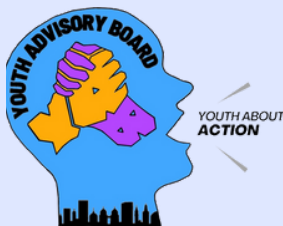




ALAMEDA COUNTY'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD



SPRING NEWSLETTER

February- May 2024

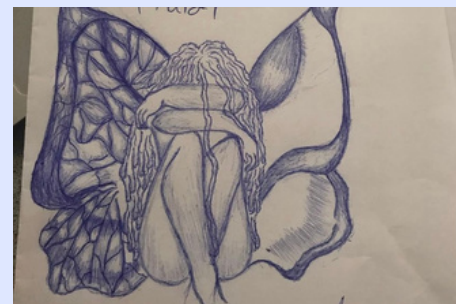
Oakland, CA

Youth Volume

Welcoming our newest YAB member Praya!



We are thrilled to announce the latest addition to our team, Praya who is joining the YAB Communications Subcommittee! Praya brings a fresh perspective and a wealth of experience in communications, being a creative individual Praya loves to express herself through art and bring new ideas to the team. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to PRAYA - we're excited to have her on board and look forward to seeing the amazing work she'll do!



YAB Member, Carmel, received a RAD Hero Award



In June, Health Care for the Homeless hosted their 3rd annual "Summer Solstice Celebration" to honor of our unhoused community. This year, the YAB nominated Carmel E. for a Resilience and Determination Award (RAD) in recognition of her accomplishing housing stability and her impact on shaping movements and hearts. Thank you to the hosts and attendees for bringing their magic and joy to our lives through love, laughter, raffle prizes, music, and words that fulfills the soul. The hard work and talent in the room have made this event truly unforgettable. Congratulations Carmel, we are so proud of you!

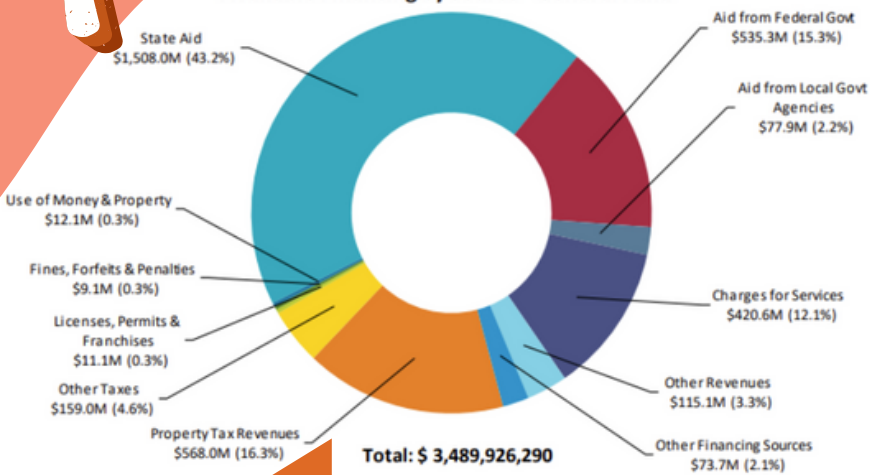
February

Meet Jessica Blakemore



Jessica is a **Senior Policy & Legislative Analyst** for Alameda County's Health Care Services Agency, where she is responsible for overseeing and aligning external policies related to public health issues, such as homelessness. She hosted an informational workshop for the YAB about the county's legislative platforms and processes, and planted the seed for YAB members to be involved with the Personnel, Administration and Legislation (PAL) Committee in the future.

Available Financing by Source - General Fund



The majority (87%) of County appropriations are dedicated to public services.

The 2022 Alameda County Point-in-Time Count showed a 22% increase in homelessness since 2019, with **9,747** individuals experiencing homelessness during a single 24-hour period. Alameda County continues to invest in anti-homeless strategies, including the 2016 voter-approved Measure A1 General Obligation Bond, with the goal of creating and preserving 3,800 units of affordable housing rental and ownership housing throughout Alameda County.

