



Rising Up – A Public/Private Partnership Update – June 2020

What is the current status of the Rising Up initiative?

The two major components of Rising Up are ***Problem Solving***: helping young people immediately resolve their housing crisis and avoid the homeless response system altogether; and ***Rapid Rehousing***: where young people can receive a \$27K rent subsidy and intensive case management for up to 3 years. Even with the economic and systemic challenges that the non-profit community has been facing these past weeks and months, Rising Up has continued to function effectively. Housing placements and referrals have, in fact, increased month over month since February 2020. To date:

- We have resolved homelessness for 36 young people through problem solving.
- We have housed 134 young people through Rapid Rehousing, with another 65 in the pipeline for placement.
- In total, we have helped 235 young people find a pathway out of homelessness and toward independence.

Are the nonprofit partners continuing to operate services during the pandemic?

All of the Rising Up nonprofit organizations are operating their basic services, albeit with some modifications to ensure the health and safety of the staff and youth. Staff at all of the sites are providing in-person or remote support for intensive case management, mental health support, problem solving, assessments, and housing navigation. To the greatest extent possible, the organizations are providing remote tutoring, distance learning, and tele-support for their young people who need it. We are especially focused on assuring that the young people in the referral pipeline are safe while they are waiting to be housed.

What is the impact of COVID-19 on the youth?

The impacts of the Shelter in Place order have been difficult for Rising Up participants, even as it has helped protect them from the virus. Many have lost their jobs, leading to economic uncertainty and food insecurity. Reports of mental health issues have increased, and incidences of substance abuse have also increased. The staff members at each partner organization are working every day to creatively support their young people, while advocating for more resources (shelter beds, hotel vouchers, meal delivery, etc.) to keep them safe. It's also important to note that across the Bay Area, the rates of COVID-19 infection are disproportionately high among communities of color, including youth.

What are the next steps for Rising Up?

We are using data to help guide us forward with thought and care. We are evaluating where we can provide additional support and what might need to change in response to the pandemic, e.g. enhancing behavioral health support, financial coaching, and more.

We have raised \$17.5 million from a select group of supporters to date, which means we are halfway toward our \$35 million campaign goal. We will need to redouble our fundraising efforts in the midst of uncertain economic times in order to achieve our vision to reduce youth homelessness by 50% by 2023. We know that housing young people is more important than ever before, and we are looking to the community to support us.