

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs (RHYA)



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The provision that requires HHS to coordinate with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to develop a Report on Strategies to End Youth Homelessness is being implemented and a report will be published.

Background

It is estimated that 1.6 million youth experience runaway and homelessness episodes each year. Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs raise achievement among homeless youth, are cost-effective, and build strong communities with partnerships among community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement, and local governments. The last federally funded evaluation of RHYA programs demonstrated that the programs reduced drop-out rates, doubled school attendance; increased college attendance; increased employment rates; reduced parental physical abuse; and improved family relationships.

In FY 2003, RHYA programs served over 619,000 youth through Street Outreach, 77,882 youth through the Basic Center Program, and 4,312 youth through the Transitional Living Program. The average cost of serving a youth in a Transitional Living Program is \$8,348.00 per year - a mere fraction of the public dollars spent on housing youth in costly corrections systems.

Demonstrated Need

Due to a lack of resources, according to the federally-administered Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS), during FY 2003:

- 40% of youth going into Transitional Living Programs were turned away
- More than 4,000 youth were turned away from Basic Center Programs

Programs

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs are comprised of three components: Street Outreach, Basic Centers, and Transitional Living.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- The RHYA Street Outreach program ensures rapid engagement with young people living on the street in an effort to prevent their physical and sexual abuse and assault, commercial sexual exploitation, disease, long-term homelessness, and death.
- The RHYA Basic Center program provides funds for family reunification services, counseling, and temporary shelter to serve children and youth under age 18.
- The RHYA Transitional Living program provides transitional housing and independent living services to older homeless youth (up to age 21) for up to 18 months.

Authorization Level: Such Sums as Necessary

Funding: Basic Center Transitional Living Street Outreach Maternity Group Homes
FY 2005 Appropriation \$49 million \$40 million \$15 million \$ 0
FY 2006 Budget Request \$49 million \$40 million \$15 million \$10 million

National Collaboration for Youth Funding Request: \$140 million

- \$120 million for the Consolidated Account (Basic Centers and Transitional Living)
- \$20 million for the Runaway Prevention Account (Street Outreach)

Resources and Links

Issue Brief by the National Alliance to End Homelessness on the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/pol/papers/RHYbrief2.pdf>

Interagency Council on Homelessness

<http://www.ich.gov/>

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf>

Final Enrolled Bill

HR 1925

Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c108:H.R.1925.ENR:>

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

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