



2024 Impact Report

NATIONAL NETWORK
 for **YOUTH**

collaborate • advocate • transform

About Us

National Network for Youth (NN4Y) is on a mission to transform systems so that no young person in America experiences homelessness. Every year, over four million youth, young adults, and young parent families experience homelessness in America.

The National Network for Youth (NN4Y), founded in 1974, is a national collaborative of youth and service providers dedicated to influencing federal policy. For over 50 years, NN4Y has worked to prevent youth, young adult, and young parent family homelessness. We have made significant impacts to keep youth out of harmful systems, connect youth to education and employment, expand youth-centered housing options, and promote strength-based family interventions, and positive youth development.

Federal policymakers trust NN4Y’s expertise, which reflects the expertise of youth with lived experience and community providers. Congress and federal agencies rely on NN4Y for guidance on youth policy, including housing, homelessness, employment, child welfare, juvenile justice, and human trafficking.

We take pride in our strong history of partnering with youth with lived experience of homelessness, community-based youth service providers, homeless liaisons, federal policymakers, and state and national policy advocacy organizations to promote the exchange of ideas, development of policy solutions, and coordination of advocacy campaigns.

We believe in the expertise of youth, starting within our own organization.

Board of Directors

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- Benjamin Saldana (Greater Bridgeport Area Prevention Program, Inc.)*
- Deborah Shore (Sasha Bruce Youthwork)

*Alumni of NN4Y’s National Youth Advisory Council

A Note from Our Executive Director

Amidst a challenging year in 2024, the National Network for Youth continued to make progress in ensuring that all youth, young adults, and young parent families at-risk or experiencing homelessness have what they need to survive, stabilize, and thrive.

As the nation’s foremost coalition on preventing and ending youth homelessness, we understand that the small victories achieved each year drive long-term change to a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential. In 2024, after years of advocacy to expand the federal definition of homelessness, Senate appropriations leaders acknowledged the invisible nature of youth homelessness, the likely undercount of affected youth, and renewed their commitment to act on the unresolved 2021 recommendations to prevent and end youth homelessness.



Darla Bardine

Your support and partnership continues to make our work possible.

In 2024, we completed the first year of implementing our three year strategic plan focusing on expanding our work to better address prevention including a more targeted approach to supporting young parent families, removing youth barriers to accessing help, supporting communities to accelerate their progress in achieving cross-sector collaboration, and increasing federal investment in housing and service options for youth experiencing homelessness.

Our work and approach continues to be defined by authentic partnerships with youth with lived expertise and community-based youth service providers. In 2024, we saw bright spots of youth with lived expertise leading the way—3 youth leaders spoke at the NN4Y Congressional Briefing alongside Senator Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Collins (R-ME) about urgent policy solutions to better support youth at-risk or experiencing homelessness and/or human trafficking across America.

