



# **Three Policy Proposals to Reduce Youth Homelessness in California:**

## **Preparation for January 24<sup>th</sup> Statewide Policy Convening**

**Presented by the Homeless Youth Capacity Building Project**

Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Call-In Number: 805-309-0021

Access Code: 632-139-741

# How to Participate in the Web Seminar

Click on unique link forwarded in email invitation

To access audio, either listen on computer OR

1. Call: 805-309-0021
2. Enter Access Code: 632-139-741
3. Enter unique PIN that is on screen

To submit live questions, click on the “Question and Answer” arrow on your screen, type your question, and click “Send.”

# Overview of Web Seminar

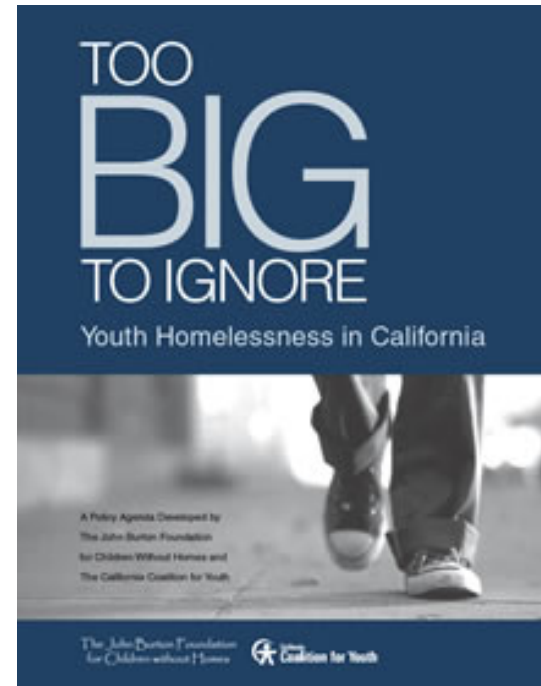
- Background & introductions
- Youth shelter regulation proposal
- Housing Trust Fund proposal
- California Runaway and Homeless Youth Act proposal
- Q & A
- Information about how you can help

# Background on Homeless Youth Capacity Building Project

- Partnership between JBF & CCY
- Project launched in September 2009
  - 62 members; 120 affiliates
- Policy proposals selected from report
  - Developed in small groups over last 9 months
- Proposals to be introduced into California State Legislature
  - Youth shelter regulations
  - Housing trust fund
  - California Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

# Too BIG to Ignore: Youth Homelessness in CA

- Released in November, 2009
- 11 recommendations
  - 5 short-term
  - 6 long-term
  - Target local, state and federal policy
- Available at [www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)



# January 24<sup>th</sup> Statewide Policy Convening

## **Purpose:**

- Raise awareness about youth homelessness
- Build support for statewide policy agenda (3 pieces legislative proposals)

## **Schedule for the day:**

- Kick-off meeting (10 a.m.)
- Press briefing (11 a.m.)
- Legislative visits (12 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

# Why Do We Need Better Policies for Homeless Youth?

- **Big Population:** 200,000 unaccompanied homeless minors (aged 12 to 17) annually in California
- **Result of System Failures:** Most are fleeing abuse and neglect at home (40% to 60%); most are low-income
- **Poor Outcomes:** High rates of emotional and mental health problems, substance use, medical problems, high-risk sexual and drug use behaviors, illegal behavior and victimization
- **Expensive Outcomes:** incarceration (\$50,000 per year) and homelessness (\$46,800)

# Youth Shelter Regulations – Background

- RHYA is major source of funding for homeless youth
  - Basic Center Program (BCP), Transitional Living Program, Street Outreach
- California has 31 BCPs (~ \$6.2 million)
- FYSB requires BCP grantees to comply with state or local licensing requirements
- CA Community Care Licensing licenses children's residential group homes, not emergency youth shelters
- Current licensing framework inappropriate for emergency youth shelters
  - Emergency youth shelters are voluntary and temporary

# Youth Shelter Regulations – Legislation

- Legislation would develop an alternative category of regulations designed specifically for emergency youth shelters
- Proposed regulations will aim to keep youth shelters low-barrier for youth accessing services
- Licensing category would address:
  - Staffing
  - Training
  - Safety (background checks)
  - Size limitations
  - Services
  - Other

# Housing Trust Fund – The Problem

- Thousands of Californians lack affordable housing including large numbers of transitional age youth.
- Current State funding for the creation of affordable housing comes from bond financing.
  - Bond funds have been largely depleted
  - Bond funds are expensive
  - Can be used only for capital (“bricks and mortar”) and not for operating or services costs

# Housing Trust Fund – The Solution

- Create a trust fund to finance the creation of new affordable housing on an ongoing basis with a permanent source of revenue
- Ensure that the fund is structured to meet the needs of homeless youth
  - Set asides for TAY population
  - Use of funds for operating and services support
  - Incentives for creation of TAY housing
  - Include funds for technical assistance to TAY providers

# Housing Trust Fund – The Strategy

- Likely to be a multi-year effort
- Simultaneous legislative and initiative strategies
- Over the next year
  - Use the introduction of legislation to help formulate specific details of proposal
  - Coalition building and generating community support
  - Education of legislators, the Governor and other key policy makers
  - Fundraising for possible initiative campaign

# California Homeless, Runaway & Exploited Youth Act– Background

- California is without an active strategy to reduce youth homelessness
- Single state program: Homeless Youth and Sexual Exploitation Program
  - Administered by CA Emergency Management Agency
  - Funds 4 programs statewide
- Small state investment (~ \$356K GF)
  - As compared with child welfare: \$2.4 billion (\$714 million GF)
  - What would we do if we had more resources?

# California Homeless, Runaway & Exploited Youth Act – Legislation

**Goal:** to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive solution to youth homelessness

- Declare homeless youth a priority, special needs population deserving of state policy attention and intervention;
- Clearly define youth homelessness, and determine the population of homeless youth;
- Determine the statewide demand for shelter, housing, and supportive services;
- Identify data and outcome measures from which to evaluate public investment in homeless youth services;
- Propose a consistent State revenue stream from state government, to meet demand for shelter, housing, and services;
- Specify the role of the child welfare system in preventing and addressing homelessness for minors experiencing abuse and neglect;
- Specify the role of law enforcement in responding to runaway youth;
- Name the California Emergency Management Agency as the responsible state agency which will administratively interpret and lead efforts under the Act;

# Questions or Comments?



Enter questions on your screen now by clicking the “Questions” panel, typing your question, and clicking “Send.”

[www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)

# What Can You Do to Help?

## 1. Participate on 1/24

- Email [jaclyn@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:jaclyn@johnburtonfoundation.org) or call 415-693-1326

## 2. Join sign-on letter

- Email org. name & contact to [jaclyn@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:jaclyn@johnburtonfoundation.org)

## 3. Stay informed

- Join listserv at [www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)

## 4. Educate your youth, board and community

- Write an op-ed or newsletter article (template available)

## 5. Write a letter of support for Senate HS

- Template will be at [www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)

## 6. Attend CCY Taking Action Conference: April 3-5, 2011