



**Welcome to YHDP
in Santa Clara
County**

Meeting Agenda

01

Intros

02

**Group
Agreements**

03

**Intro to Authentic
Youth Collab**

04

**Listening
session
feedback**

05

**Vision & Value
Review**

06

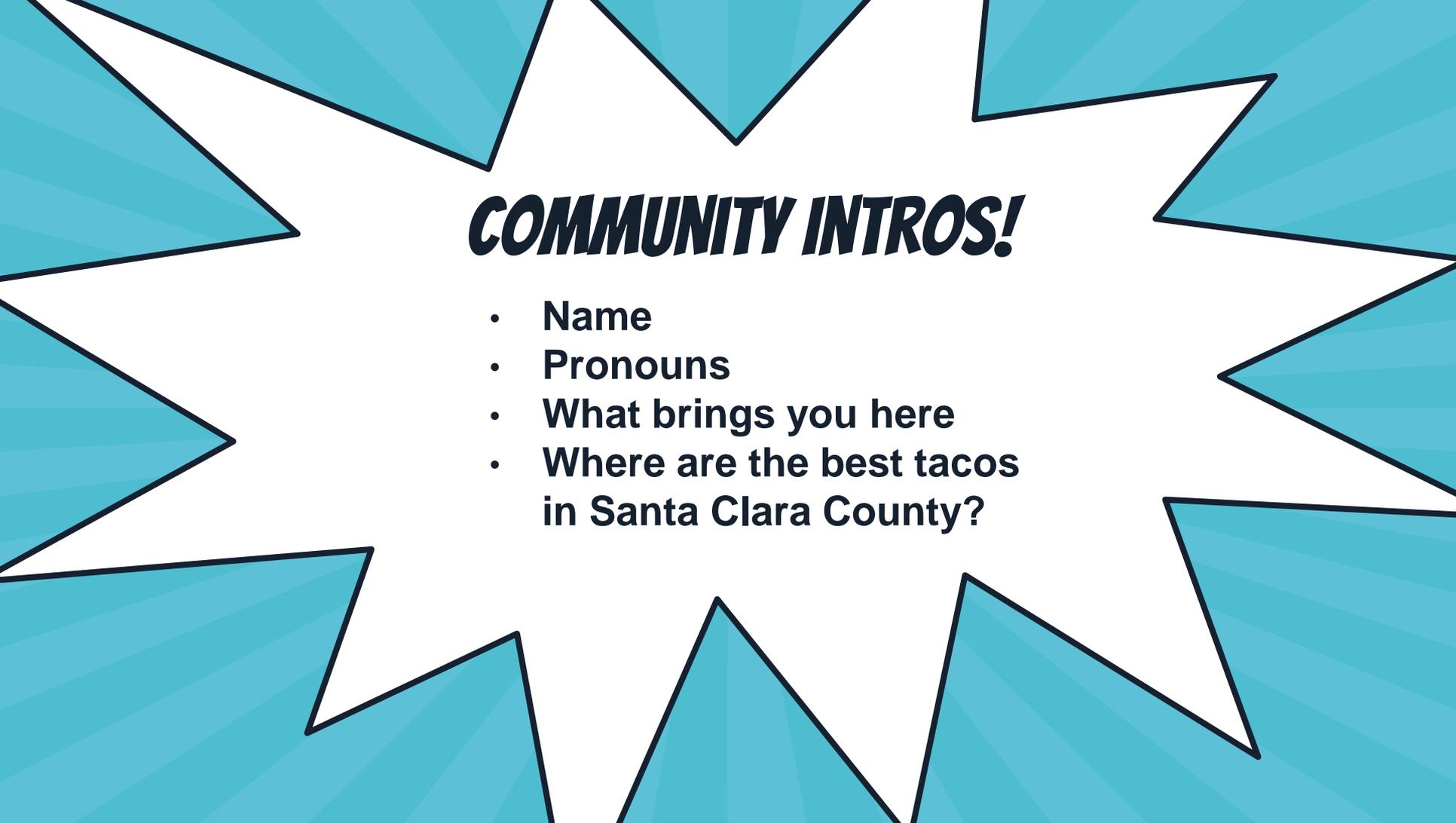
**Statement of
Need**



01

Introductions

Who is in the room
today?



COMMUNITY INTROS!

- **Name**
- **Pronouns**
- **What brings you here**
- **Where are the best tacos in Santa Clara County?**



02
Group
Agreements

How do we want to
work together?

