



CoC Terminology and Acronyms

Terminology

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) – The AHAR is a HUD report to the U.S. Congress that provides nationwide estimates of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of homeless persons, service use patterns, and the capacity to house homeless persons. CoCs used to submit an AHAR to HUD but in 2018, this report was replaced by the Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA).

Area Median Income (AMI) – A calculation on the median income for every metropolitan region in the country developed by HUD. A number of programs use AMI to create affordable housing, including housing vouchers, inclusionary zoning, low-income tax credits, and public housing.

Annual Performance Report (APR) – A required annual report for recipients of HUD funding received through the CoC homeless assistance grants. Data collection is aligned with most recent version of the HMIS Data Standards. APRs are submitted through the platform Sage.

Annual Renewal Amount (ARA) – The sum of all renewable budget line items and the total renewal amount a project may request under the CoC Program Competition.

Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) – The sum of all Annual Renewal Amounts of projects eligible for renewal funding for an upcoming CoC Program Competition.

By-Name List (BNL) – A comprehensive list of individuals and families that are homeless and have completed a Homelink assessment for housing.

CaseWorthy (CW) – The San Antonio/Bexar County HMIS vendor as designated by the CoC Board.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – A program run by HUD that provides annual grants on a formal basis to states, cities, and counties to principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Eligible activities include buildings and improvements, provision of new or increased public services, planning and capacity, and assistance to businesses. Local recipients include COSA, Bexar County, and TDHCA.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) – Grantees of those funded through the Consolidated Plan must report on accomplishments and progress toward Consolidated Plan goals in the CAPER (see Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions).

Coordinated Entry (CE) – HUD requires CoCs to adopt a standardized intake and coordinated assessment process for housing, known as CE. CE is composed of four

major processes: access, assessment, prioritization, and referral. The goal of CE is to ensure all persons at-risk of or experiencing homelessness have equitable access to obtaining an assessment to determine their priority for housing resources in the community. CE must prioritize and match housing resources based on a person's needs and choice.

Chronic Homelessness (CH) – CH is defined in the CoC Program Interim Rule at 24 CFR 578.3 as:

- A. An individual who:
 - a. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a Safe Haven, or in an Emergency Shelter; and
 - b. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter totaling 12 months with at least four separate occasions in the last three years; and
 - c. Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, PTSD, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability; or
- B. An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (A) of this definition before entering that facility; or
- C. A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (A) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Collaborative Applicant – A Collaborative Applicant is designated by the CoC to collect and submit the CoC Registration, CoC Consolidated Application, and apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC during the CoC Program Competition, or NOFA. The CoC Board has designated SARA as the Collaborative Applicant.

Community Planning and Development (CPD) – The HUD office of CPD seeks to develop viable communities by promoting integral approaches that provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities, principally for low-and moderate-income persons. CPD administers the CoC Program, ESG, HOPWA, YHDP, CDBG, and HOME, among others.

Contributing HMIS Organization (CHO) – An agency that enters and manages their client data in the HMIS. CHOs are required to abide by data quality monitoring and data privacy policies.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Program – A HUD program created through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2009 that is designed to promote communitywide

commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing trauma and dislocation; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs; and optimize self-sufficiency. The CoC Program is operated by the CoC Lead Agency.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency – A HUD-designated role as the entity that leads CoC governance and structure, system operations and planning, designating and operating the HMIS, preparing and submitting the annual application to HUD for funding, and designing a CE system.

Consolidated Plan – A Consolidated Plan is required every five years by the Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions and is designed to help states and local jurisdictions assess their affordable housing, community development needs and market conditions as well as align and focus funding from the CPD block grant programs (see CPD definition). The Consolidated Plan is carried out through Annual Action Plans, which must be updated annually and explain how the plan will be realized.

Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions – Local Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions include the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The CoC Lead Agency is required to consolidate with Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions in planning efforts.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Interim Rule – The CoC Interim Rule was published in 2021 and focuses on regulatory implementation of the CoC Program, including the CoC Planning Process.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) – CQI is a strategy to identify, describe, and analyze strengths and problems and then testing, implementing, learning from, and revising solutions.

Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) – A CCP is a required strategic plan to prevent and end youth homelessness for YHDP communities. Creating the CCP includes a 6-month stakeholder planning process that includes the Youth Action Board. *See also: WE SAY.*

Diversion – Diversion, also known as Housing Problem Solving or Rapid Exit, is a strategy designed to immediately address the needs of someone who has just lost their housing and become homeless. This strategy aims to prevent someone from entering the homeless response system by finding alternative and creative solutions to end their housing crisis.

