

Direct Cash Transfers with and for Youth & Young Adults

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A large orange circle with a thin white outline, centered on a white background.

Context

A broad & hidden challenge

1 in 10



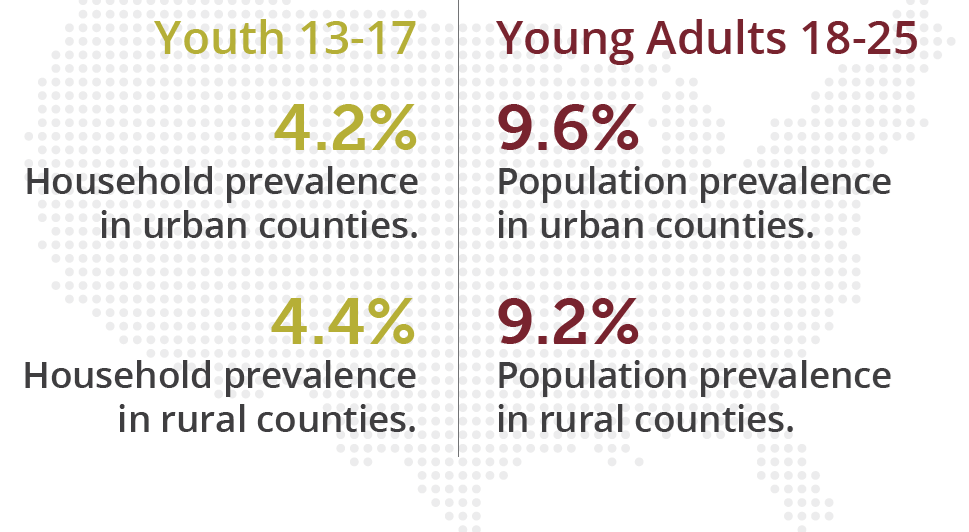
young adults ages 18 to 25 endures some form of homelessness in a year. Half of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

1 in 30

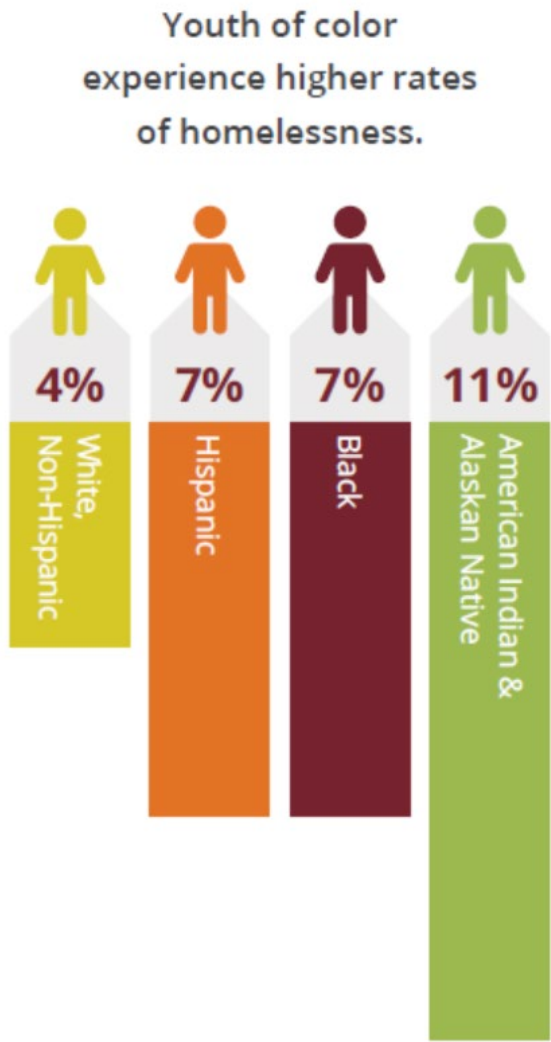


adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endures some form of homelessness in a year. A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

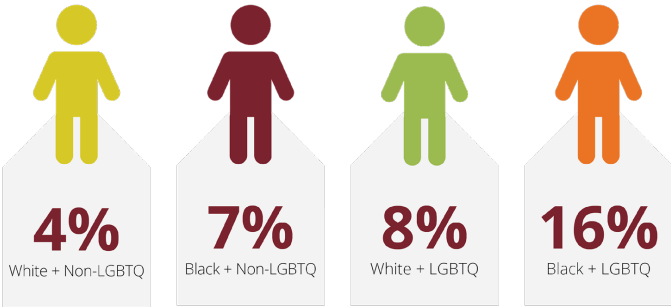
Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.



