



Rising Up – A Public/Private Partnership Update Report May 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

As we all evolve into our next stage of normalcy, the Rising Up model is growing stronger. 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.

Note: You may have seen early reports of the San Francisco Point in Time data showing a 15% overall decrease in people experiencing homelessness. We are encouraged by the early report and we are eagerly awaiting the publication of the full report in July with details about what makes up the overall decrease and how the experience of homelessness among young people factors into the data.

LGBTQ/Transgender Youth – Attacking their Rights

On a nationwide basis, discrimination against LGBTQ and Transgender youth has taken on a highly concerning and potentially devastating dimension. As noted in a recent [article](#) in the LA Times, “legislators in 19 states have introduced bills that aim to restrict children’s access to gender-affirming care, and legislators in 30 states have introduced proposals to exclude transgender children from youth athletics.” In Florida, classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity is forbidden, and in Tennessee, funding is pulled from school districts that allow transgender students to play on girls’ sports team. In Texas, families that provide gender-affirming care to their trans children can be investigated for child abuse.

According to the [National Center for Transgender Equality](#), “one in five transgender individuals have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.” Family violence, family rejection and overall discrimination have contributed to the large number of transgender and other LGBTQ-identified youth who are experiencing homelessness in the United States – an estimated 20-40% of the total population of young people experiencing homelessness.

California has protections in place for gender non-confirming people. However, they still face prejudice in our state. Data indicates that trans youth who seek refuge in California face a high likelihood of being



unhoused. Further, between 20% and 40% of youth experiencing homelessness in California identify as LGBTQ, compared with 4% to 10% of the total population. On the local level, almost half of the youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco identify as LGBTQ+. This would include young people who are participating in Rising Up's Rapid Rehousing program.

The good news is that steps are being taken in California to address the issue of discrimination against LGBTQ and Trans youth. Senator Scott Weiner has introduced legislation to offer California as a safe haven for parents in other states whose transgender children could be taken away from them for supporting their children's access to gender-affirming procedures and other health care. As Senator Weiner recently [stated](#): "California is a place of refuge for transgender children and their parents as a wave of criminalization sweeps through Texas and other states. They have a safe place to go if they're threatened with prosecution. California will not be a party to this new wave of deadly LGBTQ criminalization."

San Francisco has long been a place where LGBTQ+ young people have sought refuge, yet the high cost of living often fails to protect these young people from falling into homelessness despite our community's progressive and affirming values. Fortunately, opportunities like Rising Up serve as a critical component of the larger homeless response system designed to meet the need. Still, with a potential influx of young LGBTQ people fleeing criminalization, Rising Up partners and other youth-serving nonprofits throughout San Francisco are considering ways to prepare, and urging the State to attach funds to the legislation that would create additional housing, as well as support outreach materials, a 24-hour helpline, and other methods to protect these young people from further trauma.

Regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or race, every young person experiencing homelessness deserves the opportunity to seek and find the support they need to successfully achieve independence. The story below is a moving example of how this came about for a young person in the Rising Up program.

A Youth Story

This is a story about a young person who seized the opportunity to use the services offered through the Rising Up initiative to get a fresh start in life. The Interim Rising Up Program Manager for Larkin Street Youth Services, Glenda Dayao, was kind enough to share this story with us. (Please note, in writing about this young person, we will use they/them pronouns).

Our story begins at the outset of the pandemic. Our young person was at a low point in life. Growing up, their parents could not be relied upon to provide for them. They had gone out on their own at a very young age, seeking to build a better life. Now, at 24 years old, our young person was homeless. As part of the city-wide effort to help homeless people get off the streets at the beginning of the pandemic, they were placed in a Shelter in Place (SIP) hotel. Yet, while the hotel provided shelter, it was only ever going to be temporary.

While at the SIP hotel, our young person went to the access point at Larkin Street Youth Services to learn about what other housing would be available. They were, at that time, put on the waiting list for Rising Up Rapid Rehousing. While waiting for housing to become available, our young person became actively involved in opportunities that Larkin Street presented to them. Our young person represented Larkin Street in the community as an outspoken advocate on behalf of the rights of Trans and LGBTQ youth. They sat on



Larkin Street's Youth Advisory Board, and they spoke up at city hall, uplifting the voices of trans and LGBTQ youth. It was clear that our young person took the initiative to seek help, and more importantly, act upon that help.

An apartment in San Francisco became available through the Rising Up program for our young person and their partner. The move into the apartment gave our young person even more confidence to move forward. They looked for employment and found a position as a program specialist role at a local nonprofit. In that role, our young person has created and now conducts queer sex-ed workshops and sexual health workshops. They also act as a peer counselor to the young people who use the services of the organization.

