



Rising Up – A Public/Private Partnership Update Report February 2022

Rising Up is a public-private partnership launched in January 2019. The partners are working together to support the ambitious 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 benefit from one of two program components: **Problem Solving** - short-term support to prevent entry into homelessness all together, or **Rapid Rehousing** - a housing model that 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), and Larkin Street Youth Services, which serves as the anchor non-profit institution.

Current Results

Due to the pandemic, many factors impacted the growth and progress of the Rising Up partnership throughout 2020 and 2021. Yet as we move into 2022, the model has grown stronger, and we are continuing to effectively help young people get off the streets and/or avoid homelessness all together. The results shown on page 4 of this report are a testament to the impact we are having on the lives of these young people.

Challenges

The challenges we are addressing are due in part to the pandemic, and in part to implementing a previously untested model:

- Helping young people understand and manage their rent contribution requirements is an important part of the programming and is requiring greater oversight and guidance.
- The search for housing that is affordable while also being within the geographic range of the Bay Area is taking longer than we anticipated.
- As with so many other industries, the staffing requirements, especially for case managers, have increased but the availability of qualified staff is limited, at least at this point in time.
- We have had to strengthen and increase our Rising Up programming to adapt to the higher needs of the young people, e.g. helping them find living wage employment, building a stronger network of behavioral health support, and finding child care for young people who need to go back to work.

Successes

The successes of Rising Up are directly related to the strength of the model:

- The average rent contribution level has increased, and some young people are exiting with healthy cash-outs.
- The number of successful exits has increased, i.e. young people either finding housing with friends and family, or being able to pay 100% of their rent.
- We are augmenting our career navigation services, which has helped more young people find employment.



- Our Flexible Funding program has helped a number of young people overcome short-term hurdles such as funding for a car repair, purchasing essential household items, one-time purchases of electronics to facilitate school or employment, and more.

Fundraising

The good news as we move into 2022 is that we have met our Rising Up campaign fundraising goal of \$50 million. This has been a team effort and it's important to acknowledge the key players who have helped us reach this goal: Most notably we want to thank **Mayor Breed** for launching the initiative in 2019 and actively advocating on our behalf throughout these past three years. The **Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing** has fully covered the housing and its associated costs for the Rising Up youth and will be able to continue to do so thanks to the investment of additional public funds. And our **private funders**, to whom we are deeply grateful, have been exceptionally generous in covering the cost of the wrap-around support that is so crucial to helping our young people thrive. Our [public and private donors](#) have shared equally in reaching our goal, each sector securing approximately 50% of the dollars raised and/or committed.

This funding has enabled us to build a strong and effective public-private partnership that has been at the very foundation of the good progress we have made thus far. We will continue working together to reach our city-wide goal of reducing the number of young people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco by 50% by 2023.

Next Steps

Geographic Expansion

Even with a subsidy, San Francisco housing often remains out of reach for youth who are trying to exit homelessness. Increasingly, young people who are being housed through Rising Up are finding housing outside of San Francisco. As we assess the geographic spread of where young people are finding housing that they can afford, we are also assessing how we may need to adjust our service model—from identifying East Bay service space to meet with youth, to building new partnerships in Alameda and Contra Costa County to ensure that young people can connect with the new communities they are calling home. This is an important and ongoing question for the campaign that we are working to answer together.

Sustainability

Having reached our \$50million goal, we are positioned to achieve our programmatic goals. 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 continue to enroll more 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 75 new units of new supportive housing for Transitional Aged Youth (with approximately 125 more to be identified in the next 1 – 2 years), and nearly 200 housing vouchers.

As we look ahead, we will be evaluating data to determine the right size for Rising Up once we've met our goals for housing and/or preventing homelessness for young people. In general, we believe that Rising Up



will right-size to fit a smaller problem, and continued public funding will be central to the effort. To determine this, key questions we will be evaluating are:

- What level of reduction in youth homelessness did we achieve through Rising Up?
- What is the ongoing need for Rapid Rehousing for TAY given that reduction in overall youth homelessness?
- To what degree will the City continue to invest, as it has done so effectively with Rising Up, in Rapid Rehousing for youth?
- Will there be fundraising requirements for the partners to maintain their services, post campaign?

