



# Rising Up – A Public Private Partnership To Reduce Youth Homelessness in San Francisco

Update Report - August, 2022

## Introduction

Rising Up is a public/private partnership that was launched by Mayor London Breed in January 2019 to reduce the number of young people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco by 50% by 2023. It brings together City resources, corporate partners, individual funders, philanthropy, and non-profit partners to provide services to connect young people with housing and employment and set them on the right track for the future. 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. Below is a report which outlines our Rising Up progress to date.

## Program Data

### *Programming Overview*

Rising Up starts with **Coordinated Entry (CE)** – a citywide system for all people experiencing homelessness. There are six Youth Access Points specifically where young people are screened for eligibility, offered immediate assistance, and assessed for housing. All data is tracked in the citywide ONE system.

There are two major program components of Rising Up. **Problem Solving** helps young people immediately resolve their housing crisis and avoid the homelessness response system altogether. The goal of Rising Up is to provide Problem Solving services to 450 young people by 2023. The other component is **Rapid Rehousing**: where young people can receive a \$27K rent subsidy and intensive case management support for up to 3 years. The goal of Rising Up is to house 400 young people through Rapid Rehousing by 2023.

### *Results to Date – High level summary*

- **We have resolved homelessness for 211 young people** through problem solving, e.g. move-in assistance for housing, first and last months' rent, contributions to household utility costs, gas cards, grocery cards, finding a safe place to live with a friend or family member, and more.
- **We have housed 305 young people through Rapid Rehousing, with another 54 in the pipeline** for placement.
- **In total, we have helped 570 young people find a pathway out of homelessness** and toward independence.

All participants housed through Rising Up have benefited from **Supportive Services** including: intensive case management, education services, employment opportunities, financial management guidance, and linkage to physical and behavioral health resources. Additional Rising Up metrics can be found on page 5 of this report.

## 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 that requires significant guidance.
- Roughly 75% of housing placements occur outside of San Francisco, primarily in the East Bay; the geographic diversity and distance requires new ways of doing things for San Francisco-based service providers.
- We are in the midst of an extremely difficult hiring market for key staff positions, especially case managers and clinicians; this is a significant challenge sector-wide and competition for qualified nonprofit workers is high.
- The impact of the pandemic on the wellness and economic security of Rising Up participants persists, and we continue to adapt our model to accommodate the high needs of young people.

## Successes/Accomplishments

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

- The average rent contribution level from the young people has increased, and some young people are exiting with healthy cash-outs.
- The number of successful exits/program completions continues to grow as the program matures.
- Our Flexible Funding program has helped a number of young people overcome short-term hurdles that might otherwise put someone at risk of homelessness, such as funding for a car repair, purchasing essential household items, one-time purchases of electronics to facilitate school or employment, and more.
- In addition to case management, we have developed and implemented the following additional programming to support the young people:
  - **Financial Assistance:** Smart Money Coaching offered through the Office of Financial Empowerment has proven to be very effective in helping the young people set up checking accounts, manage their debt, improve their credit, take advantage of government offerings, and more.
  - **Conflict Resolution:** Community Boards supports Rising Up staff training on conflict resolution, as well as providing direct assistance to participants, including help with roommate relations, mediation, landlord/tenant disputes, and more.
  - **Behavioral Health Support:** In response to mental health issues that young people are experiencing exacerbated by the pandemic, we have received targeted investments from philanthropic partners to hire behavioral health clinicians dedicated to the exclusive support of Rising Up Rapid Rehousing participants.
- Rising Up has done an exceptional job of reaching and housing young people who identify as BIPOC, whom we know are over-represented among the population of youth experiencing homelessness because of structural racism and the barriers it creates. One area we are working to improve is our visibility and outreach to the LGBTQ++ community. This population is currently underrepresented in our Rising Up count.

## Next Steps and Sustainability

Larkin Street Youth Services is the fiscal agent for Rising Up. The Rising Up Campaign is a \$50M public/private partnership to help reduce youth homelessness by 50% by 2023 by housing or preventing homelessness among 850 transition aged youth. To date, the campaign has served 570 youth through problem solving and rapid rehousing, the two programmatic components of Rising Up.

This has been a team effort. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has fully covered housing subsidies and associated costs for Rising Up youth, and our private funders, to whom we are deeply grateful, have been exceptionally generous in covering the cost of the wrap-around support services that are 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.

