
IMPROVING THE ADULT HOMELESS AND HOUSING SYSTEM FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

CONFERENCE ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS

NOVEMBER 7TH, 2019

11:30AM - 12:30PM

KLARISSA MONTEROS

BUILDING CHANGES



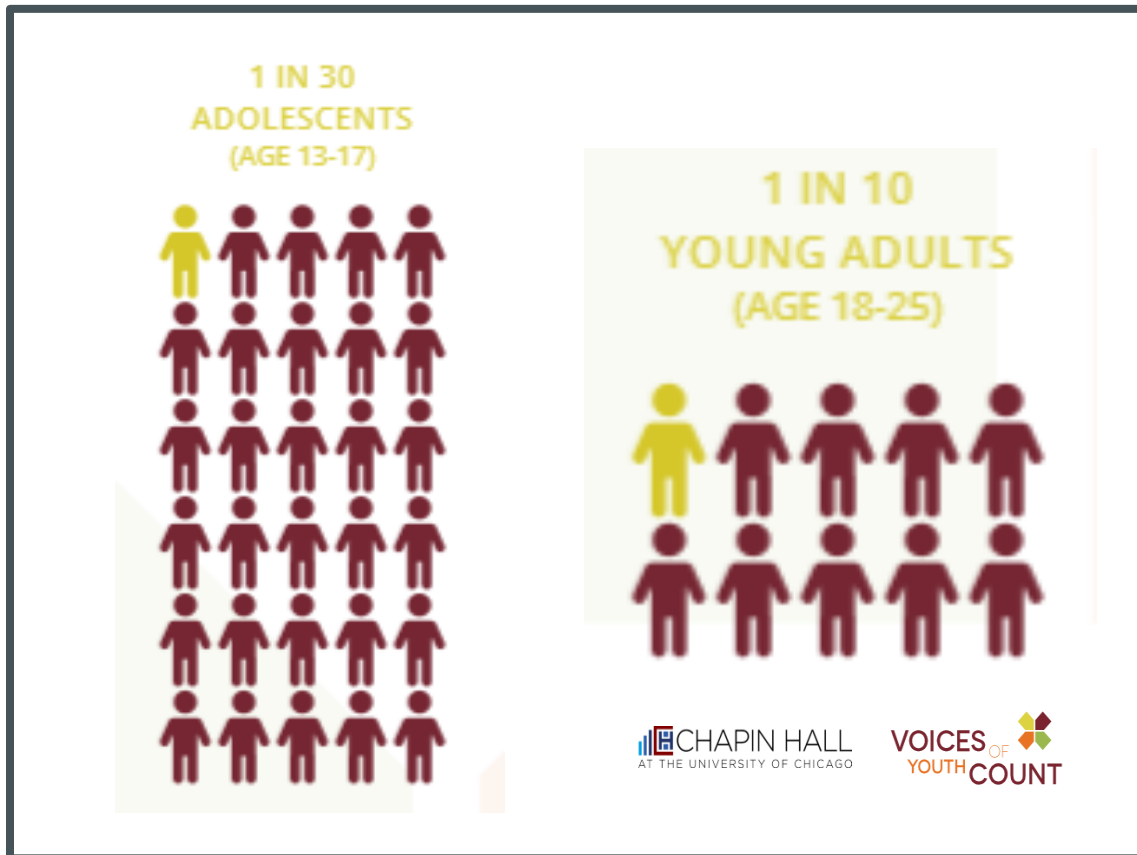


PERCEPTIONS

WHAT IS IT LIKE
FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE TO GO
THROUGH
COORDINATED
ENTRY?



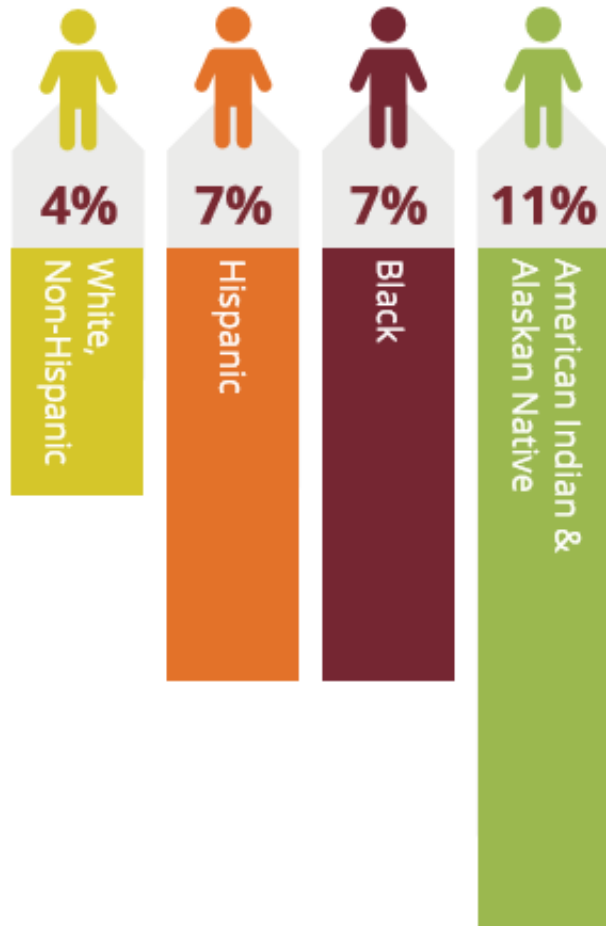
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



ROOT CAUSES FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS ARE DIFFERENT THAN ADULT HOMELESSNESS

- Family instability & conflict are common precursors
- Coming out as LGBTQ increases risk
- Lower educational attainment increases risk
- History of foster care is common
- History of legal involvement is common

Youth of color
experience higher rates
of homelessness.



YOUTH OF COLOR

- Native American youth have more than double the risk of homelessness than their non-native peers.
- Youth that are both Black & LGBTQ report the highest rates of homelessness.

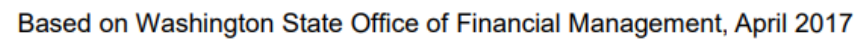
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN WASHINGTON

- 47% of youth and young adults exiting systems of care in WA are BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/People of Color).
- 1,800 young people leave WA-state-funded facilities into homelessness or unstable housing every year.
 - Almost two thirds (1,178) of them come from the inpatient behavioral health system.
 - One third who experience homelessness come from foster care (130), the state juvenile justice system (132), or the state adult corrections system (384).

RURAL YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- 4.2 M youth and young adults experience homelessness in the US.
- Rural youth homelessness is just as prevalent as urban youth homelessness.
- According to HUD, 75% of US counties are defined as rural.
- In rural areas youth are...
 - **More likely to be hidden**
 - More disconnected from school and work
 - Have less access to shelter and supportive services
 - **Have a greater reliance on couch surfing and sleeping in vehicles**





OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH

Street Outreach Services (SOS)

Outreach and engagement to homeless youth and young adults ages 12 to 24

HOPE Center

Temporary shelter for unaccompanied youth ages 12 to 17 living on the streets or whose health and safety is at risk

Crisis Residential Centers (CRC)

Temporary shelter & services in semi-secure & secure facilities for youth ages 12-17 in conflict w family, on the run, or whose health & safety is at risk

Young Adult Shelter (YAS)

Emergency shelter for young adults ages 18 through 24

Young Adult Housing Program (YAHP)

Rent assistance, transitional housing, and case management for young adults ages 18 through 24

Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP)

Rental assistance and case management for young adults ages 18 and 23 years old who have aged out of foster care


Ancillary Therapeutic Services (ATS)

Therapeutic family reconciliation or behavioral health services for youth engaged in OHY programs

System of Care Grant (SOC)

Grants that support innovative approaches to preventing exits from public systems of care into homelessness

Anchor Communities & Washington Youth and Family Fund build system capacity and support these interventions

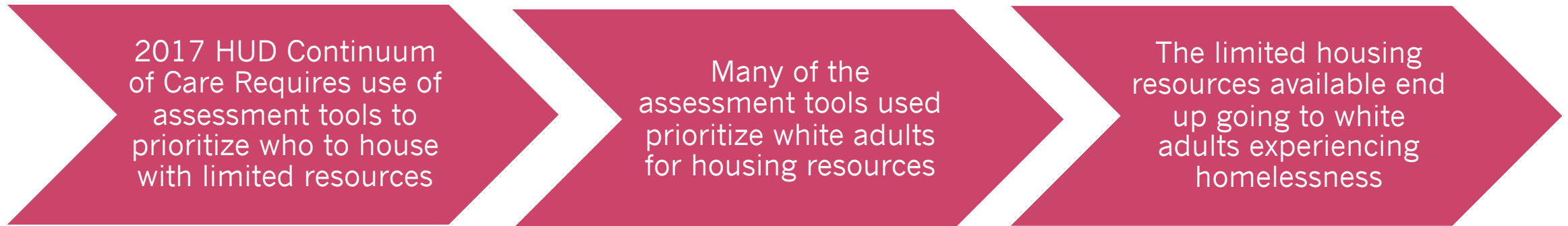


BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUTH MUST FIRST GET
THROUGH COORDINATED ENTRY IN ORDER TO ACCESS
SERVICES?

A SYSTEM THAT WAS DESIGNED BY AND FOR WHITE ADULTS...



LET'S LOOK AT COORDINATED ENTRY'S HISTORY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND

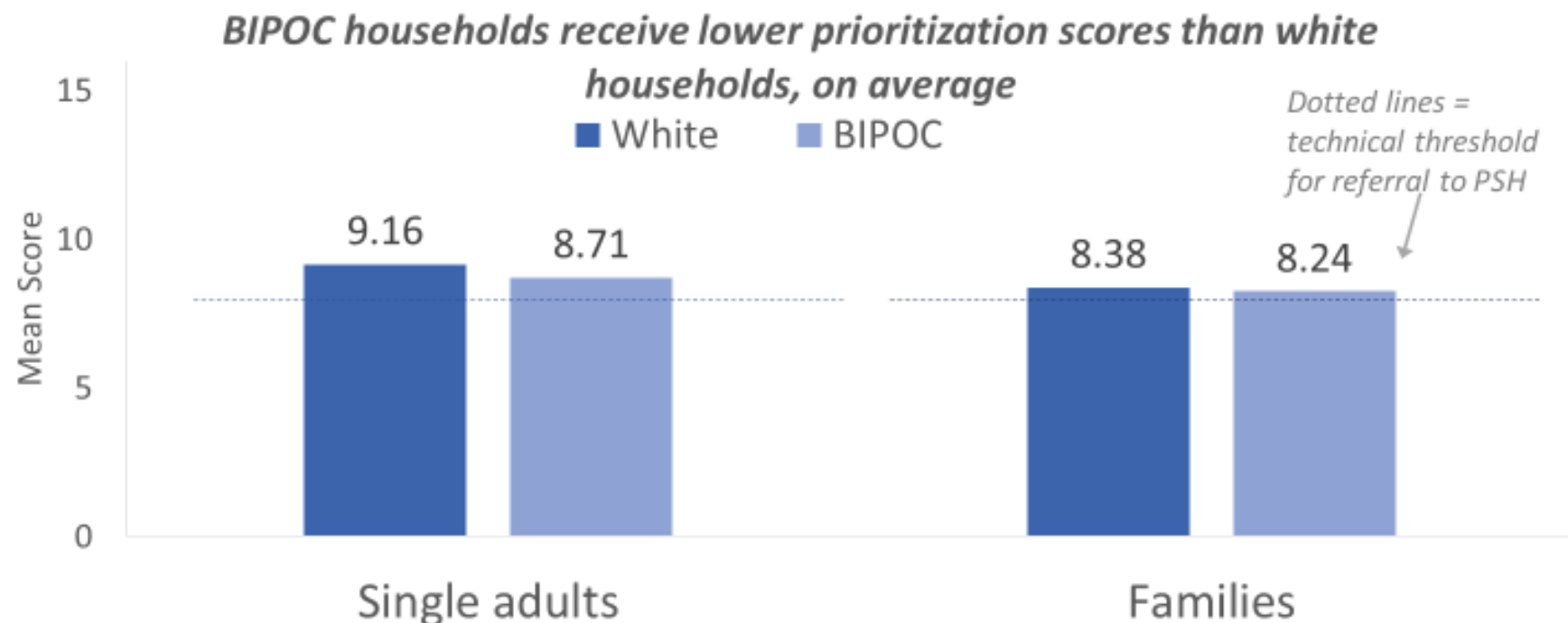


- Remember 47% of youth and young adults exiting systems of care in WA are BIPOC

VI-SPDAT RESEARCH STUDY

- 2018 Pierce County analysis of CE data confirmed lower prioritization scores for BIPOC.
- C4 proposed replicating the analysis nationally with the VI-SPDAT.
- Building Changes funded C4 to analyze CE data from WA, OR and VA.
- Single Adults: 18,973 Families: 6,065
- Limitations: PNW concentration, omits confounding variables like bias and how the tool is administered, priority score does NOT mean access, and family subscales were not examined.

Finding 1

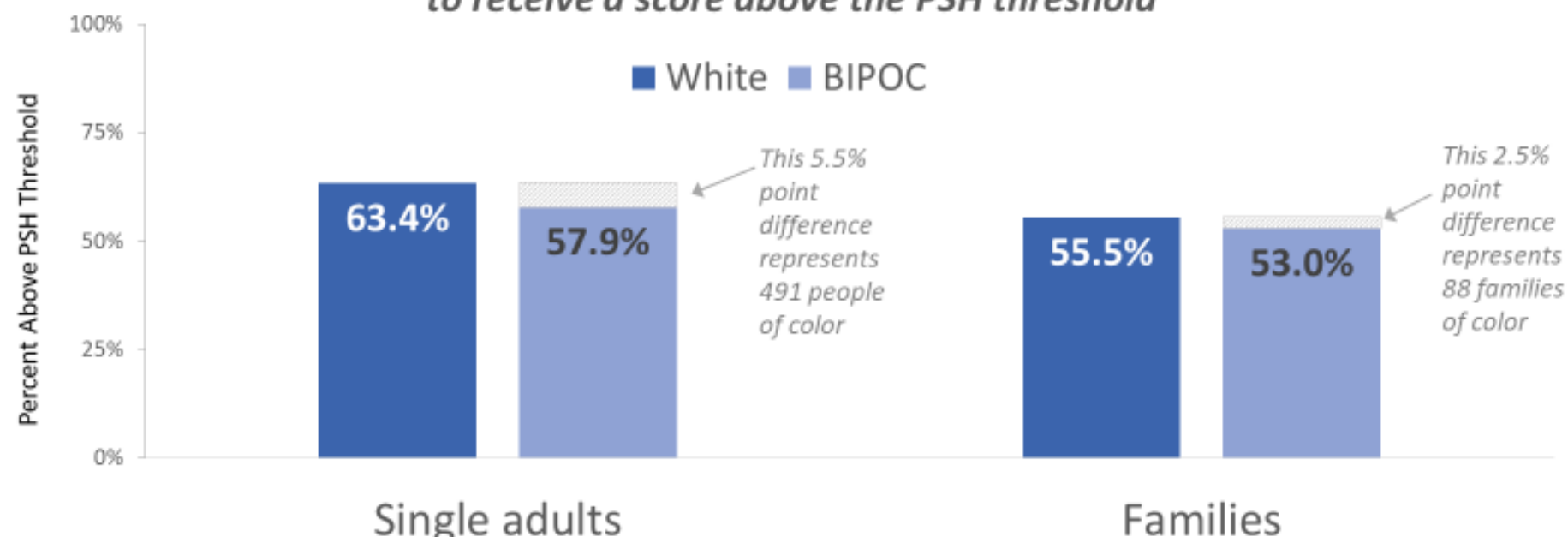


Note: The majority of communities used the single adult VI-SPDAT rather than the family VI-SPDAT for families; therefore the single adult scoring bands were applied to this analysis

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Finding 2

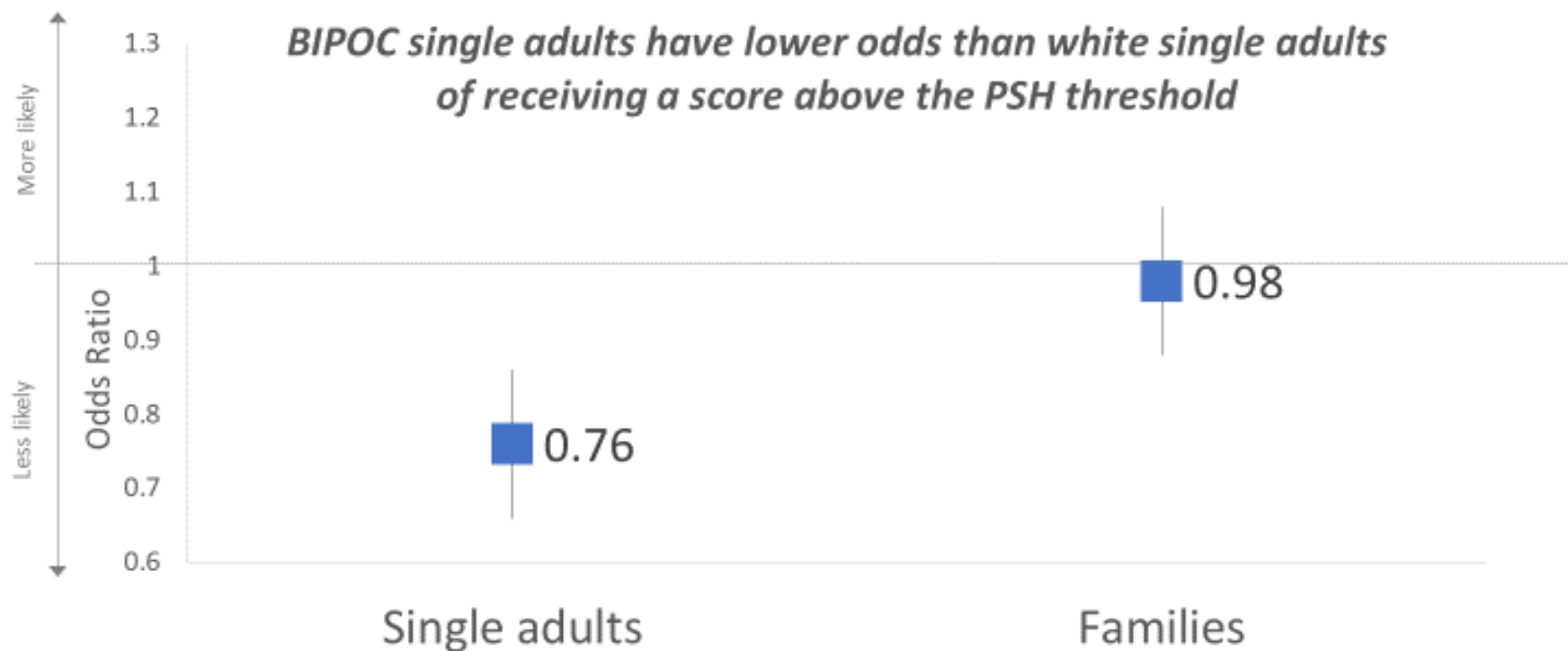
BIPOC households are less likely than white households to receive a score above the PSH threshold



Note: The majority of communities used the single adult VI-SPDAT rather than the family VI-SPDAT for families; therefore the single adult scoring bands were applied to this analysis

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Finding 3



Note: The majority of communities used the single adult VI-SPDAT rather than the family VI-SPDAT for families; therefore the single adult scoring bands were applied to this analysis

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Finding 4

- Race is a predictor of endorsing 11/16 subscales
- White households are more likely to endorse 8 subscales.
- BIPOC households are more likely to endorse 3 subscales.
- A higher percentage of subscales are tilted towards capturing vulnerabilities that White households are more likely to endorse → 8:3 ratio.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?



Using an equal, one size fits all approach



Intentionally using an age and color-blind lens



Operating on an exclusionary scarcity model

DEFINING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

RCW 43.330.702

Homeless youth—Definitions.

The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Child," "juvenile," "youth," and "minor" means any unemancipated individual who is under the chronological age of eighteen years.

(2) "Homeless" means without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, youth act, P.L. 93-415, Title III, September 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1129.

(3) "Runaway" means an unmarried and unemancipated minor who is absent from the home of a parent or guardian or other lawful placement without



(4) "Street youth" means a person under the age of eighteen who lives outdoors or in another unsafe location not intended for occupancy by the minor without an authorized residence.

(5) "Unaccompanied" means a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

(6) "Young adult" means a person between eighteen and twenty-four years of age.



Homeless Definition

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CRITERIA FOR DEFINING HOMELESS</p>		<p>Category 1</p>	<p>Literally Homeless</p>	<p>(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); <u>or</u> (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less <u>and</u> who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
		<p>Category 2</p>	<p>Imminent Risk of Homelessness</p>	<p>(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u> (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
		<p>Category 3</p>	<p>Homeless under other Federal statutes</p>	<p>(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; <u>and</u> (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
		<p>Category 4</p>	<p>Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV</p>	<p>(4) Any individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; <u>and</u> (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

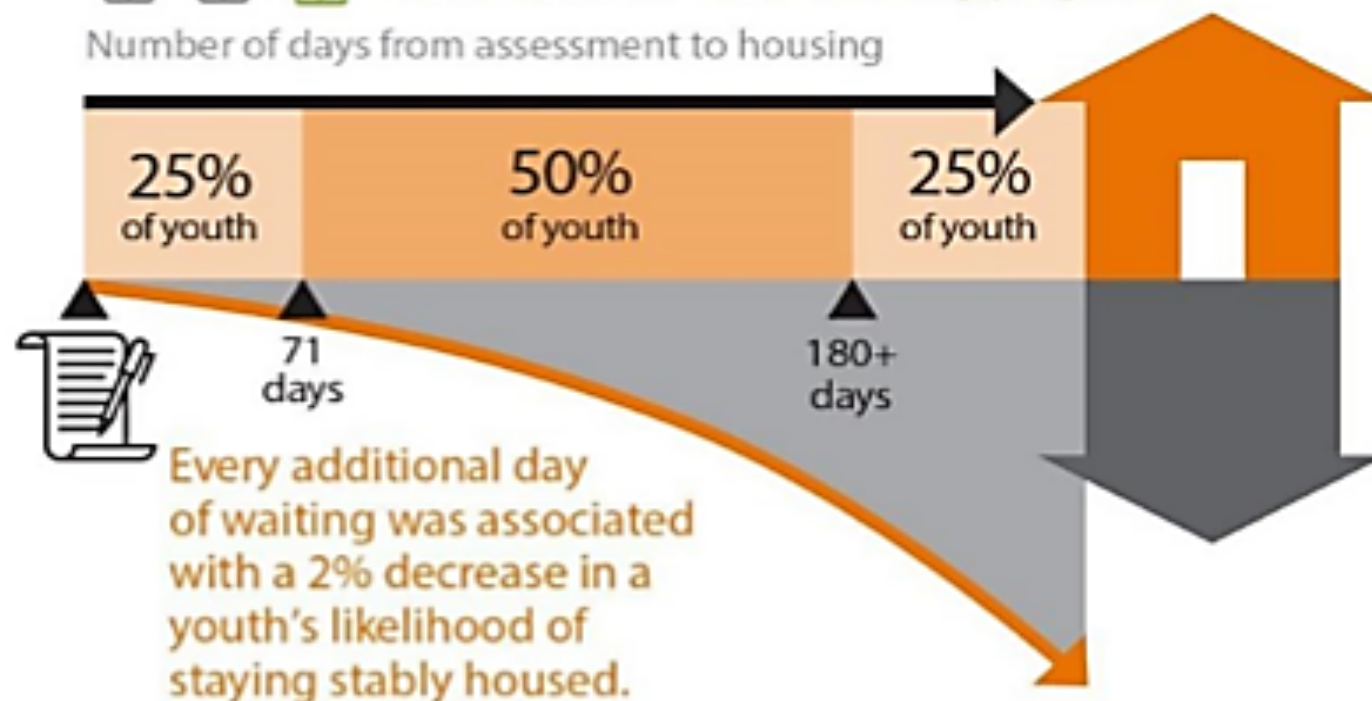




35%

of assessed youth
were placed into
rapid rehousing or
permanent supportive
housing programs.

Number of days from assessment to housing



HOMELESS YOUTH EXCLUDED FROM ACCESS

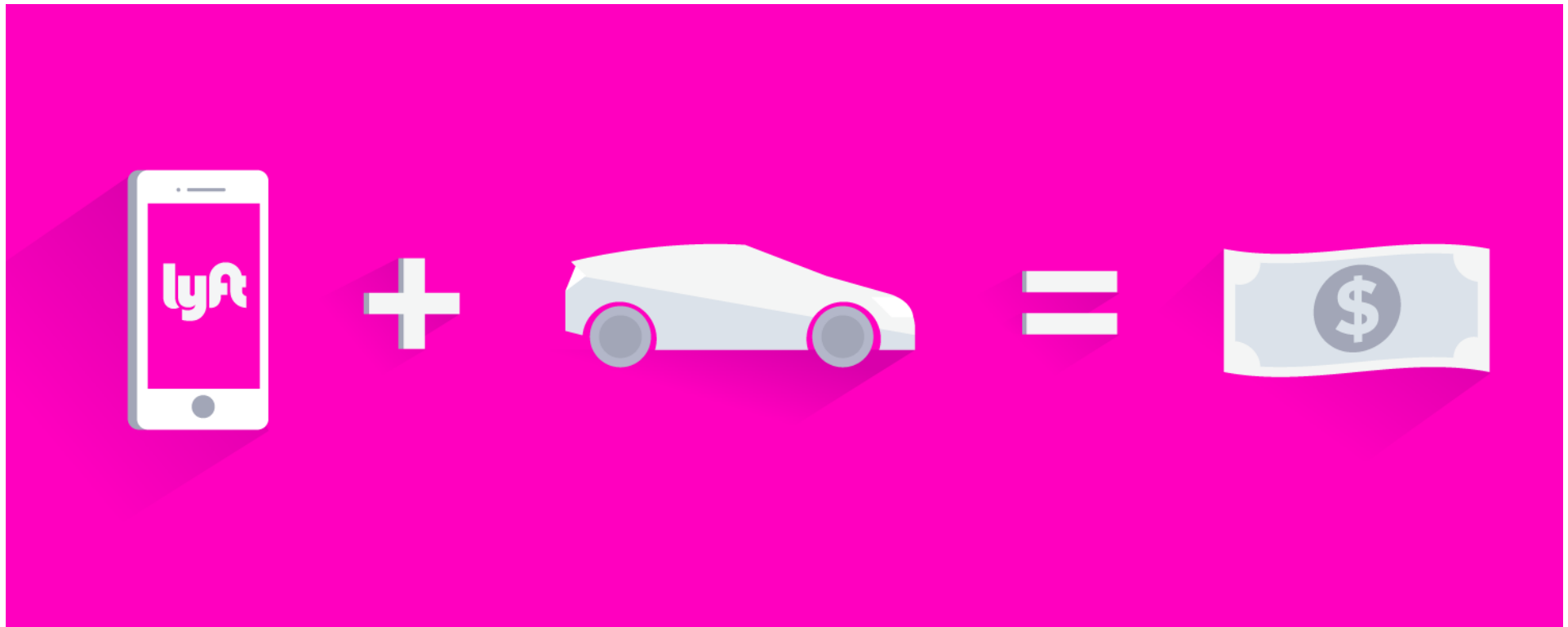


- Prioritization favors white adults.
- CE design assumes youth homelessness is NOT hidden.
- CE eligibility criteria does not serve what homelessness looks like for youth.
 - Currently screens out Category 3
- Root causes of homelessness collide with how we expect youth to successfully “show up” for an assessment.
- Scarce resources do not allow for the time needed to build trust with youth.
- CE geographical limitations (county lines) do not align with the geographical fluidity of rural homelessness.
- CE is complicated and youth must rely on limited and fragmented pieces of information!

EQUITY VS EQUALITY



EQUITABLE DATA-BASED DECISION MAKING



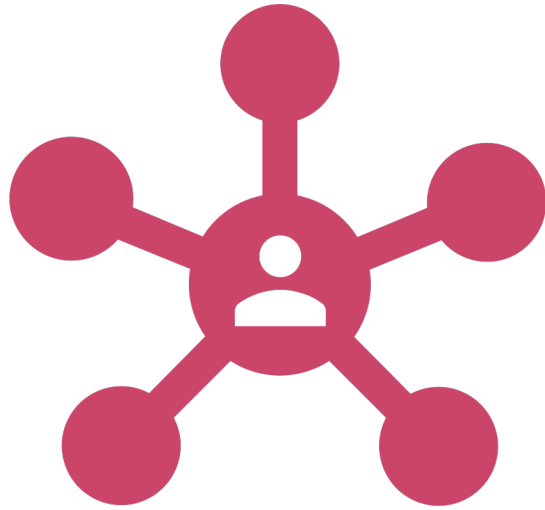


WHAT WOULD AN
EQUITABLE, PARALLEL CE
SYSTEM LOOK LIKE?

FOR YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULTS



SOLUTIONS ACTIVITY – COMMUNITY ANALYSIS



- What is the experience of young people accessing coordinated entry in your community? What are some of the gaps in services?
 - What are some contextual factors that contribute to this?
 - **What are some equitable alternatives to these processes?**
- When you get back to your community, what would it look like to build these processes out in collaboration with young people who have lived expertise?
 - What do you need to make that happen?
 - How can you get what you need to make that happen?



Q & A



CONTACT INFORMATION

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