GRANTMAKERS FOR EDUCATION AND FUNDERS TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS PRESENT

Stability Starts at Home: Strategies to End Student Homelessness

April 18, 2:00 pm ET

Grantmakers FOR EDUCATION

Nina Robinson/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment

Stability Starts at Home: Strategies to End Student Homelessness

April 18, 2024

Funders Together
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Funders Together to End Homelessness mobilizes its members to use philanthropy's voice, influence, and financial capital to end homelessness by creating and advancing lasting solutions that are grounded in racial and housing justice, driven by love and disruption, and centering people with lived expertise.

The Role of Education Funders

Support students experiencing homelessness to succeed in school and life.

➢ Youth who don't complete high school are 346% more likely to experience homelessness.

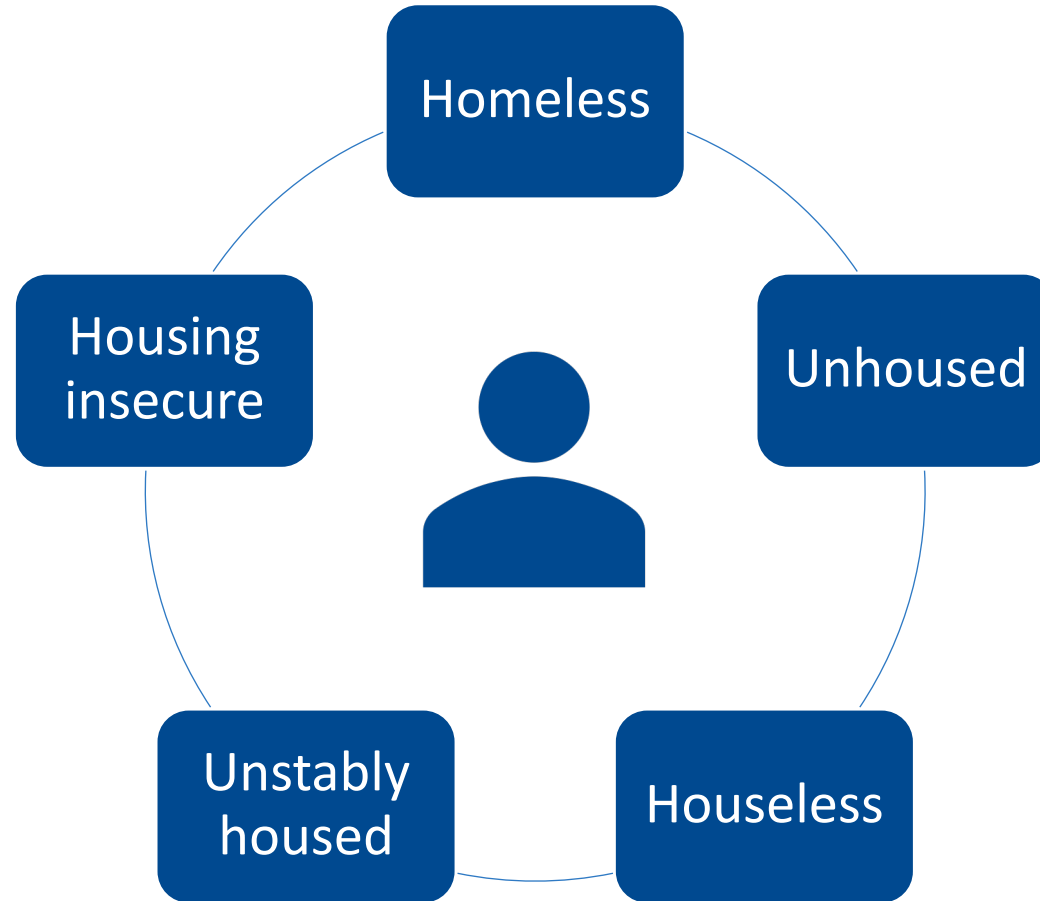➢ Students who are homeless suffer.

