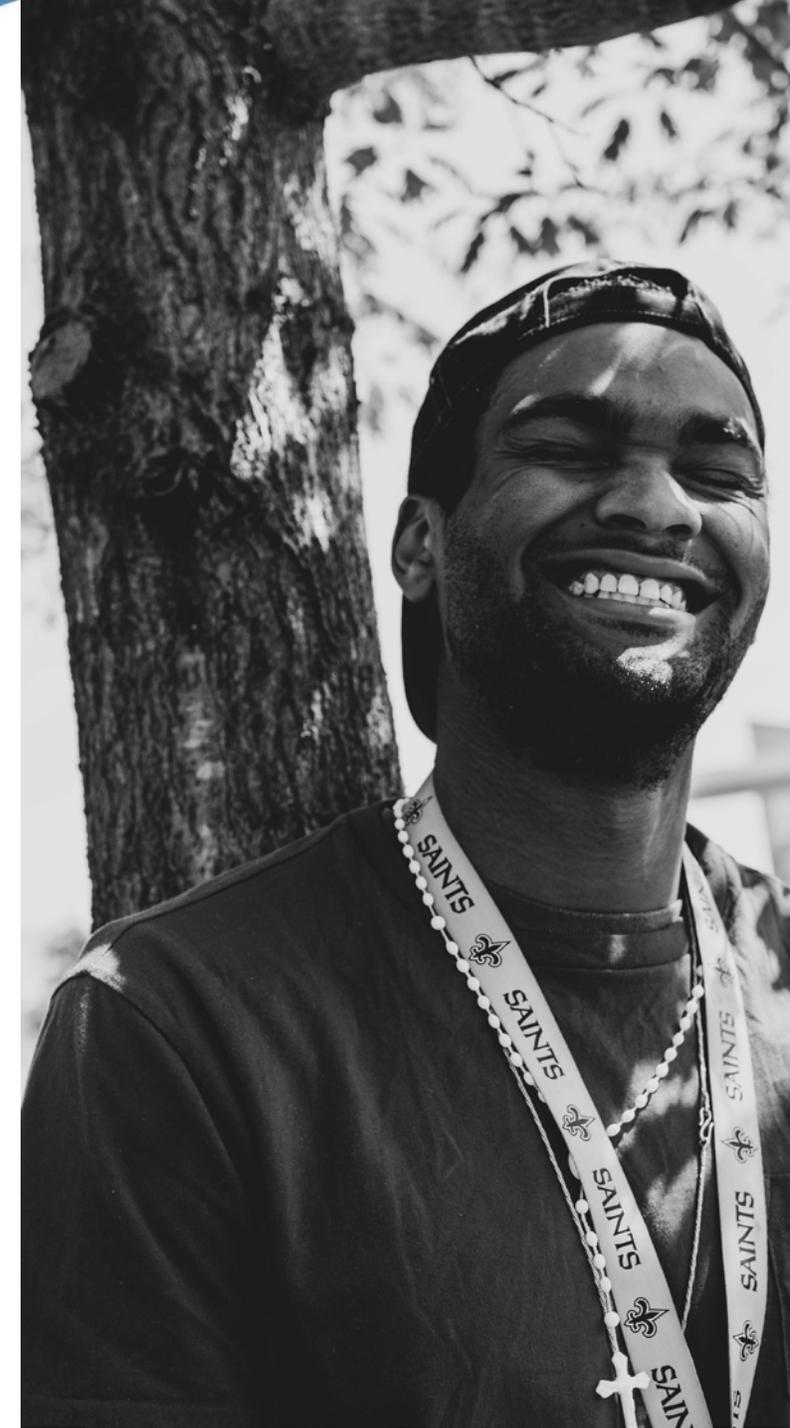


lifeworks

Ending Youth Homelessness in Austin / Travis County

March 2020



Mission

LifeWorks is a fearless advocate for youth and families seeking their path to self-sufficiency. We are committed to innovative problem solving, shared accountability and a relentless focus on achieving real, sustainable and measurable results for the clients we serve.



