



MISSION

The mission of the SDYHC is to prevent and end youth homelessness in San Diego County by creating a multi-disciplinary, community-wide system, in alignment with San Diego's Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), to serve youth ages 26 and under.

VISION

Youth homelessness will decrease in San Diego County, and any housing instability faced by young people will be brief and non-recurring through our collective service efforts.

PURPOSE

The SDYHC is a collaborative entity designed to increase the effectiveness of the service delivery system in San Diego County for youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. We accomplish this through the sharing of resources, coordination of efforts, and advocacy around the following efforts:

- Informing and advancing the youth-focused coordinated continuum of services.
- Building capacity around the network of providers.
- Coordinating knowledge and leveraging resources through collaboration.
- Amplifying and integrating youth voices.
- Increasing youth-focused housing options with a bridge to adulthood (i.e. stability, self-sufficiency, wellness).
- Informing and advancing the network of preventive supportive services for youth at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Using quality data to drive decision-making.
- Opening doors to self-sufficiency through education, employment, and entrepreneurialism.
- Supporting well-being and permanent connections for youth.
- Advocating and informing policy to align with best and emerging practices

VALUES

- *Integrity:* We demonstrate honesty, transparency, and fairness in everything we do as a Consortium.
- *Respect:* We treat each other with mutual consideration and sensitivity, recognizing the importance of diversity and inclusion.
- *Innovation:* We seek new approaches, capitalize on opportunities, and amplify the impact of initiatives.
- *Inclusion and Access:* We commit that all systems will be inclusive in that all programs and services will be accessible and responsive to youth, parents, and caregivers with varying abilities, cultures, races, colors, languages, socioeconomic status, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and religious backgrounds.
- *Equity:* We intentionally seek to reduce barriers to fair treatment, access, and opportunity for youth experiencing homelessness in our region.



- *Collaboration:* We work together through our Values to accomplish our Mission, Vision, and Purpose.

2023-2024 PRIORITIES

1. *Implement:* Continue to develop and expand the capacity and infrastructure of the SDYHC to meet the mission and vision of the consortium.
 - a. The Steering Committee includes representation of youth with lived experience, all county regions, and special populations. Expand the Steering Committee to include unaffiliated youth representation.
 - b. Expand the General Membership of the SDYHC to include 60 members by the end of 2024, with a special focus on unrepresented sectors such as juvenile justice, immigrants, and refugees.
 - c. Maintain the SDYHC website with meaningful information that is useful for the community.
 - d. Obtain feedback on homelessness from youth with lived experience to inform regional practices
 - e. Update the original Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to end youth homelessness with input from community stakeholders, including youth with lived experience, to include:
 - i. Monitoring the implementation of the CCP within San Diego County
 - ii. Provide ongoing technical assistance for the community in the form of identifying gaps in services for youth, gathering and evaluating data, and facilitating community conversations around youth homelessness
 - iii. Providing recommendations of action and change that further align providers and partners with the CCP
2. *Advocate & Influence:* Influence and inform decisions to increase housing options, resources, and support services that address critical needs for youth experiencing housing instability in San Diego County.
 - a. Provide feedback and recommendations about the successes and challenges of the region's youth coordinated entry system.
 - b. Provide feedback and recommendations on the direction of youth-related funding awarded to the San Diego region, particularly concerning funding alignment with the CCP.
 - c. Work collaboratively when applying for funding to maximize the opportunity for housing options and resources for youth experiencing housing instability.
 - d. Provide leadership and/or oversight of youth homelessness events, such as the RHY Walk & Rally and the youth-focused Point in Time Count.
 - e. Lead the CCP update process in collaboration with youth and stakeholders, and disseminate the updated plan to the community
3. *Capacity Building:* Utilize evidence-based practices, best practices, emerging practices, and other data-informed practices to increase the knowledge base of both youth and adult providers to provide services that are based in cultural humility.
 - a. Include helpful resources and data on the website.
 - b. Serve as a resource for expert training on youth-specific topics
 - c. Continue to advocate for the collection of complete and accurate youth homelessness data for San Diego County.



STRATEGIES

Strategies used to fulfill our stated mission, vision, and purpose include:

- Advocating
- Information sharing
- Capacity building
- Collaboration
- Reducing service duplication
- Leveraging resources and expertise
- Using evidence-informed practices, identifying and testing emerging practices
- Training
- Strategically communicating, educating, and informing youth-serving providers to support best practice implementation and policy improvements
- Using data to make decisions
- Responding to and informing emerging issues

STRUCTURE

Biannual Planning Process

Biannually, the SDYHC Steering Committee will assess and review existing objectives and workgroup and committee progress. Findings and recommendations from the Steering Committee are brought back to SDYHC's full membership for review and feedback.

Membership

Membership comprises young people with lived experience, service providers, advocates, public systems, private systems, and key stakeholders and influencers in the field of youth homelessness who support the Consortium's vision, mission, and values. Members designate a consistent staff person to represent them at SDYHC meetings. SDYHC members provide oversight and leadership to the Consortium, ensuring alignment of the Consortium with the CCP.

