



A TOOLKIT FOR MEETING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

The National Network for Youth is a membership organization comprised of community-based youth-serving organizations, young people, youth workers, and youth advocates who seek to insure that young people can be safe and lead healthy and productive lives. The National Network and its members focus their work with and for youth, especially those who, because of abuse, neglect, family conflict or disconnection, community prejudice, disabilities, lack of resources, or other adverse life circumstances, need greater opportunities and supports to become contributing members of their communities.

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INTRODUCTION

Runaway and homeless youth (RHY) fall through the holes of society's safety net daily. They fall outside of many of the societal institutions that provide vital links to programs and services that could help them overcome homelessness and become productive members of society. One of these vital institutions is schools. Schools - teachers, administrators, counselors, social workers, nurses, and anyone else in the building with a stake in our children's education - working in concert with community-based organizations that serve RHY can have a positive impact on the physical and academic well-being of these young people. Schools can play an important role in linking RHY with necessary programs and services, but they first must become aware of partners in the community, existing resources, and strategies to reach those young people in greatest need of service.

There are 1.6 million homeless youth in our country.¹

FAST FACTS

School-aged runaway and homeless children and youth are in crisis in our country:

- Nationally, one-fifth of homeless children repeat a grade in school, and 16% are enrolled in special education classes – rates 100 % and 33% higher than their non-homeless counterparts, respectively.¹
- In a single school year, 12% of homeless youth miss at least one month of classes and 33% miss at least two weeks.²
- Up to 45% of homeless children do not attend school regularly.³
- Between 2001 and 2002, 42% of homeless children transferred schools at least once. Of these children, 51% transferred twice or more.⁴



Not only are RHY at risk for poor academic outcomes, they are also at risk for poor health outcomes including: too early childbearing, improper care and treatment for pre-existing chronic conditions (e.g., asthma, allergies, diabetes), and mental health disorders that are exacerbated by living on the streets, and they make up one of two groups classified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as having the highest HIV prevalence in the US.^{3, 5, 6}

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION AGENCIES

In 1988, Congress passed the McKinney-Vento Act requiring state education agencies (SEA) to ensure homeless children and youth are afforded the same educational opportunities and meet the same academic achievement standards as other children and youth. This toolkit was designed to assist education agencies and schools to provide homeless students and students at risk for homelessness with the additional supports necessary to perform in school. The toolkit contains information on the McKinney-Vento Act (see pg. 5) and its provisions for the education of homeless children and youth; tips on how to recognize youth in school who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; suggestions for how to support homeless youth and families; as well as many local, state, and national resources.

PURPOSE

This toolkit was developed by staff at the National Network for Youth (NN4Y) for use by classroom teachers, counselors, social workers, school administrators, school nurses, and other trusted allies in your school community. The goal of the toolkit is to raise awareness of the needs of RHY in schools and to alert school staff to the signs and characteristics of RHY and the many federal, state, and local resources available to assist schools. The education and RHY-serving community share the common goal of wanting youth to be productive, healthy, and educated members of society and it is NN4Y's hope that this toolkit will link both of these entities in a collaborative effort to address the needs of this population.

It is estimated that 1.6 million youth between 12-17 experience homelessness in a given year.⁷

YOU NEED TO KNOW

68% of runaway youth are older teens, ages 15 to 17.⁸

Before going too deeply into this toolkit, it would be helpful to have more background information on RHY.

Traditionally, the primary causes of youth homelessness are physical and sexual abuse by a parent or guardian; parental abuse or neglect; parental substance abuse; and family conflict.² Family economic hardship can be added to this list as some youth may be forced to leave home when the family is no longer able to afford to care for them. See Appendix A for more information about RHY from NN4Y, and state resources.

NN4Y defines RHY using a number of terms that may be used interchangeably. The definitions are as follows:

- **Runaways**
Individuals under 18 who leave home or legal place of residence without permission from their legal guardian or parent.
- **Throwaways**
Youth that were induced by their parents to leave home against their will and no effort was made by the parents to find them once they left.
- **Homeless**
Youth not more than 21 years of age for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative or legal guardian, and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.
- **Disconnected Youth**
Youth separated from societal institutions such as family, school, etc., which is indicative of their socioeconomic instability.
- **Economically Homeless**
Young people made homeless by their family's economic hardships – parents' loss of employment; foreclosure on the family home; and loss of economic supports (savings, stocks, bonds) that would have traditionally sustained the family during an economic crisis.



FEDERAL EFFORT: THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

Homelessness is a lack of permanent housing resulting from extreme poverty, or, in the case of unaccompanied youth, the lack of a safe and stable living environment. More than 1.35 million children and youth experience homelessness in a year.() Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in the U.S., accounting for approximately 40% of those in homeless situations.() Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in family homelessness in the past 15-20 years: a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.() There is an increasing gap between income and housing costs for low income individuals. For example, a minimum-wage worker cannot afford the Fair Market Rent¹⁰ for housing in any jurisdiction in the U.S.

