

Welcome to the Webinar

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Please note the chat box in the bottom right of your screen. This is a way for you to communicate with the group and for us to communicate with you. There is also a private chat feature. If you see a name flashing next to the "Everyone" tab then you have received a private chat - this is especially important for people who joined us as "Guest".

The **File(s) to download box** above the chat box contains a downloadable version of this PowerPoint presentation and other items to download. If you would like to download before the meeting starts, please do so now.



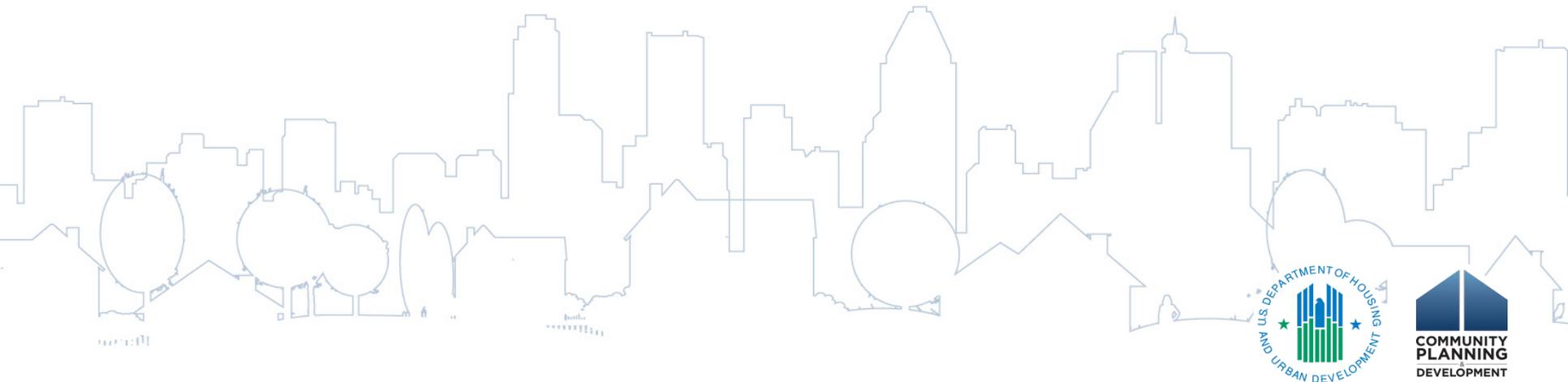
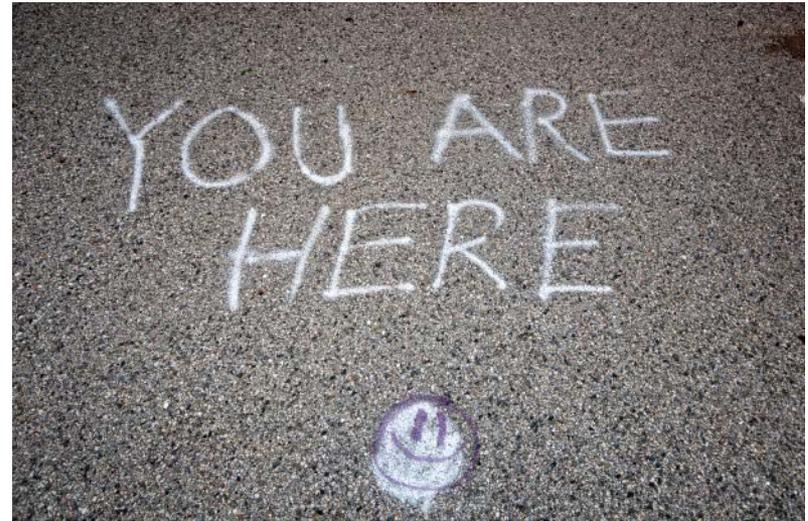
Adobe Connect Audio Tips

Symptom	Quick Fix
Voice is too quiet or too intense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjust mic placement
You cannot be heard by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run audio set-up wizard• Is audio muted in Adobe or is headset muted?
You cannot hear others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check mute settings in Adobe and on headset• Turn up volume on computer and/or headset• Check audio settings in computer control panel• Turn off Skype
Long delays in speaking or hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Switch from Wifi to Ethernet• Restart computer• Open only essential programs



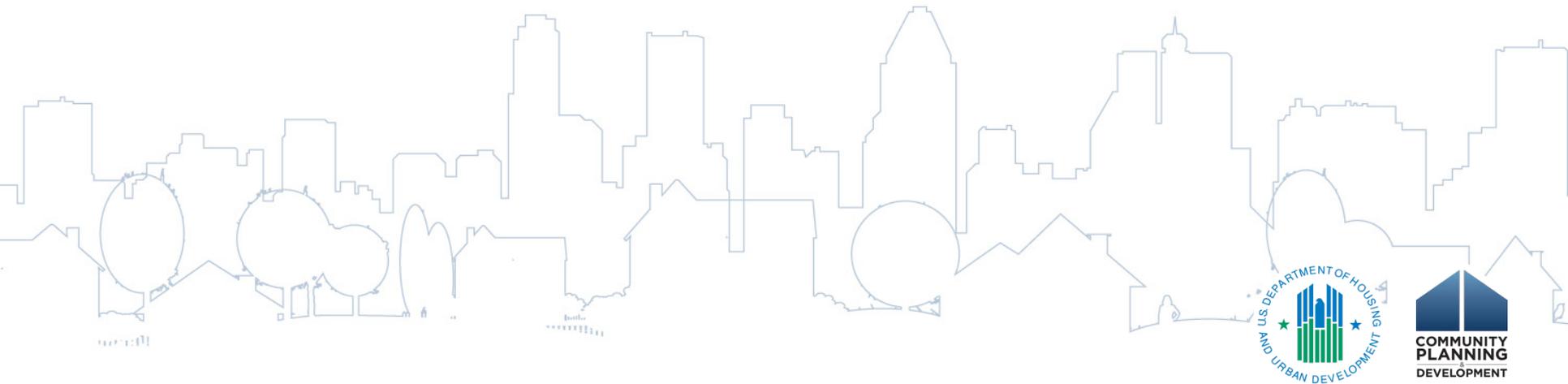
Who is joining the session today?

- ✓ Your Name
- ✓ YHDP Community
- ✓ Project Type
- ✓ What you hope to gain from the session



Examining Family Engagement in Practice

Thursday, November 29, 2018
3:00-4:30 pm (ET)

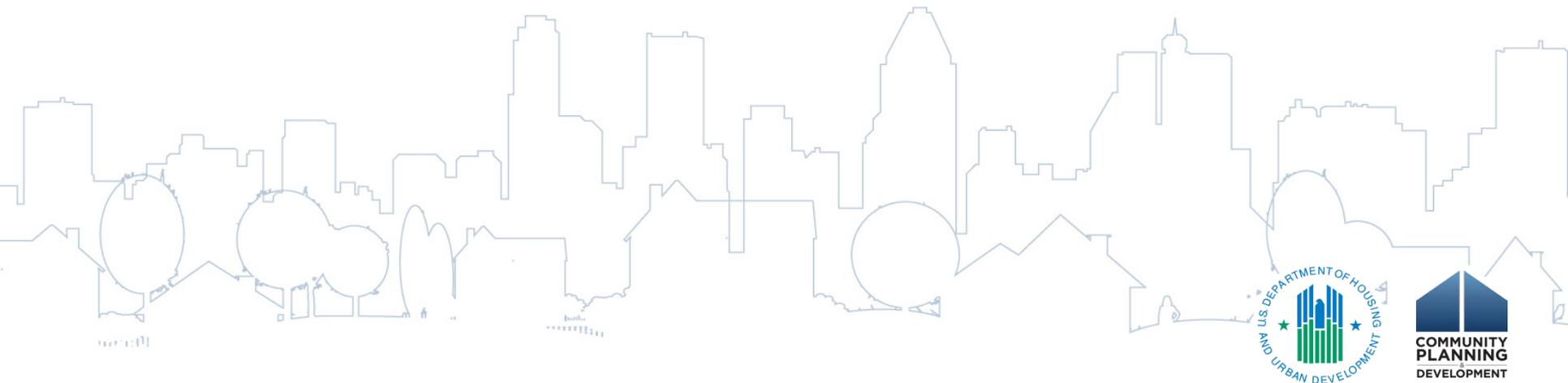


What immediately comes to mind when we say “family engagement”?



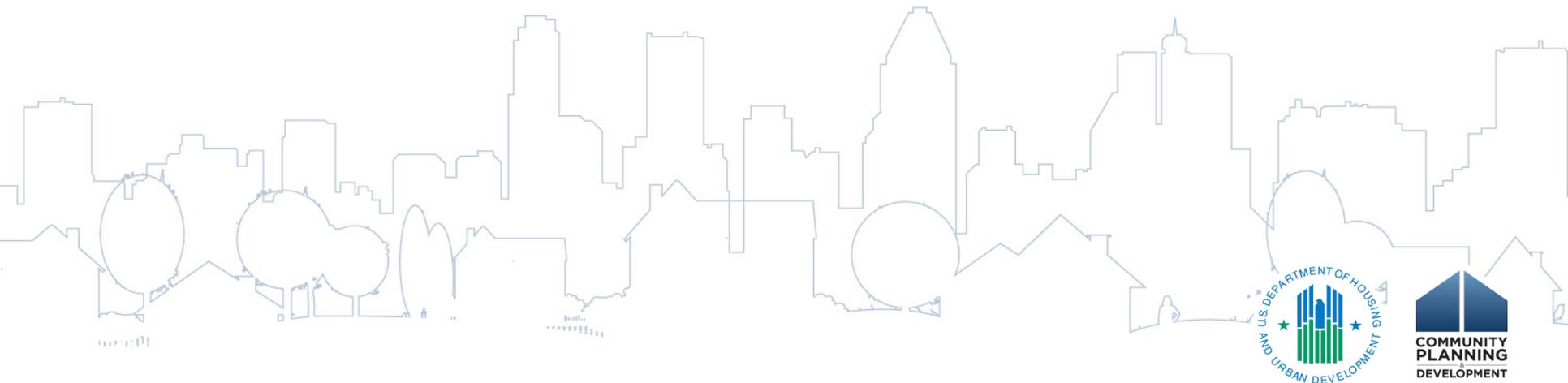
Family Engagement

- The best diversion and intervention strategy is to engage families, whenever appropriate, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, other community human services and homeless services providers.
- Coordinated Community plans must address family engagement strategies and services designed to strengthen, stabilize, and reunify families.
- Potential services includes family counseling, conflict resolution, parenting supports, relative or kinship caregiver resources, targeted substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc.



This webinar will:

- Explore our values and beliefs about families, their engagement, and the impact on youth at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness
- Provide an overview of how family engagement is currently operating in programs serving youth at risk of and/or who are experiencing homelessness
- Highlight effective family engagement strategies and interventions
- Discuss family engagement strategies in the context of permanent connections and social emotional wellbeing



Presenters



Kendan Elliott

Technical Assistance Manager
at **Youth Collaboratory**

youthcollaboratory.org

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Mirielle Milne

Youth Catalyst Team Member
at **Youth Collaboratory &**
Advocate at **The Jonah Project**

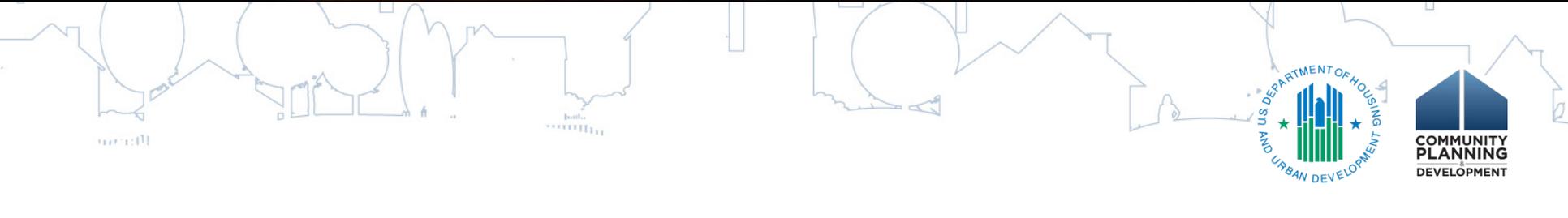
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Why is family engagement important?



Challenges and Opportunities in Engaging Parents/Families

- Perceptions and Stereotypes
 - Provider – implicit bias regarding families
 - Families – implicit bias – negative experiences or trauma with system
- Culture
 - Rural/urban/suburban, religion, race/ethnicity, gender roles, etc.
- Power
 - Dynamics with agency/system and family
 - Dynamics within family structure



Challenges and Opportunities in Engaging Parents/Families



- Respect
 - Listening without judgment
 - Goals, values, and roles
- Boundaries
 - Young person vs. family preferences
- Trauma
 - Capacity for developing healthy attachments
- Social and emotional wellbeing
- Ability to make permanent connections



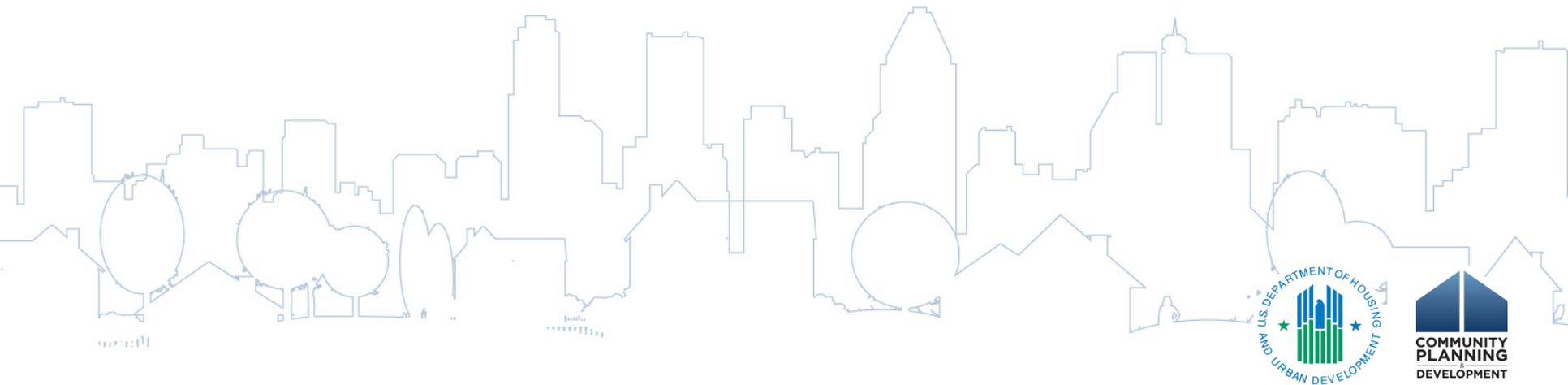
Who should we engage?



Chosen or Kinship Family

A group of people to whom you are emotionally close and consider family, even though you are not biologically or legally related

“These families provide social and emotional support, safety, and a sense of belonging that youth need to survive and thrive amidst challenging and unstable circumstances.” - Sassafra Lowrey, True Colors Fund

