

## Who are we?

- The [Boston Youth Action Board](#) was started in 2016 as part of the YHDP application process.
- We currently have 20 to 25 active members, ages 18 to 25.

## How we operate

- We have an annual budget from the city of \$75,000 plus an additional grant of \$20,000.
- YAB general meetings happen twice a month and are held at a local drop-in center. Meeting participants are paid \$10 cash per meeting, up to 15 people per meeting.
- Facilitation and leadership comes from three YAB Directors (some with lived experience), and seven young adult facilitators. The facilitators take on leadership roles, operational support, and special projects. The pay structure for the team is as independent consultants.
- For outreach and communication we use Facebook Messenger, email, text messages, and a Google Groups mailing list to reach everyone at once.

# Where's the Action?

## What makes us unique

- Our YAB members are fierce and have important expertise. They feel empowered by this work. Youth and young adults have carved out space for themselves, and don't back down when they believe something is important.

## Our 3 Biggest Successes

- Our [Truths and Values](#) documents are respected and upheld in our community by our partners.
- YAB members have been involved in *every* aspect of Boston's YHDP planning process, from the top down.
- We won an award from True Colors United for being a leading example in ending youth homelessness.

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!

# The Gab on YABs

meet the Boston Youth Action Board



## Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- Securing food for our meetings and a consistent space to meet. We approach community partners for contributions.
- Keeping core members involved long-term. It seems like at every project end/beginning, we have a turnover of general YAB membership.
- When we have a particularly large YAB group, we don't always have enough facilitation capacity or budget. It is difficult when a YAB member who has been invested is the 16th person that day, and we can't pay them.