

Youth Homelessness is a

POLICY CHOICE
POLICY CHOICE
POLICY CHOICE
POLICY CHOICE
POLICY CHOICE
POLICY CHOICE
POLICY CHOICE

Together We Can End The Crisis

**The Time is Now:
Direct Cash
Transfers for Youth**

September 28, 2023



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

A solid blue vertical bar is positioned on the left side of the slide, extending from the top to the bottom.

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 — and place **resources directly in their hands.**



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 PSY 2-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!





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.



11 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)

Housing

5 programs:

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

Counseling

5 programs:

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

Education &
Workforce



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!