Electronic Line of Credit Control System (eLOCCS) – LOCCS is HUD's primary grant disbursement system utilized by CoCs and CoC Program recipients, among others. Disbursements are facilitated via eLOCCS, which can be accessed through the HUD internet portal called Secure Systems.



Emergency Shelter (ES) – A facility where the primary purpose is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for people experiencing homelessness. The CoC Program and ESG fund ES projects.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – The ESG program is administered by HUD and provides grants by formula to States, cities, and counties for essential services related to Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach, and Homeless Prevention services. The City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and THDCA are allocated ESG funding in accordance with the percentage of CDBG funding each jurisdiction was allocated the previous fiscal year.

Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (ESG CARES/ESG-CV) – The CARES Act made \$3.96 Billion available for the ESG CARES program. The purpose of these funds is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Thus far, there have been 2 rounds of ESG-CV funding.

E-snaps – E-snaps is the electronic system that HUD’s SNAPS office uses to support the CoC Program funding application and grant awards process for the CoC Program.

Fair Market Rent (FMR) – FMR is regularly published by HUD and represents the cost to rent a moderately-priced dwelling unit in the local housing market.

Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) – The GIW report is used annually to record all grants within a CoC’s geographical area that are eligible for renewal funding for an upcoming CoC Program Competition. The GIW calculates an Annual Renewal Amount for each project, which determines the CoC’s Annual Renewal Demand.

HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program – HOME is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. HOME funds are awarded annually as formula grants to participating jurisdictions. The program’s flexibility allows states and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancements, or rental assistance or security deposits.

Homeless Data Exchange 1.0 (HDX 1.0) – HDX 1.0 is an online submission tool for CoC reporting to HUD. CoCs submit data for PIT, HIC, and SPM in 1.0.

Homeless Data Exchange 2.0 (HDX 2.0) – HDX is an online submission tool for CoC reporting to HUD. CoCs submit data for LSA and can access Stella in 2.0.

Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act – The HEARTH Act was an amendment to the Housing and Community Development act of 1992, which authorized McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs. It made numerous changes, including: homelessness prevention was expanded; new incentives in place to emphasize RRH for families; emphasized housing those experiencing chronic homelessness; and added flexibilities for rural communities.



Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – A HMIS is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and those at-risk of homelessness. Each CoC is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD’s data standards.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Standards – The HMIS data standards are established by HUD, the US Department of Health & Human Services, and the VA to allow for standardized collection on homeless individuals and families across systems.

Homeless Prevention (HP) – HP is a project type that is funded through the CoC and ESG programs that is meant to serve those at-risk of homelessness as defined by HUD. Funding may be used to provide housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or ending up unsheltered.

Homelink (f.n.a. SAHomelink) – Homelink is the name for the San Antonio/Bexar County Coordinated Entry System.

Homelink Housing Project Waitlist – This waitlist encompasses every person that has received a Homelink assessment and is waiting for a housing referral to a project.

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) – HCVs are administered locally by public housing agencies (PHAs) and assist very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. The two PHAs in San Antonio are San Antonio Housing Authority and Housing Authority of Bexar County.

Housing First – Housing First is a HUD homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. Housing First is low-barrier and does not mandate participation in services either before obtaining housing nor to retain housing.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) – The HIC is an annual count of a CoC’s inventory of beds and units available on the night designated for the count by program type and includes beds to serve persons who are homeless as well as persons in Permanent Supportive Housing. The HIC occurs on the same night as PIT and both data sets are submitted to HUD via HDX.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) – The HOPWA program is administered by HUD and dedicates housing services to persons living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA is managed locally by COSA and Bexar County.

Housing Problem Solving – See *Diversion*

High Performing Community (HPC) – A Collaborative Applicant can request HPC status from HUD if they meet certain requirements. The benefits of HPC status include

increased funding for Homeless Prevention and a widened scope of acceptable matching contributions.

HUD Homeless Definition - An individual who belongs to one of the following categories:

- Category 1: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; or
 - An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
 - An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
- Category 2: Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence
- Category 3: Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; or
- Category 4: Any individual or family who:
 - Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence; and
 - Has no other residence; and
 - Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) – A report produced from HMIS and submitted annually to HUD that provides critical information about how people experiencing homelessness use their system of care. The LSA is similar to SPM but the key differences are that it focuses on households as opposed to all persons served; separates PSH and RRH projects; provides detailed breakdowns for household types, populations, and demographic characteristics; provides average distributions of lengths of time, i.e. length of time homeless, length of time of return, etc.

Match – The stipulation set by a grant-providing body that the recipients of a grant raise a certain percentage of the money they require, generally a sum more or less equal to that of the sum of money being granted.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act – The McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 is a United States federal law that provides federal money for homeless shelter programs.