10 programs:

- Diversion
- BSS+ Prevention
- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- PORT (Permanency Through Outreach & Rapid Transitions)
- Transitional Living Program
- Young Parents Program
- Rapid Rehousing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- After Care Transition Services (ACTS)

Housing

5 programs:

- Youth & Adult Counseling
- Peer Support Services
- Community-Based Counseling
- Community-Based Psychiatry
- Resolution Counseling

Counseling

5 programs:

- Supported Employment & Education
- GED/High School Equivalency
- Life Skills Training
- Teen Parent Services
- Pregnancy Prevention (REAL Talk)

Education &
Workforce

Measuring Success

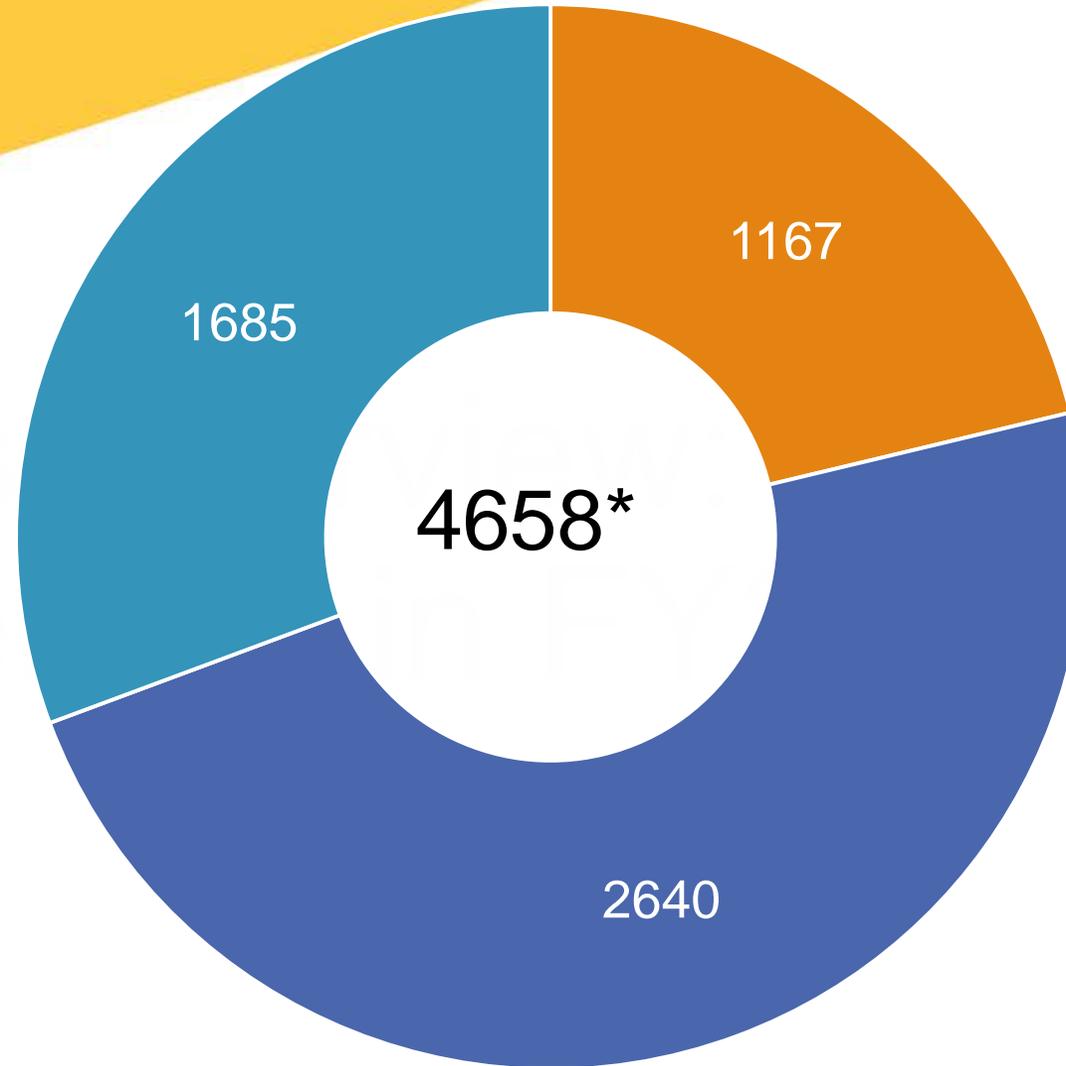
Including:

Housing
Employment
Income
Education
Healthcare Coverage
Mobility
Mental Health
Substance Use
Legal
Credit
Life Skills
Community Involvement
Network Support
Family Relationships
Childcare

...and 10 more domains

24
DOMAINS OF
SELF-
SUFFICIENCY

LifeWorks Clients Served In 2019



■ Housing ■ Counseling ■ Education & Workforce



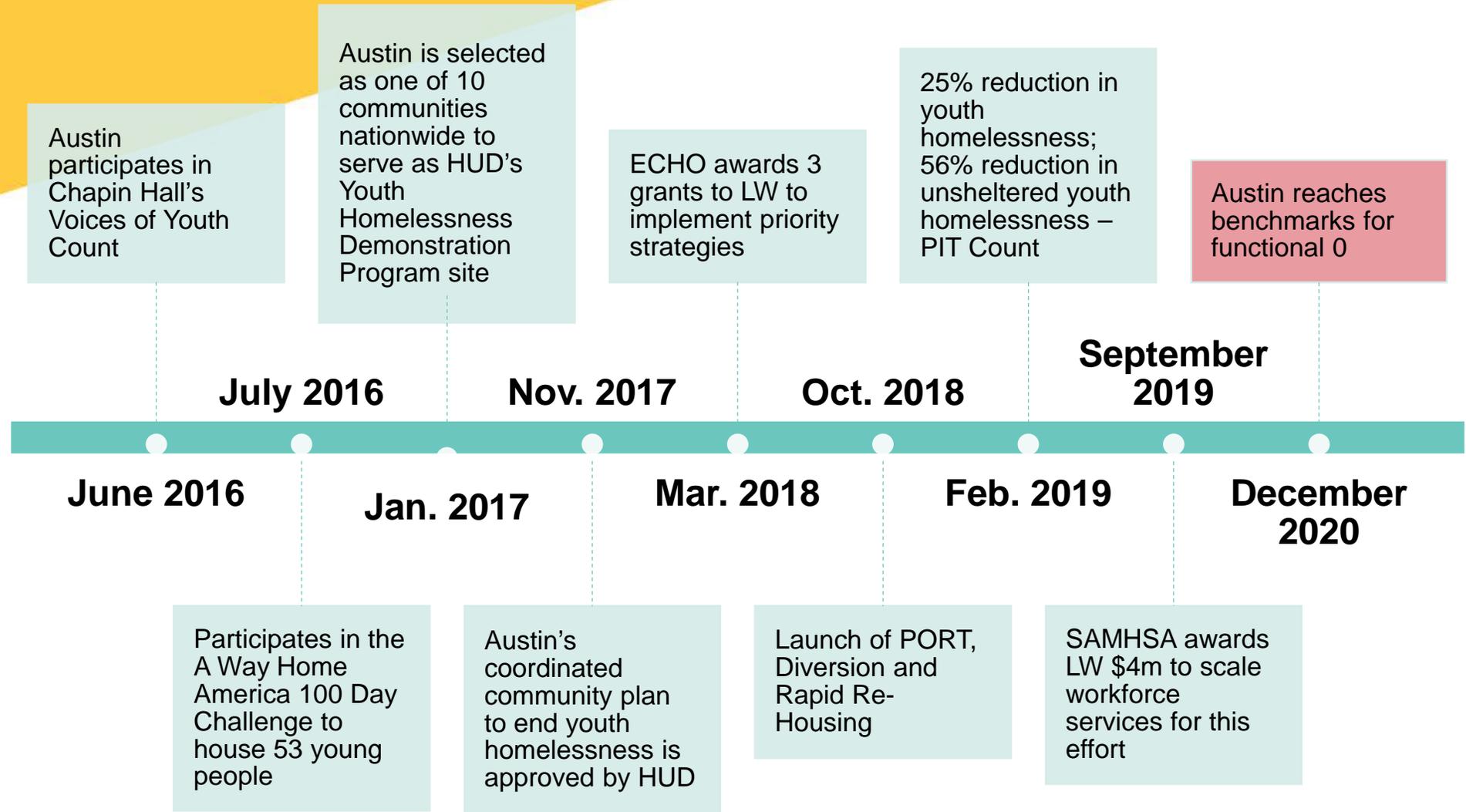
*unduplicated; does not include 864 clients served by Next Step (no longer offered)



