

# Trans Youth Resilience Fund

A Program of Y-HEP Health Center and  
Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers



Trans Youth Resilience Fund: <https://fight.org/programs/trans-youth-resilience-fund/>

Y-HEP Health Center / 1207 Chestnut Street, 5th Floor / 215-344-1632

[www.fight.org](http://www.fight.org)   [www.fight.org/yhep](http://www.fight.org/yhep)



The Trans Youth Resilience Fund (TYRF) is a direct financial assistance program that puts money in the hands of young trans and nonbinary individuals to support their health, safety, and wellness, as defined by them.

## Commitment to the Community

Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers provides comprehensive primary care and patient-centered health services to over 8,000 individuals every year. Included under the umbrella of Philadelphia FIGHT is Y-HEP Health Center, the City of Philadelphia's only youth-specific community health center. Y-HEP Health Center offers adolescents and young adults ages 13 to 24 access to low barrier, inclusive healthcare, including STI testing and treatment, HIV prevention, gender-affirming care, reproductive healthcare, family planning services, sick and well visits, walk-in services, and much more. In the last twelve months, Y-HEP Health Center has worked with nearly 250 young trans and nonbinary individuals, many of whom come to Y-HEP as a supportive space to engage in all facets of their gender-affirming care. The TYRF greatly expanded our ability to provide care to trans and nonbinary youth by allowing us to provide direct financial assistance alongside a young person's healthcare.

### THROUGH OUR CONTINUED SERVICE-BASED LEARNING WITH YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE TRANS AND NONBINARY COMMUNITY, WE RECOGNIZE THAT:

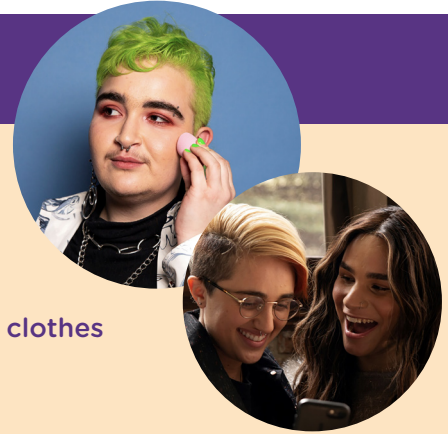
- Young trans and nonbinary Philadelphians confront daily biases and discrimination due to systemic and political injustices.
- Many young trans and nonbinary people are forced into poverty, isolation, and “survival mode” through family rejection, employment and educational discrimination, and housing insecurity.
- Despite these barriers, the young trans and nonbinary community of Philadelphia is comprised of incredible, resilient, caring individuals who have built loving and supportive networks - which became the most significant referral source for the TYRF.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our philosophy was to build a highly accessible program that was focused particularly on supporting trans and nonbinary youth of color, youth experiencing homelessness, and youth living with a disability. Outreach for the program, which was open to Philadelphia FIGHT patients and community members, was done in collaboration with youth-serving organizations and our gender-affirming healthcare program. Trans and nonbinary youth with financial need related to their health, safety, or wellness were invited to submit requests of up to \$400 online at the TYRF website.

## PARTICIPANTS COULD USE FUNDS FOR A SINGLE PURCHASE OR MULTIPLE NEEDS, INCLUDING:

- Medical supplies and gender-affirming procedures
- Mental, behavioral, speech, and physical therapies
- Transportation to care
- Food and basic needs
- Laser hair removal, packers, binders, chest forms, wigs, and clothes
- Vital record changes and requests
- Eviction prevention and emergency rent support



<https://fight.org/programs/trans-youth-resilience-fund/>

Y-HEP staff coordinated the disbursement of the funds and made any referrals or linkages to care based on identified need. Participants of the program did not have to provide receipts for purchases or make unnecessary justifications for need. The only program requirements were that the individual be trans or nonbinary, under the age of 25, and experiencing some financial need related to their health, safety, or wellness. Payments were made available by cash, check, or VISA gift card and were delivered by mail or picked up in person.



Between September 2021 and January 2022, we served **75 trans and nonbinary individuals** through the TYRF. In all but one case, we made full **payments of \$400** to individuals in need, **totaling \$29,950** in distributed funds.

It was our goal to work with a group of young trans and nonbinary people who were predominantly youth of color, youth experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, and/or youth living with a disability. Of the **75 individuals served, 72 of our young participants met at least one of these definitions.**





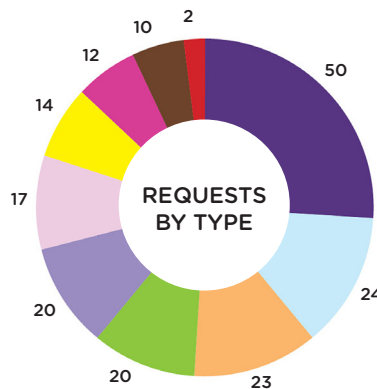
# by the numbers



## Total number of participants = 75

Demographic responses were voluntarily self-reported by participants. Participant requests were categorized by the type of assistance needed. Many participants had requests across multiple categories.

