Youth Homelessness is a

POLICY CHOICE **POLICY CHOICE POLICY CHOICE** POLICY CHOICE **POLICY CHOICE POLICY CHOICE POLICY CHOICE**

The Time is Now: Direct Cash Transfers for Youth

September 28, 2023

Together We Can End The Crisis







Maddox Guerrilla (he/they)

Senior Consultant, PSY

Lauren Wilkie (she/her)

VP, Strategic Partnerships, PSY Bree Torres (she/her)

Director of Systems Navigation & Projects Lifeworks

Checking in Curious about the knowledge in the room...

Who is Point Source Youth?

- We envision a world where all young people can enjoy the right to safety, stability, and joy. Youth should be trusted to direct their own lives and that leadership by young people most impacted by the crisis of homelessness is paramount.
- We have a moral obligation to collectively amass ample resources to end youth homelessness. We work alongside communities and partners to uplift the power of young people by advancing solutions to end youth homelessness.



Difference between Guaranteed Basic Income and Direct Cash Transfer Pilots

- Many GBI pilots started up around the concept that the average American household does not have \$400 to respond to an emergency. Many GBI pilots are capped around \$1,000.
- Our DCT model is usually more money monthly, from \$1,000 -\$1,500. The payment is for a housing outcome; therefore, it is tied to half of HUD's Fair Market Rent amount for a 2 -bedroom apartment in the community.
- Our DCT model includes youth -directed services provided by a local community based organization alongside the cash payment. Many GBI pilots do not have intentional services.





No one knows what you need better than you

Two Models of DCTs

24-months of Cash Payments

- Monthly cash payments, tied to HUD's
 Fair Market Rent (FMR) in the community
- Youth-directed services provided by a local community-based organization
- Youth-directed research and evaluation to study and share data and outcomes



One-time Cash Payment

- One-time cash payment, in an amount meant to meet the housing needs of the young person
- 3-6 months of youth-directed services provided by a local community-based organization after the cash payment
- Youth-directed research and evaluation to study and share data and outcomes

DCT Core Component: Youth Leadership

- Youth are the experts of their own lives.
- Build positive relationships with youth experts.
- Youth voice informs the process and services.
- Identify barriers to make more inclusive and affirming .
- Centering youth voice, not speaking on behalf as adult partners.

Current PSY2-year DCT sites

- 1. New York City
- 2. Baltimore
- 3. San Francisco
- 4. Oregon (3 total: 2 urban, 1 rural)
- 5. Los Angeles

Learnings from Existing Pilots

- Engage people with lived expertise in staff roles
- Map out youth -directed services alongside young people and be ready to iterate based on feedback from your participants
- Young people are using cash for housing and we have endless secondary outcomes
- Engage in storytelling in ways that are not extractive
- Keep talking about DCTs with your boss, board, elected officials, and other community leaders

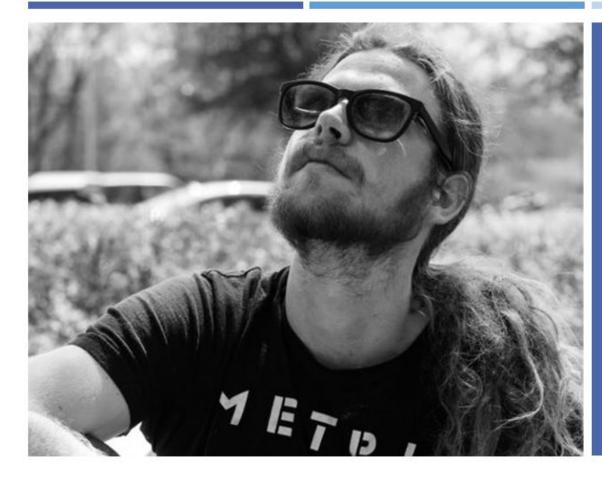
PSY has just awarded 4 communities for one-time DCTs:

- 1. Atlanta
- 2. Austin, TX
- 3. Tucson, AZ
- 4. Grand Rapids, MI

Congratulations to Lifeworks!

lifew _rks

Celebrating 25 Years of Fearless Advocacy



OUR MISSION:

LifeWorks is a fearless advocate for youth and young adults pursuing a life they love and a stable future for themselves and their families.

lifew@-rks

II programs/services:

- Diversion
- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Young Adult Shelter
- PORT (Permanency Through Outreach & Rapid Transitions)
- Transitional Living Program
- Young Parents Program
- Rapid Rehousing
- Vouchers
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- After Care Transition Services (ACTS)

5 programs:

- Youth & Adult Counseling
- Peer Support Services
- Community-Based Counseling
- Community-Based
 Psychiatry
- Resolution Counseling

5 programs:

- Supported Employment & Education
- GED/High School Equivalency
- Life Skills Training
- Teen Parent Services
- SHIFT (reproductive health/family planning)

Counseling

Education & Workforce

Housing



What's Next?

Advocacy at the Federal Level

FYSB is about to fund a handful of communities for their Prevention Demonstration Program cash assistance is an eligible cost of this project!
PSY continues to cultivate learning with other Federal partners to include cash in their programs, like HUD and YHDP

Myth Busting about DCTs



Myth #1: Youth will spend the money irresponsibly.

The Guaranteed Income Pilots Dashboard

Explore data and stories from dozens of guaranteed income pilots around the U.S.



Myth #2: DCTs are more expensive than other housing options

- In most communities, the cost of DCTs is approximately the same as the cost as Rapid Rehousing
- The biggest difference is that the cash payment goes directly to the young person rather than the landlord, increasing their autonomy and choice in their housing pathways

Takeaways

- Start with young people in your community
- To move this effort forward is a lot of smaller conversations - with your agency leadership, your board, other members in your community, and funders

Texas Andrews Foundation Bank of America Charitable Foundation The Baron and Blue Foundation **Community Foundation of Abilene** The Baxter Trust Enrico and Sandra di Portanova Charitable Foundation **Episcopal Health Charities** The Frees Foundation **Greater Houston Community Foundation Healthcare & Nursing Education Foundation Heartspring Methodist Foundation** Houston Endowment Lewis & Joan Lowenstein Foundation The Powell Foundation **Prudential Community Resources** Ray C. Fish Foundation The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation **Rockwell Fund** Saint Martin's Episcopal Church St. David's Foundation The Simmons Foundation United Way of Greater Houston United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

AUDIENCE Q&A

Questions?

Reach out to PSY staff to learn more about DCTs or any of our other work on rapid rehousing, host homes, and youth leadership and advocacy. We'd love to connect!