RHY tend to be sexually active at early ages.⁹

Of the children and youth who schools identified as homeless during the 2007-2008 school year, 22% lived in shelters, 65% lived with family or friends, 7% lived in motels, and 6% lived without shelter.¹¹ Yet, these children and youth may not be immediately recognized as homeless and are sometimes denied the protections and services of the McKinney-Vento Act.

McKinney-Vento is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. It was reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002. ***The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.*** Under this program, SEAs must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool

32% of homeless youth have attempted suicide.¹²

education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth should have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth. Additionally, every local education agency (LEA), whether or not it receives a McKinney-Vento sub-grant, must designate a local liaison for homeless children and youth.

The Act now contains a specific definition of homelessness that includes a broad array of inadequate living situations that can help educators, families, and youth understand who is entitled to the Act's protections.¹³ Click on the following link for additional background information and resources on the McKinney-Vento Act and see Appendix B for the MOU on RHY between the Family and Youth Services Bureau and the United States Department of Education (U.S. DoE):

http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/mv_full_text.pdf.



SCHOOL EFFORT

It is unlikely that students will share their homeless status with others at school. Children learn at very young ages to ‘fit in’ and not be different from their peers – they want the same sneakers, lunch box, or cell phone as everyone else. They also know that everyone has a home to go to at night and being homeless makes them different from everyone else.

Runaway or homeless students will try to hide this ‘difference’ from you and others in the school.

Students, particularly in elementary school, spend most of their time with one or two teachers, but they also interact with many other school personnel during the day. The following is a list of signs or characteristics of RHY that may be noticed by school staff. Some of these signs could be symptoms of another problem, so it is best to learn more about each student’s individual situation to best address their particular needs. The lists are divided by roll (e.g., classroom teacher, school nurse, etc.), but anyone from the cafeteria staff to the janitor could observe these behaviors in a student.

SIGNS OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS¹⁴

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

A homeless student may exhibit the following behaviors in the classroom setting:

- Gaps in skill development
- Poor organizational skills
- Poor ability to conceptualize
- Extremes in behavior, including withdrawal, depression, shyness, nervousness, aggression, or anger
- Developmental delays
- School phobia (student wants to be/stay with parent)
- Refusing invitations from peers
- Unwillingness to risk forming relationships with peers and/or adults
- Need for immediate gratification
- Poor self-esteem
- Physical and medical difficulties
- Chronic hunger and tiredness
- Grooming, personal hygiene, and clothing that draws attention
- Hoarding food
- Absenteeism
- Lack of proper school supplies
- Unwilling to socialize at recess/ Difficulty socializing at events
- Anxiety late in the day
- Marked change in behavior

Runaway and homeless youth experience rape and assault rates 2 to 3 times higher than the general population of youth.¹⁵

- Fear of abandonment

SCHOOL NURSE

There are 162,000 homeless youth estimated to be victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States.¹⁶

As the school nurse, you may notice some of these signs as part of your regular student health assessments or a homeless student may come to your office complaining of the following:

- Overall poor health and/or nutrition
- Skin rashes
- Increased vulnerability to infections (chronic colds, sniffles, etc.)
- Unattended medical or dental needs
- Physical and medical difficulties (poorly managed asthma, diabetes, or other chronic conditions)

SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR SOCIAL WORKER

As the school counselor or social worker, you may be consulted about a child who's exhibiting behaviors that are cause for concern. A homeless student may exhibit the following:

- Difficulty trusting people
- Unwillingness to risk forming relationships with peers and/or adults
- Extremes in behavior, including withdrawal, depression, shyness, nervousness, aggression, or anger
- Poor self-esteem
- Clinging behavior
- Extreme shyness
- School phobia (student wants to be/stay with parent)
- Developmental delays

Homeless youth are 7 times as likely to die from AIDS and 16 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV as the general youth population.¹⁷

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

School administrators are focused on the 'bigger picture' concerns of running a school, but student homelessness may show up as the following:

- Attendance at many different schools
- Increased absenteeism
- Poor performance on standardized tests
- Behavioral concerns



WORKING WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES

School administrators, counselors, social workers, nurses, or other caring school staff are busy professionals with numerous responsibilities for all of the young people in schools. There are numerous RHY-serving organizations already operating in communities. Examples of potential partners and ways to work together to better address the needs of RHY are provided as guidance:

There's no need to reinvent the wheel! Remember that there may be individuals and organizations such as the local homeless task force, homeless coalition, and/or homeless assistance Continuum of Care already working with homeless families, runaway and homeless youth, and others in need the local community. A list of resources by state can be found at http://www.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php. Additionally, a list of the more than 400 NN4Y member organizations, who work specifically with RHY, is included in Appendix C of this toolkit.

Schools may already have a relationship with a local RHY provider particularly if the school does food, coat, and/or toy drives to help those in need. Capitalize on these activities that generally take place around the holidays to build relationships with providers working to reach RHY.

The *Yellow Pages* can be another valuable tool to search for community partners. Oftentimes, social services providers are listed together making this an easy resource to use to search for shelters, soup kitchens, food banks, youth-serving community-based organizations, transitional living programs, street outreach teams, drop-in centers, community action agencies (especially in rural areas, where there may be no shelters), welfare departments, housing departments, public health departments, and faith-based organization. Schools and community partners can collaborate on issues such as the identification of homeless families and youth, the school enrollment process, transportation, and other student services.

Contact managers of low-cost motels and campgrounds: Many families with children are moved to low-cost motels until more appropriate affordable housing can be found for them. There has also been an increase in families living at campgrounds after losing their homes. Many of these families would be unaware of the provisions available to keep their children in their school of origin. To make sure these young people don't experience prolonged school disruption, schools may leave written materials for the families and youth who stay there making sure that the contact information of the Local Education Agency (LEA) homeless liaison is included. The management may also be helpful in identifying homeless families and youth who would benefit from the assistance available to homeless students.

Become familiar with low-income neighborhoods: Develop relationships with people who operate services or programs in these areas and with the people who use the services as they may be helpful partners in identifying RHY in the area. Specifically target areas where young people who are out of school might congregate during the day, including: public laundry facilities, Head Start centers, migrant housing developments, and public housing complexes.

Provide outreach materials and posters at the above-mentioned and other facilities where there is a frequent influx of low-income families and youth in high-risk situations.

Make sure that materials are always well-stocked and that the materials include information on educational rights, who is considered homeless, and a local phone number to call for school enrollment and other assistance. Some ideas of where materials can be displayed include schools, local health clinics, unemployment and other social services offices, and local teen gathering places (e.g., malls, movie theatres, big box stores [Target or Walmart]), and fast food restaurants.

Posters for parents and for unaccompanied youth may be found on the National Center for Homeless Education's (NCHE) website at <http://www.serve.org/nche/products.php>.

Engage the local homeless task force, homeless coalition, and homeless assistance Continuum of Care as partners in the identification of students who are homeless. A list of resources by state can be found at http://www.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php.

Develop relationships with truancy officials and/or other attendance officers. Train truancy officers on how to recognize school absences that may be the result of homelessness. Provide officers with information so that they may discreetly refer students to appropriate services.

Provide awareness activities at district-wide professional development training sessions. Invite service agency personnel, including staff from your local runaway and homeless youth-serving organization, and homeless families to help conduct sensitivity training for school staff (registrars, secretaries, school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, etc.). Such activities should include training on how to recognize common signs of homelessness.

To increase awareness of RHY issues, schools can participate in the annual National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM). Sponsored by the National Runaway Switchboard and NN4Y in November, NRPM helps increase the awareness of issues facing runaways as well as educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in preventing youth from running away. For more information about NRPM, as well as tools and materials to use, go to <http://www.1800runaway.org/rpm/rpm.html>.

The Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit is available at the National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE, http://www.serve.org/nche/products_list.php#liaison_toolkit. Information and materials may be downloaded and copied at no charge and a CD Rom is also available – one copy per year at no charge.

For help finding housing or other support services in your area, please contact your local United Way (<http://national.unitedway.org/myuw/index.cfm>) or local Salvation Army (http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn_2.nsf)



See Appendix D of this document for easy referrals to hotlines and websites that may be useful to you or the young people you serve.

Runways and homeless youth are particularly vulnerable to contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).¹⁸

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN RHY-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

NN4Y members and other organizations that serve RHY recognize the importance of education in helping youth secure employment, stable housing, and realize the American dream. RHY-serving organizations offer a variety of educational programs ranging from tutoring to GED preparation to charter schools. Some of the programs work in concert with their local schools while other programs operate independently. It is helpful to be aware of the additional educational services available for RHY in your community. A complete list of NN4Y members with web addresses is attached in Appendix C. You can click on the links to see what types of education programs RHY organizations are offering in your area.

Here are some examples of the collaborative efforts of educational programming being offered to RHY or youth at risk for running away in communities across the country:

BILL WILSON CENTER, SANTA CLARA, CA

www.billwilsoncenter.org; 408-243-0222

School Outreach Counseling provides counseling services to youth in the Santa Clara Unified School District. Counseling is provided by Bill Wilson Center interns at middle and high school sites. Targeting youth at risk of runaway or dropping out of school, the school outreach counseling program addresses such issues as poor school performance, problems at home, drug prevention, depression, gang involvement, truancy, suicidal thoughts and sexuality.

98% of RHY ages 16-18 reported having had intercourse.¹⁷

49% of RHY reporting having first intercourse by age 13.¹⁷

COVENANT HOUSE, WASHINGTON, DC

www.covenanthousedc.org; 202-610-9632

Covenant House Washington offers instruction in Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development (GED), and college and Scholastic Aptitude (SAT) skills. Education specialists are trained in the use of PLATO Learning Software. Using graphics, animation, and sound, the web-based adult literacy software allows learners to work at their own pace. Users can access instruction at any time, anywhere a computer with internet access is available. The software's interactive capabilities and immediate feedback component motivate the learner to want to succeed. Programs such as this one work particularly well with youth in Transitional Living Programs (TLP) for whom the traditional classroom setting is not effective.



One of every three teens on the street will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.¹⁶

LARKIN STREET YOUTH SERVICES, SAN FRANCISCO, CA
www.larkinstreetyouth.org; 415-673-0911

Participants in any Larkin Street program have the opportunity to resume their education by attending the accredited on-site school and working toward their high school diploma or GED

(high school equivalency). The school (operated in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District) meets daily to provide project-based learning opportunities that incorporate such core elements as math, English, social studies, and science. Youth may earn credit in these core areas while re-engaging with the academic process, all the while working with the education staff to reconnect to a school that suits their needs. One- on-one afternoon tutoring is available to youth to overcome any academic hurdle they may encounter. The GED program also combines small group and individual instruction to help prepare youth for the five-part GED test. Classes and drop-in tutoring are available each weekday during both daytime and evening hours. To help overcome anxiety about the test, GED instructors facilitate a weekly fieldtrip to the local testing site to make youth more comfortable with the process.

YOUTH BRIDGE, INC. - BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES, FAYETTEVILLE, AR
www.youthbridge.com; 479-521-1532

Academic support services are available to all agency clients. The program includes tutoring, mentoring, and social and life skills education. Youth Bridge offers two state certified classrooms where residential clients can earn their high school diploma, GED or even college credit.

YOUTHCARE, SEATTLE, WA
www.youthcare.org; 206-622-5555

The Seattle School District's Interagency Academy has partnered with YouthCare for more than 25



years to provide an alternative school for homeless youth. YouthCare provides space for the school, and the Interagency Academy supplies the teachers. The **Orion Interagency School** is an alternative to mainstream public schools, turning no students away. Enrollment is a year-long and expectations for graduation are the same as public schools, though the curriculum is more flexible. With an average of 20 students enrolled at the Orion Interagency School daily, each student's day is tailored to his or her individual needs. As a result, students and teachers

build strong, personal relationships, with teachers serving as counselor, educator and administrator. Youth attending the Orion Interagency School get their high school diploma, obtain their GED, or earn credits toward graduation.

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APPENDIX A
NN4Y Resources
State Resources

NN4Y RESOURCES

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Tips and Tools for Reaching the Hardest to Reach

This companion PowerPoint presentation can be used by communities and schools that are interested in coming together to address the needs of runaway and homeless youth.

FACTSHEETS/ISSUE BRIEFS

Unaccompanied Youth Overview (Issue Brief)

This eight page brief provides readers with an in-depth overview of runaway and homeless youth issues with definitions of terms, incidence of youth homelessness, demographic characteristics, as well as the causes, factors, and consequences of youth homelessness.

http://www.nn4youth.org/system/files/IssueBrief_Unaccompanied_youth.pdf

Education Barriers for Homeless Youth (Issue Brief)

Runaway and homeless youth face numerous barriers to education. This issue brief provides an overview of these barriers as well as their negative consequences. Recommendations for changes and improvements to the current system are suggested.

http://www.nn4youth.org/system/files/IssueBrief_Education.pdf

Consequences of Youth Homelessness (Issue Brief)

Youth homelessness impacts society as a whole. The issue brief provides a look at the negative impact of youth homelessness and makes suggestions for solutions to address the problem.

http://www.nn4youth.org/system/files/IssueBrief_Youth_Homelessness.pdf

NN4Y Fast Facts: Public Awareness Guide (Factsheet)

This is a good introductory primer on youth homelessness that includes incidence, demographics, causal factors, and other statistics on the health and psychosocial concerns of runaway and homeless youth.

http://www.nn4youth.org/system/files/FactSheet_Public_awareness_0.pdf

STATE RESOURCES

Alone Without a Home: A State-by-State Review of Laws Affecting Unaccompanied Youth

The legal rights and responsibilities of unaccompanied youth vary state-by-state. Despite the fact that they are living apart from their parents or guardians, youth that are legally minor lack the legal status to live independently.

Alone Without a Home provides summaries, legal citations, and analyses of laws affecting unaccompanied youth in the United States and six territories (American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands).

More specifically, this publication covers many of the issues facing unaccompanied youth:

- youth in need of services;
- emancipation;
- status offenses, including running away, truancy, and curfews;
- the rights of youth to enter into contract;
- definitions and consequences of harboring runaway youth; and
- service and shelter responsibilities and resources.

Click on the link to download a copy of this publication:

<http://nlchp.org/content/pubs/Alone%20Without%20A%20Home1.pdf>

Use the [map](#) or [text links](#) below to access resources by state. Resources include the contact information for the State Coordinator of Homeless Education, the state's Education of Homeless Children and Youth program webpage (where available), and other statewide resources addressing homelessness and homeless education. Check back regularly for page updates.

State Coordinators for Homeless Education

Every state is required by federal law to have a State Coordinator for Homeless Education. This person is responsible for ensuring the understanding of and compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in public schools throughout the state.

 Download a [contact list](#) (28K) of State Coordinators for Homeless Education or select the state [below](#) to view the State Coordinator contact information for that state.