2024 Coordinated Entry (CE) Policies

Every year, the Housing & Homelessness (H&H) Services agency updates their CE Policy Handbook which governs how providers are expected to operate their CE access points and services.

This year, the YAB was requested to give feedback on policy changes and language clarity, a process that allowed youth to have a role in shaping CE access, assessment, prioritization, and navigation resources. We reviewed with the lens of understanding the policy, clarity of policy language and thinking about if anything is missing in terms of translating this info for the wider community to understand.



Read the 2024 Handbook



CE Access Points in Alameda County

Did you know that non-CoC funded organizations can participate in the annual Sheltered Point In Time Count?

The Sheltered PIT Count tracks the number of unhoused individuals who are enrolled in a Safe Haven, emergency, transitional or rapid-rehousing shelter. It also tracks the county's total housing inventory. The Sheltered PIT Count occurs every year in January. Shelters that receive funding from the CoC are required by HUD to participate in the count, but non-CoC funded shelters can contribute as well!

To participate in the 2025 PIT Count as a non-CoC funded organization, please contact **Marisol.Rodriguez-Sanchez@acgov.org**.

By encouraging all shelters to participate in the count, we can capture the most accurate data on the local housing capacity and whom it is serving.

March

Youth and Allies Against Homelessness (YAAH) Webinar

On March 11th, 2024, YAAH formally introduced the guidelines in a webinar that is now available to view on their website. The Guidelines to Prevent, Address, and End Youth Homelessness contain a comprehensive roadmap of interventions that communities can adapt to their specific contexts and needs. The guidelines were developed as part of an evaluation funded by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) of the Homeless Housing and Prevention (HHAP) youth-set-aside funds in California.

Check out their website:
<https://yaah.berkeley.edu/home>



"Makin' Some Changes" Video Produced by Beats, Rhymes, & Life (BRL)

After collaborating on creating a song, BRL helped bring the YAB's creative vision to life by recording a music video that was co-directed by YAB Peer Mentor, Paul. The video features us, youth from the community, youth providers and adult allies who are passionate on social and housing justice. The video displays a story of resilience, compassion, youth experiences, and the community coming together.



The YAB visits West Coast Children's Clinic (WCCC) "Youth Advocate Program"



Located in Oakland, the WCCC is a behavioral health center serving families and children. Their 3-year Youth Advocate Program (YAP) employs foster youth to be key informers, decision-makers, and advocates for youth services. They play a central role in training service providers across the county on best policies and practices, as well as assisting with youth-centered projects tasked by the county. Thank you to the YAP for welcoming the YAB to your space and connecting us to your resources!

Visit their website to learn more: westcoastcc.org

April

2024 Youth Empowerment Summit in Sacramento

We're grateful to have returned to this collaborative and empowering space that connects us with young leaders from all over California to empower each other to advocate for youth housing rights, strengthen our resource network, and form new friendships with our long-distance peers.

This year we advocated to our state representatives for support on these bills:

1. SB 1079: Youth Housing Bond Act 2024 (Menjivar)
2. AB 2477: Foster Youth Savings (Zbur)
3. AB2520: Youth Specific Coordinated Entry Response System (Ramos)
4. Increase of the HHAP youth set-aside allocation from a 10% to 25% minimum to address funding gaps in youth services.



YAB Member Ray sits on California Coalition for Youth's "State Youth Advisory Board"

Due to Ray's immense advocacy efforts and collaboration with CCY, Ray has been offered the opportunity to join the California State YAB. This board is one of the state's biggest coalitions for youth empowerment; young people discuss issues affecting transition-aged youth in California (ages 12-24), including legislation and policy issues, and make recommendations to the CCY Board of Directors. This gives ambitious youth leadership opportunities towards CCY's mission, to improve and empower the lives of California's youth, and vision, that every youth in California is connected to the services, resources, and programs they need to have successful lives.



