- **Street-Dependent Youth**
  - Squatters
  - Travelers

...Only 7% receive housing

# Youth Homelessness by Race and Ethnicity

- 2000 Census data on 13-17 population

Racial Category	Racial Category % of Homeless Teen Population (seeking services)	% of Teen Population
<b>White, Caucasian</b>	<b>49.1%</b>	<b>69.6%</b>
<b>Individuals of Color (Minority Status)</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>30.3%</b>



# GLBTQ Disproportionality

- Large range, between 4% to 50% of GLBTQ
- Estimate 20% = 300,000 youth
- Compared to 10% of incidence in general population



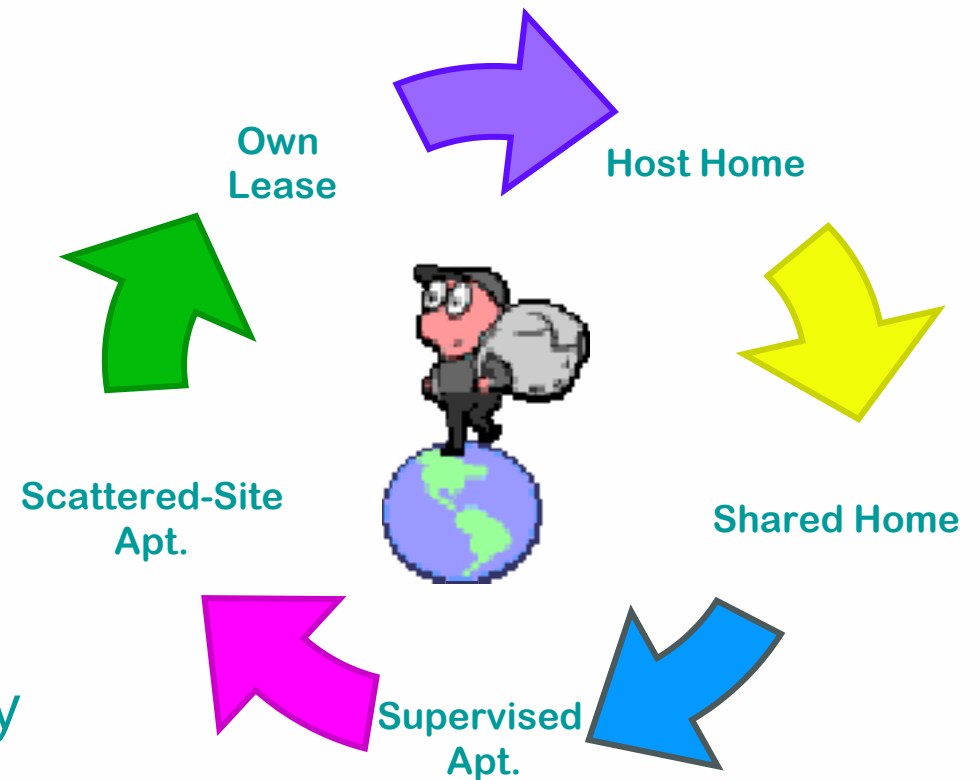
# Juvenile Justice and Homelessness

- Approx. 90,000 to 200,000 youth leave juvenile correctional facilities
- Some youth enter the juvenile justice system as homeless (homeless youth involved in criminal behavior) and other youth become homeless upon release from juvenile justice facilities
- Most youth leave to return to similar environments before being involved with juvenile justice
- About a third of homeless youth had an out of home placement in the juvenile justice system



# Targeting Interventions

- Match housing and support services with proficiencies
- Potential Solutions
  - Shallow Subsidies
  - Independent Living Programs
  - Customized Community Connections
  - Permanent Supportive Housing





# Positive Youth Development Services

- Builds youth's competence, involvement and connection to their culture and the community
- A process of coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help youth to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent



## Shallow Subsidy



- Short-term or one time
- Monetary support for housing expenses
- Minimum services needed



