

# Youth Count! Process Study Release

**NAN ROMAN***President, National Alliance to End Homelessness*

Nan Roman, president and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, is a leading national voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance is a public education, advocacy and capacity-building organization with over 10,000 nonprofit and public sector agencies and corporate partners around the country. Under her leadership, the Alliance has developed a pragmatic plan to end homelessness. To implement this plan, Roman works closely with members of Congress and the Administration, as well as with cities and states across the nation. She collaborates with Alliance partners to educate the public about the nature of homelessness and successful solutions. She has researched and written on the issue, is frequently interviewed by the press, and regularly speaks at events around the country. Her unique perspective on homelessness and its solutions comes from over thirty years of local and national experience in the areas of poverty and community-based organization.

Roman received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois. She sits on numerous boards and advisory committees. She lives in Washington, DC.

**MARY CUNNINGHAM***Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute*

Mary Cunningham is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Center at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on homelessness, housing, concentrated poverty and efforts to improve family self-sufficiency and overall well-being among low-income families. Cunningham's work managing and directing qualitative and quantitative research studies includes developing research designs, survey instruments, in-depth interview guides and statistical and qualitative data analysis. She has expertise in a number of HUD homelessness and assisted housing programs, including Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, Emergency Shelter, Housing Choice Vouchers, Family Self-Sufficiency, HOPE VI, and the Moving to Opportunity Demonstration.

Cunningham was a researcher at UI from 1997 to 2005. Prior to her return in 2008, Cunningham launched and directed the Homeless Research Institute (HRI), the research and education arm of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. While directing the Homelessness Research Institute, Cunningham researched and wrote extensively on homelessness and poverty. She co-chaired a Research Council on homelessness comprised of nationally recognized academics and policy researchers, and authored numerous reports, including A Research Agenda for Ending Homelessness and Homelessness Counts. Cunningham has an MPP from Georgetown University. She is currently directing study that examines the impact of housing vouchers on child welfare involvement and homelessness and writing a book on homelessness.

**MEGAN GIBBARD***Homeless Youth and Young Adult Project Manager, King County Housing and Community Development*

Megan Gibbard, LICSW, is King County's Homeless Youth and Young Adult project manager. She is responsible for the county-wide implementation of coordinated engagement for homeless young people, data coordination, prevention and family reunification strategies, and King County's comprehensive plan to end youth and young adult homelessness. She was previously the Executive Director of Teen Feed, a small agency in

Seattle's University District, and has 10 years of clinical experience with homeless youth. She serves on the board of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**MICHAEL PERGAMIT***Senior Fellow, Urban Institute*

Michael Pergamit is a senior fellow at the Urban Institute. His research focuses on issues for vulnerable youth populations such as runaway and homeless youth, youth aging out of foster care, and disconnected youth. He was the project director on the Multi-site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (Chafee) and Principal Investigator on a study of runaway youths' knowledge and access of services, conducted for the National Runaway Safeline. His current studies include the "Opportunities for Youth" Demonstration for the Department of Labor; an evaluation of Urban Alliance, a paid internship program for youth in DC and Baltimore public schools; an evaluation of the Latin American Youth Center's Promotors Pathway Program in DC and Maryland; and, with Mary Cunningham, co-directs an experimental evaluation of supportive housing for child welfare involved families as well as the YouthCount! process study. He received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago.

**LAURA GREEN  
ZEILINGER***Deputy Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness*

Laura Green Zeilinger is the deputy director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. In this role, she collaborates with the 19 federal agencies on the Council regarding national homelessness policy and coordinates national engagement through the work of USICH's Regional Coordinators serving across the country. She first joined USICH in 2011 as the Director of National Engagement and Field Support, where she was responsible for overseeing the strategic implementation of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in states and major metropolitan areas. Prior to joining USICH, she spent four years working for the government of the District of Columbia, in the Executive Office of the Mayor and in the Department of Human Services, overseeing the implementation of programs for the District's most vulnerable residents, including those experiencing homelessness. She is an attorney with a longstanding commitment to underserved populations.