



## **Youth Count!**

**Developing Strategies for Counting Unaccompanied  
Homeless Youth**

**October 11, 2012**

**1:00 pm**



# Webinar Format

- Call will last approximately 1 hour
- We have reserved time at the end of the webinar for Q&A.
- Audience members who would like to pose a question can do so at any time through the “Questions” function found in the “GoToWebinar” toolbar.
- Call audience members are “muted” due to the high number of participants.
- Call will be recorded and available to be sent to those who missed the call.



# Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Framework for Ending Youth Homelessness
- III. Overview of Youth Count!
- IV. Question & Answer
- V. Next Steps



# Youth Count! Communities

Boston, MA  
Cleveland, OH  
Hennepin Co., MN  
Houston, TX,  
Los Angeles, CA

New York City, NY  
Seattle, WA  
Washington State  
Winston-Salem, NC



# Panelists

- Jennifer Ho, Deputy Director, USICH
- Bryan Samuels, Commissioner, ACYF
- Anne Miskey, Executive Director, Funders Together to End Homelessness
- Interagency Work Group-USICH, HHS, HUD, ED



# Making Meaningful and Measurable Improvements in Outcomes

**Anticipating** the **challenges** that youth have when they are at risk of homelessness; will bring with them when they become newly homeless; or struggle with when they are chronically homeless

**Improving the data** and **rethinking** the **structure** across Federal program areas and across services delivered by homeless providers

Maximize existing Federal capacity by **scaling back** practices that are not achieving desired results while concurrently **scaling up** evidence-based interventions & practices



# Framework for Ending Youth Homelessness

## Strategy I: Getting to Better Data

- A confident estimate of youth homelessness & better national data on needs & characteristics
  - ✓ Data coordination, youth PIT strategy, & nat'l survey

## Strategy II: Building Capacity for Service Delivery

- A research-informed intervention model
- Increased evidence of effective interventions
  - ✓ Identify & scale-up evidence-based practices & increase rigorous evaluation
- Gaps analysis
  - ✓ Investigate funding & capacity needs of programs



# Youth Count!

The goal of this initiative is to learn promising strategies for conducting:

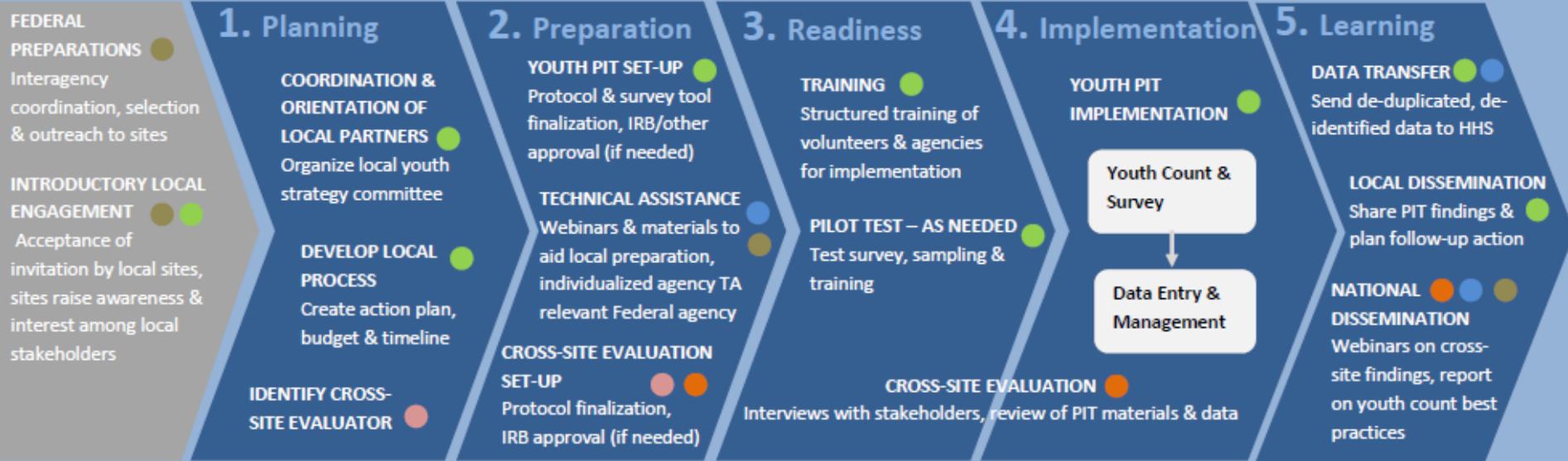
- ***collaborative PIT counts*** of unaccompanied homeless youth that engage Continuums of Care (CoC), Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) providers, Local Education Agency (LEA) homeless liaisons, and other local stakeholders; and
- ***credible PIT counts*** that gather reliable data on unaccompanied homeless youth.