Community agreements and why they are important

In the meeting on Dec 7th we discussed what group agreements we would like to have together.

EXMAPLE:
"Don't
yuck my
yum"

What are the group agreements we want to make with each other to create a safe and welcoming space within which we will accomplish our work in Santa Clara County?

EXAMPLE:
Take Space
and Make
Space

Foundation of
our work is
based in the
truth and no
pretending.

Opt for
questions over
assumptions

Create space for
young people to
speak their minds
without judgement
from others in the
meeting.

respect
other's lived
experiences
and realities

Respect the
confidentiality
of the stories
that are
shared in this
space.

Create intentional
and well planned
out engaging ways
to incorporate youth
and young adult
voices

EXAMPLE:
Seek to
understand
both Intent
and Impact

**Be
kind**

Really listen to
understand.

If you're
not sure,
ask

Understand
each other on
a personal
level

Work to be real and
experience that
connection with
each other.

Don't take
things
personal,
make it about
the young
people.

Acknowledge &
honor that there is
emotional labor
required for people
with lived expertise
in these
conversations. Use
person first
language.

Acknowledge &
honr that equity
conversations
require emotional
labor for people of
color and LGBTQ
folx.

Allowing for others
to speak even when
you have lots of
ideas so others feel
comfortable sharing
as well

No pressure
for any
individual to
speak.

Being open
minded to
others'
opinions



Proposed Community Agreements

- Create Authentic and Trusting Spaces for Young Leaders to Lead
- Take space, leave space
- Seek to understand both intent and impact.
- Push to think outside the box and inquire with grace and kindness
- Active participation & active listening.
- Talk about it and Be about it – moving to action
- Conceive of call ins as an act of love and accountability
- Listen to understand and not just respond
- This is a community-led, collaborative decision-making process
 - Acknowledge & honor that equity conversations require emotional labor for people of color and LGBTQ folx.
 - Acknowledge & honor that there is emotional labor required of people with lived expertise in these conversations. ***Use person first language***



03

**Intro to
Authentic Youth
Collaboration**

Authentic Youth Collaboration.

Created in collaboration with the
National Youth Forum on Homelessness



Objectives.

- Explain the Authentic Youth Collaboration Philosophy and why it's important to our work to end youth homelessness
- Provide a list of best practices for authentically engaging young people
- Provide concepts and ideas to consider when building a framework of how to work with youth and young adults
- Provide concrete examples to address adultism as an adult
- Provide an index of related resources to supplement your learning
- Provide a framework for collaborating with youth participants who are engaging in services or programs



Have you practiced Youth Collaboration? What does that look like at your organization?



Authentic Partnership with Youth/Young Adults.

- Be intentional about the decision-making power that youth have in your work.
- Youth are the experts of their own truth.
- When asking young people to be involved in your work, hear them out and build a reciprocal relationship where you honor their experiences, allowing their experiences and ideas to inform the process.



Collaboration On Services

In order to collaborate with youth who participate in your programs and services, it is important to honor their autonomy to make important decisions that impact their lives.

Collaboration Example:

YHDP is a great example of collaborating with Youth and Young Adults; to create and develop solutions to end Youth and Young Adult Homelessness led by those with lived experience. This allows young people to make informed decisions for themselves and collaborate on best practices.

Introduction to Adulthood.

What is adulthood?

Adulthood describes the systems of privileged attitudes and behaviors that adults have over those of young people.

Adulthood is driven by behaviors and attitudes that are based on the assumption that adults are better than young people and therefore entitles them to act upon or on behalf of young people without their agreement.

Introduction to Adulthood.

What is ageism?

Stereotyping and discriminating against people on the basis of age.

What is the difference between ageism and adulthood?

Ageism describes the systems of privileged attitudes and behaviors that younger people have over elders.

Adultism in common language.

- **Respect your elders -- they know better.**
- **Older & wiser**
- **Calling Young Adults kids**
- **Immature**
- **Too young/Not old enough**
- **Children should be seen, not heard**
- **Stay in a child's place**
- **The more you live, the more you know**

How Does Adultism Show up in the work?

What is your comfortability calling in Adultism?

How To Identify & Reframe Adultism.

Like many -isms or systemic oppressions, adultism is learned very early in life and, though it's all around, it is often invisible until it is pointed out. The learned ideas and behaviors of adultism come with harmful effects, including creating and perpetuating divisive power imbalances in collaborations between young people and adult partners.

