



# Rising Up – A Public/Private Partnership

## Operations Update

### October, 2021

#### Introduction

Rising Up is a public-private partnership launched in January, 2019, that includes nine City of San Francisco departments and agencies, a group of community-based organizations (CBO's), and a select group of philanthropic partners. All these stakeholders are working together in support of the broader city-wide goal of reducing homelessness for youth ages 18-25 by 50% by 2023, ultimately assuring that homelessness for young people is rare, brief, and one-time. Young people participating in Rising Up will benefit through one of two program components: **Problem Solving** - short-term support to prevent entry into homelessness all together, or **Rapid Rehousing** - a housing model which offers up to 3 years of rent subsidy with intensive case management support. The Rising Up partnership is led by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH). Larkin Street Youth Services is the anchor non-profit institution. Thanks to our generous funders, we've made good progress to date, as shown in this report.

#### Metrics

Number of youth housed in Rapid Rehousing since the start of the campaign	246
Number of youth currently in housing search	81
Number of youth who have exited Rapid Rehousing	85
Employed	47%
Seeking employment	25%
Attending school, graduated from high school, or obtaining a GED	67%
Number of Problem Solving Resolutions	170
Number of Problem Solving Conversations	1320

**Types of Rapid Rehousing Exits:** Young people have exited to: other stable housing with friends or family, to permanent supportive housing, to other Rapid Rehousing units in other programs, or to complete independence.

**Problem Solving Resolutions:** Resolutions include: moving in with family or friends, finding a way to stay on their own, supplementing their income with small grants to offset expenses where they are living, contribution to rent costs of another household, gas or food cards, first and last months' rent.



## Demographics

<p><b>Race</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African American- 57%</li> <li>• Asian- 3%</li> <li>• American Indian or Alaskan Native- 1%</li> <li>• Multi racial – 7%</li> <li>• Pacific Islander- 3%</li> <li>• White – 16%</li> <li>• Data Unknown- 13%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ethnicity (# of youth)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hispanic/Latino- 87</li> <li>• Non Hispanic/Latino -264</li> <li>• Data Unknown- 3</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sexual Orientation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi- Sexual- 9%</li> <li>• Gay- 10%</li> <li>• Straight- 71%</li> <li>• Data Unknown- 10%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gender Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female – 52%</li> <li>• Male- 44%</li> <li>• Gender Non Conforming- 1.5%</li> <li>• Transgender- 2.5%</li> </ul>

To date, thanks to Rising Up we have resolved homelessness for 170 young people through Problem Solving, and we have housed 246 young people through Rapid Rehousing, with another 81 in the pipeline for placement. In total, we have helped 501 young people find a pathway out of homelessness and toward independence. Notably, Rising Up is working hard to ensure that participants represent the populations most impacted by homelessness. In fact, 57% of those housed by Rising Up are African American youth, and over 20% of the Rising Up youth identify as LGBTQ+.

## Next Steps

We’ve learned much from the progress we’ve made with Rising Up. After extensive evaluation, **we have increased our budget to support key programming that is needed to meet the evolving needs of the young people:**

- **Financial Assistance:** Smart Money Coaching offered through OFE has proven to be very effective in helping the young people set up checking accounts, manage their debt, take advantage of gov’t offerings, and more.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Community Boards has been brought in to help with roommate relations, mediation, landlord/tenant disputes, and more.
- **Flex Fund:** We put in place a Flex Fund to provide support for young people to buy groceries, car repair, muni pass, basic living expenses.
- **Behavioral Health Support:** In response to mental health issues that young people are experiencing exacerbated by the pandemic, we have received a targeted investment from a philanthropic partner. We have hired a dedicated behavioral health clinician and are interviewing for a peer navigator, both of whom will provide exclusive support to Rising Up Rapid Rehousing participants.
- **Increased Employment and Education Support:** With the onset of the pandemic, many young people lost their jobs and/or their access to education. While the Rising Up partners have diligently worked together to provide the young people with as much support as possible in this area, the CBO partners will be receiving additional funding to expand this work and as such, the young people will have access to a broader base of support.



