

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY)

Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee (HCYSC)

2025-2027 Strategic Plan

Background and History

- In 1982, the Oklahoma legislature enacted House Bill 1468, establishing the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY). Responding to the pressing need for reform, this legislative measure aimed to institute a robust framework for accountability and oversight within the state's child and youth service systems
- In 1990, the legislature established the Office of Planning and Coordination for Services to Children and Youth within OCCY. (10 O.S. § 601.6a.) A primary objective of the office is to facilitate collaboration between child serving state agencies, other public and private sector service providers, and stakeholders to address deficits in these systems effectively.
- In 2015, the legislature directed the office to "Review data and propose policy solutions relating to the issue of child homelessness. . ." (10 O.S. § 601.6c.) In response, the Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee (HCYSC) was established to study trends in the number of children and youth reported to be homeless and to examine the state's role in providing services to this population and those at risk of homelessness.



A Roadmap for Change

The culmination of a lengthy and thoughtful process, the OCCY Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee Strategic Plan is a roadmap to enhance policy, deepen connections with communities of support, and strengthen capacity for future growth. Achieving the goals outline in this plan will broaden and ensure that families in Oklahoma can live, work, and thrive in sustainable, stable housing.



Strategic Planning Process

April 2024

HCYSC collaborates with Restorative Justice Institute of Oklahoma to coordinate and facilitate the strategic planning process.

HCYSC Strategic Planning Subcommittee is formed, with leadership from Susan Agel, Chair.

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July - October 2024

Seven community listening sessions were held to engage stakeholders, including Community Action Agency and Head Start staff, McKinney-Vento liaisons, two separate groups of youth and young adults currently in shelter, mothers in shelter, and the HCYSC.

November 2024

HCYSC hosts a one-day in-person and virtual strategy (hybrid) summit with over 90 participants from across the state to establish areas of focus, obtain wide-spread feedback, and align values.

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November 2024 - February 2025

Ongoing data analysis, synthesis of stakeholder input, and collaboration occurred to form strategic plan.



Vision, Mission & Core Values

Vision

Every child, youth, and family in Oklahoma has a safe, stable, and nurturing place to call home.

Mission

The HCYSC collaboratively drives systems change by championing data-informed, family-centered solutions that prevent and end homelessness among children, youth, and families in Oklahoma.

Core Values

- Collaboration
- Respect
- Empowerment
- Continuous Improvement
- Accountability



Strategic Priority Areas



1. Legislative Policy

Influencing policy changes at relevant levels to create systemic shifts.



2. Collaborative Partnerships

Building alliances across different sectors, organizations, and communities to address complex issues requiring multifaceted solutions.



3. Data & Continuous Improvement

Utilizing data to understand the current system dynamics, identify areas for improvement, and measure the impact of interventions.



Policy

Goal 1: Reduce systemic barriers for unhoused children, youth, and families by advocating for legislative policy changes that remove obstacles to housing stability and improve long-term outcomes.

Objective 1.1:

Collaborate with key coalitions and housing initiatives to advocate for the needs of children, youth, and families in state level legislative and policy discussion.

- Build partnerships with at least 3 key organizations focused on housing and homelessness.
- Contribute to at least 5 coalition meetings, community listening sessions, or policy discussions annually, representing unhoused children and families.
- Track outcomes from partnerships including specific proposal and/or policy changes influenced by a result of the collaborations annually.

Objective 1.2:

Promote early childhood homelessness policy through data, advocacy, and legislative engagement to drive policy change.

- Participate in at least 3 awareness/advocacy campaigns.
- Meet with at least 5 state legislators and/or congressional delegates annually to educate and advocate early childhood homelessness policies.
- Request and organize at least 1 legislative interim study in partnership with key child serving organizations to explore policy reform.
- Propose at least 1 legislative policy to Commission for approval and legislative agenda.

Objective 1.3:

Collect and organize data from HCYSC members to produce an annual report to the state legislature on the status and needs of unhoused children, youth, and families in Oklahoma.

- Gather reports, surveys, and other data from at least 7 HCYSC organizational members annually.
- Produce and publish the annual report with actionable recommendations for policy improvements.
- Present the report to at least 3 stakeholder groups, using the findings to educate and advocate for policy change.



Collaborative Partnerships

Goal 2: Foster and strengthen cross-sector partnerships to build a unified, collaborative system that improves resource access, service delivery, and outcomes for children, youth, and families impacted by homelessness.

Objective 2.1:

Engage the private sector in innovative partnerships to address critical issues impacting children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.

- Reach out to at least 10 private sector partners (e.g., financial services, transportation, healthcare, realty) annually using at least 3 different outreach strategies (e.g., networking events, association meetings, digital campaigns).
- Establish and/or enhance at least 2 partnerships with private sector organizations.

Objective 2.2: Engage institutions of higher learning in collaborative program efforts to create tangible education and workforce opportunities for youth and caregivers experiencing homelessness.

- Partner with at least 1 institution of higher learning annually to increase access points such as scholarships, internships, or career support programs tailored for homeless youth and caregivers.

Objective 2.3: Collaborate with lived experience leaders to inform policy and shift public perception of homelessness.

- Engage at least 5 caregivers and 5 youth (lived experience leaders) annually to co-design communication messaging and legislative policy.
- Influence at least 2 pieces of policy or public opinion by sharing testimonials in meetings, legislative hearings, or community forums.
- Promote and share at least 10 testimonials with the public and policy makers through agency and partner websites, social media, webinars, and others.



Data & Continuous Improvement

Goal 3: Enhance data collection, analysis, and continuous improvement practices to better understand and address child, youth, and family homelessness.

Objective 3.1:

Collaborate with state agencies and other stakeholder groups to disseminate data findings.

- Partner with the Oklahoma State Department of Health to distribute the findings of the bi-annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to at least 3 stakeholder groups.
- Partner with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to distribute findings from the annual report of the number of students identified annually to at least 3 stakeholder groups.
- Distribute at least 2 additional data reports to at least 3 stakeholder groups.

Objective 3.2:

Implement qualitative and quantitative data collection efforts to guide strategic direction.

- Conduct at least 2 community listening sessions and at least 1 survey with stakeholders in rural areas annually.
- Analyze and report data from community listening sessions / surveys and share findings with at least 2 stakeholder groups annually.
- Utilize data to inform at least 1 legislative policy initiative or partnership.

Objective 3.3:

Integrate adaptive management practices to continuously evaluate and adjust interventions based on data and stakeholder feedback.

- Establish a bi-annual feedback loop with stakeholders to review and adjust strategies, implementing at least 1 change annually based on data insights.
- Conduct an annual review of data collection methods, making at least 1 improvement each year to ensure data is accurate, comprehensive, and actionable.



Evaluation and Tracking

Utilizing OCCY's existing partnership with University of Oklahoma Educational Training, Evaluation, Assessment & Measurement (E-TEAM), the HCYSC will conduct an annual review of this strategic plan, assessing progress toward goals and objectives.

Data will be collected and analyzed regularly to track outcomes and inform necessary adjustments and will incorporate feedback from partners, stakeholders, and individuals with lived experience to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.



Contact Information



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OKLAHOMA
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