State Coordinator Regional Collaborative Groups

In order to address common issues and build supportive relationships, State Coordinators for Homeless Education have formed regional collaborative groups. For more information, click on the region below:

[Mid Atlantic](#) (DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV)

[Midwest](#) (BIE, IA, KS, MN, MO ND, NE, SD)

[Northwest](#) (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY)

[North Atlantic](#) (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)

[North Central](#) (IN, IL, KY, MI, OH, WI)

[Southeast](#) (FL, GA, PR, NC, SC, TN)

[Southwest](#) (AZ, BIE, CA, CO, HI, NM, NV, TX, UT)

[South Central](#) (AL, AR, LA, MS, OK)



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APPENDIX B

Memorandum of Understanding on RHY between the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) and the U.S. Department of Education and Accompanying Attachments



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

OCT 21 2003

To: Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program (TLP) Grantees
State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Coordinators
McKinney-Vento State Coordinators for Homeless Education

Re: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of
Education's Collaboration in Support of the Education of Homeless Youth

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) and the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Student Achievement and School Accountability (SASA) Programs are pleased to announce that our partnership in support of former foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth is solidly in place. We have been working closely together over the past several months to facilitate results-oriented strategies so that more former foster care and homeless youth can obtain access to suitable educational job training and vocational and/or postsecondary college settings through our programs.

Although ACYF and SASA are located within two different Departments, we are equally committed to developing opportunities to promote greater collaboration in support of the education of former foster care and homeless youth.

We write to encourage Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program (TLP) Grantees, State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Coordinators and McKinney-Vento State Coordinators for Homeless Education to collaborate and take every opportunity to support the education of former foster care and homeless youth.

Our offices fully recognize that one of the most common barriers to successfully transitioning to adulthood for millions of homeless youth in America is the lack of education. We believe in the importance of continuous collaboration and dialogue at every level to ensure that America's former foster care and homeless youth are afforded the opportunity to receive timely and appropriate educational service. We urge you to join us and be proactive in working collaboratively to remove any and all barriers to education, including but not limited to those related to school records and transportation, so that former foster care and homeless youth in need of educational services can easily obtain the services they need.

Our partnership is consistent with the goals of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), which recognizes collaborations of Federal offices with state and local governments and the private faith-based community sectors as key components to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

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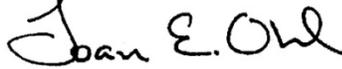
To support this collaboration, we have appointed staff within our offices to serve as resources to you as you further coordinate with each others' programs and fulfill the legislative mandate to collaborate with other youth homeless service programs. Over the next several weeks, Linda Reese-Smith, within ACYF's Office of the Commissioner, and John McLaughlin, within ED's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, SASA Program, will be disseminating valuable information to your attention.

These two members of our respective staffs will also request your participation in a series of informational sessions in conjunction with HHS' Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC), National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development (NCWRCYD) and EDs' National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE). These sessions have been designed to: (1) aid your understanding of each others' programs; (2) identify effective practices to overcome potential educational barriers; and (3) share how your program can access skill-based trainings within our network of expert technical resource providers.

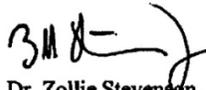
A current list of State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Coordinators and Transitional Living Programs can be found at: <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/programs.html> and a list of State McKinney-Vento Coordinators can be found at: http://www.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php. We encourage you to contact each other as soon as possible.

We appreciate your hard work in support of the education of former foster care and homeless youth and look forward to your continued help to ensure that each of these youth has a chance to succeed in an educational setting.

Sincerely,



Joan E. Ohl
Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and
Families



Dr. Zollie Stevenson, Jr.
Director
Office of Student Achievement and School
Accountability Programs

Enclosures:

Program Fact Descriptions:

Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)

Office of Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program was created in 1999 with passage the Foster Care Independence Act. The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program replaced the Title IV-E Independent Living Initiative of 1986. Its purpose was spelled out in the legislation and had 5 initial points:

1. To identify children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and to help these children make the transition to self-sufficiency by providing services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention);
2. To help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment;
3. To help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter post secondary training and education institutions;
4. To provide personal and emotional support to children aging out of foster care, through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults;
5. To provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood; and

An additional purpose was added to CFCIP as part of Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendment of 2001 (PL 107-133):

6. To make available vouchers for education and training, including post secondary learning and education, to youths who have aged out of foster care.

The Foster Care Independence Act also required that the Administration for Children and Families develop and implement a data collection system to (1) track the independent living services that states provide to youth, and (2) develop outcome measures that may be used to assess state performance in operating their independent living programs. The data collection system is called the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), and on February 26, 2008, the Children's Bureau published a final rule on NYTD in the Federal Register. The final rule outlines new regulations requiring States to collect and report youth data. States must begin collecting data by October 1, 2010.

For more information on the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, go to: <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/programs.html>

For more information on NYTD, go to: www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/nytd

Fact Sheet: Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth

The mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is to provide national leadership on youth and family issues; promote positive outcomes for children, youth and families; and support comprehensive services and collaborations at the local, Tribal, State and national levels. FYSB programs provide positive alternatives for youth, ensure their safety and maximize their potential.

