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New York City Releases Study on Housing for Transition-Age Youth

Effort Concentrates on Changing Trajectory of Youth at Risk

(NEW YORK, NY March 7, 2017) – Today, the New York City Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence, in partnership with CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) announced the results of *Housing Trajectories of Transition-Age Youth*, a study designed to help policymakers prevent at-risk youth from falling into homelessness. This study was underwritten by the New York Community Trust, and unveiled by a panel of experts at a forum hosted by Deutsche Bank.

The study found that a range of housing and shelter resources exist in New York City for youth facing homelessness including independent living, shelters, and supportive housing, which combines housing with more intensive programming and social services. But because there are limited resources, it is important to effectively match youths’ needs with the available placements that are likely to improve their outcomes.

“This first of its kind report underscores the need for a new approach to the deep rooted issues of youth transitioning out of homeless shelters and foster care,” said **Maryanne Schretzman Executive Director, Office of the Mayor, Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI)**. “At this pivotal moment, we can make a real impact on the future of young people leaving these systems by coordinating and providing an opportunity to change the course of their lives. CIDI is pleased to provide cutting edge research that integrates cross-agency data to inspire a new way of meeting the needs of at risk and homeless youth.”

“We know we can build better lives for at-risk youth if we align their needs with the right kind of housing and services that will reduce their likelihood of becoming homeless,” said **Kristin Miller, CSH director in New York**. “Cross-systems data analysis is essential in improving homelessness response systems to adequately identify need and prioritize resources”.

“We need a better system for young adults who are transitioning out of foster care, transitional living programs and shelters without a permanent place to live,” said **Patricia Swann, Senior Program Officer, The New York Community Trust**. “Their challenge in finding housing is compounded by the fact that these young adults have to interact with multiple City agencies in order to cover the various aspects of their care. The New York Community Trust is pleased to support research that documents youth’s pathways and identifies opportunities for City agencies to coordinate and work collaboratively to change the way housing resources are prioritized in a cost-effective manner.”

Through the data, the City and CSH are seeking to better understand the housing trajectories of particularly vulnerable groups -- those who exit foster care and other residential programs for homeless young adults, including emergency shelters and transitional living programs. By following these young adults via administrative data, the study forms an understanding of what housing resources they utilize and assesses who should be prioritized for specific resources, such as supportive housing, in order to help them avoid homelessness in the future. The findings of the study will be incorporated into current efforts in the City to coordinate service delivery and prioritize youth for supportive housing.

In collecting the data, researchers examined a few key questions:

- How many youth enter supportive housing, DHS family and single adult shelters, DYCD runaway and homeless youth shelters, or jail within one, two, and three years after exit from foster care, shelters, or transitional independent living programs?
- What are the characteristics of young adults that differentiate utilization of services and housing stability?

From the answers they gathered, those analyzing the data were able to conclude the following about which factors are likely to increase as well as decrease the risk of homelessness for vulnerable young adults:

- Compared to accessing just one service system, accessing services from multiple systems in early adulthood increased the risk of later use of homeless services or jail. Across analyses, each additional system used is associated with a 20-30% increase in risk (depending on the outcome examined). The length and number of stays in the justice system and homeless services were also associated with an increased risk of later service use in several models. Youth who are accessing multiple systems, therefore, may be well-suited for supportive housing or other housing resources to prevent later service use.
- Young adults who exited from homeless shelters and transitional independent living programs at the Department of Youth and Community Development and the Department of Homeless Services had a higher

estimated risk of later homeless service and jail use than young adults who exited from foster care. This underscores the importance of improving access to supportive housing and other housing resources for these young adults.

- Young adults who had a subsidized exit, such as supportive housing, public housing, or other ongoing rental subsidies, from foster care or homeless services had a lower risk for later use of homeless services and jail relative to those youth who did not. This emphasizes the significant role of these housing resources for young adults.
- For youth who had a history of foster care, multiple movements in care were associated with an increased risk of later homeless services and jail use.
- For individuals who were placed in supportive housing, the only factor that decreased the likelihood of a positive, planned exit from housing or retaining housing was a substance use disorder diagnosis. Other service use factors were not associated decreased success in housing; these service use factors may be helpful in prioritizing youth for supportive housing or other housing resources without impacting the success of the program.

Access to the full report can be obtained by [clicking here](#) (for the electronic pdf) or by contacting Jessica Raithel at jraithel@cidi.nyc.gov.

About the New York Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence

Founded in 2011, the mission of the Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI) is to conduct inter-agency research to identify areas of service need in the City of New York. CIDI collaborates with all Health and Human Service (HHS) agencies and other City partners to promote policy change that improves services for all New Yorkers. Visit us at www.nyc.gov/cidi for more information.

About CSH

CSH has been the national leader in supportive housing for 25 years. We have worked in over 40 states and 300 communities to create homes for individuals and families – housing that has transformed the lives of 200,000 people who once lived in abject poverty, on our streets or in institutions. A nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), CSH has earned a reputation as a highly effective, financially stable organization, with strong partnerships across government, community organizations, foundations, and financial institutions. Through our financing resources and knowledge, CSH is advancing innovative solutions that use supportive housing as a platform for services to improve lives, maximize public resources, build healthy communities and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Visit us at www.csh.org to learn more.

About New York Community Trust

The New York Community Trust is the community foundation for New York City, Westchester, and Long Island. Thanks to generous donors, the New York Community Trust distributes income from charitable funds to improve the quality of life in New York City and beyond. It is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the United States. The Trust is one of the largest private funders of New York City's nonprofits. Its competitive grantmaking focuses on improving the lives of all New Yorkers, with an emphasis on promoting healthy lives, promising futures, and thriving communities. To learn more about The Trust, visit us at <http://www.nycommunitytrust.org>.