

Vision

Safe Place for Youth envisions a world where all young people lead safe, stable, self-directed lives.

Mission

Safe Place for Youth's mission is to inspire, nurture and empower the resilient human spirit of homeless youth by providing immediate and lasting solutions, one young person at a time.

The Need We Serve

Transitional age youth are one of the fastest growing homeless populations. Young adults respond positively to a caring, non-judgmental approach that is tailored to their unique developmental needs. In the absence of early, consistent, dedicated intervention, homeless youth are at significant risk of negative long-term health and wellbeing outcomes, and are increasingly likely to become the next generation of chronically homeless adults.

Our Program

Safe Place for Youth's programs provide a ladder of effective modalities, each tailored to individual needs. This allows our members to flow through our program progressively; accessing prevention, immediate and intensive intervention, and sustained support as best fits their self-identified goals and most effectively promotes full and productive community integration. Safe Place for Youth accomplishes its mission through a trauma-informed continuum of care that builds trust and meaningful relationships and addresses young adults' nuanced needs through:

- *Street outreach* to locate and engage those in need of immediate services
- *Drop-In Center space* to provide basic, survival resources in a safe and welcoming environment
- *Health & wellness services* to address physical and emotional well-being
- *Education & employment support* to focus on job readiness and economic stability
- *Case management* to create client driven case plans with manageable and supported steps towards self-sufficiency
- *Advocacy & policy work* to engage a multitude of stakeholders to participate in creating and implementing lasting solutions

Our Goals for 2017-2020

Los Angeles's 2017 homeless youth count reflects a staggering 61% increase over the prior year's numbers of street-entrenched young people. The staff and Board of Directors of Safe Place for Youth have developed the following strategic plan knowing that our organization will be called upon to play a key role in addressing this local epidemic. The plan leverages SPY's strengths with goals that focus on increasing services and enhancing existing programs to enable more young adults to thrive as they move along their self-selected paths out of homelessness:

1. Provide extended and expanded day-to-day support to street-based and housing insecure young people.
2. Create new housing resources for youth including rapid re-housing, crisis, bridge and transitional housing.
3. Ensure ample educational and employment opportunities to meet current economic needs and set young people up for success in meaningful, reliable careers.
4. Operate a first-in-class agency that elevates staff and consistently delivers high quality, data driven services.
5. Use our organizational voice to amplify the experience and wisdom of the young people we serve and to guide our community in the role we all play in ending youth homelessness.

Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020

Developed by staff and board of directors, Fall 2016–Spring 2017

Goal #1: Provide extended and expanded day-to-day support to street-based and housing insecure young people.

To survive and thrive on a daily basis, homeless young adults need immediate access to basic resources including food, clothes, & physical & mental health care. SPY will increase provision of existing essential services.

Strategies

- Add an additional day of drop-in services. Expand services and programming during non-drop-in hours.
- Each year offer new, most requested day service programs, as identified by member feedback surveys.
- Expand street outreach to include a larger geographic area; broader hours such as nights and weekends; and new settings such as schools and afterschool programs, to ensure that young people who need our services are aware of their availability.
- Ensure members turning 26 have sufficient linkage to appropriate adult day services that will also address housing and employment service needs.

Goal #2: Create new housing resources for youth including rapid re-housing, crisis, bridge and transitional housing.

For too long, homelessness services have focused on the needs of the chronic and veteran homeless populations, designing shelter and housing solutions that were either inaccessible to young people or unresponsive to their needs. SPY will offer new services, and grow existing ones, to expand the quantity and quality of stable living situations accessible to our members.

Strategies

- Establish a 15 bed Host Home program to promote community integration and meaningful relationship development.
- Establish a 20 slot Rapid Rehousing program that allows young people to successfully transition in place to self-sustaining independence.
- Establish a 15 bed Crisis/Bridge Housing program to offer immediate safety, either directly or in partnership with other providers.
- Establish a 10 bed transitional housing program for young people seeking more time with service support, either directly or in partnership with other providers.
- Continue to build a robust Youth Coordinated Entry System in our SPA to increase the efficiency and equitability of the housing process.

Goal #3: Ensure ample educational and employment opportunities to meet current economic needs and set young people up for success in meaningful, reliable careers.

To exit homelessness for good, young people need to attain meaningful employment in addition to stable housing. SPY will continue our work to expand the employment horizons of young people seeking our services, while helping them increase their current income as needed.

Strategies

- Expand onsite entrepreneurship, job preparedness, and life skills programs.

Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020

Developed by staff and board of directors, Fall 2016–Spring 2017

- Increase the number, type, and duration of onsite supportive internships we offer and partner with local employers to create abundant and diverse job opportunities.
- Enhance our onsite education program and partner with local educational institutions to provide more options for credentialing, training, and higher learning.
- Help members maximize utilization of public benefits to increase economic stability as members pursue long-term career goals.

Goal #4: Operate a first- in- class agency that elevates staff and consistently delivers high quality, data-driven services.

In order to achieve SPY’s program and service goals, it is crucial to attract, develop and retain extraordinary staff, board members and volunteers. Additionally, a well maintained, robust data and reporting infrastructure is paramount to the ongoing delivery and expansion of services.

Strategies

- Initiate new resources for staff, board and volunteer including formal onboarding; ongoing training; team building; formal incentive and recognition programs; satisfaction survey; professional development; and evaluation to ensure SPY is meeting multi-stakeholder needs.
- Strategically grow SPY board to incorporate new networks, increase diversity, and expand financial resources. Establish a SPY young professional’s network.
- Expand ability to grow large-scale funding from public sources and private foundations through a dedicated grant writer and thoughtful application to appropriate funding sources.
- Grow smaller-scale funding from private donors through fundraising events and individual donor relationships.
- Build and maintain internal database; train staff to consistently, successfully, and efficiently utilize data entry tools and integrate data analysis into all decision- making.

Goal #5: Use our organizational voice to amplify the experience and wisdom of the young people we serve and to guide our community in the role we all play in ending youth homelessness.

In order to garner broad community support for the issue of youth homelessness, SPY must educate the community that homelessness is a temporary condition that can (and must) be reversed, and requires an engaged community to alleviate and prevent it.

Strategies

- Host quarterly open dialogue workshops that facilitate two-way communication to educate neighbors about the causes of and solutions to youth homelessness.
- Give our members a platform to use their voice to educate the community about their experiences and dreams at workshops, community meetings, events, and in publications and at local schools, universities and in professional settings.
- Develop clear messaging for staff and board members participating in community meetings, neighborhood councils, and business councils, to ensure that we clearly promote that homelessness can be reversed and prevented.
- Raise SPY brand awareness city- and nation-wide by sharing the meaningful results of above efforts via presentation, public relations, and coalition building.