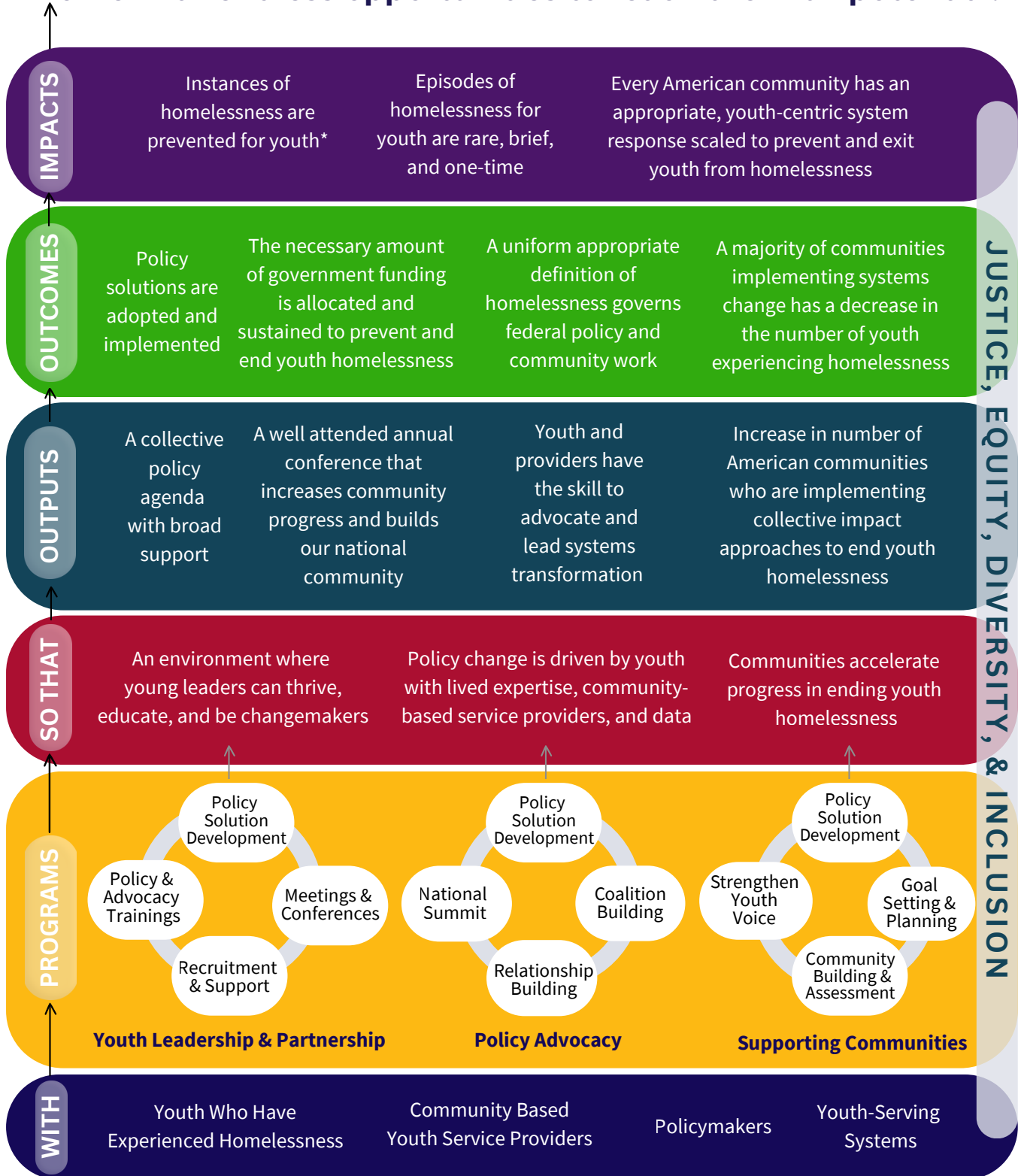
As we enter 2025, we stand united in our commitment to transform systems until every young person in America has a safe place to call home. Much work remains, but we are encouraged by recent “wins” from years of advocacy including the 2024 U.S. Department of Labor guidance easing Job Corp enrollment for young people experiencing homelessness or trafficking, the bipartisan reintroduction of the vital Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA), and HUD’s inclusion of key youth provisions that expand access to safe and affordable housing in their Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

We stand committed and ready to tackle challenges alongside our partners, working towards a future where all young people are housed, plugged into networks of support, and equipped with the resources and opportunities to meet their fullest potential. We look forward to your continued partnership to create a brighter future for all youth.

Sincerely,
 Darla Bardine

Our Theory of Change

A world where all young people have a safe place to call home with endless opportunities to reach their full potential.



*youth includes minor-aged youth (13 to 17 years), young adults (18 to 25 years), and young parent families

Impact Highlights

9 Youth with Lived Experience of Homelessness

empowered as members of the NYAC to educate policymakers, service providers, and community providers throughout the country and advocate for solutions to end youth homelessness.

