

Where's the Action?

Who are we?

- The [Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness](#) was launched in 2017 as part of Austin's YHDP project.
- Our five current members are 18–29 years old. We have diverse racial representation but not yet in LGBTQIA+. We are working toward equity and inclusion, so that diversity doesn't become tokenization.



The [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program](#) (YHDP) is an initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that supports coordinated local efforts to end youth homelessness. Each YHDP community forms a Youth Action Board (YAB) that brings youth and young adults to the forefront of planning and implementation. In addition to YHDP-funded communities, other communities too have worked to incorporate youth and young adults into their planning. In the fall of 2019, TAC worked with consultant Lauren Leonardis to survey YABs in different areas and at different stages of development, capturing a snapshot of how these vital groups are functioning. Visit TAC's [Gab on YABs page](#) for more community fact sheets and topic spotlights!

How we operate

- Our yearly budget is \$27,000. Members are paid \$13/hour in cash, and the rest goes for lunch at our monthly meetings, travel, trainings, and supplies.
- We meet monthly for check-ins, event planning, debriefs from trainings, and discussions. Meetings are mostly facilitated by an adult staff member of our sponsoring organization — but we're working toward rotating this responsibility among members.
- When making internal decisions, if consensus cannot be reached, then it goes to a ¾ majority vote. When our group collaborates with other partners, we are consulted first for input, but older adults make the final call.
- Trainings have included project management, public speaking, grants & compliance, and Undoing Racism.

Our 3 Biggest Successes

- Our #HaveYouSeenUs event: great attendance, donations, community-building, raising awareness... "It was a turning point for the collective."
- The ability to see where our struggles are and being able to bring that to the forefront.
- The growth in the lives of our team as they have learned to navigate and challenge systems to create a more equitable experience for youth and young adults.

The Gab on YABs

meet the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness

Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- It feels like we are given power, but it's limited. Like, "We're empowering you to jump out of the plane without a parachute."
- At times, not all members of the collective have been housed. It would be nice if youth who were experiencing homelessness while trying to be leaders received more care. Like getting a room the day before a meeting where you make decisions so you can be fully present because your voice matters.
- How do we encourage the youth to hold themselves accountable from a lens of trauma-informed care and strengths?

What makes us unique

- We have people from all different backgrounds, we let people take control of tasks, and the collective introduces language that allows youth to express what they are going through.

