



Prince George's County: Local Effort to Prevent and End Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults



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**SASHA
BRUCE**

Daniel Rico

Chief Development Officer

Sasha Bruce Youthwork



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Navigator, Youth Experiencing Success Center

And Past Chair, Youth Action Board

Prince George's County Department of Social Services

1,656 youth are
experiencing
homelessness in
Prince George's
County and as many
as 42,000 youth may
be at risk.

Prince George's County

COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN

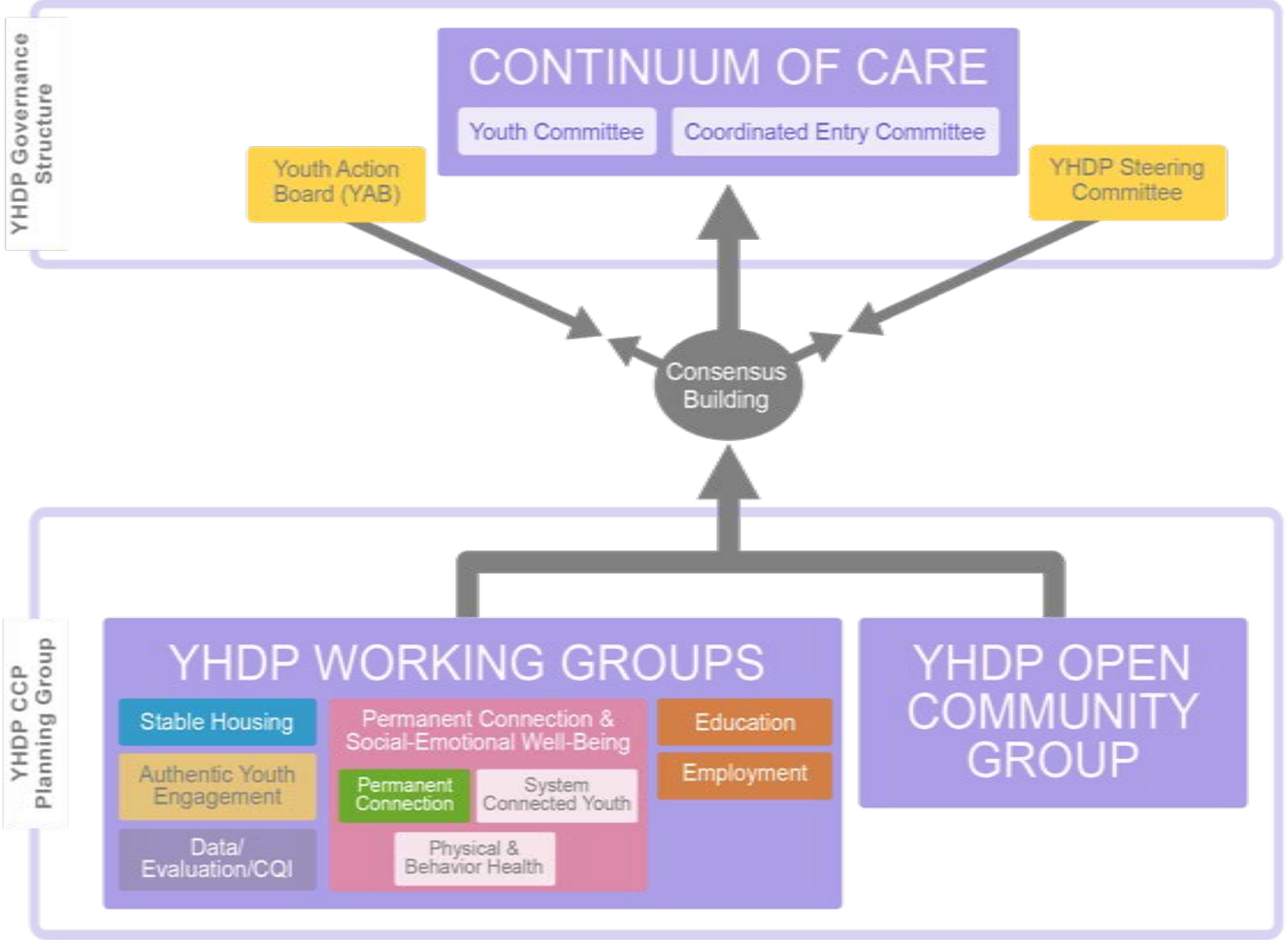


My brain is cluttered
My thoughts are loud
Trying to find a Quiet place
Somewhere out there in the clouds
I've spent so long on the ground
Flying feels unnatural
But I was born with wings
Growing them back is half the battle
The other half is the aftermath of falling on my face
But falling felt like flying at times I needed a taste
Someday, I'll grow them back
And I will never let them go
I'll keep them hidden, until then I don't want them to show
Then I'll stretch my wings
Blossom like a flower
Showers in the spring gives soil the power
Loud and proud I fly, wings stretched out to say
I was once stuck and static, but it's now time to make my way

YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS
DEMONSTRATION
PROGRAM

PRINCE GEORGE'S
COUNTY,
MARYLAND

MAY 2020



Local Data Sets

Prince George's County, Maryland has been working to understand the scope and magnitude of homelessness among unaccompanied young people ages 13 to 24 since 2012.

