

# LGBTQIA+ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

## The Facts

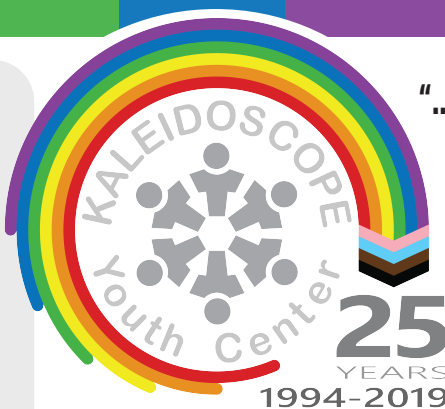


There is an estimated **1,750** homeless or at risk to be homeless LGBTQIA+ youth in **Columbus**



**LGBTQIA+ Youth** are **120%** more likely to be **homeless** than their peers

Of all homeless youth, roughly **40% are unaccounted for** because they are **not eligible** to access current services based on federal guidelines, and/or there are **not mechanisms developed** to accurately record their experiences.



**"...I feel like Kaleidoscope was there to save me..."**

- Waverly, Rapid Re-Housing

### Contact KYC:

---> 614-294-5437  
---> [info@kycoho.org](mailto:info@kycoho.org)  
---> 603 E. Town St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

For 25 years, KYC has provided safer and affirming spaces where young LGBTQIA+ folx can explore their sense of self in a supportive environment. Though the fact remains that many young people still find themselves in unsafe homes, schools, and communities. Many times, these youth end up on the streets, and because of their gender identity or expression are unable to find supportive services in the community. KYC is centering these young people by providing a "safety net" program utilizing a "housing first" model.



**1 in 3** trans individuals are turned away from shelters due to their gender identity

## What is the federal definition of homelessness?

Traditional and federally funded housing programs currently available are geared towards those who are at imminent risk of homelessness - within 14 days of being homeless - or are literally homeless. This definition may require young people to live in unsafe environments such as in tents, cars, "on the land", or in abusive homes. While the need to serve youth whom are literally homeless is real, **this restricted focus creates barriers, and a gap in services for LGBTQIA+ young people** whose housing is insecure or vulnerable due to lack of acceptance or safety within their homes.

# HOUSING FIRST MODEL

"..it's made me see that there is hope."

- Jay, Rapid Re-Housing

The Housing First model is a low barrier approach that offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and then provides the supportive services and connections to the community-based resources people need to keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness.

KYC's Housing Programs support young adults ages 18-24, and include:

## Rapid Re-Housing

A program that helps young people prevent or quickly exit homelessness and enter into safe, stable housing. Assistance is offered without preconditions; and resources and services provided are responsive to unique individual needs.

## Supportive Co-Housing

A supportive intentional living opportunity designed to meet the needs of homeless or housing insecure and vulnerable young people. Renovations to our Carriage House are underway for this innovative project, which will be **the first of its kind in Central Ohio.**

## Host Home Network

Volunteers from the community are opening up their homes for housing insecure young adults. Queer youth are finding safer, affirming homes where they also receive case management support from KYC.

"Being able to establish savings and move out on my own, to finally have some housing stability, is an amazing feeling."

- Dexter, Rapid Re-Housing

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



### Learn the Facts

Visit our website at **kycohio.org** to learn more about homelessness.



### Contact your Reps

Let them know you support funding for safety net programs like KYC's.



### Spread the Word

Share our info on social media w/ **#ItTakesAVillage**



### Volunteer

Become a Host Home volunteer.  
Learn more at:  
**kycohio.org/housing**



### Donate

Provide in-kind donations like furniture and kitchenware to stock our programs: **kycohio.org/give-now**



**Belonging Begins Here.**  
**www.KYCOHIO.org**