14 Federal Bills

advocated to advance efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness

\$382 Million

successfully advocated for federal funding allocated to youth homelessness services and programs.

2,686 Direct Actions

with federal policymakers were coordinated for an annual Hill Day to advocate for our collective advocacy agenda.

386 Attendees

at our 2024 National Summit on Youth Homelessness including youth, service providers, schools, and other system partners.

250+ Hours

spent working with federal policymakers

80 Youth Advisory Board members

engaged through our community-based programs across the United States.

300+ Organizations

that we supported to provide prevention and response services to youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness.

6 Local Communities

engaged through our Local Cross-System Collaboratives to transform approaches to ending youth homelessness.

Over 75 Legislative Meetings

outside of Hill Day to support NN4Y's policy priorities and over **25 percent** of these meetings included a youth service provider or young person.

125 Hill Meetings

with federal policymakers were coordinated for an annual Hill Day to advocate for our collective advocacy agenda.

Our Programs



Youth Leadership & Partnership

We invest in and partner with young leaders with lived expertise through our National Youth Advisory Council to educate policymakers and service providers throughout the country about youth and young adult homelessness. These young leaders develop policy solutions and advocate for their implementation. We also train service providers and other partners on best practices for centering and sharing power with youth in their work to end youth homelessness.



Policy Advocacy

With our network of young leaders and service providers, we work to expand public resources targeted to youth and implement systemic solutions via policy change that prevents and ends youth homelessness. We engage policymakers and enlist their support in the creation of policies that support a comprehensive, collaborative, system-based approach to addressing youth homelessness that is youth-centric and flexible to communities' diverse needs.



Supporting Communities

We provide on-the-ground support in local communities to address the root causes of homelessness among young people by helping communities establish a Youth Action Board, identify gaps in services and support, and build strong collaborative relationships among youth-serving agencies and systems. This approach leads to improved youth outcomes and cross-system functioning. We support these community partners in advocating for the policy changes needed to remove barriers to housing, education, employment, and services for youth.

Our Approach

Build authentic partnerships with youth with lived experience of homelessness.

Engage and train youth serving organizations and systems.

Serve as a national leader in educating and engaging service providers, youth, policymakers, and the public.

Youth Leadership & Partnership

10 youth leaders with lived expertise of homelessness gained leadership and advocacy experience as part of our national youth leadership initiative, the National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC).

- **NYAC youth leaders developed their own shared policy agenda** prioritizing to:
 - Change HUD’s definition of homelessness by pushing for passage of the Homeless Children and Youth Act (H.R. 5221).
 - Improve and expand access to prevention services for youth by reauthorizing the Runaway and Homeless Youth program and by pushing to pass the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023 (S. 3125/H.R. 6041).
 - Fix the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) student rule issue through pushing to pass the Housing for Homeless Students Act (H.R. 7278).
 - Expand federal investment in preventing and responding to youth/ and young adult homelessness.
- **NYAC leaders hosted a congressional briefing** for 100 attendees in collaboration with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) focused on the bipartisan bicameral Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA) of 2023 (S.3125/H.R.6041). Three members of our NYAC spoke at the briefing, along with special remarks from the U.S. Senators Durbin (D-IL) and Collins (R-ME), and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act grantees from Maine and Illinois.
- **10 youth leaders attended our leadership retreat** and received training on advocacy, storytelling for change, and policymaking processes. 100% of retreat survey respondents reported increased knowledge of strategic storytelling to advocate for policy change.
- **NYAC members offered invaluable input or lead in the development** of a number of key federal policy related publications and/or recommendations, including:
 - A Right to Affordable Housing for Young People: A report on permanent affordable housing with supportive services for young people that will be released in March of 2025. NYAC members developed the recommendations, edited the publication, and are featured throughout the report.
 - National Agenda: Prevent and End Youth, Young Adult, and Young Parent Family Homelessness: An agenda for the incoming Presidential administration and federal agencies that will be released in January of 2025. NYAC members edited the publication, honed the recommendations, and some young people created short video clips about the recommendations that will be featured in the report release.
 - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Recommendations: Recommendations for HUD on improving the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. NYAC members created these recommendations and presented them to HUD’s Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman.
 - Preventing Homelessness for Youth, Young Adults, and Young Families: An internal document guiding NN4Y’s prevention priorities. NYAC members helped develop this strategy.