Annual Count

160 youth and young adults (YYA) experience literal homelessness each day

“Every two hours I had to run around so I [didn't] freeze.”
– Parris B.

Urban Institute

22% of youth living in our inner beltway communities are disconnected

“I stopped going into the programs because life happened, and it got tough.”
- Daija R.

UMD Student Pilot

200 incoming freshman were actively experiencing literal homelessness at the time of registration

“You want to go to school, but you have to make money; how can you focus on school and you have bills to pay?”
- Jasmine F.

Coordinated Community Plan

1,656 YYA (177 pregnant/parenting) are experiencing literal homelessness and 42,000 (6,114 pregnant/parenting) are housing unstable and at risk.

“They are outside, wandering around wondering where to go just to sleep peacefully.”
- DaeJanae D.

What Does The Data Reveal?

Over **80%** were African American
& **13%** were Latinx

20% were gender minorities

28% were under the age of 18

72% were over 18 and of those
only **28%** had any post
secondary education at all (**23%**
did not even have a HS diploma
or GED)

35% had children of their own

30% had been arrested

38% had experienced foster care

25% had run away

40% were working while an additional

20% relied on the informal economy
(legal and illegal activities) for
survival

10% acknowledged engaging in
transactional sex (sex for money,
other barter); the number jumping to
20% for gender minorities.

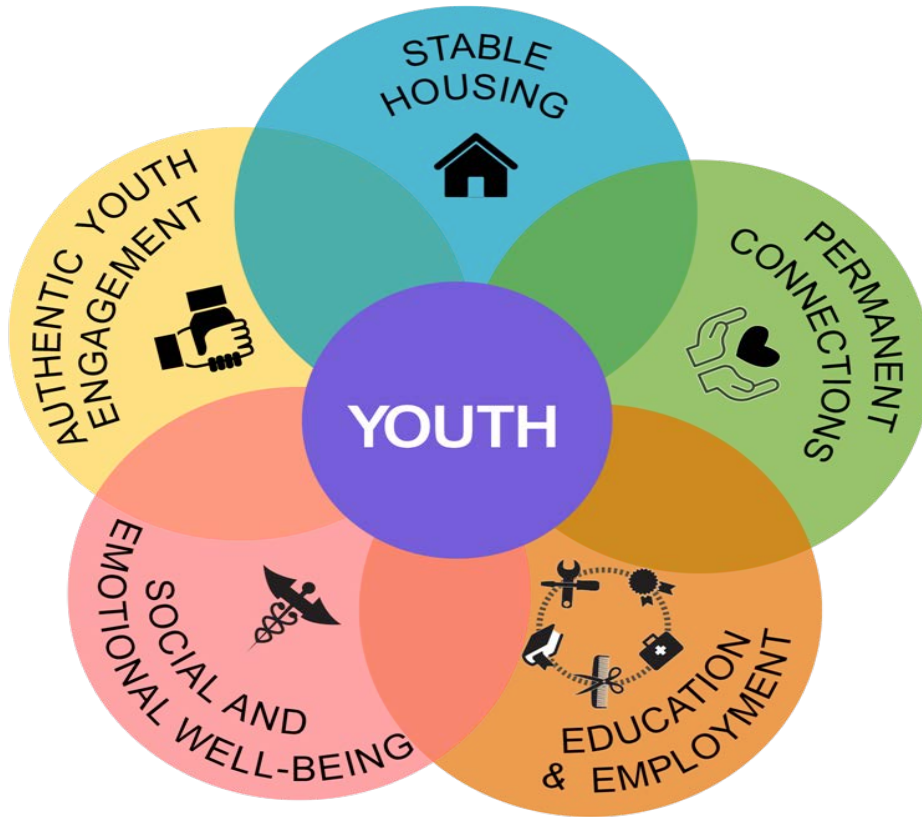
Vision

We envision a County where youth homelessness does not exist and all youth and young adults are healthy, strong, safe, stable, connected and thriving.