Unlearn

Replace with new attitudes

Take action against oppression (speak up)

Remember, we all have been the oppressed, the oppressor, and the ally.



How Do We Fight Adulthood?

1. *By consistently and intentionally making opportunities for authentic collaboration*
2. *By standing up, voicing observations, and interrupting as allies when adulthood (oppression) is occurring*
3. *By understanding and incorporating the intersectional nature of our social identities and oppression, particularly how this plays out for young people*
 - *This is particularly critical in the work to prevent and end youth homelessness.*



A common question

What kind of support do YYA need in this work?



What do YYA need?

- **Authentic Partnerships**
 - *Undoing Adultism*
 - *Equitable Relationships*
 - *Power Sharing*
- **Tools and Training**
 - *Soft and Hard Skills*
 - *Professional Development/Investment*
 - *Mentoring and Coaching Support*
- **Clarity of Roles/Responsibilities**
 - *Explanation*
 - *Guidance*
 - *Description*
- **Understanding of the Work**
 - *Knowing what they are walking into*
 - *Local Landscape*
 - *Systems Knowledge*



04

**Listening
Sessions**

Listening Session Summary

Purpose of sessions: to hear directly from youth and young adults about what they know from their own lived experience, to inform solutions

Total Unique Sessions: 6

- Bill Wilson Center Downtown SJ;
- Re-Entry Resource Center SJ;
- Sunnyvale Community Services;
- ESJ Blanca Alvarado Community Resource Center;
- Covenant House Santa Clara;
- Zoom 6pm

**Three other attempted sessions with no participants: Gilroy DFCS, HomeFirst BRC, Zoom 1pm*

Total participants: 33

Reflections from those that were present at the listening sessions

- Facilitators from YAB, Homebase, County team
- Any Y/YA who participated

Themes in Listening Sessions

"Experiencing housing instability 'runs' one's life"

- Housing Stability = Consistency = having somewhere to go every day/night and having consistent support
- Housing Instability = Always needing to figure out the next day, next week, next year.

Themes:

- Supportive People
- Equity and Fairness
- Little Choice, Large Limitations
- Holistic Support
- Youth Focus and Voice

Theme: Supportive People

"Sometimes it's about the way you're receiving services, not the services themselves"

- Importance of peers
 - Y/YA support each other
 - Folx hear about resources and events from one another
- Impact of family support, or lack of family support
- Significance of support from a case manager, social worker, mentor, etc.
 - Priority of feeling welcome, affirmed, respected, not judged
 - Problems with power and positionality
 - Need for information to be available and accurate
 - "Staff" support should be accessible and consistent

Theme: Equity and Fairness

"Assumptions from others leads to favoritism"

- Majority of folx didn't see access to housing as fair / equitable
- Participants identified inequities with every marginalized population's access to resources
 - Desire for programs designed with specific focuses in mind: ie. serving transgender youth
 - Experiences of discrimination based on background, reputation, identity, etc.
 - Perception of programs cherry picking clients, and turning others away
- Lack of information and transparency about housing resources / distribution of housing resources
- Desire for accountability when programs aren't working

Theme: Little Choice, Large Limitations

"A lot of spaces that are supposed to be community serving spaces often just question you a lot"

Safety as a Priority

- Huge concerns over geographical locations that feel unsafe
- Major concerns feeling safe in all ages programs

Challenges with access:

- Challenging eligibility requirements, including documentation, income limits, definition of homelessness
- Challenging referral process - VISPDAT, forms, following up
- Unreasonable wait of time to get housing

Limits on programming:

- Limited hours and locations, especially in evenings
- Age limits: "your struggles don't end at 25"
- Time limits on services: "two years is not long enough"
- Unreasonable expectations to "be compliant with program"
- Cost of housing is unaffordable, even with assistance

Personalized services is the best option, not the "bare minimum"

Theme: Holistic Support

"You have to have one, to have the other, but not having one impacts the other"

Basic Needs

- There is a huge appreciation for programs that provide food, showers, hygiene products, shelter, etc.