Help shorten and resolve housing crises for students

➢ Schools coalesce many services and opportunities to help students exit homelessness.

➢ We need more funders to join the housing justice movement to stand any chance.

Help *prevent* homelessness for students

➢ Schools are distinct venues and opportunities to prevent homelessness.

➢ School engagement is protective factor for housing stability.

On Terminology

Housing insecurity is rising as the US faces a severe housing shortage and as wages haven't kept up with soaring housing costs.

HOUSING JUSTICE
at the URBAN INSTITUTE

Seek and prioritize solutions shaped by people with lived experience and communities most affected by these challenges.

Create space for different groups to listen, learn, and discuss solutions.

WHAT is housing justice?

Ensuring everyone has affordable housing that promotes health, well-being, and upward mobility by confronting historical and ongoing harms and disparities caused by structural racism and other systems of oppression.

Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people are more likely to experience housing insecurity and homelessness because of past and present discriminatory policies and practices in housing, education, employment, and the criminal legal system.

To remedy these inequities, advocates, policymakers, and researchers are calling for a structural overhaul of the country's housing system to ensure everyone can live in a safe, affordable home.

AMPLIFY & BUILD KNOWLEDGE

Draw on Urban's expertise in housing research and policy, racial equity analytics, and cross-sector solutions.

...lect and catalog ...rch and resources ...d to housing justice.

DEVELOP TOOLS FOR CHANGE

Give policymakers and community stakeholders the evidence-based tools and analyses they need to develop, implement, and monitor policies and programs that achieve housing justice for all.

PRIVATE PROPERTY KEEP OUT

HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC EQUITY & JUSTICE

PRIMACY OF LIVED EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITY & WELL-BEING

DATA ANALYSIS

POLICY

Ensuring everyone has affordable housing that promotes health, well-being, and upward mobility by confronting historical and ongoing harms and disparities caused by structural racism and other systems of oppression.

From: Urban Institute

HOUSING JUSTICE VALUES

Housing is a fundamental human right.

Housing justice is a building block for racial justice and liberation. A just housing society offers the assurance of safe, secure, affordable, and dignified living conditions where people have power and agency over how and where they live.

Housing justice recognizes that for generations equitable access to housing has been denied to Black and Indigenous people and other communities of color, which has fueled the disproportionate numbers of Black and other people of color experiencing homelessness.

By pursuing housing justice, Funders Together is unapologetically stating that homelessness is a racialized experience created and exacerbated by the forces of structural racism. Funders Together advocates for corrective action, such as reparations, to address the cumulative disparities and transform systems of accountability to ensure housing for all.

HOUSING JUSTICE VALUES

I. **Housing is a human right** = Housing is not earned. It is the duty of the state, in partnership with other actors, to ensure access to housing.

II. **Housing justice as a pathway to racial justice** = Racial justice refers to the process of achieving a world where the harms of slavery, colonization, and all forms of racism have been repaired and where ethnicity has no influence on economic and social stability and safety. A world with racial justice can bear no injustice in housing, and housing stability is a prerequisite to safety and wellness.

III. **Safe, secure, affordable, dignified** = Both temporary and permanent housing accommodations must be humane.

IV. **Power and agency** = Any service or housing option provided to people experiencing housing insecurity is voluntary. People deserve a choice on what services they access, where they reside, and with whom.

V. **Corrective action** = It is not enough to simply root out racism from the homelessness response system nor the systems that contribute to homelessness: we must also make amends for the generations of exploitation and oppression that specifically targeted Black people and Indigenous people and continue to discriminate against everyone with minoritized racial identities. This means housing justice includes federal reparations.

VI. **Transform systems** = every system that contributes to so much instability in people's lives that so often leads to homelessness must be dismantled and, as appropriate, reconstituted to achieve racial and social justice.

A Growing Crisis

- Varying definitions!