**“Every Voice is Worth Hearing;
Every Concern is Justified.”**

- Youth Action Board



Youth are supported in building, renewing, and strengthening connections to natural and community supports that help them continue to thrive after exiting services

Youth have access to tailored and well-coordinated education and employment supports and opportunities that support youth in gaining the resources, knowledge, and skills to transition to a stable and thriving adulthood, achieve autonomy and self-sufficiency, and realize their full potential

Youth are respected and valued as equal partners in driving change and feel like they belong in, and are supported by, their community

Youth have immediate and ongoing access to housing support services that are age appropriate, low barrier, welcoming and inclusive

Youth have access to tailored and well coordinated community services through an integrated, youth-driven system of care that aligns with youth needs and supports them across domains

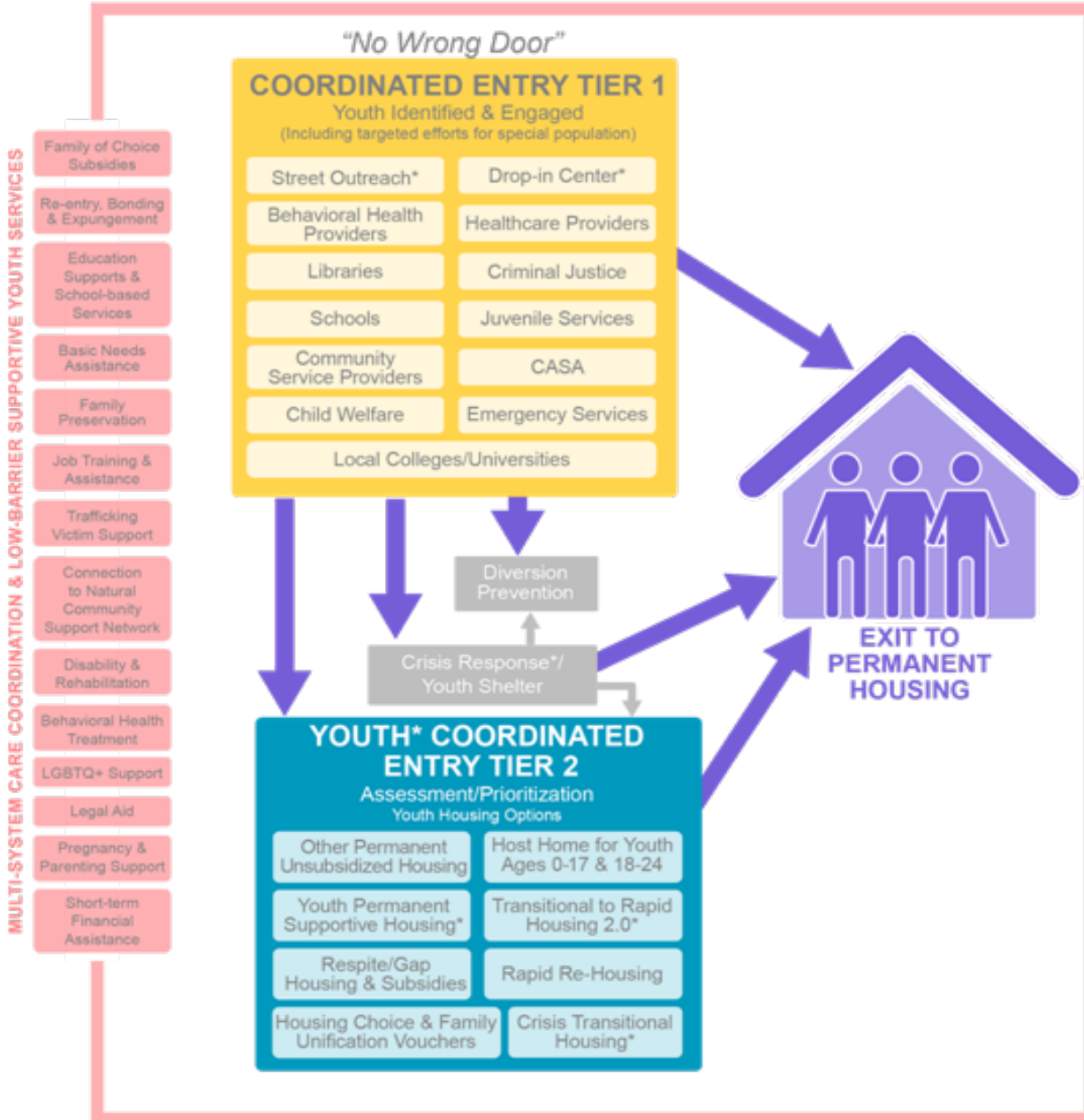


YHDP Projects

YHDP PROJECT		VENDOR	LAUNCH
1	Drop In Center	Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.	December 2021
2	Street Outreach	Maryland Multi-Cultural Youth Center	April 2021
3	Transitional Housing Crisis Beds for Youth	Covenant House	December 2021
4	Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing for Youth	Covenant House	December 2021
5	Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing for Higher Education Students	Maryland Multi-Cultural Youth Center in partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park	April 2021
6	Permanent Supportive Housing for Older Youth with Significant Somatic, Behavioral Health, or Intellectual Challenges	Prince George's County Department of Social Services	December 2021

Individualized Pathways* to

Stable Housing, Permanent Connections, Education & Employment, and Social Emotional Well-being.