Centering on Racial Equity



Explicit homelessness over the last 12 months, self-reported by young adults, ages 18-25. These estimates do not include reports of couch surfing only.





Report

Assessment of New York City's Homelessness System Reveals Opportunities and Challenges to Meet Youth's Needs

2019

By Matthew Morton, Melissa Kull, Erin Devorah Carreon, Raúl Chávez, Alison Chrisler, Jha'asryel-Akquil Bishop





Why Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs)?

- What young people want
- Current interventions failing to achieve population impact & largely lack evidence of effectiveness
- A fast, flexible, and scalable housing solution
- An instrument for racial and LGBTQ+ equity and justice
- Cost-efficient
- Potential for positive spillover effects



Public-Private Partnership Launches the First Direct Cash Transfer Study for Addressing Young Adult Homelessness

*New initiative aims to empower young people, increase
their access to safe and stable housing, and improve
evidence on what works*

June 17, 2021



NYC Trust Youth Initiative

Co-creation & actionable evidence

Global Evidence Base

165+ impact studies of cash transfers



Little evidence that cash transfers are “wasted” or foster dependency/ labor withdraw



Positive effects on poverty, child & youth outcomes, and well-being



Cost-effective over other approaches



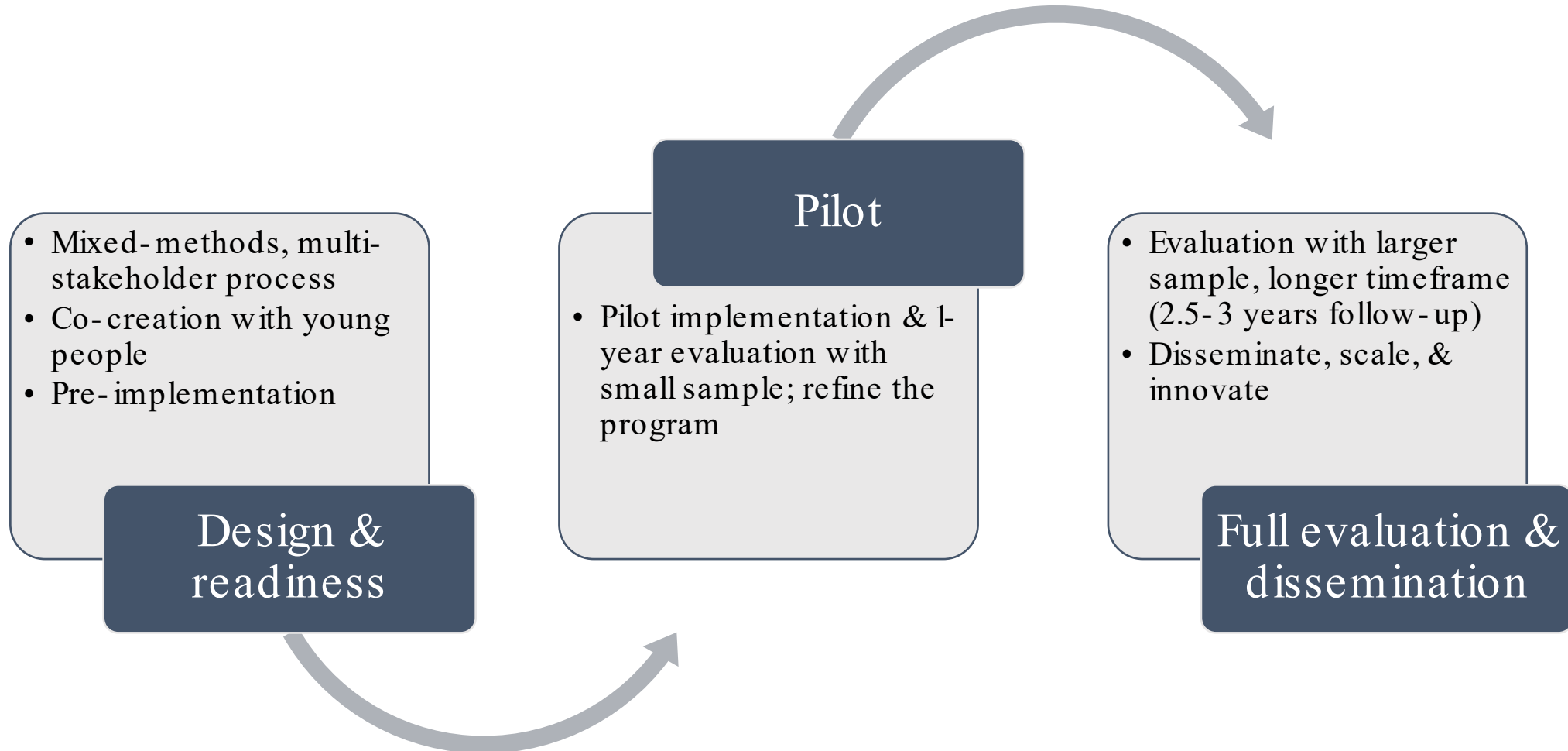
Positive spillover effects



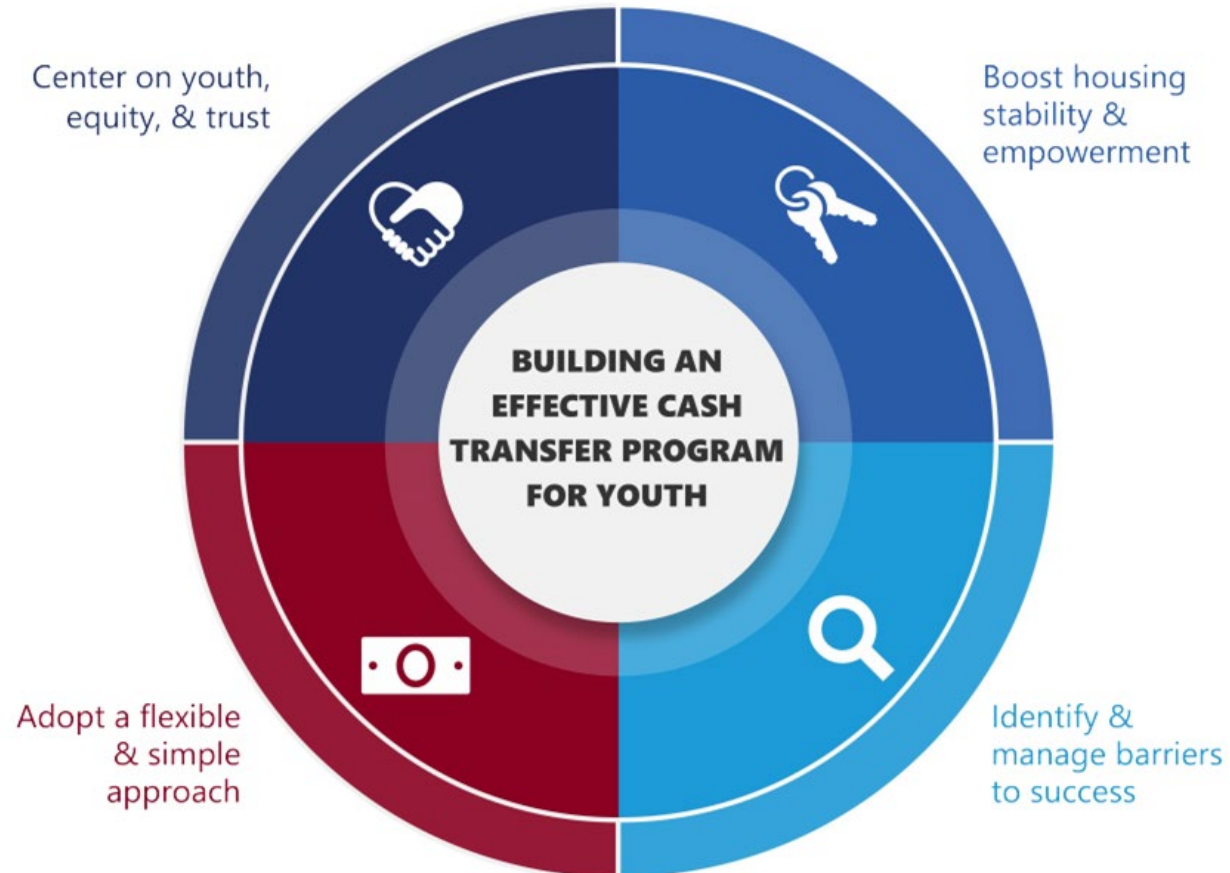
Counter race, class, & gender-based injustices



A Phased Approach



A collaborative process shaped the project



DEVELOPING A DIRECT CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:

Results of a Mixed Methods, Multi-Stakeholder Design Process

Matthew H Morton • Raúl Chávez •
Melissa A. Kull • Erin D. Carreon •
Jha'asryel-Akquil Bishop • Simeon Daferede •
Elijah Wood • Larry Cohen • Pilar Barreyro