The YAB Communications Subcommittee wrote a letter of support to the California Legislature Position Letter Portal

SB 1079 aims to address the housing needs of young people, especially those transitioning out of foster care or experiencing homelessness. It authorizes the issuance of government bonds to fund affordable housing units for youth, including grants for housing assistance programs. The goal is to provide stable, safe, and affordable housing solutions to help young people achieve self-sufficiency. The YAB supported this bill by writing a supportive letter to the legislature stating our support and need for AB 1079. We encourage the community to please write a letter of support to promote the need of housing for YOUTH.



SB 1079 (Menjivar)
Youth Housing Bond Act of 2024
Building More Housing for YOUTH

Please visit <https://digitaldemocracy.calmatters.org/> for updates on this bill

May

First Ending Youth Homelessness Collaborative of 2024!



Hosted in Hayward by the YAB and H&H staff, this convening highlighted three main topics:

1. The needs of undocumented migrant youth experiencing homelessness presented by the Newcomer Navigation Center
2. Findings from a research on CAL-ICH presented by UC Berkeley's Youth Allies Against Homelessness research team
3. What is Housing Problem Solving presented by YHDP Peer Navigators

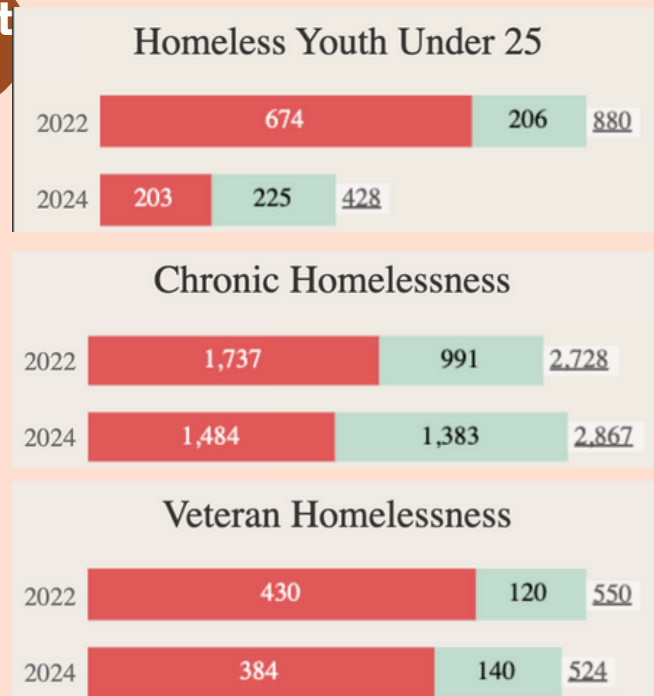
The YAB also shared recent updates on the progression of goals in our "Youth Action A Way Home" plan and held space for partners to share their progress as well. As the purpose of this Collaborative is to embed cross-collaboration within our homeless response system and promote alignment of shared goals, efforts and resources in the community, we're honored to see an increasing attendance that reached over 40 participants at this convening.

Alameda County 2024 Point-In-Time Count Highlights From Preliminary Results

Total number of people experiencing homelessness on any given night: 9,450
Of this...

- ▶ 6,343 people were living unsheltered.
3% decrease from 2022
- ▶ 9,450 people were staying in a shelter project.
19% increase from 2022
- ▶ 428 homeless youth were counted.
51% decrease from 2022.

Visit everyonehome.org to learn more



What's Coming Up:

Alameda County's Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
PRESENTS
THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial literacy is essential as it enables individuals to make informed financial decisions, leading to improved stability and independence. It helps people navigate complex financial products, avoid debt traps, and plan for future goals like retirement and education. Additionally, a financially knowledgeable population fosters responsible consumer behavior and enhances the economic health of communities.