“You feel like nobody cares. You need the services that show, ‘Yes we do care. We are going to be here for you. We are going to help you get through this.’ That means a lot.”

- Anonymous

“Sometimes things slip through our hands and we still need somebody to help and cover us. Because it’s really easy to get caught back up into peer pressure and just go in the opposite direction of where we need to be.”

- Anonymous

“Somebody who wouldn’t mind coming to look for you when you are in trouble, or basically a constant friend. That really helps, because it shows you that somebody really cares.”

- Anonymous

* New services to be offered through YHDP

ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



**SASHA
BRUCE**



Angela D. Alsobrooks, *County Executive*

Prince George's County Resilience Project

An HHS Youth Homelessness
Prevention Demonstration Project





Project Overview

PURPOSE: Develop a comprehensive prevention plan to combat homelessness among LGBTQIA+ and Latina/o youth and young adults in Prince George's County, by:

- Expanding culturally and linguistically appropriate social services
- Creating affirming spaces for LGBTQIA+, their families, caregivers, and providers
- Aligning existing systems and support structures
- Establishing Direct Cash Transfer Programs
- Creating impactful and sustainable solutions that disrupt the cycle of homelessness and serve as national models.

Affirming spaces for LGBTQIA+, Youth, Families/Caregivers, and Providers

AFFIRM has three critical pieces:

- 1) **AFFIRM Youth**, an 8-session counseling intervention (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults typically delivered by trained, certified mental health professionals in a group-based format;
- 2) **AFFIRM Caregiver** Intervention Training, a 7-session intervention delivered by trained, certified mental health professionals who work with groups of parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth in a group setting; and
- 3) **AFFIRM Provider** Training, Provider training to all Resiliency project staff, BEZ staff, and CoC providers (see additional prevention interventions below) to ensure a culturally competent, affirming staff that understands and acknowledges LGBTQIA+ issues and challenges.

Resiliency Fund: Direct Cash Transfer

Financial Assistance (Honoring Youth Choice):

Tier 1: \$400 monthly in guaranteed basic income for 24 months: \$9,600 total per person; 15 individuals

Tier 2: \$600 per month in guaranteed basic income for 12 months, plus one-time cash assistance of \$1,000: \$8,200 total per person; 15 individuals

Tier 3: One-time flexible cash assistance of \$5,000 per person: 16 individuals

PLUS

A Resilience Coach that will partner with each youth to develop coaching plans and set goals for housing, education, employment, mental health, and other critical areas.

Key Funding Partners

Cultivating long term investment and buy-in!

- CapitalOne
- Citi
- TD Bank
- Cafritz Foundation
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
(Continuum of Care)

Prince George's County Youth Action Board



Prince George's County Youth Action Board Events & Activity Engagement

Advocacy/Legislation:

- Community Mental Health Needs Assessment
- Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter or Supportive Services HB206/SB207
- Maryland's Tuition Waiver Bill SB155/HB216
- Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Partnership
- CLASP New Deal For Youth Collaborations

Community Engagement/Outreach:

- 3rd Annual G.O.A.T Youth Mental Health Expo
- MLK Weekend of Action (UMD Eastern Shore-Washington Metropolitan Area Alumni Chapter,
- Bruce Empowerment Zone & Youth Experiencing Success Drop-In Centers
- White House Collaborations- Community Engagement Division
- National Coalition for the Homeless Collaborations
- YouthCareNetwork

Team Building/Trainings:

- Lived Experience Training Academy (LETA) Academy (NCH)
- Communication and Etiquette
- Mental Health Basic Training
- Adulting 101
- Job Readiness
- Financial Literacy/Credit Card Talk
- Nature Walk Tours- Parks/Recs
- Team Yoga
- Paint & Chill

Continuum of Care Leadership

- Coordinated Community Plan
- Prevention Demonstration Plan
- CoC and YHDP Provider Application - Ranking and Selections
 - YHDP Facility selection(s)
 - YAB Member Recruitment and Orientation
 - Point in Time Count
 - Youth Reach



Centering Youth Voice

Compensation

- Stipends / Honorariums / Incentives
- Paid Positions

Funding Priorities

- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
- System of Care expansion
- Healthy Transitions
- Prevention Demonstration Pilot
- Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot

Expertise

- Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Cabinet for Children and Youth

Empowerment

- Youth Action Board
- Lived Experience Training Academy

Advocacy

- Tuition Waiver
- Minor Right to Consent



When power is authentically shared, great things are possible!

