

## **Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative Releases 2016 Strategic Plan**



**Pauline Green, JD, Director of Community Initiatives at Miami Homes for All, introduces YHI's 2016 Strategic Plan**

Did you know that for the 2015-16 School Year, an astounding 6,103 students in Miami-Dade Public Schools were homeless? Of those, 248 were documented as "unaccompanied," meaning they were without a parent or guardian. As high as these numbers are, they are likely to be underestimates since homeless youth tend to hide their circumstances. Because youth in foster care are often at risk of becoming homeless and because homeless youth often end up in foster care, FFCR has been integrally involved in seeking solutions to youth homelessness. Executive Director Candice L. Maze serves as Co-Chair of the Permanent Connections Subcommittee of the Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative.

The [Youth Homelessness Initiative](#) (YHI), founded in February 2011, is a community-wide, multi-sector effort to create a comprehensive system of care to address and end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County. The lead organizations are [Miami Homes for All](#) and [Project UP-START](#), the homeless education program of Miami-Dade Public Schools, though the collaboration includes a host of other youth-focused and homeless service providers, government agencies, nonprofits and philanthropic partners. All in all, over 50 agencies came together to address 10 critical areas, including outreach, education/life skills/jobs/job training, LGBTQ, legal rights, juvenile services, sex trafficking, immigration, transportation and health care.

On August 29th, in a half-day meeting, YHI launched its [2016 Strategic Plan](#), with the goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness by 2020. The 2016 Strategic Plan outlines several overarching objectives, including designing a comprehensive system of care, ensuring adequate and stable housing for all youth, improving the behavioral health and emotional wellness of all youth at risk of homelessness, identifying opportunities to connect youth experiencing homelessness with the community and with caring adult role models, enhancing collaborative action planning and more.

FFCR is proud to be a part of this important initiative. We encourage you to read the [Strategic Plan](#) and share what you learn with those around you. Together, we can combat the root causes of youth homelessness and improve the well-being of all youth in our community.

[See more photos of the 2016 Strategic Plan launch](#)