Education:

- "Education helps set you up for employment opportunities", but education for all different career goals, not just traditional education

Employment:

- "Employment is mandatory to get and keep housing", but keeping employment can be challenging

Mental Health:

- "Mental health is super vital - homelessness and housing instability impacts your mental health and causes trauma"

Theme: Holistic Support (Page 2)

Transportation:

- Transportation was noted as a critical piece to all of these services, and that this remains a huge struggle for many folks

Adulting/Life Skills:

- "These are so crucial - you don't get taught these skills and then you're expected to just know how to navigate through it all"

Finances:

- "Not many of us have economic mobility from our families - we need to create that for ourselves"

Theme: Youth Focus & Voice

"Kids are the future. If kids are messed up, the future is messed up"

Youth Focused Programs were consistently shared as the most helpful resources

- Appreciation for services designed explicitly for youth/young adults

Importance of listening to youth

- Document it, record it, share it

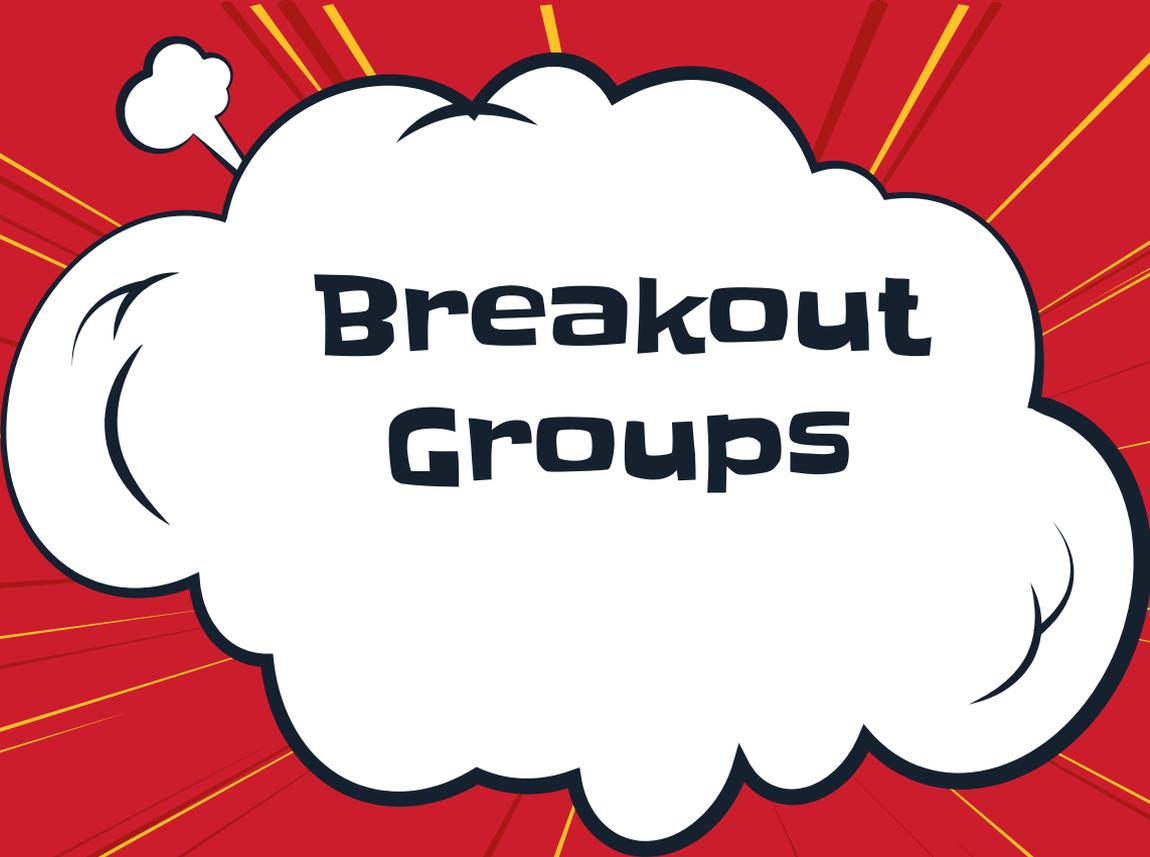
Opportunities for Youth Positions

- Peer Mentorship - "People that haven't experienced homeless can't relate as well as those who have"
- Peer Support jobs - including in YHDP

Listening is the first step, so now what?



**5 minute
BREAK!**



**Breakout
Groups**

Having heard information about authentic youth collaboration and feedback from young people in your community, what stands out to you as things we need to focus on in Santa Clara for YHDP?

What do you want to talk about further?