SUPPORTING YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

THE FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE BY EQUIPPING THEM WITH ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO MANAGE THEIR FINANCES EFFECTIVELY. IT TEACHES THEM BUDGETING, SAVING, INVESTING, AND UNDERSTANDING CREDIT, ENABLING THEM TO MAKE INFORMED FINANCIAL DECISIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE WORKSHOP FOSTERS CONFIDENCE, ENCOURAGES RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL BEHAVIORS, AND PREPARES THEM FOR FUTURE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES, ULTIMATELY PROMOTING THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

WORKSHOP SERIES DETAILS

DATES	TIME	PLACE
Session 1: Thursday September 5th	3:00-4pm	Covenant House 600 Harrison Street Oakland, CA 94607
Session 2: Thursday October 10th	3:00-4pm	Virtual (register to receive link)
Session 3: Thursday November 7th	3:00-4pm	CHASE Community Center 3005 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611

CONTACT INFORMATION:
INSTAGRAM
@youthaboutaction

FOR QUESTIONS/CONCERNS PLEASE EMAIL
↓
MARISOL.RODRIGUEZ-SANCHEZ@ACGOV.ORG

SIGN UP & INTEREST FORM

For more information visit our YAB Website:
<https://homelessness.acgov.org/youth-board.page?>

SAN MATEO COUNTY PRIDE CENTER
COMMUNITY CARE PACKAGE WORKSHOP & SOCIAL
Wednesday, September 18, 6 - 8pm

Join us for an uplifting evening of creativity, self-care, and connection as we celebrate the strength and resilience of our LGBTQIA+ community during Suicide Prevention Month.

In this hands-on workshop and social, you'll create your own personalized self-care package while connecting with others in a supportive, affirming environment. Together, we will craft items that promote mental wellness and share local resources, reminding us that through community, we are never alone.

All ages welcome
Food and refreshments provided!

The Pride Center is located at
1021 S. El Camino Real
San Mateo, CA 94402

Register here for double entry in our prize drawing!

RSVP at
<https://tinyurl.com/communitycarepackage>

STAR VISTA
The San Mateo County Pride Center is a program of StarVista in collaboration with Outlet of Adolescent Counseling Services

INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH
SIXTH ANNUAL MENTAL WELLNESS SUMMIT
JOIN US!

Interactive Workshops,
Community Resources,
Open Conversations about
Mental Wellness, and MORE!

WHO: 12-23 year olds
WHEN: SEPTEMBER 7, 2024
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
WHERE: Hammon Senior Center
1033 W Las Palmas Ave
Patterson

Parent / Guardian / Caregiver Workshop:
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM (English)
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM (Spanish)

FREE of Cost!
LUNCH PROVIDED!

SCAN ME

elevate
YOUTH CALIFORNIA

Opportunities

 calyouth



FOSTER CARE SURVEY

Share your thoughts on how to improve California's foster care system for a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

Complete by 11:59pm on 9/8.

[Link to Survey](#)



Policy BREIFING



[REGISTER NOW](#)

Let's get together and learn about advocacy efforts, and policy updates addressing youth homelessness across California.

Join Policy Briefing hosted by the California Coalition for Youth on September 12th, 2024 at 11:00am.



Questions: deannie@calyouth.org



BEATS RHYMES AND LIFE, INC WORKSHOP OFFERINGS FALL '24



THE TOWN	EMPOWERING WOMEN IN HIP-HOP	BEAT MAKING
GENERAL WRITING WORKSHOP	CELEBRATING WOMEN MC'S WORKSHOP	FL STUDIO PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
NIYAH HANIYAH@BRL-INC.ORG	DAYDAY DAYDAY@BRL-INC.ORG	KEESE MARQUISE@BRL-INC.ORG

INTERESTED IN HIP-HOP WORKSHOPS COMING TO YOU?
CONTACT OUR COORDINATORS!

Stay in touch with YAB



@YOUTHABOUTACTION



YOUTHABOUTACTION@GMAIL.COM



Scan the code with your phone camera to view the YAB website