

# RTFH Awarded \$10 million Federal Grant to Help Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

*Award from HUD is Second Largest in Country; RTFH collaborated with YMCA of San Diego County and Our Time To Act in Application*

**SAN DIEGO (November 1, 2024)** ----RTFH was awarded nearly \$10 million this week from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help prevent and eliminate youth homelessness across the region.

“I want to thank HUD for this significant award and our partners, YMCA of San Diego County’s Youth & Family Services and Our Time To Act, who we collaborated with on the grant,” **said Tamera Kohler, CEO of RTFH.** “We’re committed to ending youth homelessness in our region and this grant will certainly help us achieve that goal by funding new housing options and related services.”

“Our Time To Act is honored to serve as the critical youth component of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and ensure that youth power is amplified in San Diego’s solutions to youth homelessness,” **shared Nicole Lillie, Executive Director of the youth-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit.** “All too often, youth and young leaders are tokenized. We thank HUD, the YMCA of San Diego County, and RTFH for breaking from this debilitating pattern. We look forward to an authentic, intergenerational partnership that will create youth-forward solutions to homelessness in San Diego.”

HUD announced Tuesday that 14 communities across the country, including three in California, were awarded a total of \$72 million to help prevent and end youth homelessness following a competitive bidding process.

The \$9,754,764 awarded to RTFH is second only to \$15 million awarded to All Chicago Making Homelessness History.

“We are excited and grateful to bring additional funds into the region focused on young people, knowing that interrupting housing instability and homelessness early on can prevent suffering and reduce chronic adult homelessness,” **said Krysta Esquivel, Vice President of Social Services for the YMCA of San Diego County.** “HUD’s investment in our region is recognition of our community’s collective dedication and effectiveness in addressing youth homelessness.”

This funding, through HUD’s [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\)](#), will support various housing solutions, such as rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and host homes, HUD said.

The goal of YHDP is to support selected communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. RTFH first received [funding from HUD](#) to address youth homelessness in 2018.

“Young people across our country deserve a stable home and a supportive community,” HUD Agency Head Adrienne Todman [said in a news release](#). “We are leading the charge in partnering with communities, our federal partners, and youth who have experienced homelessness to increase the housing supply for those among the most vulnerable in our communities and make significant strides in the fight to prevent and end youth homelessness.”

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tony Manolatos, [tony@manolatospa.com](mailto:tony@manolatospa.com)

**About RTFH:** *The Regional Task Force on Homelessness’ mission is to reduce and end homelessness in San Diego, ensuring that if this situation does happen for anyone, it remains a rare, brief and non-recurring instance; not an outcome. As the Continuum of Care lead agency in San Diego County, RTFH administers many of the core federal requirements from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. RTFH also serves as a strategic planning body, funder, regional convener, promoter of best practices, trainer, policy leader, and advisor in San Diego’s collective efforts to end homelessness. Please consider attending our annual conference in December, [Mindset, Motivation & Moxie: Rewriting San Diego’s Homelessness Story](#). For more information, please visit: [www.rtfhsd.org](http://www.rtfhsd.org)*

**About Our Time To Act:** *Our Time To Act is a youth-led, youth-founded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that organizes powerful youth for an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future. Our work focuses on building community power for justice and equity as we shape our future. Through the elimination of exclusionary zoning, enacting social housing, and ending youth homelessness, Our Time To Act serves and engages youth ages 15-24 across the San Diego region seeking housing justice. Our work also builds youth power by making leadership opportunities open to youth to practice skills in organizing and advocacy to make change in our communities. More information about Our Time To Act can be found at [ourtimetoact.org](http://ourtimetoact.org). You can follow us on social media on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).*

**About the YMCA of San Diego County :** *The YMCA of San Diego County is one of the largest Y associations in the nation, serving over 400,000 San Diego County residents and employing more than 4,500 people. Through a variety of programs and services focused on community well-being and belonging, the Y unites individuals - regardless of age, income, or background - to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation’s health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The YMCA of San Diego County nurtures a healthy spirit, mind, and body so all can thrive while honoring our faith-based heritage. Visit [ymcasd.org](http://ymcasd.org) to find your local YMCA or call (858) 292-YMCA (9622).*

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