Purpose

FYSB's Transitional Living Program supports projects that provide long-term residential services to homeless youth. The Program accepts youth ages 16-21. The services offered are designed to help young people who are homeless make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

Transitional living programs are required to provide youth with stable, safe living accommodations, and services that help them develop the skills necessary to become independent. Living accommodations may include host-family homes, group homes, maternity group homes, or supervised apartments owned by the program or rented in the community.

Services

Transitional Living Program grantees are required to offer or refer for the following services:

- Safe, stable living accommodations
- Basic life-skill building, including consumer education and instruction in budgeting, the use of credit, housekeeping, menu planning, food preparation and parenting skills
- Interpersonal skill building, including enhancing young people's abilities to establish positive relationships with peers and adults, make decisions and manage stress
- Educational opportunities, such as GED preparation, post-secondary training and vocational education
- Assistance in job preparation and attainment, such as career counseling and job placement
- Education, information and counseling to prevent, treat and reduce substance abuse
- Mental health care, including individual and group counseling
- Physical health care, including routine physicals, health assessments and emergency treatment

Transitional living programs also incorporate the Positive Youth Development, or PYD, approach into their programs. PYD suggests that the best way to prevent risky behavior is to help youth achieve their full potential. Youth development strategies focus on giving young people the chance to exercise leadership, build skills and become involved in their communities.

History

Thousands of young people run away or are forced to leave their homes each year. Since 1975, the Federal Government has funded emergency shelter programs for runaway and homeless youth to provide for their immediate needs and promote family reunification. Unfortunately, many homeless young people can't go home. In response to growing concern for youth in need of long-term supportive assistance that emergency shelter programs were not designed to provide, Congress created the Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth as part of the 1988

Amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. FYSB funded the first transitional living programs in 1990.

Funding

FYSB funds the Transitional Living Program under the provisions of the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-378). In FY 2009, 218 programs received a total of \$41 million.

Transitional Living Programs are funded thru grants provided by FYSB. The successful applicant receives funding for five years.

Contact Us

National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth
P.O. Box 13505, Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505

TEL: (301) 608-8098

FAX: (301) 608-8721

ONLINE

NCFY: ncfy.acf.hhs.gov

E-MAIL: ncfy@acf.hhs.gov

FYSB: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb

Purpose

Program Office: [Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs](#)

CFDA Number: 84.196

Program Type: Formula Grants

Also Known As: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

ED PROGRAMS

Search or print all Department programs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Formula grants are made to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico based on each state's share of Title I, Part A, funds. The outlying areas and the Bureau of Indian Affairs also receive funds. Among other things, the program supports an office for coordination of the education of homeless children and youths in each state, which gathers comprehensive information about homeless children and youths and the impediments they must overcome to regularly attend school. These grants also help SEAs ensure that homeless children, including preschoolers and youths, have equal access to free and appropriate public education (FAPE). States must review and revise laws and practices that impede such equal access. States are required to have an approved plan for addressing problems associated with the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children in school. States must make competitive subgrants to LEAs to facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youths. This includes addressing problems due to transportation needs, immunization and residency requirements, lack of birth certificates and school records, and guardianship issues.

TYPES OF PROJECTS

With subgrant funds, LEAs offer such activities as coordination and collaboration with other local agencies to provide comprehensive services to homeless children and youths and their families. LEAs also offer expedited evaluations of the needs of homeless children to help them enroll in school, attend regularly, and achieve success.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

States and school districts across the country are taking steps to address the needs of students who have been left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. We applaud their efforts and encourage them to review, as needed, the Department's [previously issued guidance](#) on the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

Each year, over 800,000 children and youth in the United States experience homelessness. Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is intended to ensure that homelessness does not cause these children to be left behind in school.



APPENDIX C

Links to NN4Y Members

EXTERNAL LINKS

NN4Y members are community-based organizations along with their neighborhood youth, adults, associations, and regional and state networks of youth workers. They provide street-based services such as emergency shelter; transitional living programs; counseling; and social, health, educational and job-related services to more than 2.5 million youth each year. These member organizations allow NN4Y to be in numerous communities throughout the country as we create a neighborhood of support for youth. Members are listed below by state.

ALASKA

Covenant House Alaska
Anchorage, AK
(907) 272-1255
www.covenanthouseak.org

Juneau Youth Services
Juneau, AK
(907) 789-7610
www.jys.org

ALABAMA

Jefferson County Committee for Economic
Opportunity
Birmingham, AL
(205) 327-7500

ARKANSAS

Youth Bridge, Inc.
Fayetteville, AR
(479) 521-1532
www.youthbridge.com

ARIZONA

Northland Family Help Center
Flagstaff, AZ
(928) 774-4503
www.northlandfamily.org

Our Family Services
Tucson, AZ

(520) 323-1708
www.ourfamilyservices.org

CALIFORNIA

Angel's Flight Shelter
Los Angeles, CA
(213) 413-2311
www.catholiccharitiesla.org/youth.html#shelter

Bill Wilson Center
Santa Clara, CA
(408) 243-0222
www.billwilsoncenter.org

Casa Youth Shelter
Los Alamitos, CA
(562) 594-6825
www.casayouthshelter.org

Channel Islands YMCA Youth and Family
Services
Santa Barbara, CA
(805) 569-1103
www.ciyymca.org

