

---

# Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

Planning Committee Kick-Off Meeting

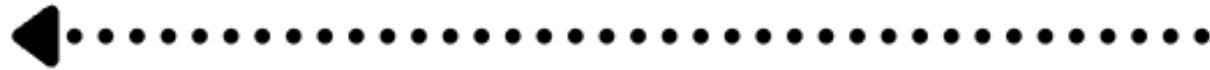
---

# Welcome!



Please, in the chat introduce yourself:

- Share your name (no titles please)
- Pronoun
- What community or organization are you here to represent?



# Welcome!

---



**VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT  
OPPORTUNITY!!**

We invite all of you to text **ctiyouthservices443** to **22333**  
or visit the link in the chat to answer the following  
question:

**What is one word or phrase that comes  
to mind when you think of Youth  
Homelessness?**

---

# *Welcome!*

---

Before we begin...

## **AUTHENTIC YOUTH COLLABORATION**

Authentic youth collaboration is when we, the young people are empowered to:

- Express ourselves
  - Share experiences and unique knowledge
  - Ask for assistance
  - Demonstrate our strengths as equal members of the community
  - Make decisions that shape the systems we interact with.
-

# *Welcome!*

---

## What are we doing here...

This is what you can expect from today's meeting:

- Behind the scenes people
  - Fun activities to bring the community together
  - Learning about the YHDP process working towards a Collaborative Community Plan
-

---

# Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)