Age	#	%
<18	9	12%
18-24	66	88%
Patient Status		
Patient of Y-HEP Health Center	45	60%
Community Member	30	40%
Race		
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	1%
Black/African American	35	47%
Indigenous American/Alaskan Native	3	4%
White	28	37%
Other	5	7%
Chose Not to Answer	3	4%
Ethnicity		
Latinx	13	17%
Not Latinx	59	79%
Chose Not to Answer	3	4%
Housing Status		
Housing Insecure	39	52%
Housing Secure	34	45%
Chose Not to Answer	2	3%
Disability Status		
Has a Disability	55	73%
Does Not have a Disability	18	24%
Chose Not to Answer	2	3%



- Emergency Rent, Eviction Prevention, and Other Housing Services
- Food
- Transportation
- Packers, Binders, Chest Forms, and Other Non-medical Supplies
- Medical Supplies and Expenses
- Mental and Behavioral Health Services
- Gender-affirming Procedures
- Vital Record Changes and Requests
- Laser Hair Removal and Other Cosmetic Services
- Physical and Speech Therapies

# KEY INSIGHTS

Working with TYRF participants makes clear the inequities and insufficiencies in our public systems. Some experiences and community priorities we would like to amplify include:

## Housing



- Families, especially families with deep cultural and religious experiences, need education and support when it comes to raising trans and nonbinary children. Too often, housing insecurity and homelessness are precipitated by family rejection. Several of our participants needed money to support housing stabilization following abandonment.
- Young trans and nonbinary people need accessible legal and civil guidance around their rights in independent and supportive living situations. Transphobia, including threats of physical violence, causes substantial housing instability for young trans and nonbinary people. Landlords, neighbors, and housing program directors can all contribute to a young trans or nonbinary person's homelessness through direct discrimination or bystander inaction.



I got laid off from my job for a little bit and had trouble paying rent. I had other bills to pay at that time that I was also behind on. This program was so important in keeping my housing. I still live in the same place and resigned my lease. Rent is always a little late, but my landlord is nice about it.”

- TRANS WOMAN (WHITE, DISABLED, 23YO)



I first made a request for help with my housing and basic needs. I heard about the program from my primary care at Y-HEP. I was out of work at the time and laid off from my seasonal job. I had an apartment through SELF's Way Home program. I paid part of the rent while I was working, and SELF took over the rent when I got laid off. I used the funds to pay my bills and buy groceries. I kept a little money on the card for emergencies, which I used last week. Gas prices are crazy.”

- TRANS MAN (BLACK, 21YO)

# KEY INSIGHTS

In addition to housing, many participants also needed support connecting to mental health, medical, and community resources:

## Mental Health

- Amidst a global shortage of mental and behavioral health resources, there is an urgent need for more trans-affirming and competent mental health providers. Our program can offer trans and nonbinary youth short-term behavioral interventions and crisis support, but young trans and nonbinary people need access to low-barrier, affirming, long-term services, like talk therapy, psychiatry, and substance use support programs.



Although I requested the funds for laser hair removal and gender-affirming surgery, I ended up needing to use the funds to pay \$400 worth of rent. I was behind two months and used cash off the VISA gift card to pay my landlord. My housing situation isn't great, but I'm finally moving to a better place next month."

- TRANSFEMME NONBINARY (BLACK, DISABLED, 21YO)

## Social Support

- A young person's transition involves more than medical care, which is not a part of every person's transition or gender expression. Many of our participants needed money to acquire gender-affirming clothes or supplies, like chest binders. Funders and political figures can do so much more to fund trans and nonbinary-led community spaces, like the Arcila-Adams Trans Resource Center and the Attic Youth Center. These spaces are critical for trans and nonbinary youth to find community and are vital sources of education about transgender wellness.





## FUTURE GOALS

It is our hope to grow this program to reach even more young trans and nonbinary people in need of financial assistance. With additional funding, we can continue to drive money directly to trans and nonbinary youth communities while supporting them with healthcare services and navigation to social supports.

Our goal is to reapply to the Gender Justice Fund opportunity and secure another \$20,000 for distribution during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. We are also continuing to solicit individual donations and support from private foundations. If you are interested in making a donation that will result in dollar-to-dollar redistribution to trans and nonbinary youth communities in Philadelphia, please follow the instructions below:

To date, we have received **37 donations** from individuals, averaging **\$46 per gift.**

Funds Raised for Fall 2022: **\$3,600**

**donate now!**

click on the link below

### Donate to the Trans Youth Resilience Fund

1. Visit our website at <https://fight.org/how-to-help/donate/>
2. Select “Donate Now”
3. Select “Trans Youth Resilience Fund” from the drop-down box
4. Make a one time or recurring donation to the fund



**THANK YOU!**

On behalf of all of our program participants, we want to send a special thank you to the staff at Y-HEP Health Center for coordinating this program and supporting the healthcare needs of many participants.

We also want to thank the individuals who contributed personally to the TYRF, alongside foundation funding from Stoneleigh Foundation and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.



And finally, we want to give a huge thank you to the Gender Justice Fund for making the original award, which catalyzed the launch of the Trans Youth Resilience Fund at Philadelphia FIGHT.