Policy & Advocacy

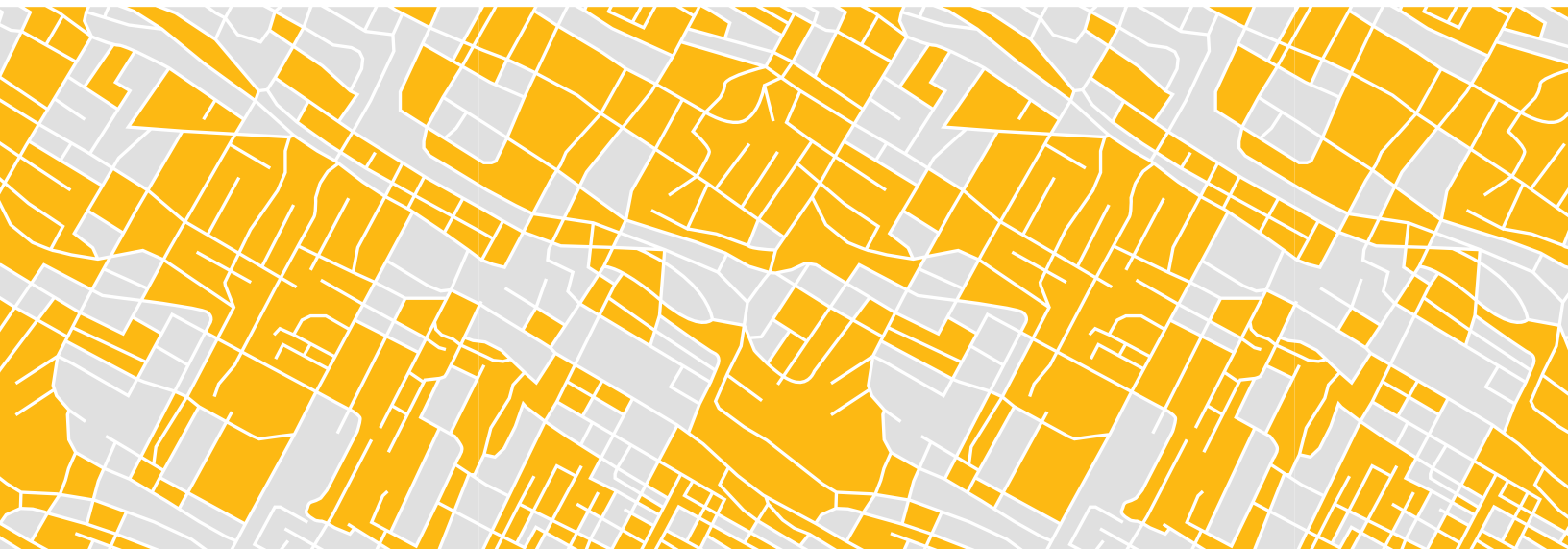
- **Built bipartisan support for the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act** of 2023 (RHYTPA) ([S.3125/H.R.6041](#)), with 22 cosponsors in the House and 10 in the Senate. RHYTPA has 318 endorsements from national, state, and local organizations.
- **Identified an on-committee Senate Republican to reintroduce the Homeless Children and Youth Act** (HCYA) ([H.R.5221](#)) in 2025, along with several on-committee Senators interested in supporting the bill. HCYA has 243 endorsements from national, state, and local organizations.
- **Negotiated with the ACTION Campaign Coalition** to update their student-rule fix language in the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act ([S.1557/H.R.3238](#)) to better serve youth experiencing homelessness. Worked on building bipartisan, bicameral support for a standalone bill in 2025 (an updated version of the Housing for Homeless Students Act ([H.R.7278](#))) to ensure that students experiencing homelessness can access affordable housing and pursue education full-time, which is currently prohibited by federal law.
- **Conducted targeted Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations meetings**—over 60 percent of these meetings included a youth service provider or young person. The House Dear Colleague Letter for appropriations had 123 bipartisan signers, and the Senate Letter had 34 bipartisan signers.
- **Accomplished federal agency regulation updates** to better serve youth experiencing homelessness—these included reduced barriers to Job Corps entry for youth experiencing homelessness and/or trafficking and new youth-specific provisions in HUD’s Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- **Led over 75 legislative meetings** (outside of Hill Day) to support NN4Y’s policy priorities. Over 25 percent of these meetings included a youth service provider or young person.
- **Held a meeting with HUD’s Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman**, led by NN4Y’s National Youth Advisory Council. Some of their recommendations to improve HUD’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) were included in the following YHDP Notice of Funding Opportunity.