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) – A NOFA is an announcement of a grant funding opportunity. The term “NOFA” is often used to describe the annual CoC Program NOFA.

Permanent Housing (PH) – Community-based housing without a designated length of stay, which includes both Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH). Examples of permanent housing include, but are not limited to, a house or apartment with a month-to-month or annual lease term or home ownership.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) – PSH is a project funded through CoC and is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability.

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count – The PIT Count is a census conducted by CoCs of persons experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a single night in January. A sheltered count is required each year and an unsheltered count must be conducted at least every other year. PIT data gathered helps inform strategic decisions for the community and the federal government.

Preliminary Pro-Rata Need (PPRN) – The PPRN is the formula HUD uses to establish a CoC’s initial need amount during the annual CoC Program NOFA process, a part of determining a CoC’s maximum award amount in a given fiscal year.

Prioritization Policy – A prioritization policy determines who is prioritized for housing services through the Coordinated Entry System. This policy is determined by the community.

Priority Pool – A priority pool is a top percentage of the Homelink Housing Project Waitlist that will be referred to housing projects. A priority pool helps housing providers ready a person for housing as they know who will be getting referred.

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) – The PATH HUD program is designed to support the outreach, engagement and delivery of services to eligible persons who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorder. PATH is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) and is allotted to states and territories.

Provider Liability Assurance and Community Empowerment (PLACE) – The PLACE program is a collaborative project with the Neighborhood and Housing Services



Department (NHSD) and provides funding that can be set-aside on behalf of a client in case damages occur. Case managers apply for the program on behalf of their client through SARA.

Public Housing Authority (PHA) – PHAs provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Local PHAs include San Antonio Housing Authority and Bexar County Housing Authority.

Rapid Exit – See *Diversion*

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) – RRH is a project funded through CoC, ESG, and YHDP that rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.

Referral Solutions Score (RSS) – The RSS determines who will be added to the Homelink Housing Project Waitlist and is a combination of facts that determines vulnerability.

Request for Proposal (RFP) – An RFP is a formal request to receive applications to complete a specific project or services for an organization.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) – Funded through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the RHY program provides street outreach, emergency shelter, and long-term transitional living and maternity group home programs to serve and protect young people.

Safe Haven (SH) – SH is a supportive housing project that serves hard to reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who came from the streets and have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services.

Sage HMIS Reporting Repository – Sage is the system where CoC and ESG grant recipients submit data to HUD, including APRs.

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) – The SRO program is funded by HUD and managed by PHAs to assist very low-income, single, homeless individuals in obtaining decent, safe, and sanitary housing in privately owned, rehabilitated buildings. The two PHAs in San Antonio are San Antonio Housing Authority and Housing Authority of Bexar County.

Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) – SNAPS is a HUD department focused on homelessness and housing programs.

SQUARES – A VA web application that provides external homeless service organizations with reliable, detailed information about Veteran eligibility.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery Program (SOAR) – SOAR is designed to help states increase access to SSI/SSDI for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

Stella Performance Module (Stella P) - Stella P is a system that relies on dynamic visuals of CoCs' data to illustrate how households move through the homeless system, and to highlight outcome disparities. Stella P does the analytical heavy lifting, so your CoC can focus on planning and improving your crisis response system.

Street Outreach (SO) – SO is project funded through ESG and YHDP that provides essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless persons and connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services.

System Performance Measures (SPM) – The SPM report is a summary and year-to-year comparison of system wide counts, averages, and medians related to seven areas of performance. CoCs are required to submit data on their SPM annually.

Supportive Services Only (SSO) – SSO is a project type that provides services to assist with retainment of housing.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) – A HUD funded program that aims to improve very low-income Veteran families' housing stability with outreach and case management services; will assist participants to obtain VA benefits and other public benefits, which may include, health care services, daily living services, personal financial planning services, transportation services, fiduciary and payee services, legal services, child care services, housing counseling services, and temporary financial assistance.

Transitioning Age Youth Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision

Assistance Tool (TAY-VI-SPDAT) – An assessment tool utilized during a Homelink enrollment to determine need that is specific toward individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 years old.

Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) – A HOME program to help low-income families pay their rent and related housing expenses.

Transitional Housing (TH) – Time-limited housing, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing within 24 months or such longer period as the Secretary determines necessary.

VA Supportive Housing Program (VASH) – A combination program that involves a rental assistance subsidy provided by a local public housing authority combined with case management provided by VA.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) – VOCA is a HUD funded program that provides emergency assistance for victims of domestic violence and to support victim-specific transitional housing programs.

Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) –

An evidence-based assessment tool utilized during a Homelink enrollment that combines the Vulnerability Index (VI) to determine the chronicity and medical



vulnerability of homeless individuals, and the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool to help the CE system allocate resources in a logical, targeted way.

Unified Funding Agency (UFA) – A Collaborative Applicant may apply for UFA designation during the CoC Program Registration if they fit the requirements. A UFA applies to HUD for funding for all projects in the geographic area, receives and distributes funds to subrecipients, and enters into legally binding agreements with subrecipients. A CoC may receive administrative funding for this designation and can be more flexible with moving funding to different projects and with match requirements.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – A U.S. government agency created in 1965 to support community development and home ownership. HUD funds the CoC Program among others and there is a local HUD field office as well as the federal office.

We Empower San Antonio Youth (WE SAY) – WE SAY is the Coordinated Community Plan for San Antonio/Bexar County through YHDP. WE SAY was completed in Spring 2020. *See also: CCP, YHDP, YAB.*

Written Standards – Written Standards detail how a project should operate, i.e. RRH, PSH, etc. A CoC is required to work collaboratively with Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions and the community to develop Written Standards.

Youth Action Board (YAB) – San Antonio’s Youth Action Board is a governing body in the CoC that is composed of young adults between the ages of 18-25, 2/3 of whom must have lived expertise in homelessness. The YAB was originally created to inform on SARAH’s YHDP application submission and since has obtained a voting seat on the CoC Board.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) – HUD created the YHDP initiative to reduce the number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. SARAH was selected in Round 3 of YHDP funding and received \$6.88 Million to fund youth-specific programs. *See also YAB, CCP, WE SAY.*

Acronyms

| | |
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| AAQ | Ask A Question |
| AHAR | Annual Homeless Assessment Report |
| AMI | Area Median Income |
| APR | Annual Performance Report |
| ARD | Annual Renewal Demand |
| BNL | By-Name List |
| CAPER | Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report |
| CCP | Coordinated Community Plan |
| CDBG | Community Development Block Grant |



Alliance to House Everyone

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|------------------------------|--|
| CE | Coordinated Entry |
| CH | Chronic Homelessness |
| CHO | Contributing HMIS Organization |
| CoC | Continuum of Care |
| CPD | Community Planning and Development |
| CW | CaseWorthy |
| CQI | Continuous Quality Improvement |
| DV | Domestic Violence |
| eloccs | Electronic Line of Credit Control System |
| ES | Emergency Shelter |
| ESG | Emergency Solutions Grant |
| ESG CARES/ ESG-CV | Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act |
| esnaps | Electronic data system for SNAP |
| FMR | Fair Market Rent |
| FVPS | Family Violence Prevention Services |
| GIW | Grant Inventory Worksheet |
| HABC | Housing Authority of Bexar County |
| HCV | Housing Choice Voucher aka Section 8 |
| HDX 1.0 | Homeless Data Exchange 1.0 (PIT, HIC, and SPM) |
| HDX 2.0 | Homeless Data Exchange 2.0 (LSA and Stella) |
| HEARTH | Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing |
| HIC | Housing Inventory Count |
| HMIS | Homeless Management Information System |
| HOPWA | Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS |
| HP | Homeless Prevention |
| HPC | High Performing Community |
| HUD | U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development |
| IRT | Independent Review Team |
| LSA | Longitudinal Systems Analysis Report |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NHSD | Neighborhood and Housing Services Department |
| NOFA | Notice of Funding Availability |
| PATH | Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness |
| PHA | Public Housing Authority |
| PIT | Point-in-Time |
| PLACE | Provider Liability Assurance and Community Empowerment |
| PPRN | Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) |
| PSH | Permanent Supportive Housing |
| PYD | Positive Youth Development |
| RFP | Request for Proposal |
| RHY | Runaway & Homeless Youth |
| RRH | Rapid Rehousing |

South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless

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| RSS | Referral Solutions Score |
| SAHA | San Antonio Housing Authority |
| SH | Safe Haven |
| SNAP | Special Needs Assistance Programs |
| SOAR | SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery Program |
| SPM | System Performance Measures Report |
| SRO | Single Room Occupancy |
| SSDI | Social Security Disability Income |
| SSI | Supplemental Security Income |
| SSO | Supportive Services Only |
| SSVF | Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program |
| TA | Technical Assistance |
| TAY-VI-SPDAT | Transitioning Age Youth VI-SPDAT |
| TBRA | Tenant Based Rental Assistance |
| TDHCA | Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs |
| TH | Transitional Housing |
| TIC | Trauma Informed Care |
| THN | Texas Homeless Network |
| UFA | Unified Funding Agency |
| USICH | U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness |
| VASH | HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program |
| VAWA | Violence Against Women Act |
| VI-SPDAT | Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool |
| WE SAY | We Empower San Antonio Youth |
| YAB | Youth Action Board |
| YHDP | Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program |