OCTOBER 2020



 **CHAPIN HALL**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

“Cash Plus” Program Design

Objectives



Safe & stable housing

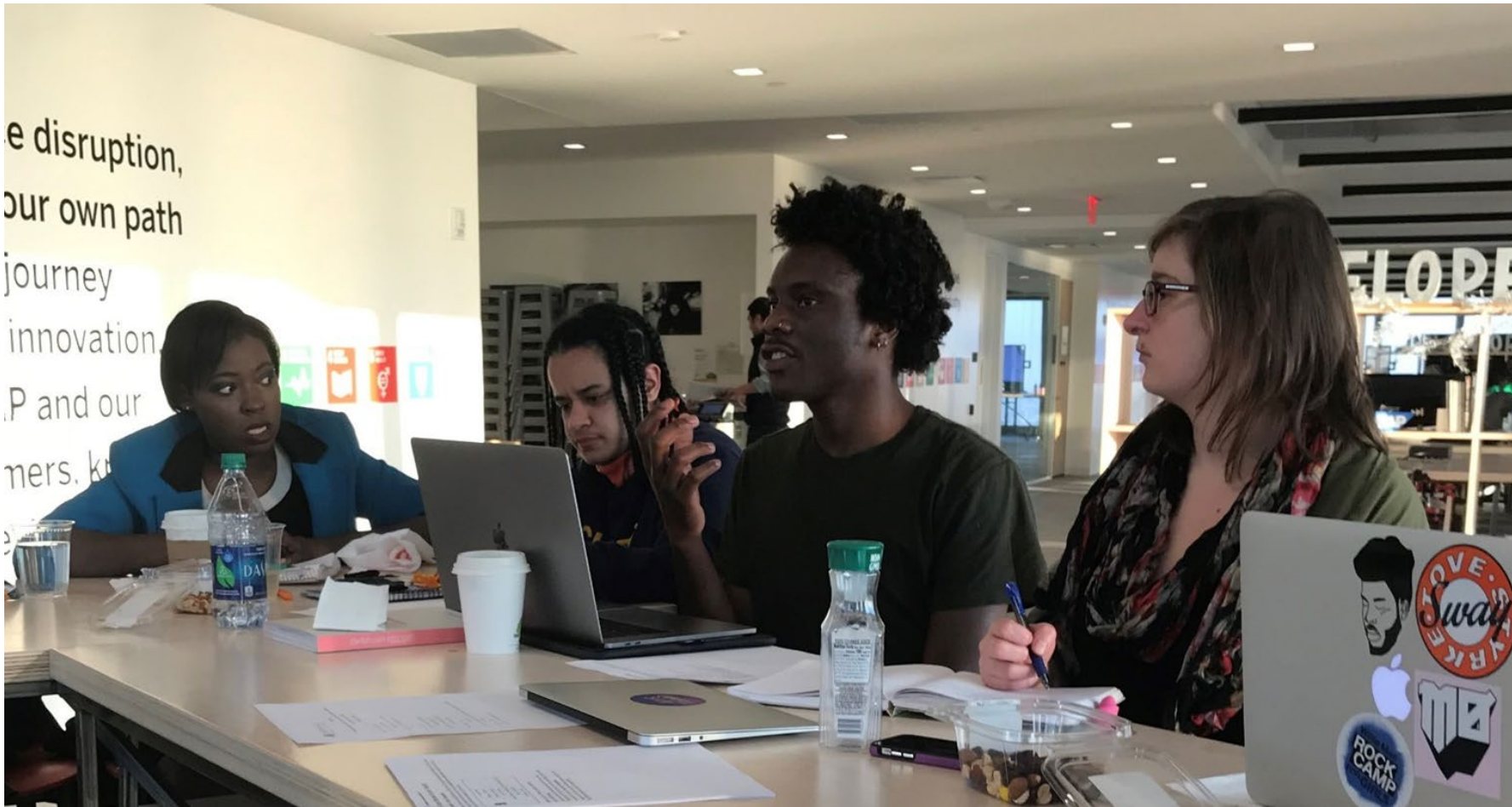
Empowerment

Human capital formation

Racial & LGBTQ equity

Cost-effectiveness

Co-Created by Young People



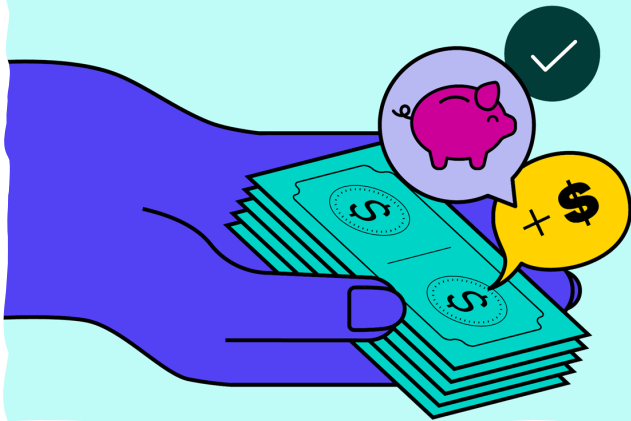
Eligibility Criteria

- 18 to 24 years old
- Recruited through drop-in center and shelter programs
- Currently homeless (any federal definition)
- Sheltered or unsheltered homelessness in last 3 months
- Not expected to have permanent housing solution within 30 days (e.g., with housing voucher, supportive housing)

The Program: A “Cash Plus” Model

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE,
BY YOUNG PEOPLE:

Direct Cash Transfers



Cash

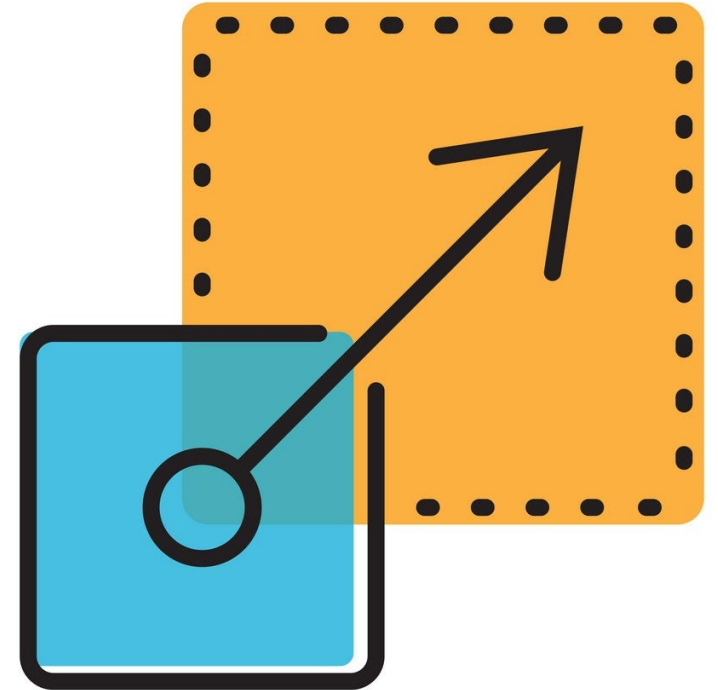
- About \$30K paid unconditionally over 24 months
 - \$550 paid twice per month for 24 months
 - One-time \$3,000
- UpTogether Platform: multiple payout options (Venmo, PayPal, direct deposit, prepaid card)

Plus

- **Support team:** Coach (social worker), peer support, program manager
- **Delivering:** Counseling & advocacy, benefits counseling, housing navigation, financial coaching, connections to care, education & career counseling/support
