THE DETROIT CONTINUUM OF CARE

ADVOCATING AGAINST YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

THE SCOPE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

A single-night Point-in-Time count on January 31, 2024, found 579 youth experiencing homelessness in Detroit, up from 406* in 2023. Of those, youth were unsheltered 31 in 2024.

WHAT IS YHDP?

- The ultimate goal of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is to reduce youth homelessness.
- YHDP supports selected award recipients in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach.
- Program serves youth experiencing homelessness up to age 24.
- The shared Mission and Vision is for youth and young adults voices to be centered and elevated in collective efforts… where youth and young adults of all backgrounds have access to:
  - Safe, stable, and affordable housing
  - Supportive services
  - Educational and employment opportunities
  - Awareness and resources through building permanent connections
  - Any other resources and services that ensures youth homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.



YHDP PLANNING AND TIMELINE

- In July 2021, the Detroit CoC applied for a grant opportunity known as the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program.
- In 2021, Detroit was selected to receive $5.7 Million. This launched our community into a coordinated planning process.
- A Coordinated Community Plan was developed over a period of 8 months (Nov 2021 – May 2022), in partnership with national HUD technical assistance providers, community stakeholders … and the Youth Action Board.
- YHDP grant recipients: Ruth Ellis Center, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH); Methodist Children's Home Society (MCHS) and Detroit Phoenix Center, Joint Component Transitional Housing Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH); and Methodist Children's Home Society (MCHS), Crisis Mental Health.









YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- Youth were integral to key decision-making processes, including providing critical voices in drafting the Request for Proposals (RFP) and reviewing applications.
- As members of the Detroit Phoenix Center's Youth Action Board, they were their own advocates in designing our local program.
- The Youth Action Board (YAB) is described as "an interagency group of young leaders with lived experience of homelessness and/or foster care." Its mission:
  - Strive for the elimination of youth homelessness
  - Informing the public
  - Identifying and eliminating barriers to housing
  - Advocating for increased resources

ADVOCACY & POLICY

- Introduced February 23 2024, the Youth Homelessness Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act (HR 7451)… will launch a pilot program providing direct cash assistance to emancipated minors and young adults under 30 years old experiencing homelessness in the amount of $1,400, or the adjusted fair market rent, for 36 months…
- "The Homeless Action Network of Detroit is proud to support innovative ways to end youth homelessness, which is one of the reasons why we endorsed the Youth Homelessness Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act" — Tasha Gray, Executive Director

August 2025

GET INVOLVED



Contact Elected Officials:
Tell Senators Peters and Slotkin: Youth need housing now!



Volunteer
unitedwaysem.org
Support local shelters, youth orgs, and emergency response.



Donate
handetroit.org/donate
Your support empowers us to lead the fight to end homelessness.

SOURCES AND MORE INFORMATION:

- **DETROIT POINT-IN-TIME COUNT REPORT (2024): HANDETROIT.ORG/REPORTS**
- **HAND YHDP: HANDETROIT.ORG/YHDP-FUNDING**
- **HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT (HAND): HANDETROIT.ORG**
- **HR 7451: CONGRESS.GOV/BILL/118TH-CONGRESS/HOUSE-BILL/7451**
- **NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH: NN4YOUTH.ORG**

* Unsheltered PIT Counts were not conducted in 2023 or 2021. As 2023 was not a mandatory count year and the Continuum of Care received a waiver from HUD to forgo the 2021 unsheltered PIT Count due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provided by:

hand
HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT