Runaway and Homeless Youth: How RHYA Can Help Support Young People Who Are Justice Involved

Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) on June 15, 2017

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Roadmap

• Introduction to NN4Y
• Data
• Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
  – History
  – Programs
  – Administration
  – Funding Available
  – Reauthorization
• NN4Y Resources
• Q & A
Vision

• National Network for Youth envisions a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home.
Our Approach

• NN4Y pursues collaborative strategies to decrease the number of youth who experience homelessness in the United States.

• With government agencies, community organizations, the private sector and young people we seek to create effective and comprehensive systems response to youth homelessness.
National Youth Advisory Council

• **Expertise:** In 2015, the National Network for Youth (NN4Y) launched the NYAC to elevate the expertise of runaway and homeless youth in America. Our purpose is to elevate your voice.

• **Vision:** To empower young leaders to define a policy agenda and educate the public, youth service providers and policymakers as experts on youth homelessness.
ACYF Street Outreach Program Data Collection Project

• 656 of 14 to 21 year old homeless youth in 11 cities:
  – 44% of youth interviewed stayed in jail, prison or juvenile detention center
  – 78% had at least one interaction with police
  – 62% had been arrested
Links Between Justice Involvement and Homelessness

- Status Offense Laws
- “Quality of Life” Ordinances
- Survival Crimes
- Family Violence
- Behavioral Health
- Child Welfare System Involvement
- Poverty
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs:

- Prevents Youth Homelessness
- Helps Runaway Youth
- Houses Homeless Youth
- Prevents Sexual Exploitation
- Serves Trafficking Survivors
- Alternative to Juvenile Detention
- Alternative to Child Welfare Involvement
- Provides Housing and Services to Youth Exiting the Child Welfare System
- Helps Families Resolve Conflicts
HISTORY

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

• Runaway Act, Title III of the 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA)
• The purpose was to create a community based alternative intervention for runaway youth and other status offenders
• Over the years, the Runaway Youth Act has grown to add more programs and services for runaway and homeless youth (RHY)
PROGRAMS

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- National Runaway Safeline (NRS) 24/7 crisis hotline - call, text, chat
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) provides TTA to RHYA grantees
- National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth (NCFY) - FYSB’s free information service
PROGRAMS
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

• Street Outreach Program (SOP)

• Basic Center Programs (BCP)

• Transitional Living Programs (TLP) & Maternity Group Homes (MGH)

**all programs must use a Positive Youth Development (PYD) when delivering services
PROGRMS
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

• Street Outreach Program (SOP)
  – 3 year grants
  – Purpose: to prevent the sexual abuse of street youth
  – Grants can fund street-based outreach or drop-in centers to provide:
    • Education
    • Treatment
    • Counseling
    • Referrals to services
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- Basic Center Program (BCP)
  - 3 year grants
  - Purpose: to provide temporary housing with supportive services for runaway and homeless youth
  - Grants fund temporary housing (host homes or group setting) with:
    - Therapeutic family intervention
    - Connection to education and workforce
    - Aftercare services
    - Counseling
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- Transitional Living Program (TLP) & Maternity Group Homes (MGH)
  - 5 year grants
  - Purpose: to support effective strategies for successful transition to sustainable living for runaway and homeless youth 16 to 23 (as long as 22 when enters)
  - Grants fund longer term housing (540 to 635 days) with supportive services:
    - Basic life skills resources
    - Connection to education and workforce
    - Aftercare services
    - Counseling
ADMINISTRATION

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Administration for Children & Families (ACF)

Administration on Children, Youth & Families (ACYF)

Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

Children’s Bureau (CB)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- National Runaway Safeline (NRS) – due 7/10
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) – due 7/19
- Basic Center Program (BCP) – due 7/14
- Transitional Living Program (TLP) & Maternity Group Homes (MGH) – due 7/14
- Street Outreach Program (SOP) – due 7/11

https://ami.grantsolutions.gov
REAUTHORIZATION

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act

• Champions: Senators Leahy (D-VT) and Collins (R-ME) and Representatives Reichert (R-WA) and Yarmuth (D-KY)
• Includes new provisions to combat trafficking and discrimination
• Increases the length of stays in Basic Centers from 21 to 30 days.
• Requires RHYA grantees to assist youth with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
• Extend of Transitional Living Programs to youth age 24
• SENATE BILL ONLY: Maintains funding for programs at $165 million & adds $2 million for the National Prevalence Study
Collaborating for Change

• Joint Project of CJJ, NN4Y and the National League of Cities’ Institute for Youth, Education & Families

• Two Main Goals:
  – Decrease likelihood that homeless young become involved with JJ system
  – Prevent youth homelessness among JJ-involved youth

• Project Resources
  www.juvjustice.org/homelessness
Collaborating for Change

• Principles for Change
  – 10 principles reflecting core goals

• RHY Provider & JJ System Collaboration
  – Providers offer specific services for JJ-involved youth
  – Providers offer services as diversion
    • Educational Support, Housing, Family Mediation, Employment Services
  – Providers support JJ-involved youth exiting
    • Housing, Education Support, Employment Services, Case Management
The ABA has committed funds to support the development and implementation of a national Homeless Youth Legal Network (HYLN)—a new initiative to increase legal services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness by fostering greater capacity and connectivity. As a catalyst and convener to address the legal issues of homeless youth and improve outcomes for those transitioning from the child welfare system and exiting the juvenile justice system through direct representation, the ABA invites federal partners and national, state and local organizations to join the effort to develop the Homeless Youth Legal Network.

If you know attorneys/legal offices representing homeless youth, or homeless youth organizations that either partner with legal providers or are interested in partnering with legal providers, please invite them to complete our survey: http://bit.ly/2jwUWme.
2017 HYLN Model Programs

- Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS), Arizona, Alwaysaz.org
- Bay Area Legal Aid, California, Baylegal.org
- Community Legal Services of Philadelphia (CLS), Pennsylvania, Clsphila.org
- Family & Youth Law Center at Capital University School of Law, Ohio, Familyyouthlaw.org
- Homeless Persons Representation Project, Maryland, Hprplaw.org
- Homeless Youth Legal Clinic, Utah, https://www.voaut.org/homeless-teen-services
- Kids Counsel, Connecticut, Cca-ct.org
- Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC), Washington, Lcycwa.com
- Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, Youth Law Project, Minnesota, Mylegalaid.org
- Pegasus Legal Services for Children, New Mexico, Pegasuslaw.org/youth-law-project
- The Door, New York, door.org
- Urban Justice, Peter Cicchino Youth Project, New York, Pcyp.urbanjustice.org
Ways to engage with the HYLN:

- Join our listserv by e-mailing hyln@americanbar.org

- Help us map existing programs and unmet legal needs by taking our survey: http://bit.ly/2jwUWme

- Request free Technical Assistance by emailing Amy.HortonNewell@americanbar.org.
NN4Y Resources

• Subscribe to NN4Y Newsletter:
  www.nn4youth.org/e-newsletter

• Monthly NN4Y Members Policy Call- become a member:
  www.nn4youth.org/membership/organizational

• Resource Center on our website:
  www.nn4youth.org/learn/resources
www.nn4youth.org/learn/resources/state_ids/

“Without an ID, you are nobody, you don’t exist.”
Model Runaway and Homeless Youth Law for State & Local Advocacy

• How to Pass a RHY Law
• Model Legislation
• Appendix of Existing State RHY Law
• Download at: www.nn4youth.org/learn/resources
Who is Homeless? Different Definitions of Homelessness by State

- State Definitions of Homelessness and Homeless Youth
- Analysis of Definitions
- Summary of Findings
- Model Definition
- Download at: www.nn4youth.org/learn/resources
★ Download the full report and other publications on our website: 

www.nn4youth.org/learn/what-works
Proposed System to End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

All support services & housing models should be implemented according to the following principles, defined on page 4:
Positive Youth Development, Trauma-Informed Care, Cultural Competence, Client Centered Care & Strengths-Based Family Services

Key
Support services or housing models that belong to one stage are identified by one color.
Support services or housing models that belong to two or more stages are identified by two or more colors. Each color appears in sequential order, beginning with the stage of origination.