Membership in the SDYHC carries both obligations and benefits:

Benefits

- Free membership
- Working collaboratively to improve outcomes for youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness
- Name and link to the website of member organizations posted on the SDYHC website
- Listing of organization's job openings on the SDYHC website
- Use of the SDYHC logo, as approved by the Steering Committee
- Participation in a collective assessment of community needs in relation to programs and services to help build relationships and new partnerships
- Garnering community support for new initiatives that your organization may wish to move forward
- Collaborative advocacy for youth-focused services
- Synergy of actions and continuity of service



- Influence programming, policy, systems change, and collaboration across the region

Obligations

- The commitment of a senior staff person to attend six SDYHC general membership meetings per year
- Active participation in priority setting, policy development, initiatives, and activities by member organizations
- Represent the SDYHC perspective and speak with one voice on issues of importance to the collective
- Be willing to make quick and sound decisions about pending policy and other actions
- Communicate and collaborate with transparency and integrity to maximize the impact of funding opportunities
- Maintain a safe and welcoming environment for underserved communities such as the LGBTQ population and persons of color
- The SDYHC strongly encourages all member agencies to follow the Authentic Youth Engagement Guidelines found on the SDYH

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the SDYHC is made up of representatives of each region of San Diego County, key stakeholders, members of the Youth Voice Network, and subpopulation representatives. Steering Committee members are nominated and approved by the Steering Committee. They maintain their roles on the Steering Committee for three years and may be approved for additional terms.

The Steering Committee creates support systems and manages the processes that enable the SDYHC to achieve its purpose. Responsibilities include:

- Developing, implementing, and maintaining systems, research, and functional assignments to enable the SDYHC to operate efficiently and effectively
- Providing a forum for discussion and recommendations to the SDYHC
- Ensuring ongoing leadership of the SDYHC and its committees
- Demonstrating outcomes to support annual priorities
- Managing member relations, communications, and advocacy

There are two co-chairs of the Steering Committee who are nominated and approved by the SDYHC membership. Their roles may be maintained for up to three years and may be approved for additional terms. Responsibilities include:

- Providing strategic direction, leadership, and support to assist the SDYHC in carrying out its mission and vision
- Encouraging and facilitating member participation and engagement by maintaining a website, email distribution list, and regular communication with the membership
- Planning meetings, creating agendas, taking meeting minutes, maintaining public-facing communications, and arranging for any administrative support
- Coordinating with related efforts and other community partnerships
- Supervising and supporting SDYHC staff



- Managing, directing, and coordinating fiscal, compliance, HR, and grant activities for SDYHC-funded work

Subcommittees

Subcommittees of the SDYHC engage in systemic planning and coordinate the collective efforts of community initiatives to improve the integration of the service delivery system in San Diego County for youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Subcommittees also promote and support planning amongst service partners to maximize impact and increase capacity within the service system by:

- Identifying gaps in services, facilitating discussion, and developing an action plan to address the gaps. Identifying new opportunities for collaboration, supporting coordinated efforts amongst system partners, and making recommendations for new projects or proposals to the SDYHC for approval or endorsement. Providing feedback and recommendations to projects or initiatives that are seeking support to align with the SDYHC priorities.
- Committing to system planning that incorporates the needs and goals of all youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness and includes the voice of lived experience as integral to system planning.

Each subcommittee has at least one member of the Steering Committee present. Identified subcommittees for 2023-2024 include the following:

- Advocacy and Policy: The Advocacy and Policy workgroup identifies public policy issues and concerns affecting young people experiencing homelessness on matters it feels the SDYHC should focus its attention on. The group will coordinate with issue-based local, state, and federal officials on behalf of member organizations to align with and build support for advocacy efforts that further the SDYHC policy objectives and priorities.
- Capacity Building: The Capacity Building workgroup will focus on expanding the reach of the SDYHC through the engagement of providers, youth, and key stakeholders.
- Data and Evidence: The Data & Evidence workgroup will focus on gathering, assessing, and disseminating relevant data and evidence related to service provision, data management, and collaboration. The workgroup will:
 - Collaborate with the entities that collect youth homelessness-related data to strengthen data collection and management, assess quality data collection and analysis, and offer a feedback loop for providers to share data where necessary and appropriate.
 - Assess opportunities to share data and evidence so providers and partners can practice evidence-informed decision-making.
 - Gather and disseminate evidence regarding best practices and innovative solutions to barriers and obstacles to serving youth through coordinated entry systems.
 - Provide SDYHC members access to emerging evidence in the field that can strengthen services and supports for youth experiencing housing instability in San Diego County.
- Coordinated Community Plan (CCP): The CCP workgroup will work to ensure that the CCP is implemented in the spirit it was intended.
 - Monitoring the implementation of the CCP to end youth homelessness within San Diego County.



- Provide ongoing technical assistance for the community in the form of identifying gaps in services for youth, gathering and evaluating data, and facilitating community conversations around youth homelessness.
- Provide recommendations for actions and changes that further align providers and partners with the CCP.

Decision Making

The SDYHC Steering Committee is the primary decision-making body. Decision-making will be made by a majority, where each Steering Committee member has an opportunity to express their ideas and/or concerns.

Fiscal Responsibility and Opportunity

Since the SDYHC is not an incorporated body, it cannot undertake contracts. The SDYHC must work with a member organization that is willing to act as a fiscal sponsor for any funding it receives or any contracts it undertakes, including any arrangements with contract staff. For 2023-2024, The San Diego LGBT Community Center agrees to act as a fiscal sponsor for the SDYHC. The Steering Committee will revisit this agreement each year.