Our young person has fully embraced this job. They can work from home a few days a week, they have been given a lot of autonomy, and they especially like the fact that they have been given the opportunity to create something new from the ground up. Our young person has a high school diploma and may go on to college, but for now they are really enjoying the job. This is their first professional full-time job and it's a been a great fit.

Finding employment has given our young person the ability to be independent. Moving forward, they are currently contributing at least 60% of the rent and they are carefully planning so that they can pay their rent in full before the Rising Up subsidy is used up. When they exit the program, they plan to stay in the apartment they are currently sharing with their partner.

The Rising Up initiative offered our young person the opportunity to create a better life. They had the courage to make the very best of this opportunity - gaining confidence and stability, acquiring a job, becoming independent, and ultimately helping others in their own journeys.



Current Results: Metrics, Exits, and Demographics

RISING UP METRICS

PROGRESS TO DATE

TOTAL YOUTH HOUSED: 297

OF YOUTH WAITING TO BE HOUSED: 65

PROBLEM SOLVING RESOLUTIONS: 197

OF YOUTH EMPLOYED: 42%

YOUTH WITH GED, DIPLOMA, AND/OR ATTENDING SCHOOL: 65%

RISING UP EXITS

YOUTH EXITING RISING UP

EXIT WITH NO ONGOING SUBSIDY: 33%

LIVING WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS: 20%

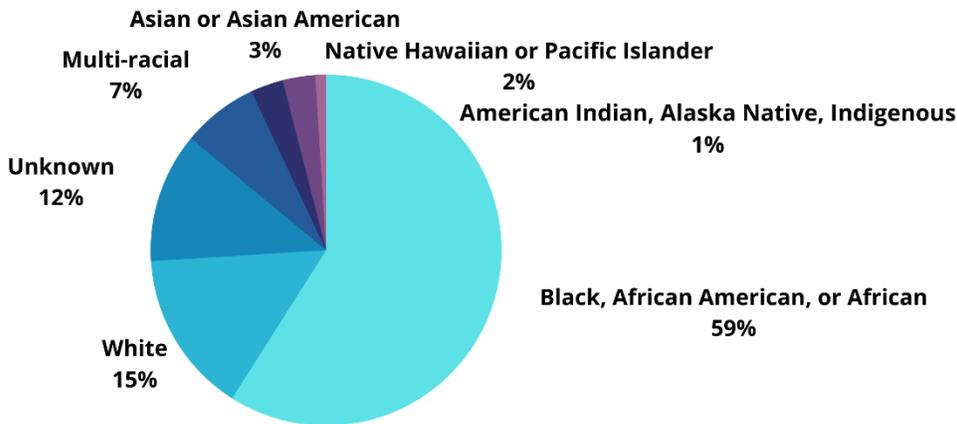
DATA UNKNOWN: 16%

EXIT WITH ONGOING SUBSIDY: 14%

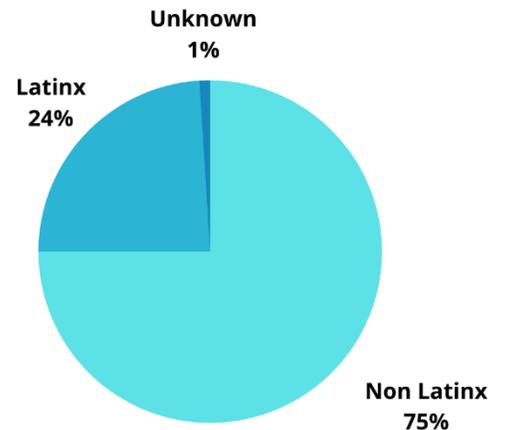
DECEASES, INCARCERATED, EXIT TO HOMELESSNESS, OTHER: 12%

EXITED TO SHELTER (HOTEL/MOTEL): 5%

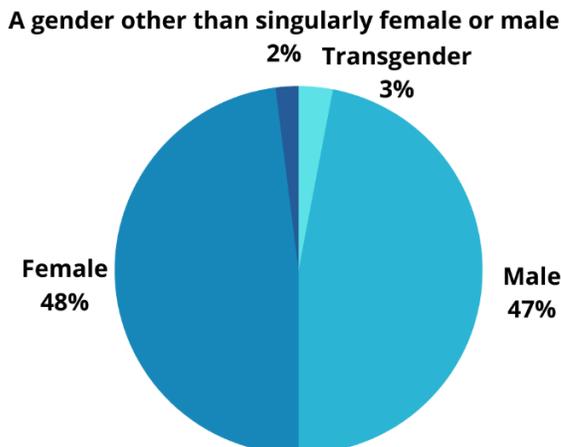
RACE



ETHNICITY



GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