A Youth Story

Rafael is a young man living in Rising Up Rapid Rehousing. His case manager referred him to Smart Money Coaching, a program offered to Rising Up youth, in March of 2021. Rafael was unbanked due to a suspected fraud account reported to ChexSystems, a national database used by financial institutions to determine banking eligibility. The Smart Money coach discussed a plan to resolve his negative banking record. It took six months for the negative account to be removed from his ChexSystems report, at which time Rafael opened a savings and checking account with Self-Help Federal Credit Union. In addition, Rafael successfully had a collection account removed from his credit report, decreasing his debt by \$331.00. A few months later, Rafael enrolled in a credit builder and savings account to help strengthen his credit score. Currently, Rafael just got a new job and is working on managing his income and saving money regularly. The Smart Money Coaching program has given Rafael a fresh start and placed him in a better financial position as things reopen up from COVID-19.



In Closing

Rising Up has housed 285 youth, diverted 225 youth from the homeless response system through Problem Solving, and case managers and housing locaters are actively working with another 81 young people to find housing they can call their own. And notably, Rising Up is reaching the populations that are most impacted by homelessness. 58% of those housed by Rising Up are African American youth, 24% are LatinX, and over 20% of the Rising Up youth identify as LGBTQ++.

As the initiative has evolved, the model itself has evolved. We've learned much and we've acted on what we have learned. The bottom line is that, through the strength of the Rising Up model and the generosity of public and private donors, we are actively and effectively helping young people get off the streets and/or avoid homelessness all together. Every day we see the impact of our work on the lives of the young people we are serving.



Current Results: Metrics and Demographics

RISING UP METRICS FEBRUARY 2022

PROGRESS TO DATE

TOTAL YOUTH HOUSED: 285

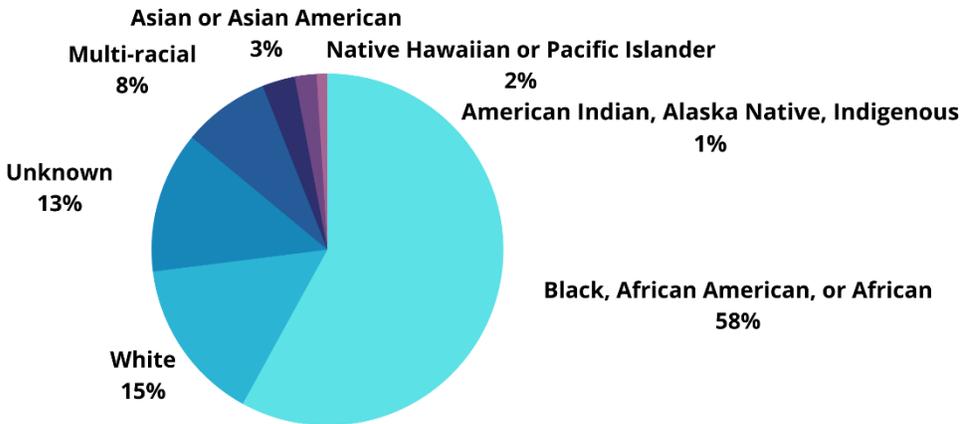
OF YOUTH WAITING TO BE HOUSED: 81

PROBLEM SOLVING RESOLUTIONS: 225

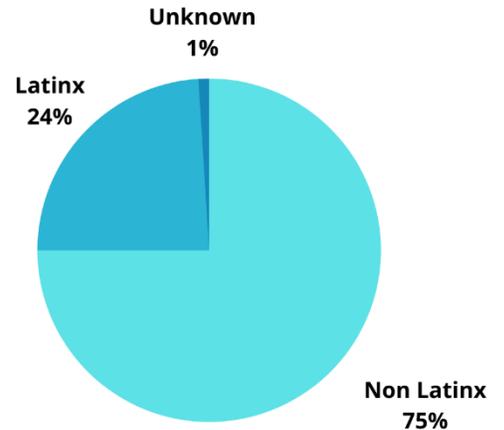
OF YOUTH EMPLOYED: 42%

YOUTH WITH GED, DIPLOMA, AND/OR
ATTENDING SCHOOL: 63%

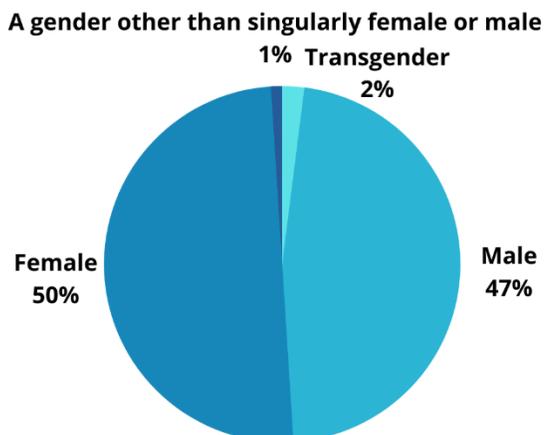
RACE



ETHNICITY



GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

