

## Connecting *YOUth* News

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**Did YOU know??**  
According to Part 1 of HUD's 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, 194,302 youth and children were homeless on a single night in 2014. Given the difficulty of counting homeless youth, that estimate is likely an undercount.

### Comments or questions?

*Get in touch with us!*

**609-888-7100**

**Connecting YOUth Project Staff**

**Emails:**

Project Coordinator at

[Denise.Massey@dcf.state.nj.us](mailto:Denise.Massey@dcf.state.nj.us)

Or Project Youth Advocate at

[Shaquanna.Frizzelle@dcf.state.nj.us](mailto:Shaquanna.Frizzelle@dcf.state.nj.us)

### *Getting YOUth Voice!*

On behalf of the Department of Children and Families and the Office of Adolescent Services, I would like to take the time out to send a big thank you to the providers listed below for helping us to connect with youth and have their voices heard! We have learned a lot of important things from your youth. Our time spent together was interesting and adventurous. The feedback we received is still being reviewed and we will use it to help inform our intervention.

Here are some highlights and areas of focus that our youth shared with us:

- Support systems are viewed as beneficial, but sometimes there are challenges with getting the right support from the right people at the right time
- Awareness of educational funding, availability of transportation, and access to flexible childcare can be a barrier to education and employment
- Keeping your CP&P case open after 18 has many advantages
- Youth have varied definitions regarding stability and permanency. They tend to think about stability and permanency in the moment versus long-term
- Counselors and Advisors, especially in school and college are really helpful
- Mentoring for youth (especially those who experience multiple placements) is really important
- Keeping siblings together has a good effect on transitioning into adulthood

We look forward to meeting with more youth as their feedback is greatly appreciated!!

Sincerely,

*Shaquanna Frizzelle, Project Youth Advocate*





*We need YOUth!*

The YARH Planning Team is looking for youth who will be able to contribute their voice to the planning process on a regular basis. If you know a young person, over the age of 18, who would be interested in being a part of a team who is tasked with finding ways to better support youth at-risk of homelessness, please have them send their resume to Denise Massey at [Denise.Massey@dcf.state.nj.us](mailto:Denise.Massey@dcf.state.nj.us) or call 609-888-7100.

*What we've learned from the Charrette:*

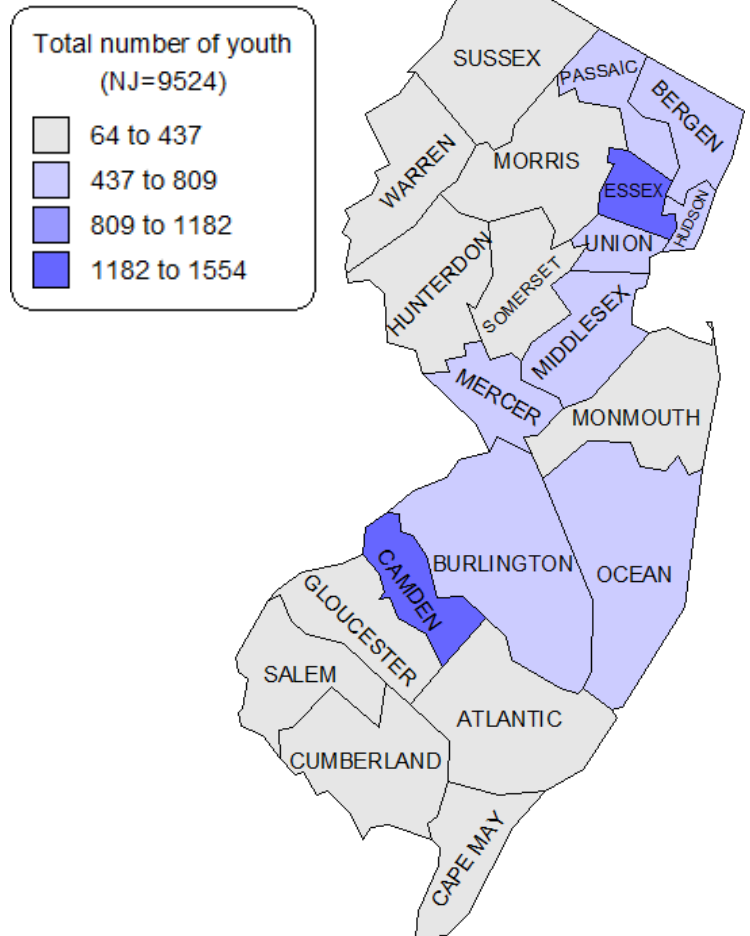
DCF, through the award of the Youth At-Risk of Homelessness federal planning grant, engaged CSH to facilitate the Charrette process to help address key issues: Housing Options, Housing Specific Populations, Permanency, and Education and Training. Following the intensive public process, CSH distilled the information into draft recommendations. CSH solicited feedback from the Charrette Steering Committee as well as additional Charrette participants including Charrette Experts, to score the level to which each recommendation was important, actionable, and within the goals of YARH. The final report can be found here: [http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NJDCF\\_Charrette-Final-Report\\_2.12.15.pdf](http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NJDCF_Charrette-Final-Report_2.12.15.pdf)

This report will help to inform our Phase II intervention and can be a tool for providers and stakeholders to use in their work with young people.



*Intro to the YARH Data Analysis*

As we work to get a clear picture of our three populations, please see the map below. This map outlines population 1, the total number of youth who were in CP&P care for at least 1 week at the age of 14-17 between Jan 2008–June 2014 (by county at first removal episode). Creating a geographical map of where our youth are located is one step in the process to identifying necessary services to prevent youth homelessness.



*What's Around the Corner...*

- Currently, Child Trends is analyzing data about youth from across multiple systems.
- The FOA for Phase II of the YARH Implementation Grant is estimated to be posted on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring 2015: Project Staff are working to design a website that will chronicle Connecting YOUth progress and provide a forum for youth to connect with Project Youth Advocates.

**STAY TUNED!!!!**

*If you are interested in participating in an upcoming event or hosting a focus group at your program, please contact the Connecting YOUth Project Staff by 4/15/15!*