# Youth Count! Process Diagram

-October 2012

January 2013



**FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORKGROUP** ●

- ED, HHS, HUD, USICH combined workgroup
- Coordinate initiative planning & site selection
- Support key collaborations at state & local levels
- Use results to inform policy & future national PIT planning

**HHS** ●

- HHS/ACYF provides primary oversight of initiative
- Provides youth-specific electronic TA activities & materials to aid cross-site preparations
- Receives & manages cross-site youth count data via standardized Excel template

**Private Partnerships\*** ●

- Local & national funders concerned with homelessness
- Facilitate philanthropic interest in pilot youth counts
- Where possible, organize resources for cross-site evaluation & local youth count activities
- Oversee cross-site evaluation

**LOCAL AGENCIES** ●

- HUD CoCs, RHY programs, educational agencies & liaisons, funders, other agencies
- Organize local committee
- Plan & implement youth count strategies informed by Federal guidance & assistance
- Participate in cross-site eval.
- Use local data to drive action

**CROSS-SITE EVALUATOR** ●

- Researcher(s) contracted by private partnership(s) to conduct cross-site evaluation
- Study challenges & best practices in process of planning & running youth counts
- Gauge validity of youth data to the extent possible
- Disseminate findings

\*Currently being explored.



# Site Selection

Nine sites have been invited to participate:

Boston, MA

Cleveland, OH

Hennepin Co., MN

Houston, TX,

Los Angeles, CA

New York City, NY

Seattle, WA

Washington State

Winston-Salem, NC



# Question and Answer

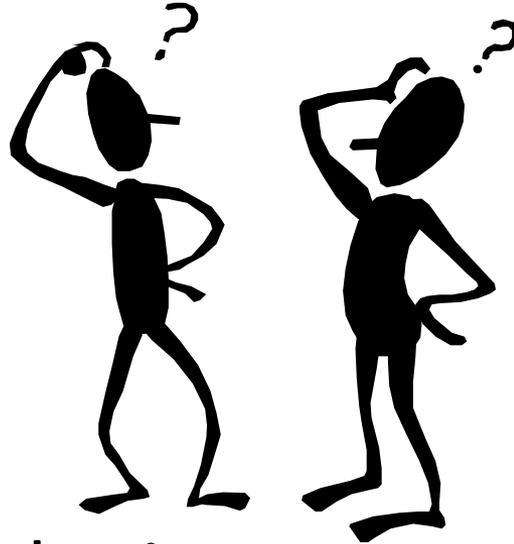
*What is the relationship between Youth Count! and HUD's PIT Count?*

*Why is it important for LEAs to participate?*

*What supports are available to the sites?*



# Question and Answer



Please submit your questions via  
the chat function



# Next Steps

- Contact USICH about your decision to participate or not to participate in Youth Count! by Wednesday, October 17. Tell us:
  - Who from the CoC, RHY community, and LEA is at the table?
  - Who is the lead person(s) responsible for the youth strategy for your PIT count?
- Take advantage of HUD hosted Open Forums and TA offered by ACYF.



# More Questions?

If you have more questions about Youth Count!, please contact USICH or ACYF:

- Adrienne Breidenstine, Management and Program Analyst, USICH  
[adrienne.breidenstine@usich.gov](mailto:adrienne.breidenstine@usich.gov)
- Matthew Morton, PhD, Office of the Commissioner, ACYF  
[Matthew.Morton@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Morton@acf.hhs.gov)



**U.S. Interagency  
Council on Homelessness**

**[www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov)**