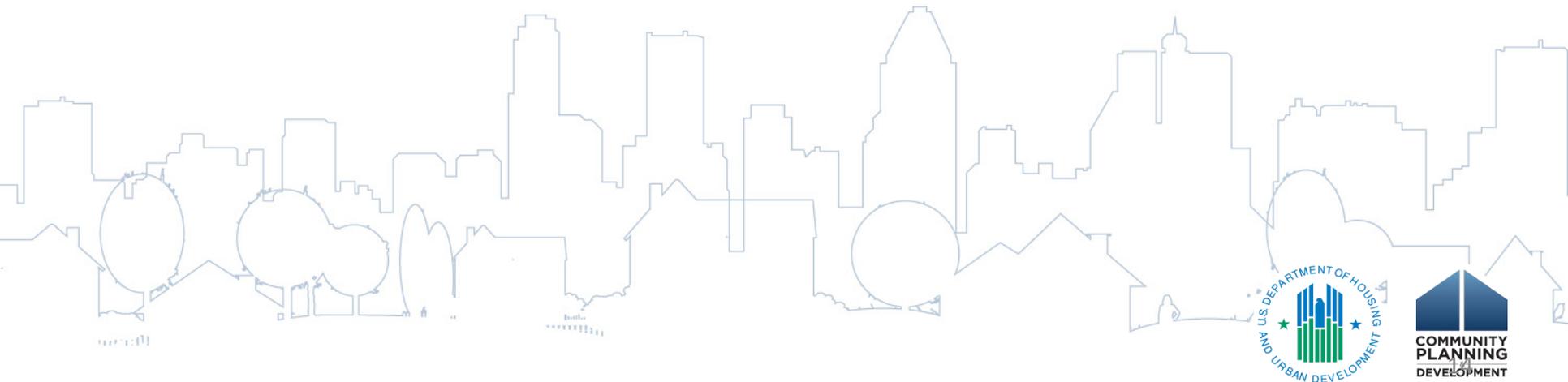


The Impacts of Trauma

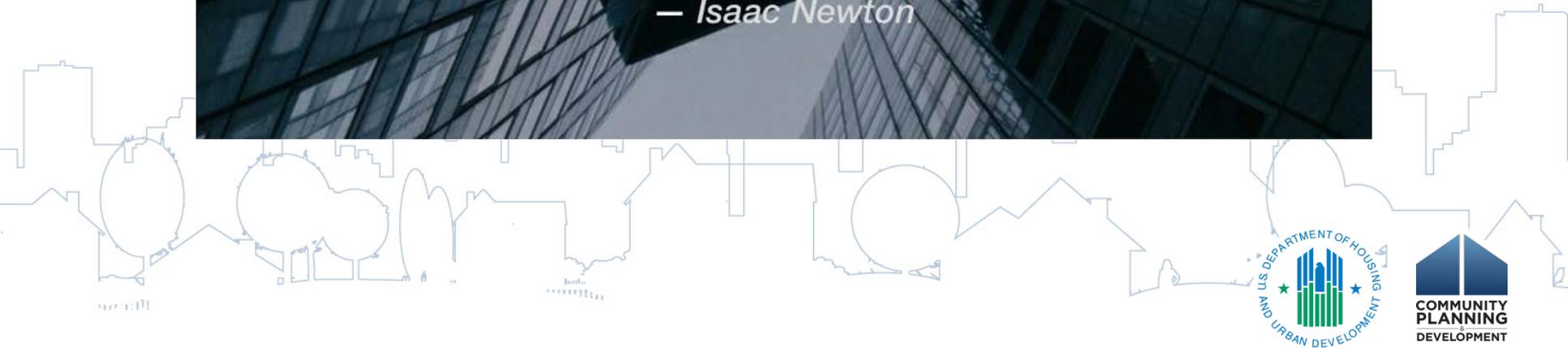
Many families may be encountering multiple stressors and may have experienced significant trauma.

Trauma can manifest in the following ways:

- Chaotic, disorganized way of life
- Inconsistent and/or conflicted relationships
- Coping and problem-solving that is often in response to a crisis
- Increased parents/caregivers effectiveness
- Overall strategy of reactive parenting



Strategies



Core Principles of an Asset-based Approach

- Belief that every person has potential, unique strengths, and capabilities
- Belief that all individuals have the urge to succeed and to be useful to others
- Creating genuine relationship characterized by mutual trust and respect
- The awareness that our role is not to 'fix but to support the capacity for change
- The acknowledgement that a person's perspective is what is real for them. We are not the expert in their world.
- Valuing differences and the essential need to work together.