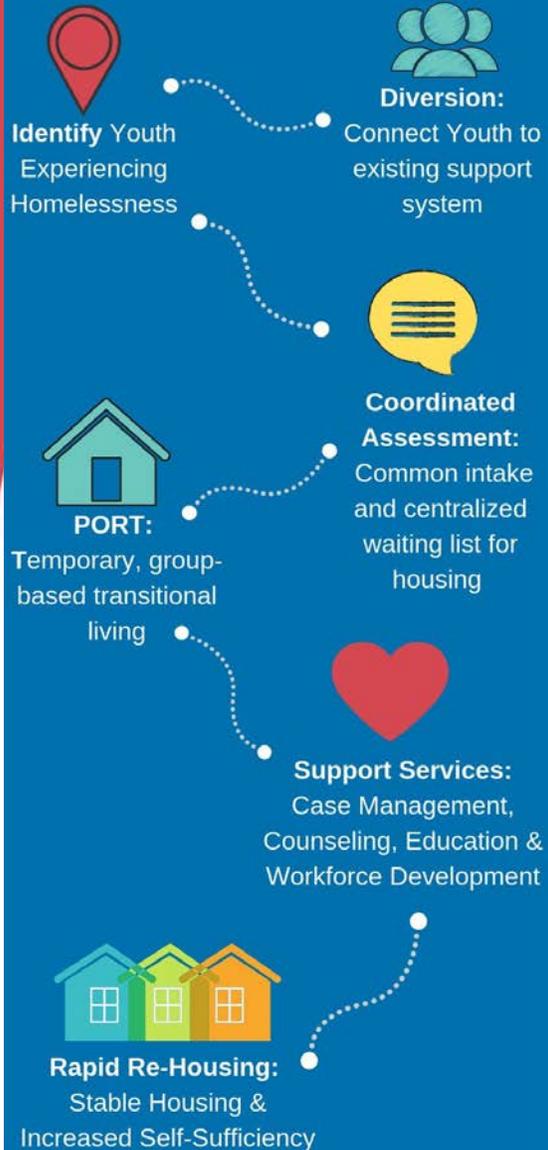
Austin's Campaign to End Youth Homelessness

- Build and sustain a community system that ensures that youth homelessness is **rare**, **brief** and **non-recurring** by 2020
- The system involves deep collaboration with dozens of nonprofit and public organizations with the planning co-led by LifeWorks and ECHO

Team and Timeline



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS JOURNEY



Key Elements of the System

Diversion: Assists youth at imminent risk of homelessness with financial support and wraparound services. Youth remain connected to support systems, stabilize, and maintain current housing or connect to safe and supported housing options.

Coordinated Assessment: An evaluation process used to determine the most appropriate housing intervention that best matches the needs of the client.

Permanency through Outreach and Rapid Transitions (PORT): Temporary housing for literally homeless youth (18-24). Youth may live in this dormitory-style, 15-bed shelter while they navigate into permanent rapid re-housing apartments.

Support Services: Wraparound support to build well-being and increase self-sufficiency. Supports include employment services, community-based counseling, peer support, and client-centered case management.

Rapid Re-Housing: Time-limited financial assistance and targeted support services to connect youth experiencing homelessness to permanent housing.

Making Youth Homelessness Rare: Diversion

OUR GOAL:

To connect youth to supportive services and, if needed, financial assistance that will allow youth to stabilize their housing crisis, stay connected to their current system of support, and build permanent connections to ensure long-term stability.

This program emphasizes serving youth who are involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare, or public-school systems.



STEP 1: MAKE HOMELESSNESS RARE

OUR RESPONSE:

Homelessness DIVERSION PROGRAM

that aims to reduce the rate of youth becoming homeless and strengthen support systems.

76%

of Travis County youth age 24 and under who experience homelessness have been in foster care, juvenile justice or both.

Youth homelessness in part is due to the lack of preparation and options for youth as they transition from these systems. By partnering with CPS, juvenile justice and local school districts, the LifeWorks diversion program will divert 200 youth a year from homelessness and from intensive housing services.

Making Youth Homelessness Brief: PORT

OUR GOAL:

To ensure that youth experiencing homelessness are transitioned to permanent housing within

30
days!



