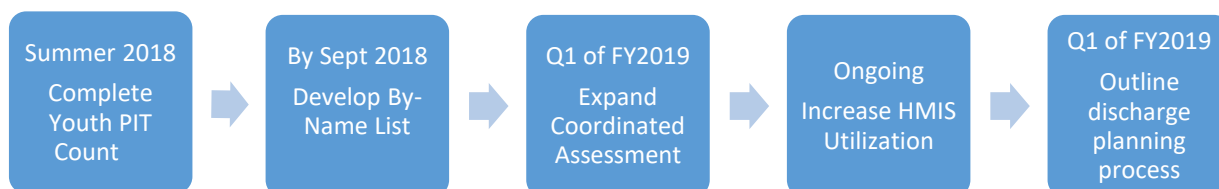




## Kent County CoC Voices of Youth Count Overview

- 1. Goal:** The goal in conducting a youth specific count in Kent County is to more accurately identify the number of youth ages 10-24 who are experiencing homelessness at any given point in time. This Count will be a first step as Kent County seeks to begin to implement the benchmarks identified by USICH to support its efforts towards ending youth homelessness. Additionally, conducting a count was identified within the “Engage” step for the Kent County CoC Youth Committees plan to end youth homelessness. It will be critical that the CoC’s Youth Action Board (YAB) guides and participates in this process as well.
- 2. Approach:** The CoC Youth Committee and Youth Action Board (YAB) will be utilizing the Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) approach and toolkit to guide the count process. VoYC provides step by step guide that is led by youth and includes; the local CoC, stakeholders, youth serving organizations, faith based organizations, schools and many more. It is an initiative to better understand the diverse experiences and number of youth experiencing homelessness. By doing so, communities, such as Kent County can better strategize to end youth homelessness.
- 3. Similar Scope of Work:** Kent County has historically completed a Point in Time (PIT) Count annually during January. The PIT Count seeks to provide a snapshot of the number of persons experiencing homelessness (as defined by HUD) on a given night in Kent County. The VoYC is a counting process but is specific to youth. Further, the VoYC seeks to not only count the number of youth experiencing homelessness, but to also count the number of youth who are unstably housed. This expanded count is done to target and link resources (both financial and service based) to youth in an effort to promote safety and housing stability. As a result, a more broad definition of homelessness is utilized-so that prevention resources and reunification resources can be accessed by youth to avoid an episode of literal homelessness whenever possible.
- 4. How information will be used:**
  - **Local level:** Kent County does not currently have a by-name list. Through the count, youth will be included in the newly created By-Name List that historically would not have been counted by PIT Counts, such as those youth who have been “couch surfing” or staying in temporary and transitional living arrangements. With this expanded definition, the CoC will be able to better identify all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness utilizing HMIS data and by-name list. This will then help to inform the next steps of the needs assessment and community plan for the CoC Youth Committee.
  - **Statement of work:** The CoC Youth Committee statement of work is guiding the timeline and next steps towards ending youth homelessness in Kent County. The visual below helps to show how each step supports the next and completing the count helps launch us into the next steps.



# Overview of VoYC Youth Count Process



## Phase One

### Get Started

- Step One: Establish the Leadership Team
- Step Two: Convene the Initial Leadership Team Meeting

Week 1



## Phase Two

### Plan and Hold Focus Groups

- Step One: Convene the Focus Group Planning Meeting
- Step Two: Recruit Focus Group Participants
- Step Three: Hold the Focus Groups

Week 3-8



## Phase Three

### Prepare for the Youth Count

- Step One: Convene the Leadership Team Count Planning Meeting
- Step Two: Convene the Count Strategy Meeting
- Step Three: Recruit Guides and Volunteers for the Youth Count
- Step Four: Hold the Trainings

Week 8-12



## Phase Four

### Conduct the Youth Count

- Step One: Conduct the Street Count
- Step Two: Oversee the Organizational Count and Come and Be Counted Locations

Week 12



## Phase Five

### Use the Data

- Step One: Clean the Brief Youth Survey Data
- Step Two: Analyze the Brief Youth Survey Data
- Step Three: Share the Findings

Week 13