## What is YHDP?

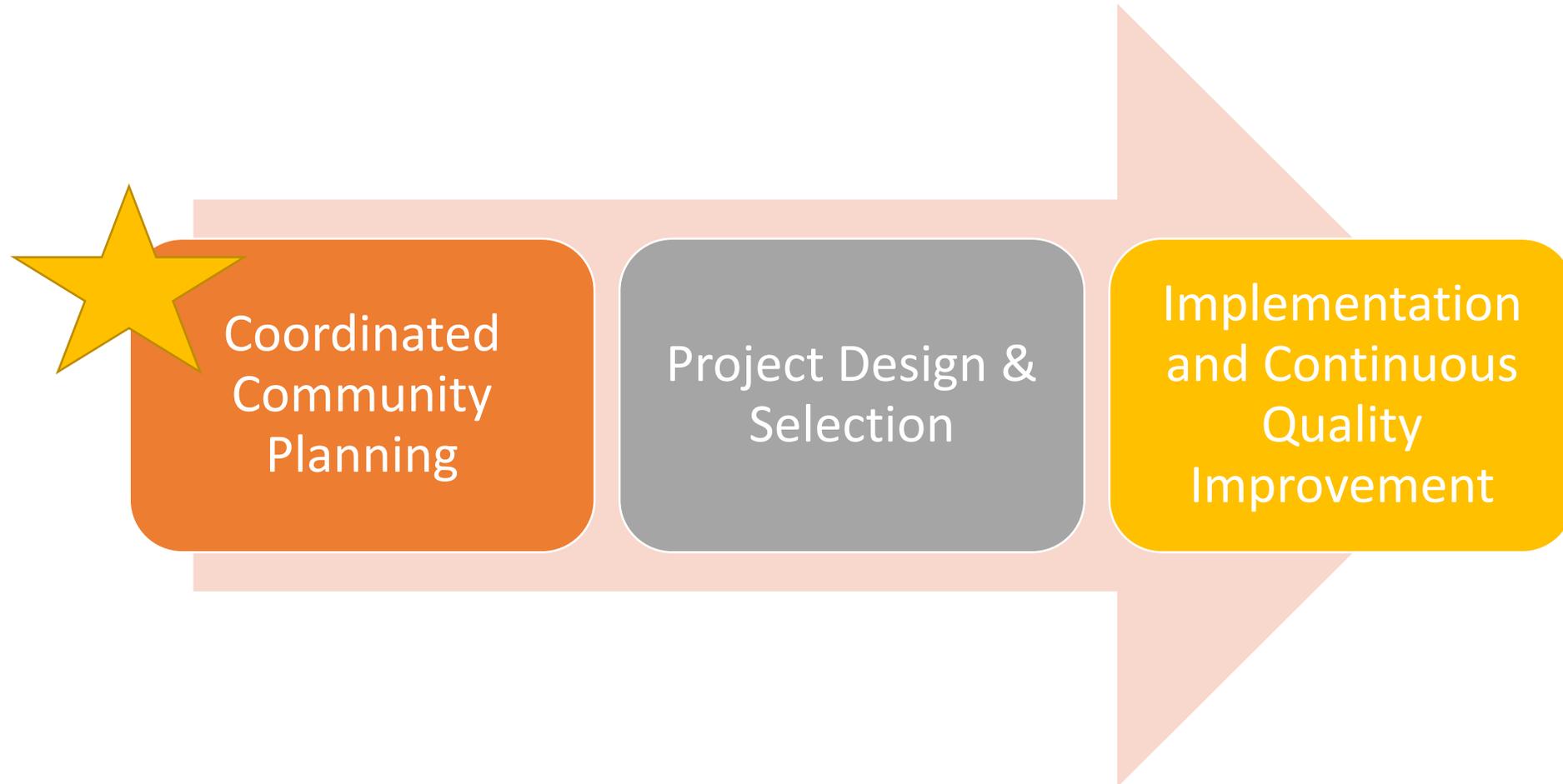
---

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is an exciting initiative designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. The goal of the YHDP is to:

- Support selected communities.
  - Coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth.
  - Mobilizing communities to work together
  - Intensive planning to create a **Coordinated Community Plan** (CCP)
-



## What is YHDP?





## Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)

---

- Governance structure and decision-making process
  - Shared mission and vision
  - Statement of need
  - Goals, objectives, and action steps
  - List of projects to be funded with YHDP award
  - List of planning partners
  - Required signatures
    - CoC, Youth Action Board, Child Welfare, Local Gov. Agency, RHY Provider (if any)
-



## Key Principles of YHDP

---

- Authentic Youth Collaboration
- Equity
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Positive Youth Development
- Housing First
- Youth Choice
- Social & Community Integration
- Individualized & Client-Driven Supports
- Serving Special Populations
- Coordinated Entry
- Family Engagement



## What does this mean for us?

---

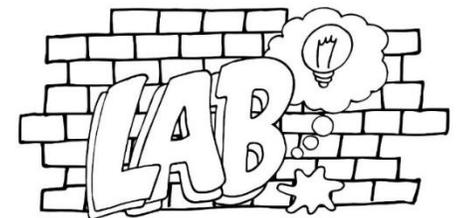
With this YHDP opportunity, The Balance of State and Community Teamwork were awarded:

