

Youth and Young Adult Services Committee - 12/18/24

In attendance: Tanja Alessi, CSO, Olivia Bernstein, MHA, Natalie Burtzos, Three County CoC, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Phyllis Gedeon, MassHire Springfield, Keith Hedlund, CHD, Janice Humason, CSO, Chelsea Isom, Hampden CoC, Vega Johnson, Three County CoC, Luis Martinez, STCC, Hayley Nelson, Hampden YHDP, Declan Nolan, My First Place, Rosemarie Oliveras, New North Citizen Council, Miosoty Rivas, Hampden YAB, Pamela Schwartz, Director, Cinnamon Smith, Westover, Mark Watkins, Gandara

CoC Updates (YHDP and more)

Springfield-Hampden CoC

- 317 households served so far in FY25 - 61 are pregnant and parenting
- 181 YYA on the by-names list - 31% male; 63% female
- 15 young adults living outdoors - 12% white, 64% hispanic, 22% Black
- 19 young adults housed since September - 75% female, 25% male; 11% white non-hispanic; 58% hispanic; 21% Black
- Fostering Youth Independence (FYI) vouchers - 10 lease-ups since 9/1; 9 currently seeking apts.; 18 more confirmed eligible

Three County CoC

- 70 YYA on the by-names list - among those who answered the demographics question 11 Hispanic, 5 Black, 7 multi-racial
- housed 6 individuals since Sept.
- PSH program moved a YYA into new permanent housing; new move-ins as people transition out

Point in Time Count - January 29

For Three County CoC: go here to get

connected: <https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/pitcount2025>; will also be conducting surveys for the week after the count; acutely aware of the undercount of unsheltered YYA in last year's count (only 2) - working hard to engage youth in this count process to get a more accurate count

Hampden County CoC PIT is also 1/29 - planning is underway

Discussion and Recommendations: The Network's FY26 budget and legislative priorities

Pamela sought the group's experiences and perspectives that will inform the Network Steering Committee's decision making for this coming year's budget debate and upcoming Legislative Session.

FY26 Budget Recommendations

We looked at our [FY25 budget priorities](#) as a starting point for discussion. Feedback included:

- Permanent supportive housing - need more for this population - many in the group echoed this need!
- Need more for parenting youth
- Greater eviction protections are critical
- Need to address younger youth (15-16 year olds) in need of housing and services

2025-2027 Legislative Session - begins in January, 2025

We looked at our [last Legislative Session's priorities](#) as a starting point for discussion.

The group felt most strongly about rent control and access to counsel, priority order of:

- rent control
- access to counsel
- TOPA (tenant opportunity to purchase act)
- Transfer fee for affordable housing

Announcements

- Phylis reminded the group that MassHire Springfield has extensive workforce support for young adults - open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
- MassHire Springfield holding Job Expo at Basketball Hall of Fame - Monday, 1/3, 4 pm - 7pm. Employers will be posted first week of January (see www.masshirespringfield.org for more detail)
- Fundraiser for Joshua's House - 20 beds for YYA - Donate anytime through our **Give Butter campaign**: (<https://givebutter.com/JH-NNCC>) and stay tuned for a **special holiday fundraiser** coming soon. Event date of 1/30/24, 6-8 pm, location TBD.

Next meeting date: Thursday, March 13, 11 am