



Youth REACH MD Youth Count 2026

Recommended Methods: A CoC Checklist

Preparing

- ☐ Review your CoC's data and count debriefs from previous years to identify key areas of focus or strategies to employ
- ☐ Review materials available on youthreachmd.com & Youth REACH Shared Google Drive
- ☐ Attend steering committee meetings, regional planning calls, and webinars
 - ☐ Youth REACH Survey - 2026 Youth Count Planning Meeting Dates: 12/11/2025, 1/8/2025 & 2/12/2025
- ☐ Meet with DHCD for Technical Assistance

Building a Team

- ☐ Recruit a minimum of 3 Youth Ambassadors to your leadership team and involve them as early and as much as possible, including having them:
 - ☐ Identify locations to post flyers and/or administer surveys
 - ☐ Map routes for survey administration
 - ☐ Develop scripts to use when approaching youth to survey
 - ☐ Administer surveys
 - ☐ Develop marketing strategies
 - ☐ Help train volunteers
 - ☐ Plan magnet events
 - ☐ Select survey participation incentives
 - ☐ Act as program ambassadors
 - ☐ Promote the count in their communities and on social media

Building a Team (continued)

- ☐ Engage a wide variety of partners (See below list for suggested partners):
 - ☐ Public schools (start with McKinney Vento Liaisons – they receive info from Valerie at MSDE about YRMD)
 - ☐ Colleges, universities, and technical schools (financial aid staff especially)
 - ☐ Hospitals
 - ☐ Advocacy organizations and legal service providers
 - ☐ Religious institutions
 - ☐ Soup kitchens/food pantries
 - ☐ Police departments and emergency services
 - ☐ Community Centers
 - ☐ Homeless service providers
 - ☐ Community Coalitions
 - ☐ Local Management Board
 - ☐ Local government agencies (social services, juvenile services, health department, parks and rec, etc.)
 - ☐ Local businesses
 - ☐ Libraries
 - ☐ LGBTQ- and immigrant-serving organizations
 - ☐ American Job Centers/local workforce boards
 - ☐ Other direct service providers (mental health, substance use, etc.)
- ☐ Engage your local YABs hosting agency or reach out to YHSI for more information

Planning

- ☐ Hold local planning meetings prior to the count to prepare
- ☐ Create an action plan for implementation of your selected count strategies
- ☐ Plan to use a mix of all of the following count strategies:
 - ☐ Site/service-based
 - ☐ School-based
 - ☐ Street outreach

Getting the Word Out

- ☐ Develop uses social media, local news stations, flyers/posters, and radio to advertise and distribute the survey
- ☐ Place flyers/posters at a variety of locations including the ones below:
 - ☐ Local businesses
 - ☐ Libraries
 - ☐ Local government buildings/offices
 - ☐ Police/fire departments
 - ☐ Community events/fairs/festivals
 - ☐ Service providers (homeless service providers and others)
 - ☐ Youth-identified hotspots (e.g. malls, community centers, parks, clubs, laundry mats, fast food restaurants)
 - ☐ Colleges, universities, and vocational schools
 - ☐ Places of worship
 - ☐ Bus stops and other transportation hubs
 - ☐ Public schools
 - ☐ Hotels/motels
 - ☐ Storage facilities
 - ☐ Methadone clinics

Surveying Methods & Strategies

- ☐ Distribute survey at multiple types of locations:
 - ☐ Public schools (focus on high schools)
 - ☐ Libraries
 - ☐ Youth-identified hotspots (e.g. malls, community centers, parks, clubs, laundry mats, fast food restaurants)
 - ☐ Colleges, universities, and vocational schools
 - ☐ Soup kitchens/food pantries
 - ☐ Homeless service providers
 - ☐ Other service providers
 - ☐ LGBTQ service providers
 - ☐ Methadone clinics
 - ☐ Encampments
 - ☐ Local government offices (social services, health department, etc.)
 - ☐ Nightlife locations
 - ☐ Religious institutions
- ☐ Because the survey is fully digital be sure to post in as many places as possible and advertise the QR Code for the survey

Wrap Up

- ☐ Debrief and complete debrief questionnaire as a group