## Models to consider?

- Host Homes
- Shared Homes
- Supervised apartments
- Scattered-site apartments



# Host Homes

- Volunteer or Subsidized
- Caring adults/families open home to homeless youth
- Location
  - Rural vs. Urban
  - Access to services
- Training and Support for host and youth



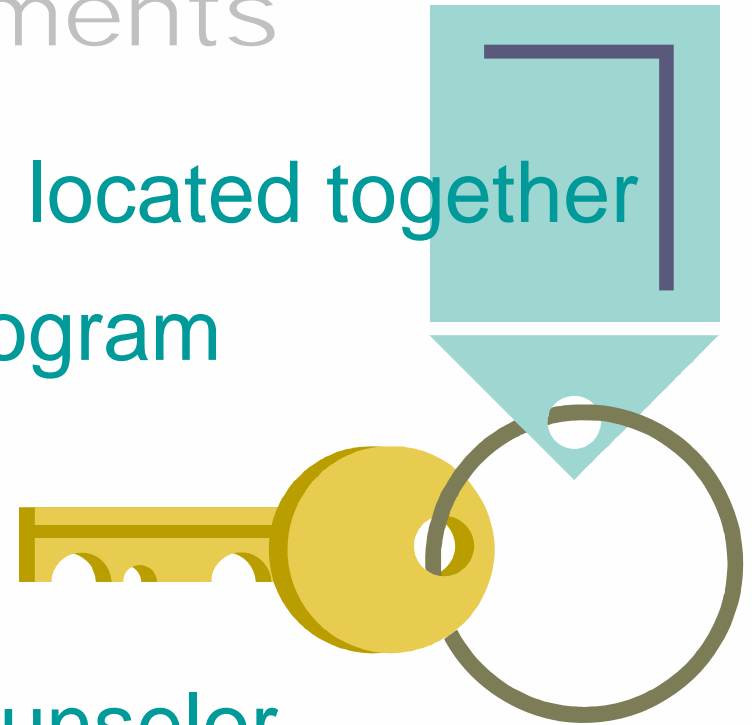
# Shared Homes

- Four or more bedroom houses
- Live-in staff member/mentor
- Common kitchen and living area
- Cost-effective
- No zoning requirements
- Geographic location



# Supervised Apartments

- Cluster apartments and located together
- Rented or owned by program
- Consolidated service delivery
- Live-in supervisor or counselor
  - Plus additional on site staff
- Apartments have private kitchen and bath



# Scattered-Site Apartments

- Privately-owned apartments rented by an agency/program
- Closely resembles complete autonomy
- Gradual transfer of lease to youth
- Flexibility on length of stay
- Routine apartment visits



# Federal Funding Sources for Youth Housing Programs

- **Housing and Urban Development**
  - Supportive Housing Program
  - Shelter Plus Care
  - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
- **Department of Health and Human Services**
  - Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs
- **Department of Labor**
  - Youth Build

# Homeless Assistance Programs



- **RHYA Housing Programs**
  - Basic Center – under 18, two-week max. stay
  - Transitional Living Program – 16-21, 18 month limit
- **Street Outreach**
  - Initiates most contacts
- **McKinney-Vento School Liaisons**



# Let's Discuss: Barriers & Solutions

- **What are the greatest barriers to achieving residential stability for youth?**
- **What are some solutions that communities would like to share?**



## Current Federal Policy

- **Second Chance Act**
- **NN4Youth's Re-entry bill**
- **Reauthorization of the JJDPA**



# Policy Recommendations

- ✓ **Improve Discharge Planning**
- ✓ **Target Prevention Services for Teens**
- ✓ **Advocate for financial resources for rental subsidies and emergency funds**
- ✓ **Provide culturally competent services**
- ✓ **Collect data and evaluation outcomes**
- ✓ **Set up communication with community partners**



## Contact Information

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