- Federal figures:
  - HUD's PIT Count: <mark>34,703</mark> *unaccompanied* youth (<25) in 2023
  - DoE: <mark>1,205,292</mark> public school students 2021-22
  - HHS: 13.65% of Health Care for the Homeless pts <18 = <mark>128,378</mark>

Figure 1. Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in America

1 in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That's 3.5 million young adults. About half of them involved explicitly reported homelessness while the other half involved couch surfing only.

1 in 30 youth ages 13-17 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That's about 700,000 youth. About three-quarters of them involved explicitly reported homelessness (including running away or being kicked out) and one-quarter involved couch surfing only.

Source: Chapin Hall

Drivers of Homelessness

- Structural causes vs individual risk factors

- It's about **housing***

*And the unaffordability and inaccessibility of housing is about racialized capitalism.

Funders Network for Youth Success

- A national network of Funders Together members who focus on youth homelessness

- Webinar series on prevention and intersecting systems

- New bimonthly strategy calls for FTEH members

INTRODUCING
2024 YOUTH HOMELESSNESS FUNDER
STRATEGY CIRCLES
4TH TUESDAY, BIMONTHLY, @ 2ET

Promising Efforts

- The Upstream Project

- Homeless Student Stability Program
  -

- Youth Reconnect (Canada)

- Direct Cash Transfers

Prevention Prevention Prevention

- Typology of prevention

- School completion is protective factor

How do we go from this?

Prevention → Emergency Response → Housing and Supports

To this?

Prevention → Emergency Response → Housing and Supports

Source: A Way Home Canada

Housing Housing Housing

We can make the most robust identification, referral, and services system in the world, but absent housing, we will never end homelessness.

HOUSING IS A
HUMAN RIGHT.

This resource page provides legal
expertise, insights, and analysis into the
Supreme Court Case *Johnson v. Grants
Pass.*

FAQ

Advocacy

- Johnson v. Grants Pass

- Youth Homelessness Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act (Rep Tlaib)

- Prevention of Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Thank you!

www.funderstogether.org

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in America

A Thrive by 25® Brief

WHY CASEY? WHY NOW?

1. **Core mission:** making sure all children and youth in the United States have a bright future.

2. **Listening to our partners:** different programs serving the same vulnerable population

3. **Long-term implications:** adolescence is when young people are maturing

4. **Data-driven solutions:** expand our contributions to the field beyond KIDS COUNT and Race for Results

KEY FINDINGS

1. 1 in 10 young adults, and 1 in 30 kids are impacted

2. Black, Hispanic, and LGBTQ are at greater risk of experiencing homelessness

3. Lack of a unified definition of homelessness leads to inefficiency

4. Preventable if policymakers are willing to act

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a unified definition of youth homelessness

2. Target funding to basic needs and other youth homelessness risks

3. Focus on prevention

4. Support cross-systems partnerships

5. Advance equity

6. Elevate youth voice

7. Transform the justice system response

8. Help young people leaving foster care prepare for adulthood

INVESTMENTS

1. Monitor state policy that criminalizes youth experiencing homelessness
   - National Homelessness Law Center - Youth State Policy Index

2. Support youth-led policy advocacy
   - National Network for Youth
   - Point Source Youth
   - A Way Home America

3. Collaborate with place-based efforts, particularly in civic sites
   - Homeless Persons Representation Project

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Developing solutions to build a brighter future for children, families and communities

www.aecf.org

JOHNSON v. GRANTS PASS

NHLC
NATIONAL
HOMELESSNESS
LAW CENTER

HOUSING
NOT HANDCUFFS

Johnson v. Grants Pass Overview

TL/DR:

- Case is about whether cities can punish unhoused people for covering themselves with a blanket, *even in the absence of shelter*.

Where and why?

Where:

- Grants Pass, OR
- City of 40,000
- Thousands of units short of affordable housing
- No shelters
- 600 counted homeless

Why:

- "the point is to make it uncomfortable enough for them in our city so [homeless individuals] will want to move on down the road."