Discuss in your break out groups

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Santa Clara County youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness...

We want to amplify your voice!

The Youth Action Board (YAB) is a group of youth/young adults who:

- Advise the County of Santa Clara on housing and homelessness issues that affect youth and young adults
- Actively participate in planning new and expanded housing programs and services
- Give youth and young adults a strong voice in the decision-making process about housing and services in our community
- Want to gain new experiences and skills being involved in project management, program design, and community planning

The stipend is:

\$20/hr

via gift card or check

YAB Participation includes attending regular meetings, doing community outreach, and assisting with specialized projects and workgroups

Who should join the YAB?

Youth and Young Adults who are:

- Between the ages of 18-24 or unaccompanied minors
- Currently or formerly unhoused or have lived experienced of housing instability
- Interested in creating solutions to local housing and homelessness issues

The YAB and YHDP

Santa Clara County was selected to participate in HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), a new initiative designed to prevent and end youth homelessness through a coordinated community approach centered in equity and youth voices, led by a Youth Action Board (YAB).

The YAB will help lead, design, and approve Santa Clara County's YHDP Coordinated Community Plan.



To learn more, contact Joy at:
(415) 788-7961 x371
SantaClaraCoC@homebaseccc.org

For more information visit:
osh.sccgov.org/YHDP



If you are interested, the Santa Clara YAB is looking for new members!



05

Vision & Values

Review

Vision: What will your community look like in the future when the work of YHDP is successful and complete?

transition with connection in place

broken down silos

Youth and young adults are involved in continually improving the system of care.

Shelter to housing in a timely manner

County-wide efforts to address youth homelessness should include representation from all the municipalities that are in the County.

The resources and solutions will be broadly and regularly communicated, and not just communicated by the service providers and our fellow agencies (tv, internet advertising).

Multiple programs/options for youth.

Humanize now while planning, implementation

Remove the shame of experiencing homelessness

Short term supportive housing-diversion

Speed up the process-eliminate time restrictions

Not enough temp youth shelter, reduce the time in locating housing and permanent housing

Every sector support youth homelessness, acknowledge and own it. sustainable solutions

Define homelessness intraditoinal and untraditional ways

Youth and young adults with justice system involvement or the child welfare system (and other systems) never exit into homelessness.

Young people will feel satisfied with the role they played making the plan come together

safe secure housing options. individual needs meet, remove barriers

Vision: What will your community look like in the future when the work of YHDP is successful and complete?

Note - would like to have our community process be completely youth led (would like that to be a goal early on)

Stability - Stability means feeling like I don't need to think about my basic needs (housing, food, education, employment)

Connected community - independence alongside support and growth

Does not need to be a traditional way of thinking about connected community or typical housing, outside the box.

Young people will feel satisfied with the role they played in making the plan come together

**Choice.
There are options.**

Wellness - individual and community healing. Easy access to mental health services.

Support to accompany young people on their journey, including support through education, employment, recovery, anywhere they are asking for support and accompaniment

Young people will see their ideas reflected in the plan

Support and guidance for young people to avoid bad habits and help friends and community to manage life in the right way.

Empowerment rather than Saving

more accessible life skills programs

Young people will see themselves in future roles

Vision Themes

- **Youth Led System:** Young people have ownership and leadership within the system and are satisfied with the role they have played to pull this all together
- **Youth Choice:** Young people have multiple options and choices for the types of supports they access as they move towards stable housing
- Relationships ingrained within the system
- Coordinated and Collaborative System
- Person-centered (orientation of services around each young person and community education focused on creating compassion and support for the real experiences of people)

Values: With that end state in mind, what are the values that you want to make sure are present in the work as we move towards that goal?

More comprehensive representation of grass-roots work similar to race equity work happening in San Jose.

Trauma informed spaces and culturally informed

Create a holistic approach to employment, education, wrapping young people around person care that pays attention to every piece of who they are.

youth at center - more youth involvement

Change the mentality that you have to earn housing

Systems have to value the relationships that young people have.

whole-person approach to everything we do. Meeting every person where they are. Doing things with genuineness and not the transactional approach that systems are usually acting on.