Having reached our \$50 million financial goal, we are positioned to achieve our programmatic goals of preventing 450 from entering the homeless response system through problem solving and housing our 400<sup>th</sup> young person in 2023. With funding we have secured through the campaign, we will ensure that they have the wraparound support they need to be successful in the program until they exit. The next step in the ongoing work to permanently end youth homelessness is where will we go from here?

As we look ahead to the future of the initiative, the Rising Up Steering Committee will be evaluating data to determine the right size for Rising Up once we've met our campaign goals for housing and/or preventing homelessness for young people. We know that the Rising Up model is strong and that both Problem Solving and Rapid Rehousing for TAY will continue to be part of San Francisco's overall strategy to end homelessness. To determine the future of Rising Up, we are now evaluating:

- What will the 2022 PIT count tell us about our results in reducing youth homelessness?
- What is the ongoing need for Rapid Rehousing for TAY as part of San Francisco's overall homelessness strategy?
- To what degree will the City continue to invest, as it has done so effectively with Rising Up, in Rapid Rehousing for youth?
- What role will private philanthropy play post-campaign?

## A Youth Story

Jonathan (he/him/his) is 27 years old and is a SF Bay Area native. He has a strong passion for creating and performing arts and is a recording artist. Jonathan's parents separated when he was young, and as a result, Jonathan and his siblings would move back and forth throughout the Bay Area. Growing up, he remembers the challenges his family faced when they didn't have sufficient funds to take care of themselves.

Eventually Jonathan and his siblings lost their family home due to a fire displacement, and this caused each of them to go their separate ways. Jonathan was fortunate to have a job and two cars and was able to keep shelter over his head during this time. For a long time, he often bounced back between friends' couches and sleeping in his car.

Jonathan heard about Rising Up through one of the city's youth access points. When he saw he was eligible, he knew it was an opportunity that could help him. Jonathan has been in Rising Up since August 2021 and has been housed for almost a year. He is currently working in the community and is also producing music in his spare time. His future goals include starting a family, opening up a business, and investing in property so he can establish generational wealth.

Since being in the program, Five Keys School and Programs has helped Jonathan with ongoing mentoring and creating a path of structure and independence. He was referred to Smart Money Coaching to help build his credit, which allowed him to obtain a loan for a car. Five Keys is also helping him obtain his guard card in the state of California. Jonathan is consistently contributing towards rent and is working towards the cash out incentive.

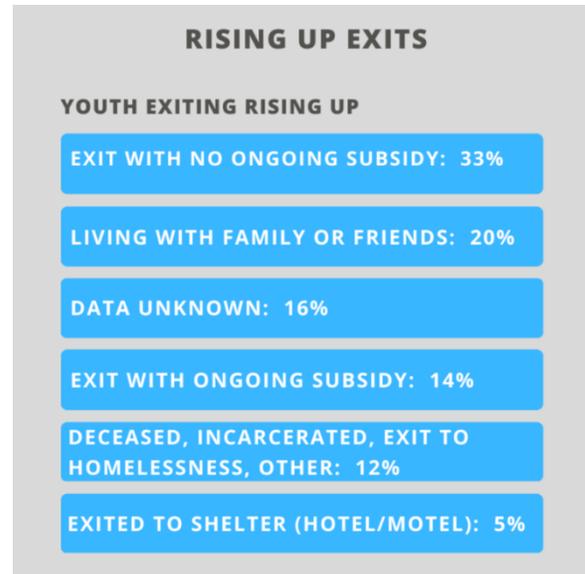
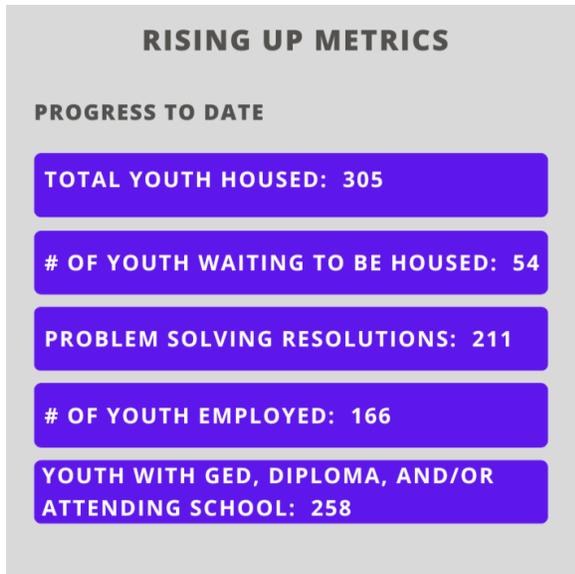
Jonathan is deeply thankful to everyone who works for and funds Rising Up. He hopes the program will continue to help those in need and that his story inspires others to utilize the program to their advantage.

