Our story so far

Our mission

YouthCare works to end youth homelessness and to ensure that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential. YouthCare envisions a community where no young person experiences homelessness, all young people have the opportunity to thrive, and the systems that oppress them are dismantled.

We are Making the Shift at YouthCare as we take a bold step forward to partner with our community to deliver on our promise to young people. Together, we help young people meet their futures and transform our community. The following three guideposts will help us focus our work and ensure we are successful in achieving our goals and the mission of YouthCare.

- High Quality Services that are equitable, ethical, and excellent
- Employee appreciation, development, and support
- Leading and engaging as a strong community and organizational partner

What we've learned in 2022

- YouthCare served 8% more clients in 2022 than in 2021. YouthCare has been able to maintain how many young people we've been able to serve despite pandemic challenges.
- Homeless young people are most in need of:
  - Shelter/Housing resources and support
  - A supportive adult providing comprehensive case management
  - Employment/Education resources and support
- Young people are moving out of the downtown areas and are harder to reach. Young people experiencing homelessness are moving primarily south of Seattle.
- Compared to the beginning of the year, YouthCare Engagement Sites are seeing a steady increase of number of young people coming in for basic needs services and meals.
- Support and resources to help young people address their mental health continues to be a need at YouthCare as staff are seeing more and more young people needing support.
INTRODUCTION

Services young people accessed at YouthCare

- Education Supports
- Workforce Training
- Street Outreach
- Young Adult Housing
- Adolescent Housing
- Case Management
- Engagement Center Services

46% of clients accessed 2+ programs in 2022

that means 766 young people were deeply engaged in moving towards self sustainability and individual goals!

Number of Young People Served

- 1630 in 2019
- 1524 in 2020
- 1540 in 2021
- 1675 in 2022

661 new clients came to YouthCare for support in 2022

135 more young people were supported by YouthCare services in 2022 than the previous year
Who did YouthCare serve

Gender

- Male: 59%
- Female: 34%
- Transgender: 4%
- Non-binary: 2%
- Multiple identities: 1%

Sexual Orientation

- Non-LGBTQIA+: 67%
- LGBTQIA+: 33%
- Questioning/Unsure: 4%

76% of young people served by YouthCare identify as BIPOC in race and/or ethnicity

Race

- White: 27%
- Hispanic/Latino/a/x /Spanish Origin: 10%
- Middle Eastern: <1%
- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous: 4%
- Asian or Asian American: 2%
- Black, African American, or African: 30%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 2%
- Two or more races: 25%

* 10% of young people identified their race as Hispanic/Latino/a/x - these young people may or may not have chosen to also identify their ethnicity as such

** this race category includes 40 young people who identified their race as White and their Ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino/a/x
IDENTIFIED NEED

Of young people served at YouthCare...

- **43%** came to YouthCare with a previous or current experience of domestic violence.
- **43%** came to YouthCare with poor or fair mental health.
- **26%** came to YouthCare with a previous or current experience with the criminal justice system.
- **24%** came to YouthCare with a previous or current experience of being in foster care.
- **17%** came to YouthCare with a previous or current experience of sexual exploitation or labor trafficking.
- **16%** came to YouthCare with a previous or current experience of substance use.
- **9%** came to YouthCare as a parent.
- **2%** came to YouthCare pregnant.

These statistics reflect the experiences of 557 young people who identified these experiences at entry.

What are young people asking for help with?

Of the young people served in 2022, this chart demonstrates the percentages that asked for the following supports:

- **Substance Use**: 2%
- **Basic Needs**: 16%
- **Case Management**: 16%
- **Employment**: 12%
- **Education**: 9%
- **Medical Services**: 5%
- **Legal Support**: 2%
- **Health/Well-being**: 10%
- **Family Engagement**: 3%
- **Mental Health**: 7%
- **Other identified needs**: 1%
- **Shelter/Housing Resources**: 17%
- **Other identified needs**: 1%

Of the young people served in 2022,...
ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Reaching homeless young people

1,077 YOUNG PEOPLE CAME TO YOUTHCARE ENGAGEMENT CENTERS

22% increase in young people coming into Engagement sites from Jan-Dec

102 homeless young people reached through Street Outreach services

Stabilization Services

148 stayed one or more night at the South Seattle Youth Center shelter

16,275 meals served to young people at YouthCare engagement sites

837 young people received a service that met their basic need for food, clothing, hygiene items, and/or personal items

Housing First

196 young people under the age of 18 were housed in our adolescent housing programs

91 young people over the age of 18 worked towards stable housing while housed in YouthCare housing

102 young people worked towards independence while living in YouthCare’s subsidized housing

Financial Stability

90 young people worked on their GED!

103 young people gained employment skills and opportunities by enrolling in YouthCare Employment Training Programs and supports
Young people's housing stability

83% of young people served at YouthCare in 2022 left gained or maintained safe and stable housing

58% of young people served at YouthCare in 2022 gained permanent housing

115 clients came to YouthCare homeless and exited services with safe & stable housing

Young people's financial independence

70% of Workforce Training Program participants were employed or looking for work at exit

117 young people were employed upon leaving YouthCare services

9 Young people attained either a GED or High School Diploma

Young people's health & well being

60% young people improved or maintained good physical and/or mental health while at YouthCare

Young people's support systems

83% young people left YouthCare with community connections to support them

236 referrals made to community partners to support young people's community support systems

These outcomes reflect engaged young people served that were assessed at exit
MAKING THE SHIFT

To take a bold step forward into 2023, YouthCare leaders are committed to Making the Shift towards:

- High Quality Services that are equitable, ethical, and excellent
- Workforce appreciation, development, and support
- Lifting all boats as a strong community and organizational partner

How does program leadership envision making the shift?

**Workforce Services**

In 2023, Engagement and Workforce Services will be making the shift by expanding engagement center programming, welcoming a new workforce training location in downtown Seattle, creating greater supports for young peoples’ education goals, and expanding our pre-apprenticeship programming through community partnerships. We will also be developing programming for a future workforce development hub in Capitol Hill for young people experiencing housing instability in Seattle.

— Audra Laymon, Senior Director of Workforce Services

**Housing Services**

Increasing client opportunities for life skill development and independence is at the forefront of work for YouthCare’s Housing programs in 2023. YouthCare’s Housing services is poised to make the shift in increasing employment, wellness, community connections, and supporting progress towards independence with those we serve. Housing Staff will work to ensure that residents are able to quickly achieve their goals and transition to safe, stable, and supportive housing.

— Erin Chapman-Smith, Senior Director of Housing Services

**Centralized Client Services**

YouthCare’s centralized client services department is excited to roll out our newly developed centralized case management model in 2023. We anticipate being able to encourage strong positive outcomes for our clients in case management by solidifying our approach to resource navigation and supports towards goals of employment, wellness, community connection, and overall stability. We will also be continuing our work to establish a future workforce development hub in Capitol Hill for young people experiencing housing instability in Seattle.

— KC Buchanan, Director of Centralized Client Services

Follow YOUTH CARE on our journey!