Racial Equity Provided within the Context of Young Adult Services

D’Angela Tanks, LISW-S
FrontLine Service’s Mission

Reaching out to adults and children in Northeast Ohio to end homelessness, prevent suicide, resolve behavioral health crises, and overcome trauma
Client Profile

- Severe mental illness
- Severe Substance Use Disorders
- Serious physical health issues
- Past criminal justice involvement
- Chronically Homeless
- Male - 61%
- African – American – 69%
- Veterans – 17%
- Extensive Trauma History - 100%
- Average age – 45 years old
Core Values

❖ Trauma Informed Care

❖ Housing First

❖ Change is a stage-wise process

❖ The client is driving the bus
Young Adult Profile
Young Adult Services

- 100 Day Challenge
- Housing Options
- By Name List
- Youth Shelter
- Youth Services
Goal

❖ Achieve functional zero for youth homelessness, with a special focus on improving outcomes for youth of color who disproportionately experience homelessness.
Objectives

❖ Apply a racial justice lens to our organizations and systems to understand inequities.
❖ Analyze long-term outcomes for previously homeless young adults to learn whether racial disparities exist and whether young adults are being elevated out of poverty.
❖ Engage feeder systems that contribute to youth of color disproportionately entering the homeless system in racial justice work.
Next Steps

❖ Hire consultant to create cultural competency plan
❖ 21- day Racial Equity Challenge
❖ Intentionally recruit and/or train people of color for leadership positions
❖ Youth Focus Groups
Questions?
D’Angela Tanks, LISW-S
Young Adult Services Manager

dangela.tanks@frontlineservice.org
(216) 703-5719