



Rising Up – A Public/Private Partnership Update Report December, 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 four 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 188 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 330 young people through Rapid Rehousing, with another 58 in the pipeline** for placement.
- **In total, we have helped 576 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

No one could have predicted a global pandemic or its impacts. Considering the reality we have faced since March 2020, we are very proud of the progress against our campaign goals, as we are nearly 82% of the way toward our goal of housing 400 youth by June 2023. Our primary challenge has been with the Problem Solving intervention, which has been hampered by several factors. First, Problem Solving (one-time or short-term financial assistance meant to help young people immediately resolve their housing crisis) is managed by San Francisco's network of Youth Access Points, of which there were six at the time the pandemic hit. Over the past two years, two of those Access Points closed entirely, while two others operated either majority or entirely virtually until very recently. As a result, the overall numbers are well behind where we would hope to be to achieve 450 total Problem Solving resolutions.

Given these challenges and the overall unforeseen impact of the pandemic, it is no surprise that our progress toward our overall reduction in youth homelessness has been impeded. Indeed, while the 2022 Point in Time Count did show modest progress with an overall reduction of 6%, it is not as bold a decrease as we set out to achieve pre-pandemic. Still, San Francisco was the only Bay Area County to show any decrease at all, and significant recent State Homekey investments in additional new housing for TAY had not yet rolled out at the time of the 2022 PIT Count. Nearly a decade of data collection proves that what we are doing works. Since San Francisco issued its first-ever Youth Point in Time Count in 2013, the city's number of youth experiencing homelessness on a given night has decreased 43% from more than 1,900 to under 1,100 today.

Lessons We Have Learned

We continue to learn valuable lessons every day from our young people and staff working with them. Some of these important lessons include:

- Compared to one year ago, youth rent contributions are increasing across the board, which is a sign of recovery from the pandemic. However, rents have also returned to pre-pandemic costs, which makes it more difficult to identify units that young people can feasibly pay for on their own by the time they exit. As a result, young people continue to opt for housing outside of San Francisco, and now approximately **75% of all Rising Up participants are housed outside of San Francisco**, mostly in Oakland and the East Bay. For our San Francisco-based case management partners, this has required a tremendous amount of adaptability as they navigate across cities and counties to ensure that Rising Up participants are connected with the resources and support they need.
- The additional support services we have added to the Rising Up model continue to serve an important function. **Smart Money Coaching** has proven to be very effective in helping participants set up checking accounts, manage their debt, and improve their credit, and some program participants have even sought out continued support from their coach after exiting the program to make sure they stay on the right track financially.
- Though it took longer to launch than we hoped or anticipated due to the incredibly tight hiring market for clinicians, we are now able to offer a full **behavioral health program**, including crisis



response, brief and ongoing therapy, and staff consultation and training for the Rising Up program funded by philanthropic partners and delivered by 3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic.

- After a year of working together to develop and revise a robust set of Rising Up policies employed by all of our partners, we launched this fall a formal **Community of Practice**, which meets monthly. Frontline staff and managers meet to discuss relevant topics and share resources. Recent topics have included Smart Money Coaching, Mental Health First Aid Training, and Project Legal Link on connecting youth to legal resources. The upcoming focus will be on connecting youth to vocational school options.

Looking Ahead/Rising Up Sustainability

Rising Up 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.

As we look ahead to the future of the initiative, the Rising Up Steering Committee is evaluating data to determine the right size for Rising Up once we've met our service campaign. We know that the Rising Up model is strong and will continue to be part of San Francisco's overall strategy to end homelessness. The fact that there was a reduction of youth homelessness in spite of the global pandemic is further proof of the strength of the Rising Up model.

In summary, as we evaluate the future of the Rising Up initiative, we are working with our program staff, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and youth with lived experience, to consider the following questions:

- What is the right size of ongoing Rapid Rehousing for youth in relation to other efforts and strategies that the City has launched since Rising Up?
- What will the City's ongoing investment in Rapid Rehousing be?
- What role will private philanthropy play post-campaign?

A Youth Story

Jonathan (he/him/his) is a 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 after a fire, and this caused each of them to go their separate ways. Jonathan was fortunate to have a job and a car and he was able to keep shelter over his head by bouncing 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 over 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 new 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

To date, Rising Up has helped 576 young people find a path out of homelessness through problem solving or rapid re-housing. These are young people who were couch-surfing, sleeping on the streets or in their cars, or relying on emergency shelter and who 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 will be able to move forward and achieve independence.