Insights from The Field

COCOON HOUSE

Breaking The Cycle of Homelessness

The mission of Cocoon House is to empower young people, families, and the community to break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing and prevention.

Rachel Mathison, Director of Programs, rachel.mathison@cocoonhouse.org,
425-259-5802, ext 109



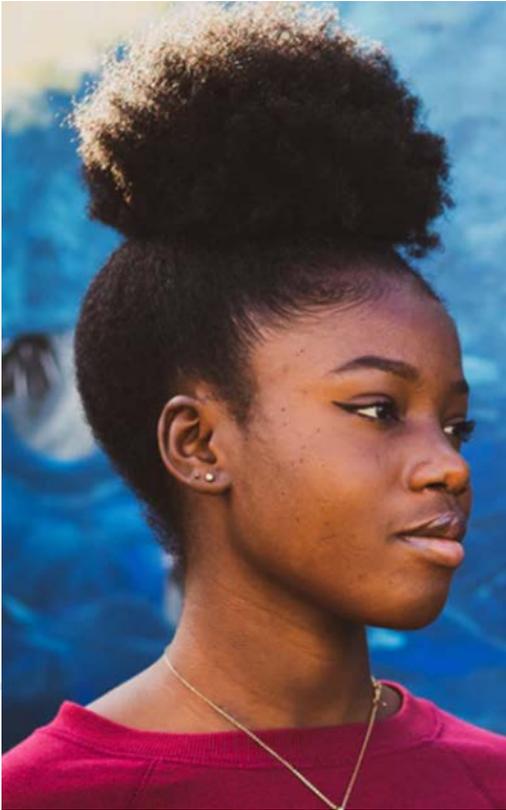
Practical Strategies



- Gain and understanding of the spectrum of family dynamics related to why youth are at risk or become homeless (safety and support) in partnership with the young person
- Address logistical barriers
 - Transportation, child care, timing, family-based services, location/access
- Develop service partnerships that provide supports to strengthen families
- Support young people in exploring the important relationships in their lives
 - Utilize tools to identify ‘family’ and goals for those relationships



Key Takeways



- Follow the youth's lead in identifying who "family" is to them
- Invite those identified to engage to the extent they can
- Set aside assumptions and judgments about a youth's family
- Ask the young person what goals they have related to their family
- Others?



Questions? Comments?



**Questions?
Comments?**

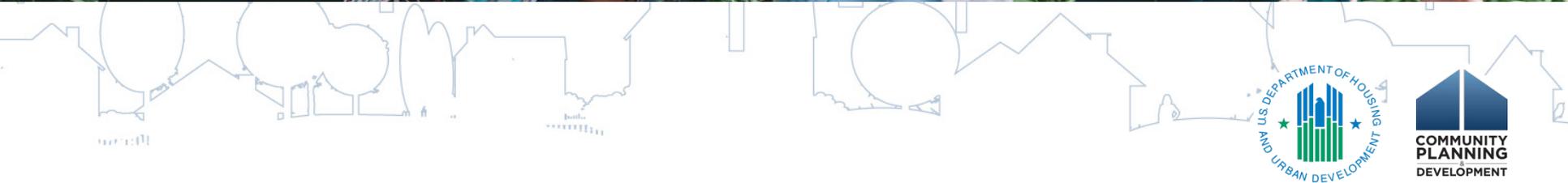


Up Next

- Complete the webinar evaluation
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLJRX6S>
- Let us know if you are interested in a Family Engagement Coaching Session by completing the interest poll
 - Wednesday, December 12th 2-3pm ET
 - Monday, December 17th 2-3pm ET
- Next YHDP Learning Collab: Thursday December 20th at 1:00 pm ET – Look out for a calendar invitation!
- [Nominate a youth for the Youth Catalyst Team!](#)



Thank You!



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