



About the A Way Home America Grand Challenge

In September 2019, A Way Home America (AWHA) will launch the Grand Challenge to support communities to reach a measurable, effective end to youth homelessness.

Grand Challenge Goal

Over a two-year period, the A Way Home America Grand Challenge will help ten (10) communities in the United States end homelessness for LGBTQ+ youth and youth of color, setting the path to ending homelessness for all youth.

Given that the preponderance of youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ+ and/or youth of color, this result represents a key milestone toward ending homelessness for all young people.

The A Way Home America Grand Challenge to End Youth Homelessness

The Grand Challenge is a problem-solving initiative grounded in several critical approaches: youth collaboration, LGBTQ+ and racial equity, and quality improvement. The Grand Challenge builds on strategies which have already resulted in significant reductions in veteran and chronic homelessness throughout the United States. A Way Home America (AWHA) adds an unflinching focus on, and partnership with, the young people most impacted by youth homelessness. We believe this approach is the swiftest way to achieve dramatic progress.

The Grand Challenge will support 10 communities to achieve one shared result: an effective end to youth homelessness for LGBTQ+ youth and youth of color within two years, setting the path to ending homelessness for all youth.

Who We Are: A National Initiative to End Youth Homelessness

A Way Home America is a national initiative to build the movement to prevent and end homelessness among young people. We are made up of young people with lived expertise, youth homelessness providers, advocates, researchers, government agencies, and philanthropists uniting behind a common goal:

Prevent and end homelessness among all youth and young adults. Ensure that homelessness among youth and young adults is rare, and if it occurs, experiences of homelessness are brief and one-time.

A Way Home America is the movement that proves it is possible to end youth homelessness.

What We Know about Youth Homelessness

The Grand Challenge is a targeted response to the data.

Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America report revealed that one in 10 young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 and at least one in 30 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year.

**THE
GRAND
CHALLENGE**
TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

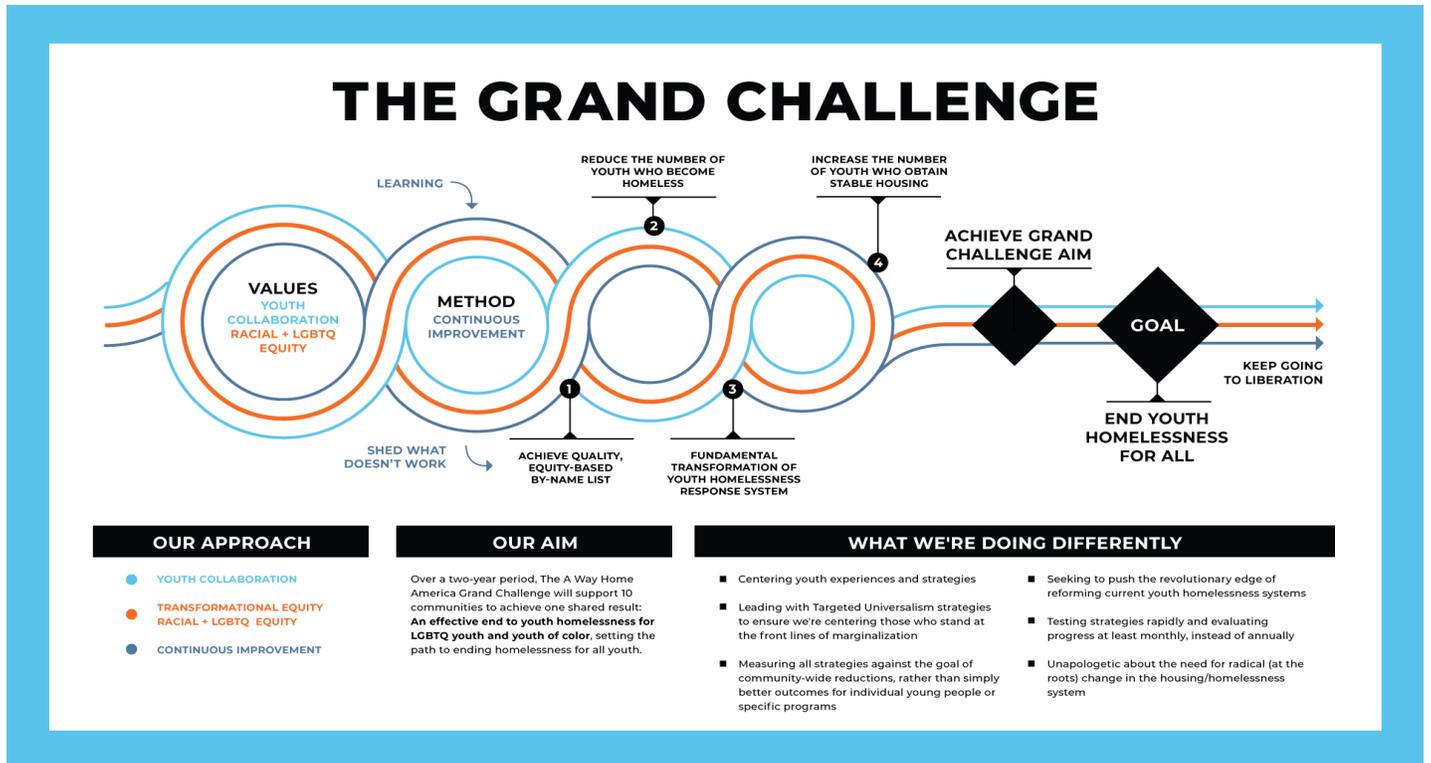
Youth homelessness is devastating and potentially fatal for any young person who experiences it and research proves that *youth homelessness isn't harming all youth equally*. LGBTQ+ youth are 120 percent more likely to experience homelessness. The Center for Social Innovation's SPARC: Phase One Study Findings found youth of color were most represented among individuals ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, accounting for 89 percent of this group.

