

**Contact:**

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**ADVISORY  
FACT SHEET**

- WHO:** Homeless Youth Connection is a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive services to youth between the ages of 13 to 21 who are experiencing homelessness.
- WHAT:** HYC eliminates barriers to education so that youth experiencing homelessness can graduate high school and create lasting solutions for a successful future.
- WHERE:** HYC partners with more than 120 high schools throughout Maricopa County.
- WHY:** The AZ Dept. of Education reported more than 9,000 homeless youth, in 9th-12th grade, are living in Maricopa County and more than 3,000 are unaccompanied youth.
- HOW:** Youth coaches work together with youth to identify needs related to academics, health, housing, hygiene, employment, and independent living skills. Youth then identify their strengths and goals, and partner with the youth coach to establish a plan. HYC believes that through authentic youth engagement and positive youth development, youth will succeed and reach their highest potential.

To address the housing needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, HYC implemented a host family model which provides shelter, food and transportation for youth, while HYC delivers case management and comprehensive services.

**NEED FOR HYC:**

- The U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) December 2017 report stated that more than 1.3 million youth were identified as homeless and attending school. On average, more than 75 % of homeless youth drop out of school.
- The 2017 Arizona Homelessness Annual Report stated that 24,118 children were homeless throughout the state. Of those, 66% were reported as doubled-up, 26% were living in shelters, 1% were living in unsheltered situations (such as cars, parks, campgrounds and abandoned buildings) and 7% were temporarily residing in hotels or motels due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations. HYC's population mirrors these statistics. Historically, approximately 70% of HYC youth are part of an entire family who is homeless, and 30% of youth are unaccompanied homeless youth.
- A 2018 study prepared for the Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable indicated that approximately 18,000 children dropped out of school each year, resulting in a lifetime cost to society of more than \$9.2 billion. That is an average cost of \$498,920 per child.