



YOUTH**EMPOWERMENT**
S U C C E S S S E R V I C E S

2022 Annual Report



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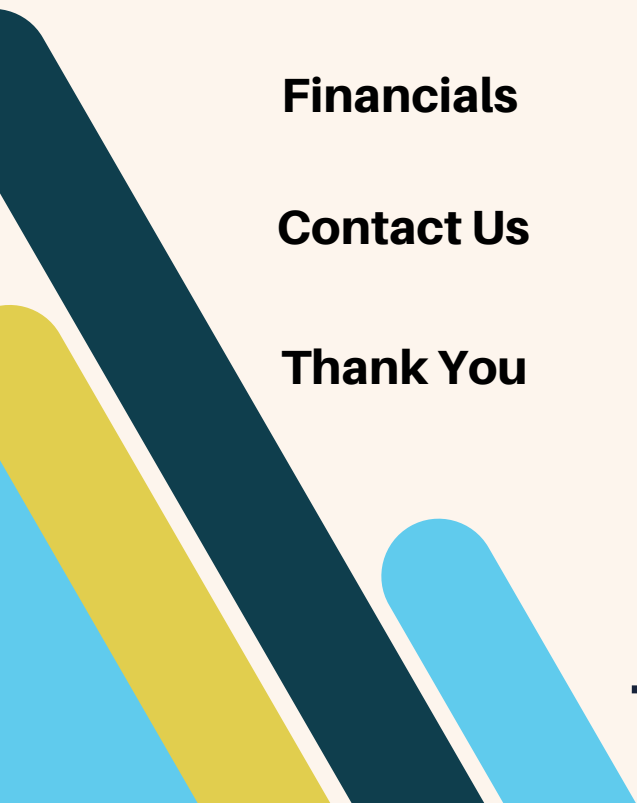
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LETTER FROM CEO

Dear Friends of YESS:

I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the fiscal year of 2022, highlighting the success and achievements. This year has been incredibly exciting as we have continued to expand our services and positively impact the lives of young people exiting foster care and experiencing homelessness.

Our mission has always been to empower young people to reach their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances. And this year, we have been able to do just that, thanks to our team of dedicated professionals and the support of our shareholders.

We have achieved significant milestones this year, such as launching new programs that provide educational resources, mentorship, and career development opportunities for young people. We have also expanded our services to reach more communities and focus on addressing the unique challenges young people experiencing foster care and homelessness face.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed, as we have received a major grant and recognition for our work. This is a testament to our team's dedication and hard work and the impact we are making on the lives of young people in Georgia.

We proudly report that our financial performance has been strong, with revenue growth and profitability exceeding our expectations. This success allows us to reinvest in our programs and expand our reach, ensuring we continue positively impacting young people's lives for years to come.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities. We remain committed to our mission of empowering young people to reach their full potential, and we are confident that with the support of our shareholders and partners, we will continue to achieve great success.

Thank you for your continued support and investment in our mission.

Sincerely,

Ebony Harris

Chief Executive Officer



VISION & MISSION

VISION

Youth Empowerment Success Services envisions a world where transition-aged youth live in communities with safe and stable housing, they are educated and employed with life-sustaining skills, and a lifetime of supportive adults and resources to help them create a successful future.

MISSION

To help youth obtain affordable and stable housing, practical life skills and an identifiable support system to propel them towards their future goals.

VALUES

- **Empowerment** – We value empowerment as the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.
- **Be awesome** – We strive to do great, successful, important, and rewarding work in which we can take pride. As a team, sharing our knowledge and experience and learning from one another, we are capable of great things.
- **Collaboration** – Collaborating and working as a team and a collective community will allow us to accomplish more, faster and better than chipping away individually.
- **Integrity** – We act with honesty and integrity, not compromising the truth. We show respect for and value all individuals for their diverse backgrounds, experiences, styles, approaches, and ideas.
- **Commitment to Excellence** – We will persistently create better ways of doing what we do. We will not rest on our accomplishments but will rather build on them in our personal and professional journey to be the best we can be and set new standards in the child welfare community.

OVERVIEW

Youth Empowerment Success Services, Inc. (YESS) is a nonprofit organization established in January 2016 to support older foster and homeless youth in successfully transitioning into adulthood. Each year, an alarming increase of 85,000 young adults aged 18-24 join the already growing population of 2 million homeless young adults living on the streets, in shelters, and in hazardous situations. These young individuals lack stable housing upon leaving care, essential life skills, education, and the necessary support system of a stable and caring family.

In 2022, the Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) organization achieved remarkable success in its mission to serve young adults through a range of programs and services. Throughout the year, YESS provided comprehensive support and empowering opportunities to a total of 146 young adults. It is worth noting that 18% of these individuals benefited from multiple services offered by YESS. However, the Youth Quest Independent Living program served 34 young adults in 2022, which was a 32% decrease compared to the previous year (2021).

The HUD grant award of the YHDP Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing program has fueled the growth of YESS homeless youth services. The grant has allowed YESS to expand its housing capacity, provide essential support services, and empower more young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 to overcome homelessness and achieve stability in their lives. This initiative demonstrates a significant step forward in addressing the pressing issue of youth homelessness and promoting positive outcomes for vulnerable young people in the community. This award has had a profound and positive impact on their lives, empowering them to overcome the challenges they faced. In this report, we will highlight the services provided by YESS and key financial information.

WHO WE SERVE

Our target population at Youth Empowerment Services consists of young individuals aged 18-24 who have experienced foster care and homelessness within the metro-Atlanta area. We specifically focus on the following groups:

- Young adults aged 18-21 who are currently receiving extended foster supportive services from the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services through the Independent Living Program.
- Former foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who are no longer eligible for extended foster care support services and homeless youth who have not been in foster care but have been identified as episodically homeless.
- Homeless young adults ages 18-24 as defined by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines.

Programs

- Youth Quest Independent Living Program
- Rebound Support Services
- Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention Services
- YHDP Joint Transitional/Rapid Rehousing
- Rebound Support Life Coaching

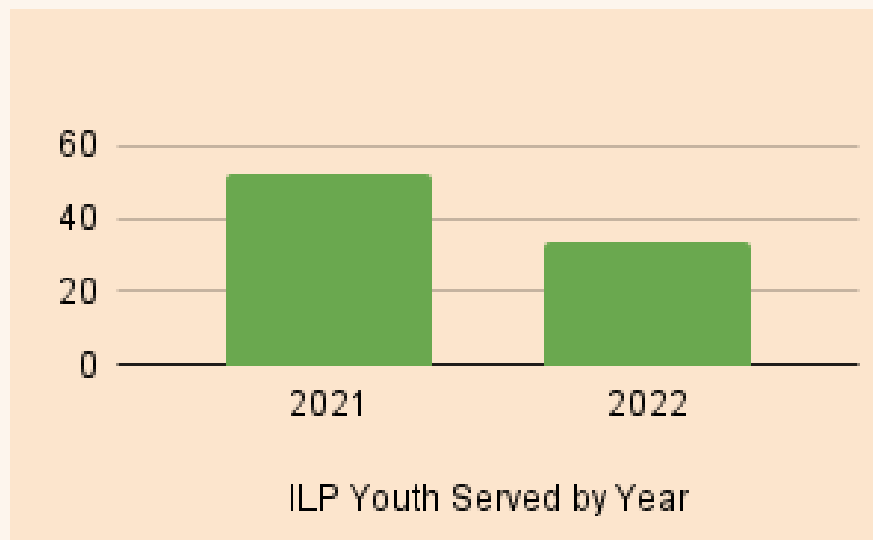
Services

- Rent Wise Housing Training
- Phlebotomy Certification Training
- Emergency Financial Assistance

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

The Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) Youth Quest Independent Living Program (ILP) follows a three-tier progressive program to support young people's transition to sustainability. The three-tier progressive ILP program is designed to provide a comprehensive and structured approach to supporting youth in their transition to independent living. It allows youth to build on their skills and knowledge over time and provides them with the support they need to achieve success and self-sufficiency.

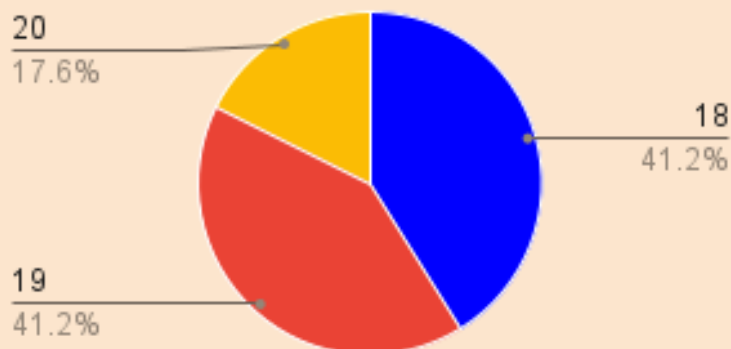
YESS has provided scattered-site supportive Independent Living Services since 2017. Since then, the program has continued to experience growth. In 2021 the program saw the most significant growth and served 52 young adults through the Youth Quest Independent Living Program due to a federal pandemic extension that allowed young people to remain in voluntary placement beyond their 21st birthday. In 2022, YESS services 34 young adults in the Independent Living program. This 32% decrease was due to the federal extension being lifted and a change in the placement criteria for youth to enter Independent Living placements. However, the length of stay, average age and discharge, and young exiting with full-time employment increased.



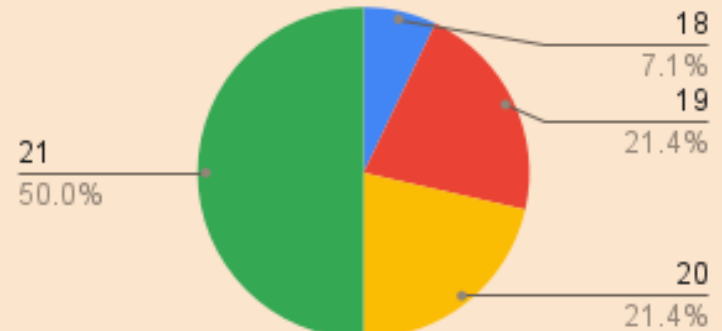
INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Age at Intake & Discharge

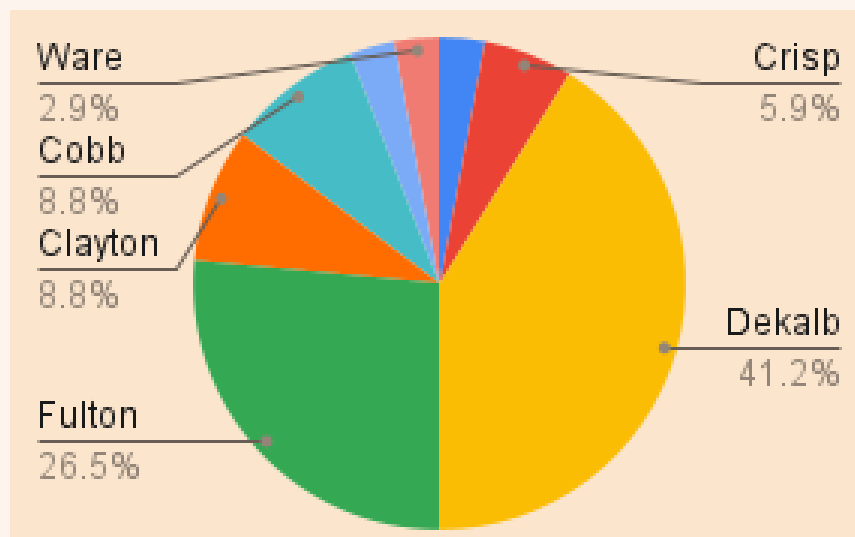
Age at Intake



Age at Discharge



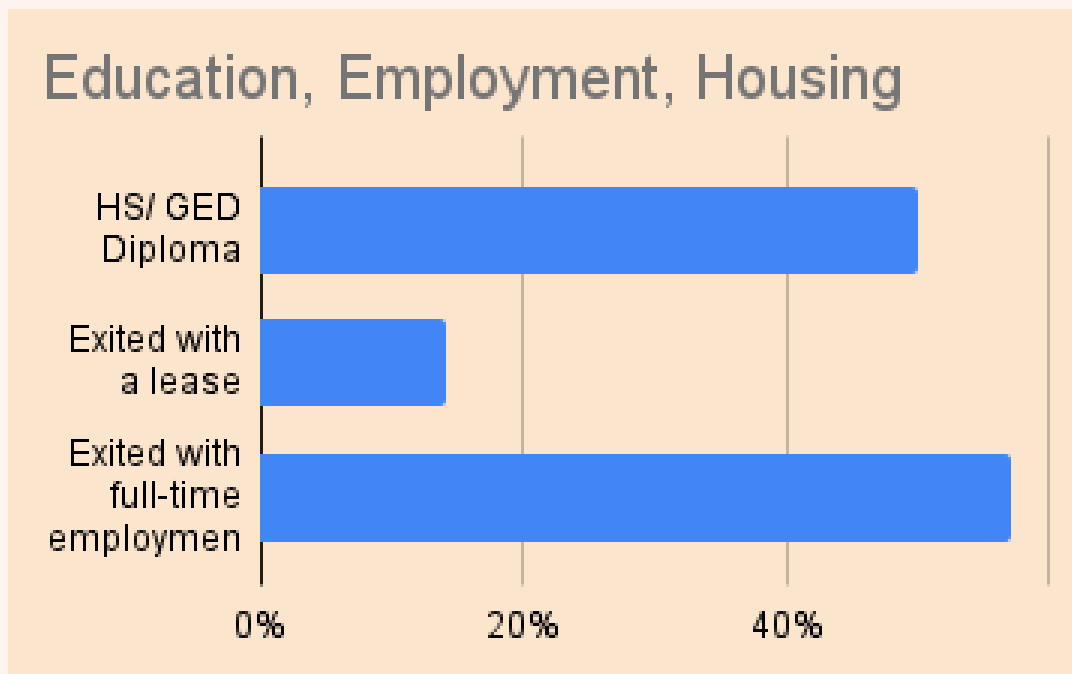
ILP Placements by County



INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Program Outcomes

Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) has achieved significant outcomes in 2022, positively impacting the lives of the young adults under its care. Out of the total participants, an impressive 57% successfully transitioned into full-time employment, equipping them with the skills and opportunities for long-term financial stability. Additionally, 50% of the youth achieved their high school diploma while participating in the Independent Living Program (ILP), paving the way for further educational and career prospects. Furthermore, the average length of stay increased from 9 months in 2021 to 10 months in 2022, indicating the program's effectiveness in providing extended support and resources to young individuals. Remarkably, 14% of the young adults were able to secure a lease in their name, highlighting their progress in attaining independent living arrangements and fostering self-sufficiency. These outcomes exemplify the positive impact of YESS in empowering and guiding young adults towards successful futures.



REBOUND SUPPORT SERVICES

Rebound Support Services (RSS) Programs offer a comprehensive range of services to support young people between the ages of 18 and 24 who face various challenges in their lives. The program focuses on three specific groups: youth transitioning from care, episodically homeless young adults, and HUD-defined homeless youth.

For youth transitioning from care, RSS provides case management and financial assistance. Case management involves working closely with young adults transitioning from independent living placements and creating personalized plans that address their transitional needs and goals. The life coach team offers guidance, support, and resources to help these young adults successfully navigate the transition from foster care or other care systems to independent living. Financial assistance may be provided to cover essential expenses such as housing, education, and other critical needs.

Episodically homeless young adults are young adults who do not fall in the aging out or HUD-defined homeless categories but need short-term assistance to stabilize their current situation. These young adults receive the YESS program's case management and emergency financial assistance. Life Coaches work with these individuals to identify the root causes of their homelessness and develop strategies to overcome them. They provide ongoing support, connect them to community resources, and assist in accessing emergency financial aid when necessary to address immediate needs.

HUD-defined homeless youth receive a range of services, including rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, and emergency assistance. Rapid rehousing aims to quickly move these young people into stable housing by providing short-term rental assistance, housing search support, and ongoing case management to ensure their successful transition into permanent housing. Homeless prevention services are designed to intervene and provide support to at-risk youth, helping them maintain their current housing situation and avoid homelessness. Additionally, emergency assistance is available to offer immediate relief to those facing crises related to homelessness, such as emergency shelter, food, and other essential resources.

REBOUND SUPPORT SERVICES

In October 2022, Youth Empowerment Success Services was awarded a two-year HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP) Joint Rapid Re-Housing/Transitional Housing program to serve youth experiencing homelessness in the City of Atlanta. YESS is the first YHDP recipient in the state of Georgia.

The project serves 10 Transitional Housing and 20 Rapid Re-Housing young adults annually. Transitional housing provides safe and stable housing for young adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Rapid Rehousing services are for homeless youth and young adult households and provide medium-term rental assistance and supportive services (including housing stability case management) to individuals and parenting young adults between the ages of 18-24.

Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing services provide the following support to young adults:

- Case management to develop individualized service plans that address their unique needs, such as education, employment, mental health, and substance abuse treatment.
- Life skills classes or workshops on practical life skills such as budgeting, cooking, and basic household management.
- Education and employment assistance includes job training, job search, and educational opportunities such as GED programs or college enrollment.
- Mental health and substance abuse include referrals to outside and substance abuse treatment providers.
- Health care services such as medical and dental care.
- Legal assistance referrals to help young adults with issues such as criminal records, child custody, or housing disputes.

Additionally, the rapid rehousing component of the program has played a significant role in assisting homeless youth to transition from homelessness to permanent housing quickly. Through this initiative, YESS has been able to provide financial assistance, case management, and other supportive services to help young adults secure stable housing in a shorter timeframe. This has proven to be a crucial intervention in preventing long-term homelessness and improving the overall well-being of the youth served.

REBOUND SUPPORT SERVICES

RAPID REHOUSING (LIFT 1.0)		
Actively Served Youth in 2022	33	100.00%

Clients Receiving Multiple Services

ILP	10
PSSF	2
CSP	5
YHDP	8
ATL ESG RRH	1
TOTAL SERVED in More than One YESS Program	26

REBOUND SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Assistance Number by Services	
Rent/Mortgage Assistance	10 Clients
Utilities Assistance	6 Clients
Food Assistance	15 Clients
Average Funds Spent (per Client)	
Rent/Mortgage Assistance	\$1,075.00
Utilities Assistance	\$133.73
Food Assistance	\$100.00

REBOUND SUPPORT SERVICES

RentWise

The RentWise program implemented by Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) has yielded remarkable outcomes, positively impacting the lives of 24 youth participants. Through the support of the United Way Well-being grant, YESS successfully implemented evidence-based RentWise training for young adults in its programs. The program began with a pre-test, where the average score was 68 out of 100, with a minimum score of 30 and a maximum score of 100. After completing the RentWise program, the post-test average score significantly improved to an impressive 95 out of 100, with the same minimum and maximum scores as the pre-test. These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of the RentWise program in equipping young adults with valuable knowledge and skills related to rental housing, ultimately empowering them to make informed decisions and establish stable living arrangements. YESS's commitment to evidence-based training has proven to be instrumental in promoting the well-being and success of youth in their journey towards self-sufficiency.

Phlebotomy Certification

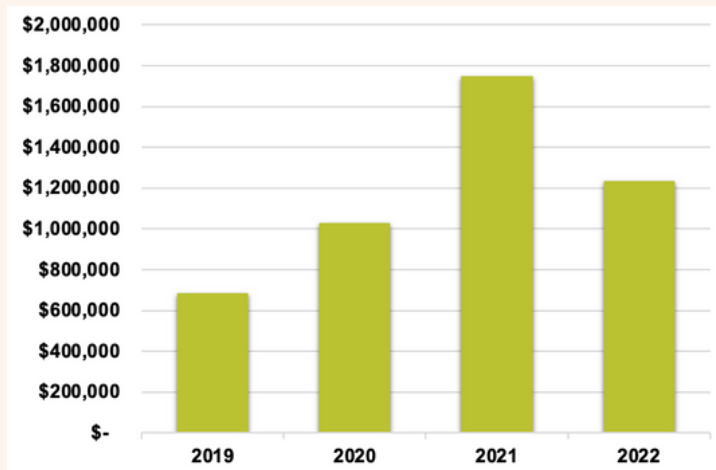
The Certified Phlebotomy Training program by YESS has achieved significant milestones. Two cohorts with a total of 22 applicants completed the intensive six-week certification sessions. The Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust provided generous tuition support to four students, covering certification testing fees, books, uniforms, and transportation. All program graduates achieved a 100% pass rate on the certification exam. 60% of them secured healthcare field employment, including partnerships with Quest Diagnostics, Georgia Healthcare, and Southern Regional Hospital. YESS provided five hours per week of comprehensive client support services, including application assistance, interview facilitation, barrier mitigation, transportation coordination, job placement support, and life skills development. The CPT Program is preparing 30 young adults to address the healthcare crisis by performing essential tasks and maintaining medical testing equipment. YESS's commitment to skilled healthcare professionals benefits both young adults and the community.



Destiny- November 2022
CPT Graduate
Age 21

2022 FINANCIALS

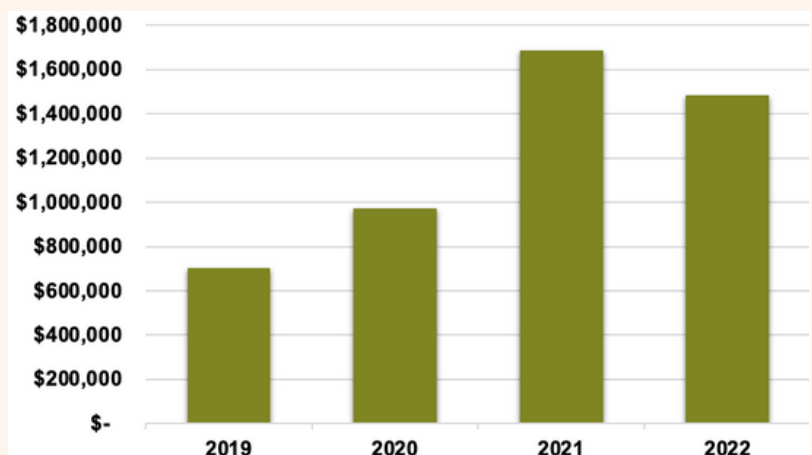
2022 Revenue - \$1,233,755



In 2022, Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) received \$1,233,755 in revenue sourced from various funding channels. These include federal and state government grants, private grants and foundations, as well as emergency assistance grants. YESS received a 2-year \$1.8M HUD grant in October 2022 that will reflect in 2023 revenue. The diverse funding sources allow YESS to support and empower youth through its programs and services, ensuring that young individuals have access to the necessary resources and opportunities for success.

2022 Expenses - \$1,486,369

Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) allocated a total of \$1,486,369 towards expenses in 2022, with a significant portion dedicated to providing direct housing support to the clients they serve. This support includes independent and transitional living housing and direct financial assistance to ensure the stability and well-being of the youth under their care. Additionally, administrative costs accounted for 10% of the agency's revenue, enabling YESS to effectively manage its operations and support the implementation of its programs and services. By prioritizing direct housing support and maintaining efficient administrative operations, YESS demonstrates its commitment to serving and empowering youth in need.



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YESS4Youth



Thank You



Thanks to your support, we have achieved significant milestones and positively impacted the lives of the youth in our programs. Your contributions have played a crucial role in providing direct housing support, including independent and transitional living options and direct financial assistance. Your belief in our mission has enabled us to empower and guide these young individuals toward a brighter future.