**\$5.9 Million Dollars**

**That is to be distributed to programs or program ideas developed as part of this work.**

---

# WHO IS WHO?



# WHO IS WHO?

---



## Massachusetts Balance of State Continuum of Care

---

# WHO IS WHO?

## What is the Balance of State (BoS)?

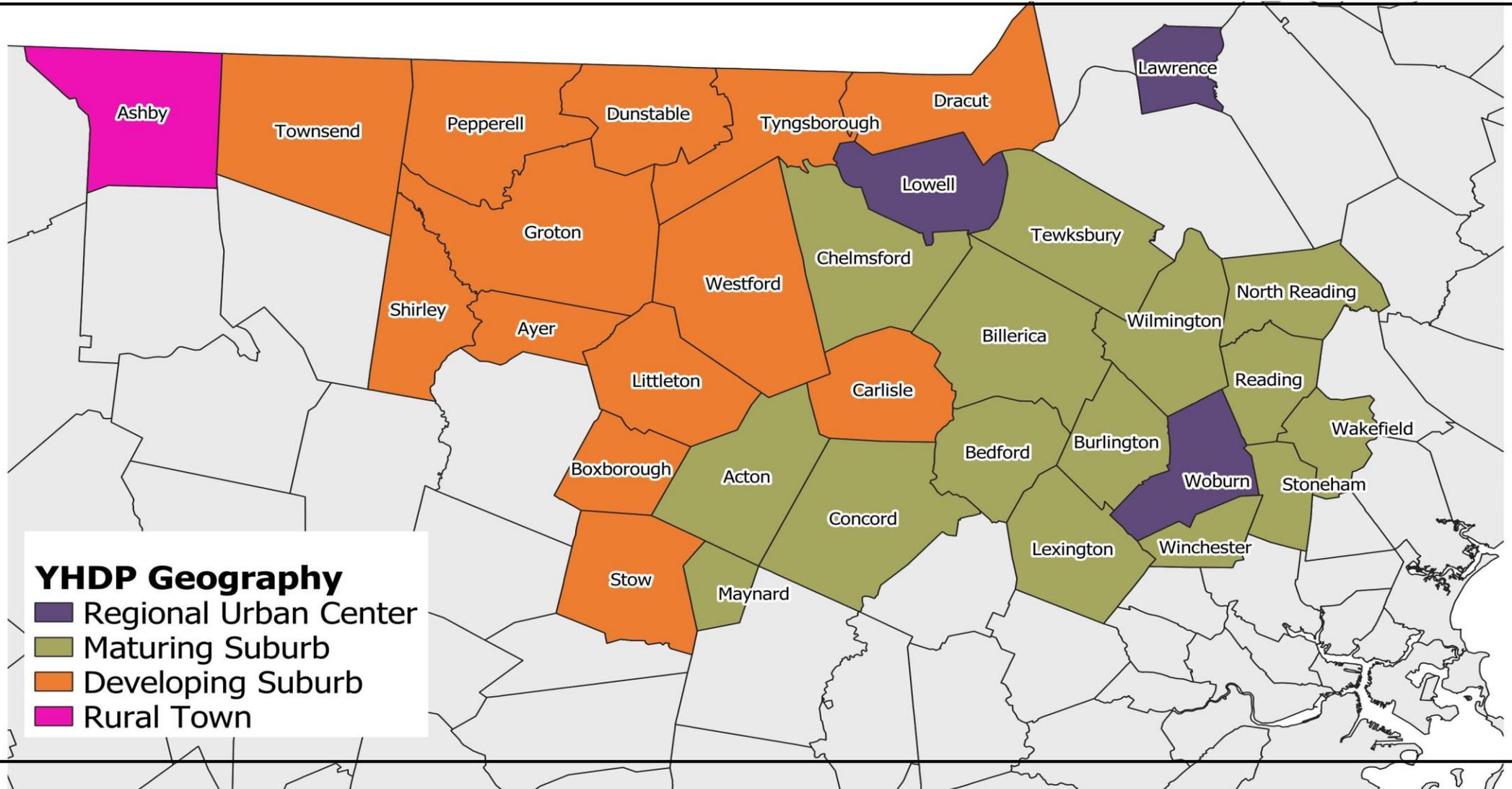


The Balance of State Continuum of Care (the CoC) is a group of organizations dedicated to addressing homelessness within certain geographical boundaries. The lead organization is the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Members of the CoC include organizations who are funded annually through an application to Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as others without CoC-specific funding, who have a shared interest to end homelessness.

# WHO IS WHO?

## BOS YHDP MAP



# WHO IS WHO?

---

## Community Teamwork (CTI) Youth Services



# WHO IS WHO?

## Who is CTI - Youth Services?

---

Youth Services provides supportive access to basic needs, pathways to housing, and community connections for youth and young adults (YYAs) experiencing homelessness or housing instability. We offer robust programming using a trauma-informed, youth-focused lens.

We provide services to YYAs aged 16-24 across various communities within the BoS.



# WHO IS WHO?

## Youth Services Overview



# WHO IS WHO?

---



Technical Assistance  
Collaborative (TAC)

---

# WHO IS WHO?

## What is TAC?

---



The Technical Assistance Collaborative is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping our nation's human services, health care, homelessness, and affordable housing systems implement policies and practices that empower people to live healthy, independent lives in the communities they choose.

---

# WHO IS WHO?

## What is TAC?

---



All YHDP grantees receive technical assistance (TA) from HUD.

TAC is the Lead TA Provider for Massachusetts Balance of State:

- Assist communities to structure a YHDP planning and implementation process
  - Navigate federal requirements and flexibilities to support innovation
  - Connect your community with other YHDP grantees for peer sharing
  - Support communities in centering youth collaboration and equity
-

# WHO IS WHO?

---



True Colors United (TCU)

---

# WHO IS WHO?

## Who is TCU?



**True Colors United** implements innovative solutions to youth homelessness that focus on the unique experiences of LGBTQ young people.

# WHO IS WHO?

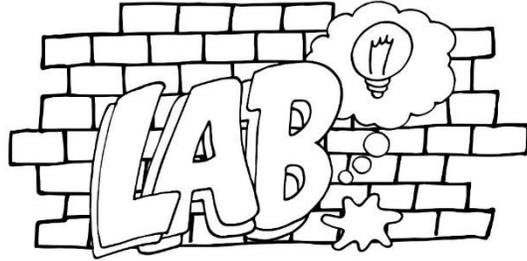
## What does TCU do?