Experiences of homelessness are twice as likely to be fatal for LGBTQ+ youth and youth of color. We cannot afford to leave these young people behind.

Theory of Change

The Grand Challenge is grounded in the theory that if we meet the needs of those young people most impacted by youth homelessness -- LGBTQ+ and youth of color -- we create a system that effectively meets the needs of all young people. *This is known as targeted universalism.*

By explicitly improving systems for historically marginalized groups we improve outcomes for all young people experiencing homelessness. Put another way, **systems that work for youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth create better outcomes for everyone.**



What to Expect

The Grand Challenge communities are committed to launching transformational work which will result in a fundamental change in youth homelessness across their community and are committed to using data to inform and test ideas as they work to end youth homelessness through a targeted universalism approach.

AWHA will select 10 communities through a competitive application process. These 10 communities will agree to work with AWA to figure out what it actually takes to end youth homelessness and to hold themselves accountable as they reach the goal of the Grand Challenge within two years.

During the Grand Challenge the participating communities will:

- Convene with AWA three times a year to receive focused coaching, training and support at in-person strategy sessions.
- Track and use a uniform set of data each month - system measures which will indicate if the communities are making progress toward the Grand Challenge goal and inform changes in practice and/or system improvements.
- Receive support around equity and youth collaboration during onboarding to the Grand Challenge, as well as through on-going training at subsequent in-person strategy gatherings;

- Create meaningful and authentic collaboration with young people with lived experience.
- Create a powerful, energized network of leaders doing critically difficult and essential work.
- Commit to refining/building a comprehensive, equity based By-Name List

Measuring Success

Achieving the Grand Challenge Goal means that the community will end homelessness for all unaccompanied young people of color and LGBTQ+ young people between the ages of 13 – 24 years. Specifically, success is reaching United States Interagency Council on Homelessness [USICH] Benchmark A.5 and 6 and B.1 for young people of color and LGBTQ+ young people. This represents a critical milestone toward ending homelessness for all young people across the community, as measured by the USICH Criteria & Benchmarks.

Key Dates

Application Period	Tuesday, July 9 - Tuesday, August 20
Application Webinars	Thursday, August 1 at 3PM EST Friday, August 2 at 12PM EST
Awarded Communities Announced	September 3 – 5 Alongside the True Colors United Impact Summit
First In-Person Strategy Gathering	October 15-16, 2019

Grand Challenge Coaching & Faculty

Community Solutions
 CSH
 ICF
 JonRah Consulting
 True Colors United
 True Colors United National Youth Forum on Homelessness
 Youth Collaboratory

Grand Challenge Funding Partners

Ballmer Group
 Butler Family Fund
 Champion Foundation
 Liberty Mutual Foundation
 Melville Charitable Trust
 Raikes Foundation
 Schultz Family Foundation



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