Young Adult Leadership Committee: 2017 Highlights

**Mission:** We, the Young Adult Leadership Committee, strive to end youth homelessness by elevating the voices of youth with lived experience in policy making, and advocating for a more youth-friendly system for young people experiencing homelessness.

**What is YALC?** We are a committee of the Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services Continuum of Care Board, that was created to formalize input from youth experiencing homelessness into program and policy. We are young adults with experience with homelessness who advise on ways to make the homeless system better for youth.

**Awareness and Speaking Events**
Co-hosted Forum on Youth Homelessness on Voices of Youth Count report with 150 people in attendance! Event co-moderated by YALC member and 2 YALC members on panel

**YALC speaking engagements:** Homestretch documentary screening; Philadelphia Foundation convening on LGBTQ youth homelessness; presentations to stakeholders (including HHS Commissioners) on Voices of Youth Count report

**System Improvement**
Gave feedback to improve the Youth PIT Count including survey, training, and marketing

Gave feedback on coordinated entry policies and procedures

**Advocacy**
Advocated for youth-friendly coordinated entry: Two youth access points launch in early 2018!

Identified housing gaps for youth and advocated for resources: A new rapid rehousing program for youth will be funded in 2018 through the CoC competition

Met with State Representative Donna Bullock and staff from U.S. Senator Casey and Toomey’s offices to discuss needs of youth experiencing homelessness

**Conference Attendance**
40 to None Summit on LGBT Youth Homelessness

**Participation and Membership**
CoC Board and Advisory Committee
Philly Homes 4 Youth Coalition
Youth Count Advisory Committee

YALC accomplishments from 2017—Excited for 2018!

Check it out!

For more information about YALC, visit www.philadelphiaofficeofhomelessservices.org/services/youth-initiative or contact Jessica Sones at jessica.sones@phila.gov
2018 GOALS

- Assess youth-friendliness of homeless programs; recommend policy and practice changes.
- Meet with city leaders to discuss Voices of Youth Count recommendations; map out concrete next steps.
- Advocate for new funding to serve youth experiencing homelessness, including unstably housed/couch surfing youth.
- Continue awareness activities around youth homelessness.
- Elevate youth voice in decision-making.

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