- Providing Youth Collaboration Technical Assistance to all 33 YHDP communities
- Supporting adult partners in each community to authentically incorporate youth representation into the CoC's overall structure, as well as youth voice and choice at every step of the planning process.
- Simultaneously, supporting Youth Action Board formation, growth and stability in order to make informed decisions within their CoC

# WHO IS WHO?

---



# The Youth Action Board (YAB)

(formerly the LAB – new logo coming soon!)

---

# WHO IS WHO?

## Who and WHAT is the Youth Action Board (YAB)?

---

The mission of the YAB is to end the cycle of young adult homelessness by raising awareness; connecting with the community of service providers, key stakeholders, and residents; providing education; and increasing access to services.

The YAB provides a safe space that is healthy, diverse, and inclusive to all young people.

The YAB brings awareness to its members about existing local resources that support young people not only with housing insecurity but also basic needs, education, transportation, employment and mental health.

---

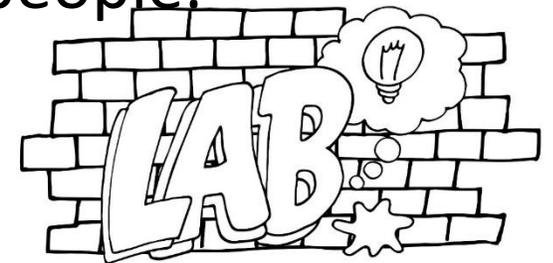
# WHO IS WHO?

## Who and WHAT is the Youth Action Board?

---

Upon creation, the YAB was made up primarily of young people from the Lowell and the greater Lowell area. Upon merging with the Balance of State, our focus has shifted and expanded to outside of Lowell, developing community and engaging more young people from across the region.

Youth Action Boards are found across the nation, raising awareness and educating their communities to support young people.