Most importantly, this would not have been possible without the support of our generous funders. The City has been a collaborative and engaged partner, fully funding the rental subsidies required for Rapid Rehousing. Our private funders have been exceptionally generous in supporting the wrap-around services that have helped our young people not only survive, but to thrive.

Keeping reading on the next page for our current Metrics, Exit Data, and Demographics.



Current Results: Metrics, Exits, and Demographics

RISING UP METRICS

PROGRESS TO DATE

TOTAL YOUTH HOUSED: 330

OF YOUTH WAITING TO BE HOUSED: 58

PROBLEM SOLVING RESOLUTIONS: 188

OF YOUTH EMPLOYED: 165

YOUTH WITH GED, DIPLOMA, AND/OR ATTENDING SCHOOL: 288

RISING UP EXITS

YOUTH EXITING RISING UP

EXIT WITH NO ONGOING SUBSIDY: 33%

LIVING WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS: 20%

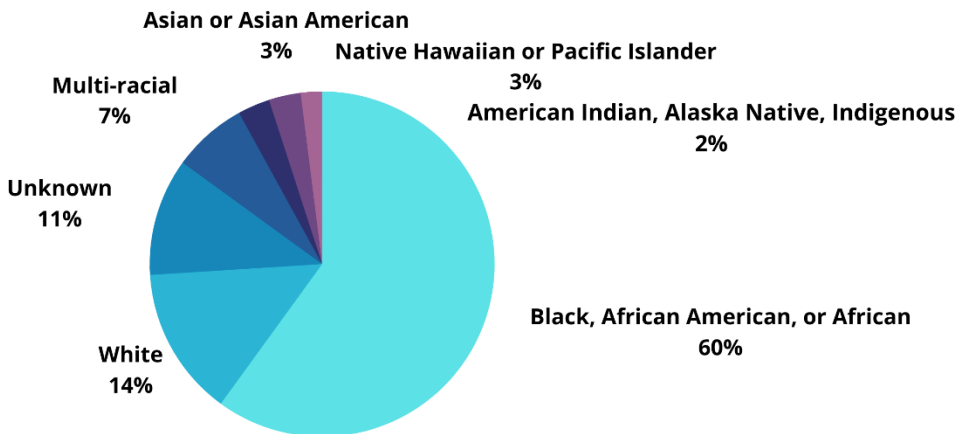
DATA UNKNOWN: 16%

EXIT WITH ONGOING SUBSIDY: 14%

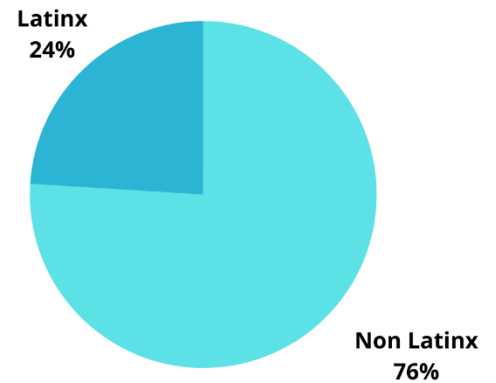
DECEASED, INCARCERATED, EXIT TO HOMELESSNESS, OTHER: 12%

EXITED TO SHELTER (HOTEL/MOTEL): 5%

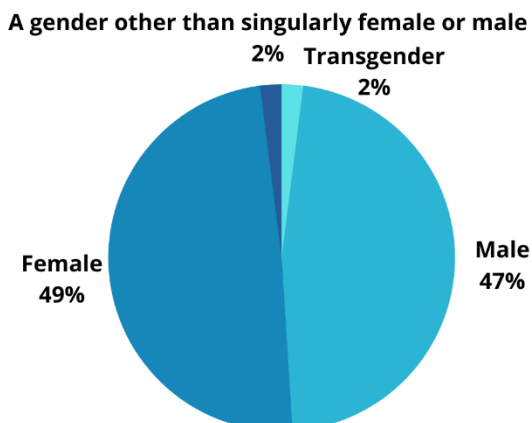
RACE



ETHNICITY



GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