STEP 2: MAKE HOMELESSNESS BRIEF

OUR RESPONSE:

THE PORT 
(Permanency through Outreach
and Rapid Transitions)

will quickly move youth into safe, affordable, permanent housing while increasing their connections to services and social networks, improving education and employment outcomes and promoting social and emotional well-being.

The PORT program for youth experiencing homelessness is a

15-bed

dormitory style, transitional living program designed for short term stay.

During this time youth will receive housing navigation and supportive services in preparation to move into rapid rehousing or other permanent housing solutions.

We expect to house

120 youth

a year through PORT.

Making Youth Homelessness Non-Recurring: Rapid ReHousing

OUR GOAL:

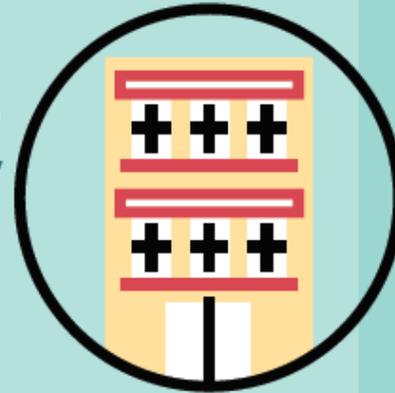
To ensure the number of available beds outweighs the number of youth in need of housing. This is termed as

**'FUNCTIONAL
ZERO'**

STEP 3: MAKE HOMELESSNESS **NON-RECURRING**

OUR RESPONSE:

The largest barrier to self-sufficiency is the need for **HOUSING**



LifeWorks and its community partners, **Caritas**, **SAFE Alliance** and **ECHO**, are building a comprehensive youth-dedicated rapid rehousing collaborative.

Youth will be placed in multiple apartments and offered these **supportive services:**

- Case management
- Workforce development
- Education programs
- Counseling
- Peer support
- Links to external community partners



The collaborative partners will use progressive engagement and expect to support and house up to **90 participants annually.**



Understanding the Data - *Targeted* *Assertive Outreach*

An effort to determine the housing status of every youth currently in our local HMIS

- Coordinated Assessment records remain open for the youth, unless someone informs ECHO that a youth is no longer in need of services
- The number of youth who are in need of services is likely overinflated, based on the number enrolled in HMIS (some may have relocated, self-resolved, or entered an institutional setting)
- Involves systematic outreach efforts to every youth, including those who are not yet selected to receive housing

Why?

- Need a clear number to inform broader community engagement efforts, to inform fundraising goals, and to better understand our progress toward the federal benchmarks