Supporting Communities

NN4Y brings together federal grantees to facilitate collaboration, center youth with lived expertise, and bring in additional partners to fill gaps that may exist in serving youth at-risk or experiencing homelessness. This approach accelerates communities’ progress in ending youth homelessness by improving coordination and collaboration among programs.

- **Added three new Local Cross Systems Collaboratives (LCSCs)** on Youth Homelessness in Delaware, Oklahoma City, and Nevada bringing the total number of LCSCs to 6— supporting Youth Action Boards and collaboration for systems change in each region.
- **Played a key role in launching Delaware’s first statewide Youth Action Board** to impact youth homelessness policy. The Youth Action Board has since convened over 40 local leaders, presented at key national conferences, and co-led a workshop on youth-adult partnerships with NN4Y.
- **Supported Oklahoma City’s Youth Action Board when federal requirements to engage youth expired**, leaving them without funding and community connections—facilitating a partnership with the Third Space Foundation to secure stipends and developing strategies to reengage HUD Continuum of Care committees and other community leaders.
- Three local Continuums of Care partnered with the Lancaster Youth Action Board in Lancaster, PA **winning \$990,057 in a HUD Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement grant** to enhance coordination of youth homelessness services across the region.
- **Provided a series of trainings and technical assistance**, including topics such as legal resources, trauma-informed care, and intergenerational work in Kansas. This focus led the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care to commit to hosting its first-ever Youth Homelessness Summit as part of its annual conference to end homelessness.
- **Launched a NEW monthly Peer-to-Peer Networking Call** connecting LCSC youth nationwide and designed a new curriculum to equip young people with essential workforce skills for impactful youth advocacy.



A Year of Progress, Partnership, and Promise

In 2024, the National Network for Youth (NN4Y) remained steadfast in our mission to ensure that no young person in America experiences homelessness. Through unwavering advocacy, strategic partnerships, and youth-led leadership, we made meaningful strides in transforming policies, expanding critical resources, and breaking down systemic barriers. From securing federal funding to empowering youth advocates and strengthening community collaborations, our collective efforts continue to drive lasting change.

Together, we championed bipartisan support for vital legislation, engaged policymakers at every level, and equipped young leaders with the tools to advocate for themselves and their peers. We saw firsthand the power of youth leadership as young people shared their lived expertise on Capitol Hill, shaped national policy recommendations, and inspired change across the country.

Thank you for standing with us!

None of this work would be possible without you—our dedicated members, partners, and supporters. Your commitment to preventing and ending youth homelessness fuels our progress and amplifies the voices of young people who deserve safe, stable housing and boundless opportunities. As we look ahead to 2025, we renew our resolve to uplift youth and youth service providers to create a future where every young person has a place to call home. Thank you for standing with us in this fight. Together, we can prevent and end youth homelessness.

