

Dear Colleague:

We are delighted to invite you to participate in a Funders Together dialogue at the National Alliance to End Homelessness [February 2014 National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness](#). On Wednesday, February 19 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., we'll be meeting with Bryan Samuels, Executive Director at [Chapin Hall](#), Jennifer Ho from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and a group of interested funders regarding the possibility of a ground breaking study to better understand the extent and nature of youth homelessness.

Each year, thousands of youth runaway and become homeless. Because there is no nation-wide estimate of the problem, decision-makers and funders are left to rely on partial and inconsistent information about how many youth runaway and are homeless when planning services and supports to meet their needs. We aim to fill that information gap through multi-pronged study, which will gather the information we need to inform and guide strategic investments in youth homelessness. This effort would represent the most sophisticated analysis of youth homelessness that has yet been undertaken in this country.

Although Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago is prepared to devote significant levels of their own time and resources to this work, getting both locally detailed information and an accurate national perspective on youth homelessness cannot be completed without major support from philanthropy. We'd like to discuss our thoughts on this project with you in New Orleans on February 19<sup>th</sup>, and invite your participation in the next stages of planning and executing this work.

The 2014 Funders Forum will continue until 10:30 a.m. after this meeting and, of course, the National Conference will immediately follow the Institute. (*To register for the NAEH conference, click [here](#).*) All of us would be delighted to have you attend as much of these sessions as your schedules permit.

Please RSVP to Bevin Shagoury at [bevin@funderstogether.org](mailto:bevin@funderstogether.org) and let her know if you if you would like a space reserved. We'll be sending out official registration links in the New Year, and we look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

Sincerely:

**Bryan Samuels, Executive Director, Chapin Hall**

*& Former Commissioner with ACYF*

**Jennifer Ho, Senior Advisor to the Secretary**

*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

**Barbara Poppe, Executive Director**

*U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness*

**Nan Roman, President & CEO**

*National Alliance to End Homelessness*

**Anne Miskey, Executive Director**

*Funders Together to End Homelessness*