

“That every family has a home”

Through conversations and designing new housing layouts the importance of having your own space was identified in order to be able to grow, feel safe and comfort for all youth, including youth in-care. The need for space is important for everyone inside the home as well as space around the home to allow for a variety of uses including gardening and children’s play areas.

“Feel hope to access housing”

Workshop participants also identified the need for more diverse housing types for singles, couples and those wishing to live with roommates. Constructing diverse housing types is a critical need and it was identified that being able to see even small scale change such as two to three smaller homes in each community in the next five years would indicate a positive step forward.

Beyond providing housing for youth, support is needed for young people transitioning into their own homes. Participants shared that there

can be a stigma about responsibility and youth taking care of their own spaces. As a solution it was suggested that different types of assistance are needed such as guidance for basic home maintenance and also improved physical and mental health programs in community would provide youth and young families with an opportunity to be fully independent within their own spaces.

Special attention is also needed for youth in-care and youth transitioning out of care. Group homes and foster homes should be welcoming and safe places for youth. Youth transitioning out of care may have a more difficult time accessing housing in their communities and in the city. Greater support and consideration should be given to youth in these situations to prevent homelessness and housing insecurity.

Housing needs and issues effect demographic groups differently. Throughout the process of creating the NAN Housing Strategy, youth will continually be engaged to learn about their needs, goals and aspirations.

Next Steps

Get involved in Phase 1: Housing System Profiles of the NAN Housing Strategy:

- Share housing documents such as housing needs assessments to help create community housing profiles
- Attend the NAN Housing, Environment & Climate Change Symposium on March 26 & 27, 2019
- Offer to be a participating community for Phase 2 metrics development

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