Value young people as our own - foster youth are their own family and are surviving as they know how. Shift to a community-based approach that is more centered on creating life long connections for each young person.

focus on youth voice

Avoid the scarcity mentality

Equity; Individual and Client-Driven Supports; Positive Youth Development & Trauma Informed Care; Family Engagement; Social & Community Integration; Housing First; Special Populations; Unsheltered

Choice - people getting to choose what is best for them

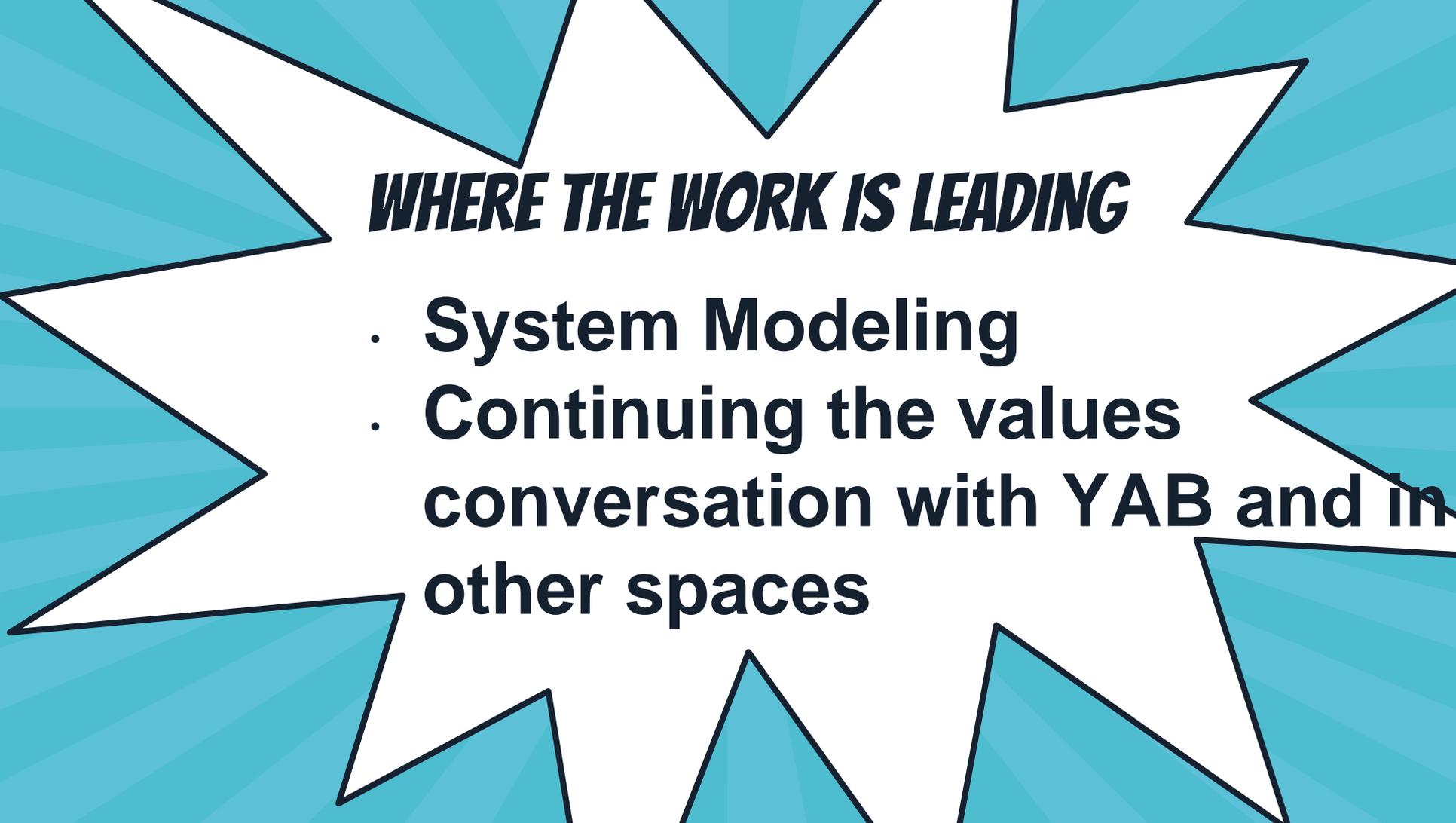
you can change tomorrow and not yesterday so keep looking forward and provide the support to change tomorrow.

Values

- Youth led
- Humanize the situation now while planning for the future
- Value stability - "means feeling like I don't need to think about my basic needs" within programs or on my journey to stable housing
- Empowerment rather than "saving"
- Wellness - individual and community healing
- Independence alongside support and growth
- Inclusive
- Representative support within programs and within the system

Values Continued

- Whole person approach to everything we do (Person-centered; Holistic)
- Trauma-informed spaces
- Culturally-informed spaces
- Community driven (young people are welcomed in as our own)
- Housing first (change the mentality that you have to earn housing)
- Value and honor relationships that young people have
- Avoid scarcity mentality
- Choice - people getting to choose what is best for them

The background of the slide is a white circle surrounded by a starburst pattern of teal-colored triangles. Each triangle has a black outline and a gradient from light to dark teal. The triangles are arranged in a circular pattern, pointing outwards.

WHERE THE WORK IS LEADING

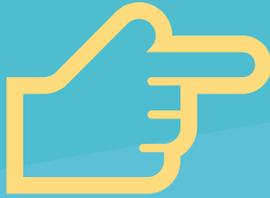
- System Modeling**
- Continuing the values conversation with YAB and in other spaces**



06

**Statement of
Need and Data**

What is a Statement of need?



Describes the experiences of youth homelessness in your community and establishes the reasons why the community must work to prevent and end youth homelessness

AT A MINIMUM, THE STATEMENT OF NEED MUST INCLUDE:

1. A numeric estimate for the following populations in the geographic area:

A) UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

B) UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

C) PREGNANT OR PARENTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

D) PREGNANT OR PARENTING YOUTH AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS



AT A MINIMUM, THE STATEMENT OF NEED MUST INCLUDE:

1. A description of needs of at-risk or youth experiencing homelessness regarding:

A) HOUSING

B) EDUCATION

C) EMPLOYMENT

D) SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING



Santa Clara Data

SCC Data from the YHDP Application

2019 PIT Count

- 1,876 youth identified in the 2019 PIT count.
- 95% youth identified in 2019 PIT count were unsheltered.
- Homeless youth are 70% youth of color
- 30% identify as LGBTQ+
- 9% are gender "non-conforming"

SY2020-21 School district data

- Over 4,400 homeless youth identified by school districts.

CoC Data

- 72 units of youth-dedicated PSH, 76 of TH, and approximately 166 RRH, and 16 shelters

Santa Clara Data

Data from VI-SPDAT assessment from 9/1/20 to 8/30/21

- 516 Homeless youth and young adults. (8% of total assessment, total assessment = 6,397)
- YYA assessed during this period reported sleeping most frequently outdoors (33%), followed by couch surfing (21%).
- 53% of YYA are female, 41% are male, and 4% are transgender/gender non-conforming.
- Nearly one out of 5 YYA assessed report a "Mental Health Issue or concern (19%). 16% reported substance abuse issues and 12% reported a learning or developmental disability.

Santa Clara Data

Data for those who are 18-24 that accessed shelter between 1/1/21 to 12/15/21 (internal team at OSH).

- 307 YYA (18-24) were enrolled in emergency shelter.
- 50% female, 47% male, and approx. 3% transgender or gender non-conforming

Data that's needed

- Child welfare
- Health care providers
- Juvenile Justice
- Data outside of HMIS data

Data Working Group - we need you!

- **HMIS Lead – Signed Up!**
- **Child Welfare Data Expert**
- **Juvenile Justice Data**
- **Youth Centered Providers with Data beyond HMIS**
- **System Partners with Data (Health care, Etc.)**

If interested, e-mail Jimmy Chan!
Jimmy.chan@hhs.sccgov.org

Breakout Group



Topics

What will your community look like in the future when the work of YHDP is successful?

With that end state in mind, what are the values that you want to make sure are present in the work as we move towards that goal?



Time

We will come back in 10 minutes. Review Statement of Need, wrap up the session and talk next steps



**Closing and
Next Steps**

Stay Involved!

What's coming next:

- Data Working Group - Recruitment and meetings beginning in January
- System Modeling Prep and Work at next Community Meeting (January 11th)
- More conversations on Vision and Values at YAB and other meetings

Keep in touch:

- Website: <https://osh.sccgov.org/YHDP>
- Email: yhdp@hhs.sccgov.org
- Open Office Hours: Mondays at 12pm & Thursdays at 4pm

Looking towards our next session

**See you
Then!**

Date and time of next
session:

JAN 11TH 6-8PM

https://osh.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb671/files/yhdp_community_meetings_flyer.pdf