Covenant House California
Hollywood, CA
(323) 461-3131
www.covenanthouseca.org

EOC-Sanctuary Youth Shelter
Fresno, CA
(559) 498-8543
www.fresnoeoc.org

Father Joe's Village
San Diego, CA
(619) 687-1000
www.fatherjoesvillages.org

HERE - Homeless Emergency Runaway
Project
Chico, CA
(530) 895-6524
www.butte-dbh.org/HERE/here.htm

Larkin Street Youth Services
San Francisco, CA
(415) 673-0911
www.larkinstreetyouth.org

New Morning Youth and Family Services
Placerville, CA
(530) 622-5551
www.newmorningyfs.org

Noah's Anchorage YMCA
Santa Barbara, CA
(805) 963-8775
http://ciymca.org/Noahs_Anchorage

Northern California Family Center
Martinez, CA
(925) 340-1990
www.ncfc.us

Social Advocates for Youth
Santa Rosa, CA
(707) 544-3299
www.socialadvocatesforyouth.org

YMCA Youth and Family Services
San Diego, CA
(619) 543-9850
www.yfs.ymca.org

COLORADO

Family Tree, Inc.
Wheat Ridge, CO
(303) 422-2133
www.thefamilytree.org

Urban Peak Denver
Denver, CO
(303) 974-2932
www.urbanpeak.org

Urban Peak Colorado Springs
Colorado Springs, CO
(719) 630-3223
www.urbanpeak.org

Volunteers of America - Colorado
Denver, CO
(303) 297-0408
www.voacolorado.org

CONNECTICUT

Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport,
Inc.
Bridgeport, CT
(203) 334-1121
www.ccgb.org

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Beacon Consulting Group, Inc.
Washington, DC
(202) 544-7944
www.beacon-group.net

Covenant House Washington
Washington, DC
(202) 610-9600
www.covenanthousedc.org

Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.
Washington, DC

(202) 675-9340
www.sashabruce.org

Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League,
The
Washington, DC
(202) 546-5940
www.smyal.org

FLORIDA

Capital City Youth Services
Tallahassee, FL
(850) 576-6000
www.ccys.org

CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services,
Inc.
Gainesville, FL
(352) 334-3800
www.cdsfl.org

Covenant House Florida, Inc.
Fort Lauderdale, FL
(954) 561-5559
www.covenanthousefl.org

Daniel Memorial, Inc.
Jacksonville, FL
(904) 296-1055

Family Resources, Inc.
Pinellas Park, FL
(727) 521-5200
www.family-resources.org

Florida Keys Children's Shelter
Tavernier, FL
(305) 852-4246
www.fkcs.org

Florida Network of Youth and Family Services,
Inc.
Tallahassee, FL
(850) 922-4324
www.floridanetwork.org

Lutheran Services Florida - NW
Pensacola, FL
(850) 453-2772
www.lsfnet.org

Southeastern Network of Youth and Family
Services, Inc.
Bonita Springs, FL
(239) 949-4414
www.senetwork.org

Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc.
New Port Richey, FL
(727) 835-4166
www.yfainc.org

GEORGIA

Alcove
Monroe, GA
(770) 267-9156

Covenant House Georgia
Atlanta, GA
(404) 580-0163
www.convenanthousega.org

HAWAII

Hawaii Youth Services Network
Honolulu, HI

(808) 531-2198

www.hysn.org

IOWA

United Action for Youth

Iowa City, IA

(319) 338-7518

www.unitedactionforyouth.org

Youth and Shelter Services

Ames, IA

(515) 233-3141

www.yss.ames.ia.us

Youth Emergency Services and Shelter of
Iowa

Des Moines, IA

(515) 243-7825

www.yessiowa.org

ILLINOIS

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc.

Olympia Fields, IL

(708) 747-7100

www.auntmarthas.org

Bridge Youth & Family Services

Palatine, IL

(847) 359-7490

www.bridgeyouth.org

National Runaway Switchboard

Chicago, IL

(773) 880-9860

www.1800runaway.org

Night Ministry

Chicago, IL

(773) 784-9000

www.thenightministry.org

Project OZ

Bloomington, IL

(309) 827-0377

www.projectoz.org

Teen Living Programs

Chicago, IL

(312) 568-7000

www.teenliving.org

INDIANA

Crisis Center, Inc.

Gary, IN

(219) 938-7070

www.crisiscenterysb.org

Hamilton Centers for Youth Service Bureau,
Inc.

Noblesville, IN

(317) 773-6342

www.hcysb.org

KANSAS

TLC For Children and Families, Inc.

Olathe, KS

(913) 764-2887

www.kidstlc.org

LOUISIANA

Covenant House New Orleans

New Orleans, LA

(504) 584-1108

www.covenanthouseno.org

Our House, Inc.