- **Evidence-based/informed** wherever possible
- **Flexible:** Virtual & in-person

Building for Scale

- Public-private partnership model
- Evaluation for actionable evidence
- Scalable cash transfers infrastructure customized with and for youth (UpTogether)
- Policy analysis and actions on taxes and public benefits
- Implementation resources and fidelity tools (e.g., RFP, Implementation Manual, Handbook, and SIC tool)

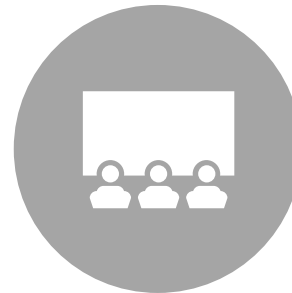


DCTs with and for Youth and Young Adults

Designing a DCT Program



Assessment of Safety Net



Co-Creation,
Collaboration with
Community



Population(s), Context



Objectives, Goals,
Outcomes

Resources

<https://www.pointsourceyouth.org/directcashtransfers>



<https://www.chapinhall.org/research/direct-cash-transfers-program-can-help-youth-sustainably-exit-homelessness/>



Thank you!



THOUGHTS OR
QUESTIONS?



CONTACT US



Family & Youth
Services Bureau

Runaway and Homeless Youth
Training & Technical Assistance Center

BRIGHTER FUTURES
STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH SUCCESS

Thank You!

Please complete the evaluation for this session.

Click on the link in the Chat, then select:

Day One

Workshop

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