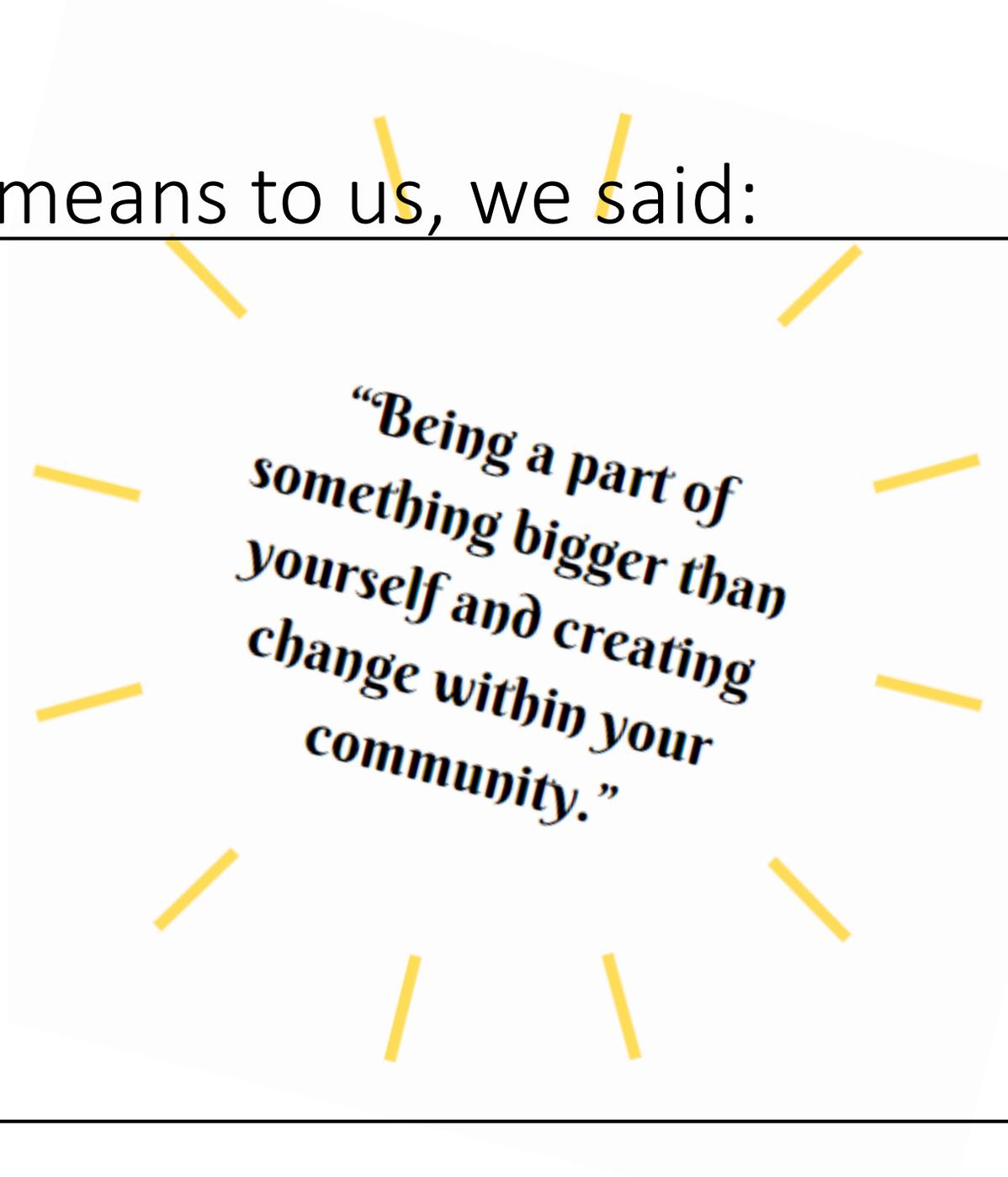


# WHO IS WHO?

When asked what the YAB means to us, we said:



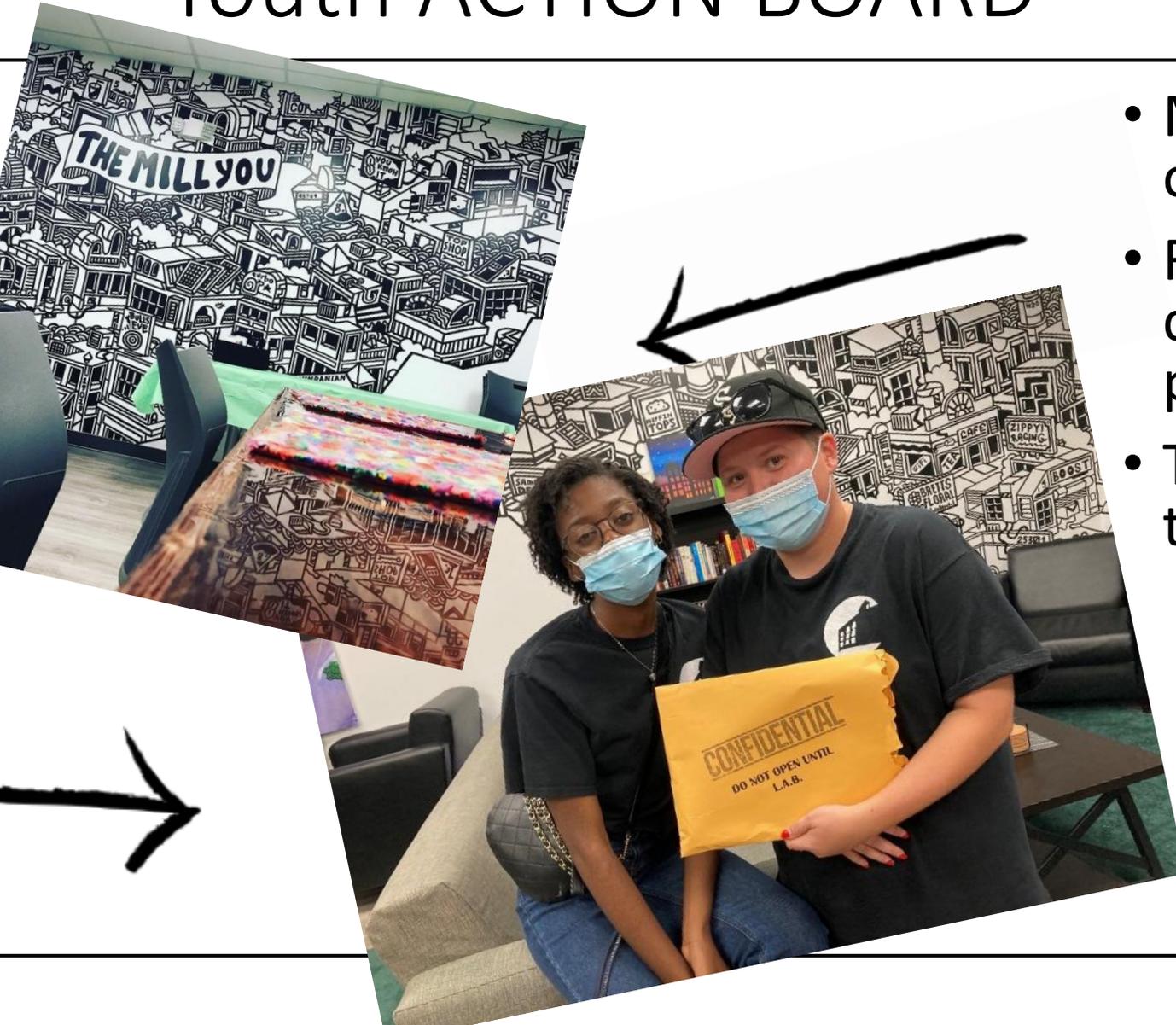
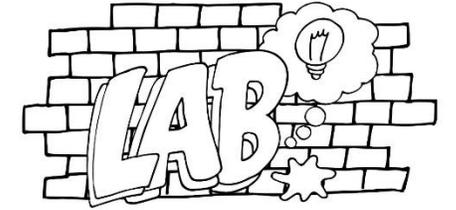
"WE HOPE THAT THE YHDP GRANT WILL EXPAND PROGRAMMING WHICH WILL PROVIDE **MORE RESOURCES** TO YAB AND YOUNG PEOPLE. ONE OF THE GOALS THAT YHDP WILL HELP YAB MEET IS TO REACH MORE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS FROM A LARGER PLATFORM JOIN THE YAB AND ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR **ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**"