No, Camping Bans Do Not Work

Do Criminalization Policies Impact Local Homelessness?
Exploring the Limits and Concerns of Socially
Constructed Deviancy

32 Pages   •   Posted: 18 Feb 2024

Hannah Lebovits
The University of Texas at Arlington

Andrew Sullivan
University of Central Florida

Date Written: February 4, 2024

"Unsheltered homelessness does not change after or as a result of adoption. On average, there is a 2.2% increase in unsheltered homelessness"

Unique Impact on Youth

From the youth focused amicus brief signed by "more than 223...organizations who work directly or indirectly with the staggering number of unhoused youth or youth at risk of housing instability; individuals who currently or formerly experienced housing instability as youth; legal professionals; child services professionals; academics; [and] advocates;"

- "Once unhoused, these youth face substantial obstacles to obtaining suitable shelter, including insufficient dedicated shelter beds for young people, age-restrictions for shelter services, and the risk of violence. These risks render the few shelters that do exist unsafe and inadequate for most youth; nearly a third of homeless youth in one study expressed concerns about "the inability of shelters to provide a safe environment."

- "With a heightened risk of homelessness and unique challenges in securing shelter, the consequences of enforcement of the Grants Pass ordinances against young people, including the imposition of criminal fines and other penalties, will have particularly harsh and adverse consequences. Rather than addressing or limiting homelessness among youth, criminalization will impede their path to stability and a successful transition to adulthood."

- "Alleviating youth homelessness requires making permanent, affordable housing available to young people. It also requires local municipalities to provide services and resources that address youth needs, including support for families struggling with addiction, safe living situations for young people experiencing abuse, supports for young people seeking employment and self-sufficiency, and opportunities for young people who have been court-involved."

How to get involved

- Join us in DC on April 22 or get involved in a local event: https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/rally

- Spread the word about this case: https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/social-media-toolkit

- Join the Housing not Handcuffs Campaign: https://housingnothandcuffs.org/

The state index on youth homelessness

- The Index focuses primarily on housing policy – accessing, affording, and maintaining safe and habitable housing, free from discrimination, and with additional supports and resources for youth who want them.

- It also focuses on systems that can help prevent (such as healthcare and education), or that can cause (such as criminalization and discrimination), youth homelessness. It recognizes transformational policies and systems that can end or prevent youth homelessness if effectively implemented, such as an enforceable right to housing.

- Tackling youth homelessness means agreeing on the causes and potential solutions and developing a strategy to implement those solutions that are led by and accountable to unhoused youth and young adults.

"Liberation is ensuring that every person, regardless of who they are or how much income they have, has a home. **Housing is a human right and basic need. Maslow's hierarchy of needs - basic needs first!** Everyone has access to a home."
-Jacqueline Robles

"Black women in America have additional stereotypes applied to us. **When I apply for things my name signals whiteness but then my voice and physical appearance result in different treatment. This is straight-up systemic racism**. It discourages people from bringing their full selves to situations due to systemic biases about Black people."
-Jennifer Myers (she/her)

We need a collective effort to get service providers to understand our daily struggles. The system builds walls around us that make it more challenging to reach those in power; **they want to develop programs for us but will get nowhere if they don't ask us what we need**. We are the experts on what we need, and no book can teach that. **We must sit at the table and help you pioneer what the end of homelessness will look like**. - Theo Diaz