## **In Closing**

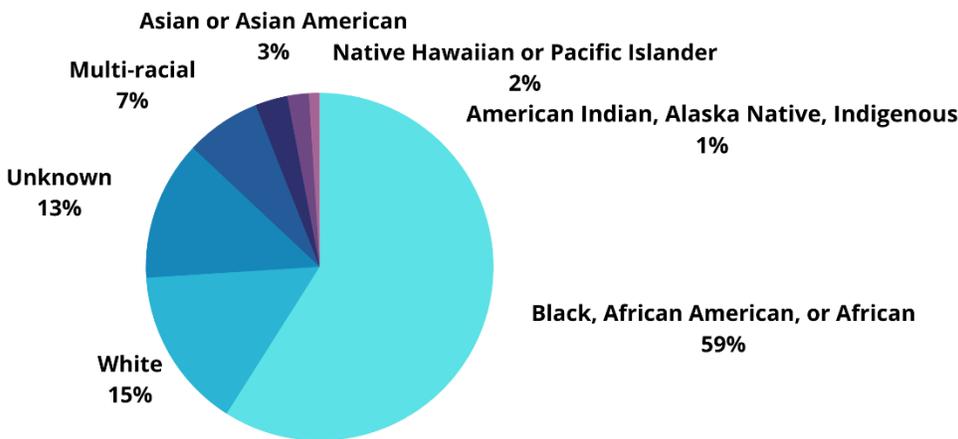
Above all, Rising Up has helped 570 young people find a path out of homelessness. These are young people who were sleeping on the streets or in their cars and who are now have stable homes. For most of the youth in the program, it is the first time they have qualified for a program that both houses them and provides them with a respite so that they can begin to heal. Clients are surrounded by a community, a team of nonprofit organizations partnered with the City, all sharing a common goal of reducing youth homelessness in San Francisco by 50%. This team works together in support of the young people to provide them with life skills, job development, financial coaching, and housing coordination. With the support from this team many of the young people are working and will be able to take over their lease when the subsidy ends.

Rising Up has been fortunate to have a select group of public and private [funders](#) , each of whom has played key role in making all of this possible. On behalf of the 570 young people we have served thus far, we deeply appreciate this support.

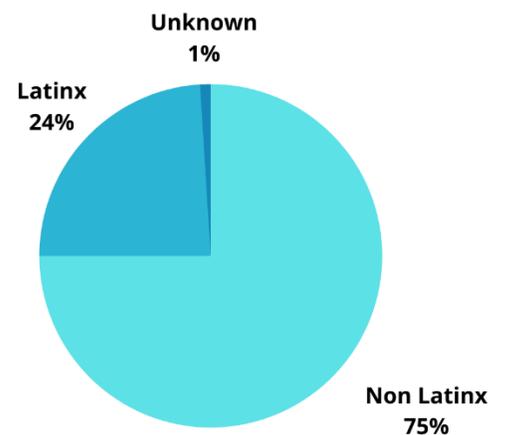
# Current Results: Metrics, Exits, and Demographics



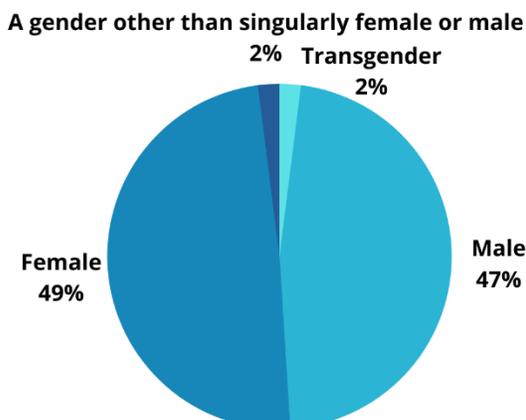
RACE



ETHNICITY



GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

