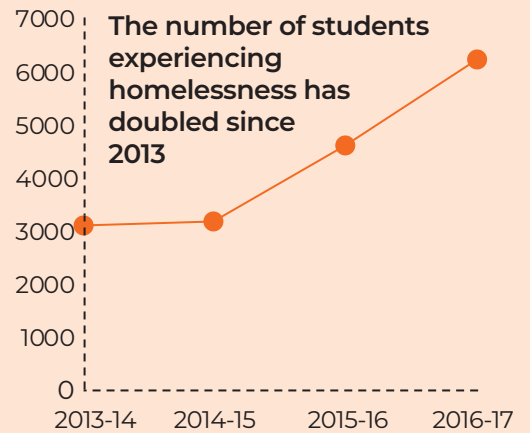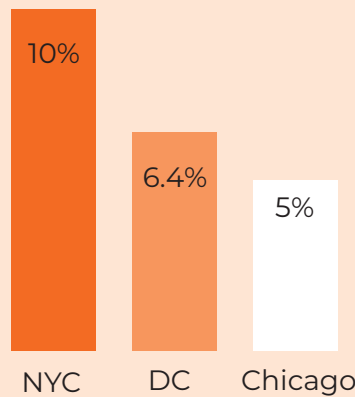# Homelessness

All DC children and youth need safe and stable housing to thrive.

## DC IS AMONG CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF CHILD HOMELESSNESS IN THE NATION

6.4% of DCPS and public charter students are experiencing homelessness or are housing unstable:

NYC 10%
DC 6.4%
Chicago 5%

The number of students experiencing homelessness has doubled since 2013

(Line graph, y-axis: 0–7000, x-axis: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17)

## HOMELESSNESS SERVICES MUST BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC YOUTH POPULATIONS

Among teenagers and young adults, homelessness is complex and often hidden

**1,117**

youth under the age of 25 experience homelessness or housing instability

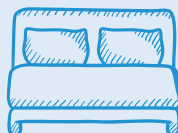**OVER 30%** of homeless youth in DC identify as LGBTQ

Yet only 9% of youth housing programs have expertise working with LGBTQ youth

## HOMELESS YOUTH IN DC STILL FACE TOO MANY BARRIERS TO ACCESS THE SERVICES THEY NEED

The District funds 553 beds for homeless youth. However, this still leaves a

**564**

bed deficit

Without stable housing, youth struggle to:

find meaningful employment

complete their education

access trauma, substance abuse, or behavioral health supports

## All DC children and youth need safe and stable housing to thrive.

1. Many children and youth exit the foster care or juvenile justice systems into homelessness or housing instability. How would you work with others in DC government to prevent this and ensure young people have a smooth transition?

2. Many DC families in our family homeless system are headed by a youth parent. What do you think are the best ways to support these young families? What will you do to address their unique needs and get them safe housing?

3. Young people experiencing homelessness need more than just housing to succeed. How will you ensure that these young people can take advantage of things like afterschool and summer programming, medical services, transportation to school, and other needs?

4. Experiencing homelessness can make academic achievement extremely challenging. How will you better support homeless children and youth to achieve academic and career success?

5. What other systems—outside of housing—do you plan to work with to prevent and end youth homelessness? Why would you choose these systems?