Common themes from focus groups

Accessing and maintaining safe and habitable housing

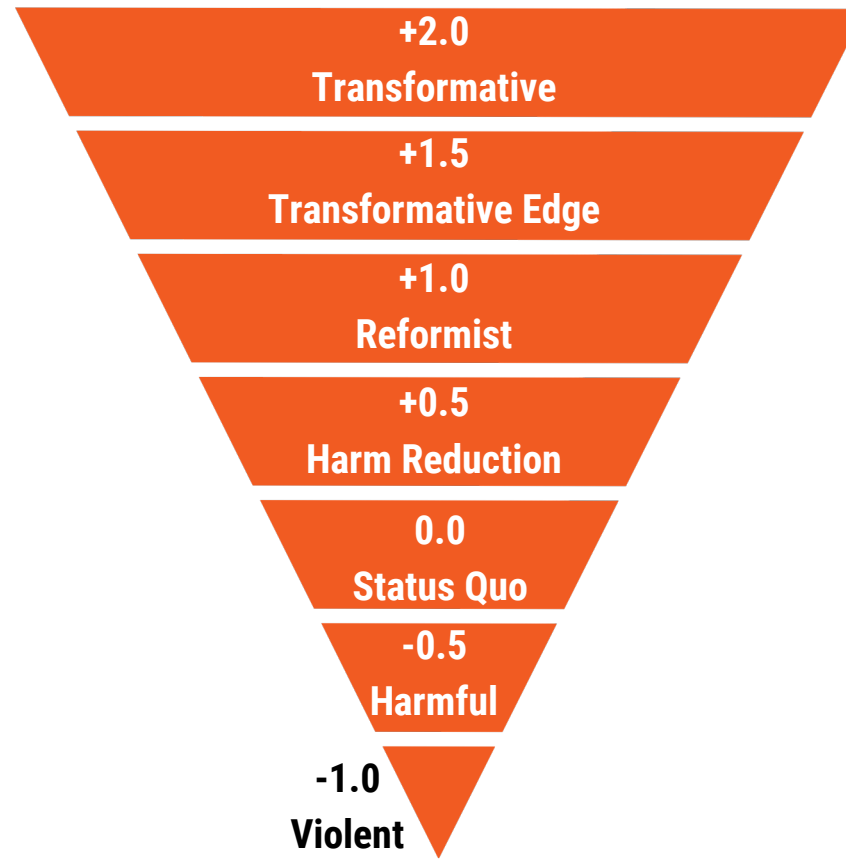**Experiencing discrimination in housing and services**

The detrimental effect of homelessness and poverty on mental health

The additional trauma of navigating non-profit and government systems

Scoring

- Transformative = +2.0
  - Policy prevents and/or ends youth homelessness (by itself or with other metrics) if effectively implemented
- Transformative edge = +1.5
  - Policy does not directly prevent and/or end youth homelessness, BUT
  - Policy undermines systems that cause youth homelessness
- Reformist = +1.0
  - Policy reduces youth homelessness if effectively implemented, BUT
  - Policy relies on systems that cause youth homelessness

- Harm Reduction = +0.5
  - Policy reduces harm to unhoused young people, if effectively implemented, BUT
  - Policy reinforces systems that cause youth homelessness
- Status Quo = 0.0
  - Policy does not reduce harm to unhoused young people
- Harmful = -0.5
  - Policy causes harm to unhoused young people
- Violent = -1.0
  - Policy causes harm to unhoused young people, AND
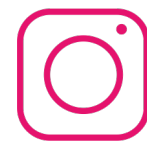 - Policy is malicious

+2.0
Transformative

+1.5
Transformative Edge

+1.0
Reformist

+0.5
Harm Reduction

0.0
Status Quo

-0.5
Harmful

-1.0
Violent

[Youthstateindex.com](http://www.youthstateindex.com)

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True Colors United

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@truecolorsunited

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Video available in ~1 week

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BIT.LY/EDFUNDERSUPDATES

COMING UP:

April 19: Equity Storytelling Fellowship Spring Cohort Registration Deadline (Cohort begins April 26)

April 19: Transforming the Education System to Support Youth Thriving: OST Monthly Field Convening

April 25: The Future of Math: Classroom Teaching

May 7: Postsecondary Spotlight on Mental Health and Wellbeing

May 9: The Future of Math: Innovations in Classroom Technology

May 16: Artistic SEL: Powerful Social and Emotional Learning Practices for Student Wellbeing

EDFUNDERS.ORG/EVENT-CALENDAR/

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