

Southern Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness

Taking place on September 16th & 17th at the Emory University Conference Center, the Southern Symposium, co-sponsored by Point Source Youth and PRISM Health Team at the Rollins School of Public Health is a youth-led Southern conference- for the South, by the South - that provides over 300 Southern attendees with the tools to launch solutions that work so the most vulnerable youth get the housing, services, and care they need to flourish in life. The Southern Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness has a special focus on supporting the needs of the most marginalized youth in the South, including youth of color and LGBTQ youth. The Southern Symposium will connect 50 local partner organizations and academic institutions, including Emory University and Georgia State University to provide a platform to introduce and discuss innovative strategies and new resources. A key component to the Southern Symposium will be networking among participants, with multiple opportunities for service providers, governmental officials, advocates, and youth to build stronger connections among a community of folks interested in ending youth homelessness in the South

The Southern Symposium will connect those working to end youth homelessness and provide a platform to introduce and discuss innovative strategies and new resources. A 30+ person steering committee representing agencies, institutions and communities across the South have created the agenda and invited speaker list. Youth have been a part of the steering committee and will be key speakers at multiple sessions at the symposium. All speakers will be from the South, lifting up the good work being done and creating the impetus for expansion of that work. There are also confirmed speakers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Southern Symposium's daily plenaries will focus on key topics in responding to youth homeless in the South.

- Housing and Healthcare
- Serving LGBTQ Youth and the Role of Stigma
- Housing, Health & Reproductive Rights in the South
- Race & Privilege: A Conversation with Youth & Providers
- HIV Health and Youth Homelessness
- Examining Race, Power and Privilege
- Supporting Youth in the Rural South
- Housing and Intersectional Social Justice

Breakout sessions will include trainings for participants to learn practical skills they can implement immediately in their communities and organizations, improving the lives of young people experiencing homelessness across the South.

- Rapid Re-Housing 101 & 102
- Host Homes 101 & 102
- Creating and Effective YAB and Lead Effective Youth Engagement in Program
- Coordinated Community Response to Ending Youth Homelessness

- Training: Supporting Trans Clients
- Latest Data and Research on Youth Homelessness
- Engaging with Faith Communities to Support Youth
- Family Strengthening 101 - Everything you need to know about Family Strengthening
- HUD Questions and Answers
- Training: Combating Adultism in Your Agency
- Trans Rights and Housing
- Philanthropy's Role in Ending Youth Homelessness in the South
- Mental Health & Trauma Informed Care Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness