

**May 1 & 2,
2019**



**Annapolis,
MD**



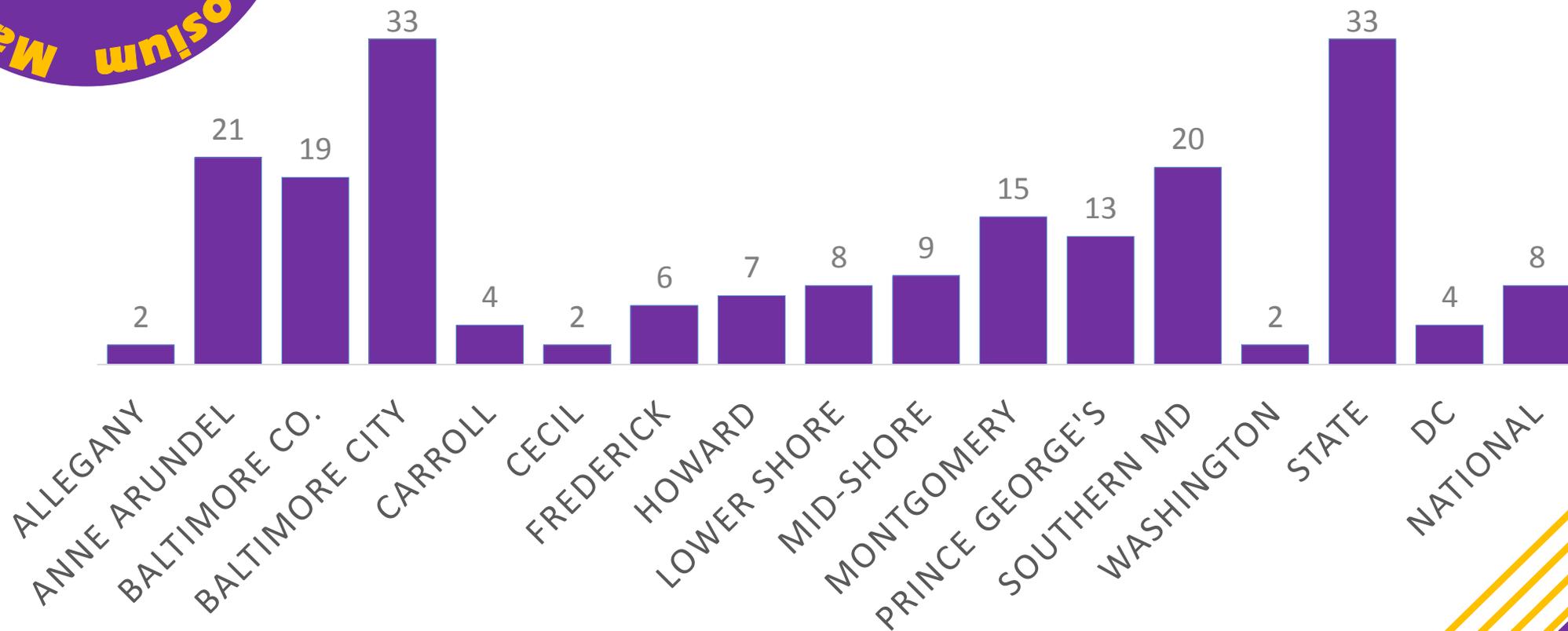
206 Enthusiastic Attendees

Participated in 2 days of learning, networking, and action planning





Attendees by Jurisdiction





59 Amazing Speakers

Shared local, state, and federal perspectives and expertise





Session Topics

- Developing a community system to address youth homelessness
- Housing models for youth
- Youth outreach strategies
- Using the law to support youth
- Serving youth under 18
- Youth action boards
- Youth engagement in case planning
- Supporting the education of youth experiencing homelessness
- State agency efforts to address youth homelessness
- Addressing homelessness in higher education
- Using data to improve services for youth
- LGBTQ+ experiences
- Risk factors for trafficking
- Promoting youth leadership



What Attendees Reported: by the numbers

- Increased competence in addressing youth homelessness (6.7 before to 7.9 after, out of 10)
- Believe what they learned will improve their work (7.7)
- Confident they will be able to integrate what they learned into their work (7.5)
- Believed the greatest impacts will be in how they collaborate with other organizations (5 out of 6) and colleagues (4.8), and how they understand (4.8), address (4.7), and interact (4.7) with youth experiencing homelessness



What Attendees Had to Say

The Information I found most useful was...

New approaches for addressing youth homelessness

Discussing what we could do to raise more awareness

Emerging housing model programs for youth

Host homesharing information

Understanding legal barriers for youth

Youth action boards as a tool

Information on bringing together youth serving systems

Learning programs that exists and ideas of what can be done

Connections and program enhancement ideas

All of it!

The nuts and bolts of providing housing

LGBTQ disparities and experiences

Tips and techniques on outreach



What Attendees Had to Say

The major impact I anticipate the symposium having on my work is...

Increased focus on **youth voice**

More concrete **knowledge about available/emerging resources**

Improving on **current supports** in place that can better serve homeless youth

Ideas for **new projects** to implement

I will have a larger toolbox to work with

An **expanded network** of community providers

Joining my local CoC committee

Identifying the need to integrate workforce services

Building **youth leadership** in the community

How to better keep **data** and advocate to administration

Developing more efficient **avenues to reach homeless youth**

Involving youth in program design

More **connections across the state**

Being able to see various sectors interact helped me **better understand the systems**

Concerted **collaboration** with other partners



Community Next Steps

- **Engage youth:**
 - Meet youth where they are (block parties, schools, libraries, community centers, LGBTQIA+ centers)
 - Ask engaged youth about friends and family situations
 - Build relationships with youth in our programs, help them advocate for themselves and use their voice to make youth-driven change
- **Incorporate youth voice:**
 - Thoughtfully/purposefully create or restart youth action/advisory boards/coalitions to inform planning and development; identify transportation for members
 - Employ youth with lived experience; seek peer representation
- **Develop programs and supportive services for youth:**
 - Look into starting host homes, emergency shelters, drop-in centers, pop-ups, and other youth-friendly housing and support service programs
 - Offer programs on healthy relationships, maintaining housing, building and maintaining credit, job readiness and training programs with connections to DSS and school system, relationships building and mentoring
- **Explore funding and non-traditional partnerships** in the community
 - Develop plan to engage mainstream systems to address youth homelessness through an equity and healing lens
 - Formalize institutional partnerships to combat loss of connections due to turnover
 - School system will hold summer meetings with families who are experiencing homelessness
 - Public/workforce engagement: reduce stigma, educate/sharing what we know/what we've learned, challenging ageism, classism, racism, and homophobia among coworkers and in policies, break down silos with communication (build a communication plan), rethink language around youth homelessness
- **Do a system mapping:** identify each system's assets, needs, and where to collaborate
- **Collect and review data:** identify regional needs; understand gaps in data collection
- **Continue to learn and stay engaged**



Session Materials are available at

<http://bit.ly/MDYHSymposium>

Questions?

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