*"Being a part of something bigger than yourself and creating change within your community."*

# WHO IS WHO?

## Youth ACTION BOARD



- Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month: virtual & in person
- Food, transportation and compensation are provided to participants.
- The YAB addresses important topics such as:
  - Racial equity
  - Mental health
  - Substances
  - Community building and engagement.

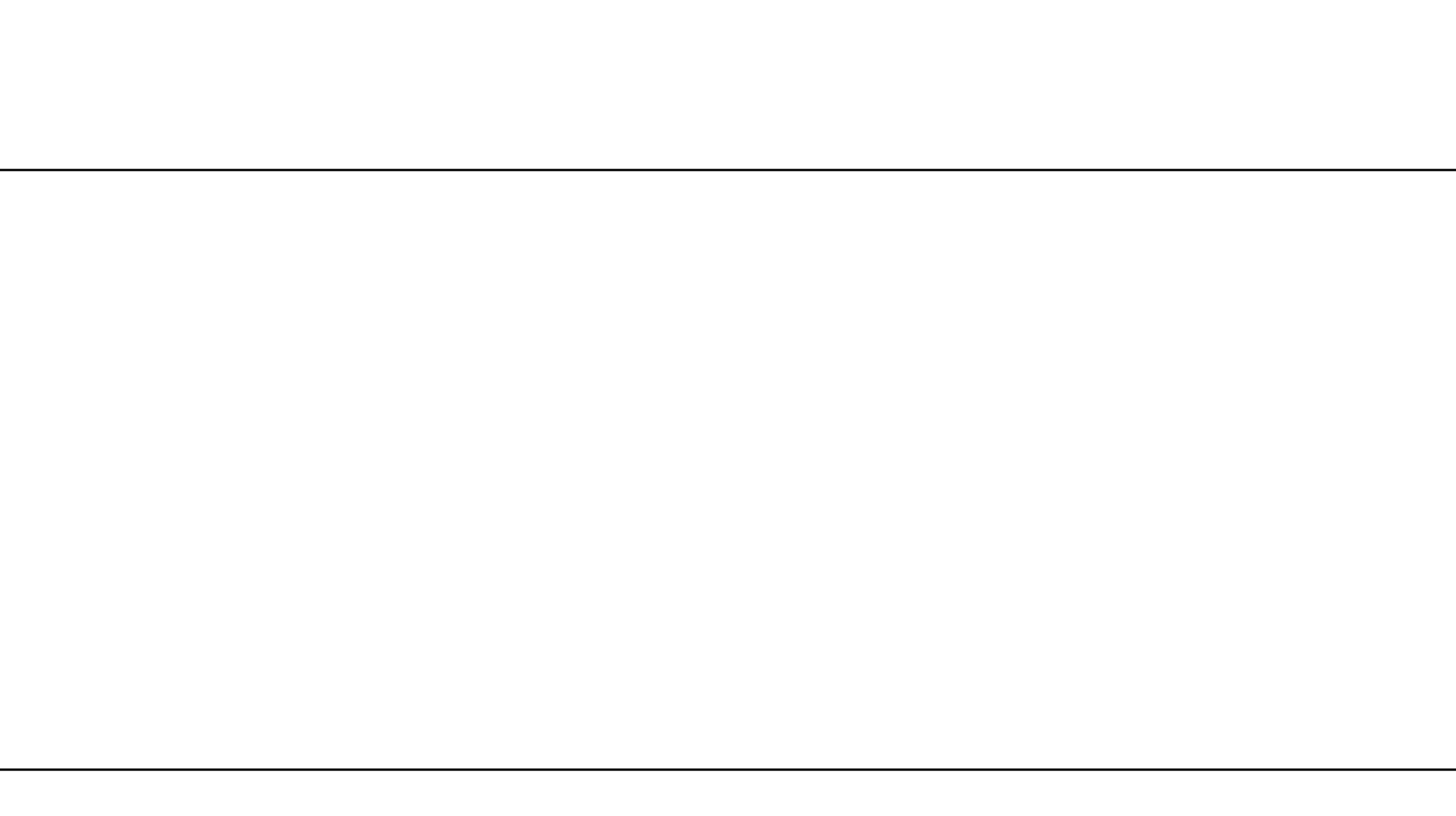
---

# *The Power of* **WORDS**

At the start of this meeting, we asked you:  
**What is one word that comes to mind when you think of Youth  
Homelessness?**

**Drumroll please.....**

---



# *The Power of* WORDS

## Activity: Youth Homelessness in your community

---

We are going to break you all up into groups.

Please work with your group to answer the questions for the next 15 minutes

Once in your group, please click on the link in the chat

When we return, we ask that groups share out their responses!

---

# *The Power of* WORDS

---

**So, what do we think?**

---

## Last Questions?

---

If you feel comfortable, please take yourself off mute to answer.

**What is your dream for creating a system that supports young people in your community?**

**If you are a young person, how do you want to be supported?**

---

---

**WHAT DO WE DO NOW?**



# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## What are we looking to accomplish?

---

We are asking all of you to support each other and our young people in the region to develop a community response to end youth homelessness.

This means working collaboratively to identify gaps in the system, needed resources, goals and ideas to help support current and future young people who may struggle with housing insecurity.

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## Okay.. So now what?

---

Understanding this is a pretty **big** responsibility, we took some time to see what would make the most sense for our region, our young people and our partners.

We developed a framework that allowed for various levels of participation from ALL OF YOU.

We called this group of people to the table to cast a large net.

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

“This Group” of people...

---

All of you participating today make up what we call the Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee is the larger group of folks, brought together to work collaboratively across the Region.

Folks who participate in this committee also can sit on **subcommittees** or are interested in contributing in other ways!

*This group is where we bring together thoughts and plans, learn updates, and identify as a group steps to end YYA homelessness.*

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

So... what is a Subcommittee?

---

Subcommittees are comprised of members of the Planning Committee.

**This is an opportunity for you to use your interest or specialized knowledge to have deep conversations that will inform our Plan.**

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## Subcommittee Options

---

**Housing Prevention & Intervention**

**Education, Employment & Permanent Connections**

**Racial Equity and Justice**

**Health and Wellbeing**

*To learn more about who would be a best fit for each committee, or other ways to participate- see emailed packet or survey link.*

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## Youth Lead, Youth Focused, Youth Voice

---

**As a collaborative effort, young people take priority.  
Period.**

**We are the experts of our lives, we understand the gaps and systems  
better than anyone.**

Throughout the course of this opportunity, we encourage and value all levels of youth collaboration and engagement and no decision will be made without their approval.

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## NEXT STEPS

---

In the chat, please complete the survey as soon as you're able and submit.

2<sup>nd</sup> Planning Meeting- Deep Dives into the CCP and Planning & Sub Committees

December 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00pm

Subcommittees will begin after the new year

If there are people missing from this conversation, please let me know and we can add them!

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## Questions?

---

Please feel free to ask questions- this is a ton of information and an exciting opportunity!

---

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## WE ARE ENERGIZED!

---

Thank you to all our young people who are motivated for change and our regional partners for supporting and working for a better tomorrow!

Please reach out with other any questions to:

**YHDP@commteam.org**

---