- Staffing Costs:** The pandemic, the large geographic spread of housing, the acute behavioral health needs, and the deeply impacted economy all combined to necessitate more intensive staff support for youth. Campaign partners have proposed reduced youth:housing coordinator ratios to better support housing retention, as well as a higher degree of 1:1 coaching around education and employment goals. Additionally, we will be increasing the staffing of those managers who provide housing location and retention services. They work closely with the case managers from each partner agency to assure maximum effectiveness in housing search, landlord negotiation, and move-in services for the young people.

## Next Steps

As noted, based on an evaluation of our work to date, which included input from staff members as well as young people with lived experience, we have adjusted the budget to a final total of \$50M support the improvements and additions we are making to our programming. With the over \$35M raised to date, we anticipate receiving close to \$12M in local public investment through Proposition C funds over the next three fiscal years, with the approximately \$3.0M balance coming from private philanthropy. The private funds will be invested in the wraparound support the youth need to succeed in remaining stably housed or to avoid homelessness all together, such as case management, education and employment support, and health services. Current fundraising results are as follows:

<b>Corporate Partners</b>	<b>Foundation Partners</b>	<b>Individual Partners</b>	<b>Public Partners</b>
Airbnb - \$1.5M AT&T - \$100K Dolby - \$25K Twilio - \$700K Twitter - \$50K Warner Bros. - \$25K Xilinx - \$25K <b>Total - \$2,415,000</b>	Anonymous - \$300K Horace W. Goldsmith - \$500K CZI - \$600K Weinberg - \$575K Hellman - \$400K Anonymous - \$150K Langendorf - \$60K Sutter Health - \$50K Tipping Point - \$3M <b>Total - \$5,635,000</b>	Joe Gebbia - \$12.5M Other - \$685K <b>Total - \$13,185,000</b>	City - \$1.7M State (HEAP) - \$9M Prop C Funding - \$3.4M Workforce Accelerator - \$150K <b>Total - \$14,274,971</b>
<b>Totals Combined</b> Total Raised – <b>\$35,509,971</b>			

## Sustainability

By June 2022 we anticipate securing capstone gifts to reach our \$50M goal that will sustain services through June 30, 2023. The vision for the campaign was to make a significant short-term investment that would dramatically reduce youth homelessness by 2023, and we are well on our way to realizing those results. This fiscal year, we will enroll our 400<sup>th</sup> youth into Rising Up’s Rapid Re-housing program, just as significant new housing resources come online funded by unprecedented federal, state, and local



investments, including more than 200 units of new supportive housing for TAY, and nearly 200 housing vouchers. Over time, Rising Up will right-size to fit a smaller problem, funded primarily with local Proposition C dollars to sustain the program beyond 2023.

Rising Up is a shining example of public/private collaboration that leveraged private investment with sustained public support to change the landscape for youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco.

## **A Youth Story**

This client originally started out at Larkin Street Youth Services, utilizing Larkin Street's transitional housing, attending Larkin Street Academy, making good friends, and taking advantage of the available mental health and employment services. After a housing assessment indicated that the client qualified for Rising Up Rapid Rehousing, the client applied for and was accepted to a Bay Area trade school. The client is now nearing the end of the coursework and will have earned a trade certificate as part of the program. With the help and support of a Case Manager who helped the client develop a resume, fill out job applications, and prepare for interviews, the client found a job in their chosen field. The client now plans to exit Rising Up, using the remainder of the Rapid Rehousing subsidy to cover first and last months' rent and a security deposit in a new place to call home. The client will be able to cover the monthly rent with the salary from the new job. This is a good example of a young person who had the courage to take the initiative and utilize the available resources. The client has flourished as a result of the support provided by Rising up programming and by Larkin Street Youth Services.

## **In Closing**

The Rising Up partnership model has more relevance now than ever before. With its focus on youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth, Rising Up squarely addresses the issue of racial and social equity that now must become part of our national dialogue. We know, in fact, that funding Rising Up at this time is providing its own form of COVID relief. Young people who are on the streets are finding a home. Others who lost their jobs are getting back to work. Still others who are getting a diploma or a degree will be able to get the technology they need to complete it. And importantly, young people whose mental health has been affected by the pandemic are now starting to get the care they need.

Most importantly, on behalf of those 501 young people we have served thus far, we deeply appreciate the support we have received from our generous funders and supporters.