Targeted Assertive Outreach

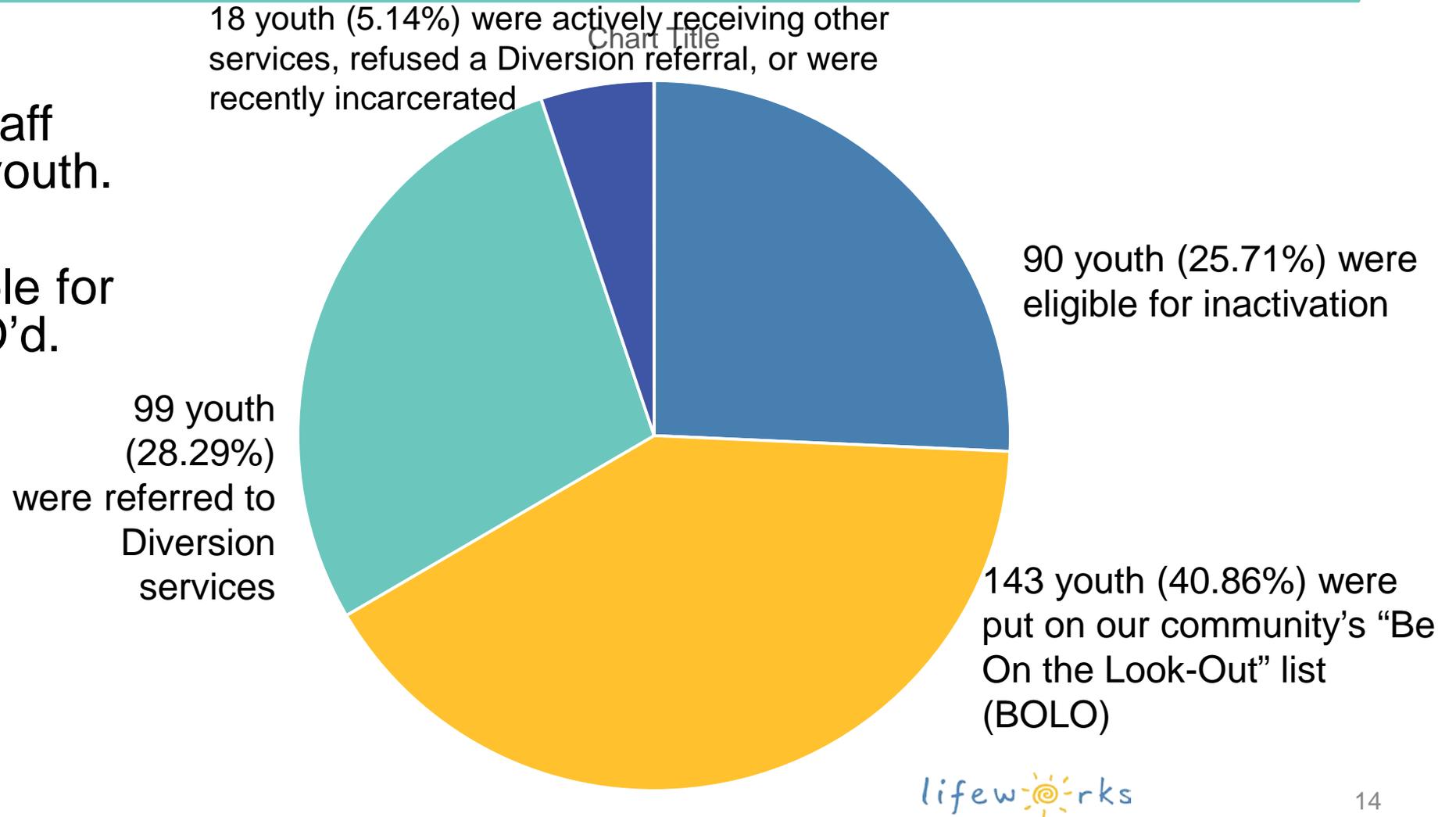


Starting in July, LifeWorks began engaging in a six-week push to systematically reach out to every unaccompanied youth in HMIS by mid-September

- If staff were unable to contact the youth after making these attempts (within 30 days), then the youth was be put on the Be on the Lookout (BOLO) list. After 30 days on BOLO, the record is inactivated.
- If the youth was contacted, then their housing status was assessed, and their record was either inactivated (if the youth self-resolved, relocated, or was subject to a long-term institutionalization) or they were referred to Diversion and/or Street Outreach services.

