

Where's the Action?

Who are we?

- The Homeless Youth Task Force, which has applied for YHDP funding, is a broad coalition that launched in 2012 to serve Sacramento County and surrounding towns. The YAB was started in July 2013.
- Our YAB members are very diverse, with a holistic range of experiences, backgrounds, race, and LGBTQ identities.

How we operate

- The Task Force annual budget is approximately \$3,000–\$5,000. In our YAB, only the co-chairs are paid – about \$90/month. The budget also covers pizza, transportation, and street outreach materials.
- We meet weekly in a drop-in center, co-facilitated by staff members from three local nonprofits that are engaged with ending homelessness and serving youth.
- For recruitment and diversity, we create LGBT-specific messaging and events, as well as celebrating events like Juneteenth. Youth are mostly recruited through word of mouth.

What makes us unique

- It's a loving, fun space where we talk about the issues that matter to us in the community. It's become a family.



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 Homeless Youth Task Force

Our 3 Biggest Successes

- The friends we make along the way! Relationships are everything, and the most consistent feedback from youth about why they attend.
- With our participation in the 100-Day Challenge, we helped to house 260 youth.
- We conceptualized and led the launch of a peer-to-peer street outreach program.

Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- It is a challenge to build institutional support, in terms of both funding and decision-making.
- It is not always recognized how much time it takes to do authentic youth engagement well.
- For big decisions, “Youth input is theoretically taken into consideration. It happens sometimes, but we often aren't given decision-making authority despite our best advocacy.” The Continuum of Care tends to “assign” tasks to the YAB.