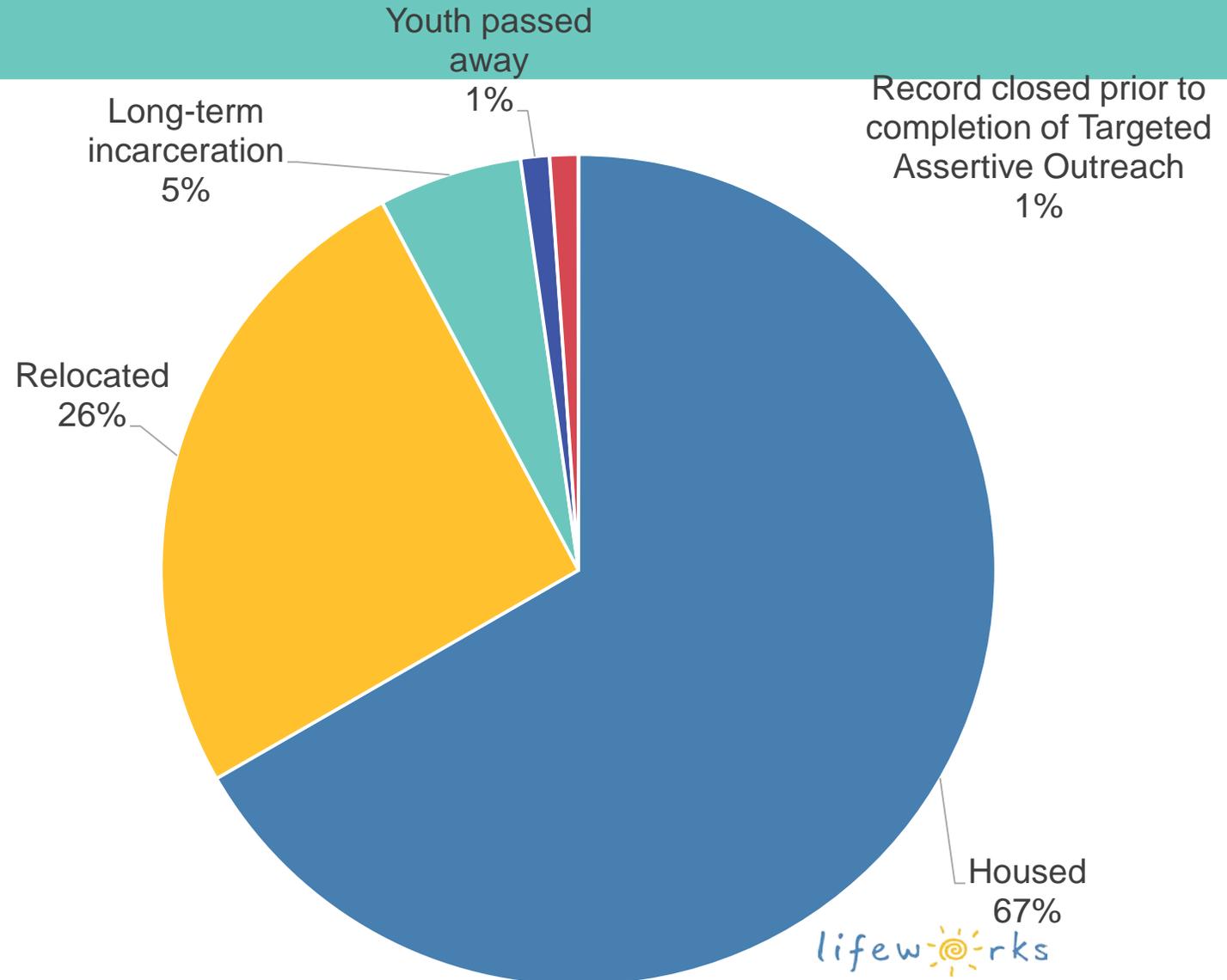
Targeted Assertive Outreach: Results

In total, LifeWorks staff reached out to 350 youth.
A total of 233 youth (66.57%) were eligible for inactivation or BOLO'd.



Targeted assertive outreach: Results

Among those whose records were eligible for inactivation ($n = 90$), the majority of records were closed because the youth self-resolved their homelessness episode.



What will it take to End Youth Homelessness in 2020?

- After accounting for the expected rate of inflow, self-resolution, relocation, and inactivation, we expect that we will need to serve **448** additional youth in 2020
 - 244 youth through Diversion
 - 204 youth through Rapid ReHousing
- Based on cost analyses, we expect that we will need approximately **\$4.9M** to end youth homelessness
 - This number assumes a flat rate of self-resolution, relocation, and inactivation (after we address the backlog of youth and begin to exclusively handle inflow, this percentage will shift, which will affect the cost projections)
- The \$4.9m is a **one-time funding surge** that will allow us to address the wait list and reach a steady state between inflow and housing capacity that can be sustained by the current existing resources (HUD, City, etc).

What have we
learned about
the young
women
experiencing
homelessness?



From October 2018 through December 2019 LW served 244 young women:

More young women experiencing homelessness than young men which may be related to higher vulnerability scores on the coordinated assessment as it relates to parenting. The majority of young women have had children but only about half of those are actively parenting. More than 50% of young women enrolled in housing programs are engaged in mental health services.

- Approximately 63% of young people experiencing homelessness and enrolling in housing at LW are female.
- Approximately 46% of young women identify as African American and 43% identify as Hispanic non-white.
- Approximately 88% identify English as their primary language.
- Just over 55% experienced foster care.
- More than 50% of young woman have had children.
- Currently there are 77 children being actively parented by young women exiting homelessness.
- Approximately 65% have income <50% of FPL.
- Approximately 61% engaging in mental health services:
 - 79 enrolled in community based counseling
 - 116 enrolled in peer support
 - 38 enrolled in community based psychiatry