Monroe, LA

(318) 345-5556

www.teen-help.com

MAINE

New Beginnings, Inc.
Lewiston, ME
(207) 795-4077

www.newbeginmaine.org

Preble Street Resource Center-Teen Center
Portland, ME
(207) 775-0026

www.preblestreet.org

MICHIGAN

Catholic Family Services
Kalamazoo, MI
(269) 381-9800

www.catholicfamilyservices.org

Common Ground
Bloomfield Hills, MI
(248) 456-8150

www.commongroundhelps.org

Covenant House Michigan
Detroit, MI
(313) 463-2045

www.covenanthousemi.org

Every Woman's Place/Webster House
Muskegon, MI
(231) 759-7909

www.everywomansplace.org

Genesee County Youth Corporation
Flint, MI
(810) 233-8700

MINNESOTA

Ain Dah Yung Shelter (Our Home) Shelter
St. Paul, MN
(651) 227-4184

www.aindahyung.com

Freeport West, Inc.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 824-3040

www.freeportwest.org

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Duluth, MN
(218) 529-2236

www.lssmn.org

MISSOURI

Boys and Girls Town of Missouri*
Springfield, MO
(417) 865-1646

www.bgtm.org

Covenant House Missouri
St. Louis, MO
(314) 533-2241

www.covenanthousemo.org

Epworth Children and Family Services
West Groves, MO
(314) 961-5718

www.epworth.org

Synergy Services, Inc.
Parkville, MO
(816) 587-4100

www.synergyservices.org

Youth In Need, Inc.
St. Charles, MO
(636) 946-5600

www.youthinneed.org

MISSISSIPPI

South Mississippi Children's Center
Hattiesburg, MS
(601) 582-8891
www.mchscares.org

NORTH CAROLINA

Caring for Children, Inc.
Asheville, NC
(828) 298-0186
www.caring4children.org

Youth Focus
Greensboro, NC
(336) 274-5909
www.youthfocus.org

NEBRASKA

CEDARS Youth Services
Lincoln, NE
(402) 434-5437
www.cedars-kids.org

Community Action Partnership of Western
Nebraska
Gering, NE
(308) 635-3089
www.capwn.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
Manchester, NH

(603) 518-4000
www.cfsnh.org

NEW JERSEY

Anchor House, Inc.
Trenton, NJ
(609) 396-8329
www.anchorhousenj.org

Center for Family Services, Inc.
Camden, NJ
(856) 964-1990
www.centerffs.org

Covenant House New Jersey
Atlantic City, NJ
(609) 348-4070
www.covenanthousenj.org

Ocean's Harbor House
Toms River, NJ
(732) 864-2111
www.oceansharborhouse.org

Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced
Children
Bridgewater, NJ
(908) 526-6605
www.somersethome.org

NEVADA

WestCare, Inc.
Las Vegas, NV
(702) 385-2090
www.westcare.com

NEW YORK

Covenant House - Corporate
New York, NY

(212) 727-4000
www.covenanthouse.org

Covenant House New York
New York, NY
(212) 613-0300
www.covenanthouse.org

Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family
Services
New York, NY
(212) 966-6477
www.empirestatecoalition.org

Huntington Sanctuary Project
Huntington, NY
(631) 351-3061
http://town.huntington.ny.us/department_details.cfm?ID=18

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency,
Inc.
Utica, NY
(315) 624-9930
www.mvcaa.com

OHIO

Bellefaire JCB
Shaker Heights, OH
(216) 932-2800
www.bellefairejcb.org

Daybreak
Dayton, OH
(937) 395-4600
www.daybreakdayton.org

Family Service Agency/Children's & Family
Service
Youngstown, OH

(330) 782-2397
www.familyserviceagency.com

Lighthouse Youth Services, Inc.
Cincinnati, OH
(513) 221-3350
www.lys.org

Shelter Care, Inc.
Tallmadge, OH
(330) 630-5600
www.sheltercareinc.org

Sojourners Care Network
McArthur, OH
(740) 596-1117
www.sojournerscare.net

OKLAHOMA

Crossroads Youth & Family Services, Inc.
Norman, OK
(405) 292-6440
www.crossroadsyfs.com

Northwest Family Services, Inc.
Alva, OK
(580) 327-2900
www.northwestfamily.net

Oklahoma Association of Youth Services
Oklahoma City, OK
(405) 528-4120
www.oays.org

Street School, Inc.
Tulsa, OK
(918) 833-9800
www.streetschool.org

Youth Services for Stephens County, Inc.
Duncan, OK
(580) 255-8800

Youth Services of Tulsa, Inc.
Tulsa, OK
(918) 582-0061
www.yst.org

OREGON

Integral Youth Services
Klamath Falls, OR
(541) 882-2053
www.iyskfalls.org

J Bar J Ranch, Inc.
Bend, OR
(541) 389-1409
www.jbarj.org

Janus Youth Programs, Inc.
Portland, OR
(503) 542-4608
www.janusyouth.org

Looking Glass Youth and Family Services,
Inc.
Eugene, OR
(541) 686-2688
www.lookingglass.us

Northwest Human Services, Inc.
Salem, OR
(503) 588-5828
www.northwesthumanservices.org

Outside In
Portland, OR
(503) 223-4121
www.outsidein.org

PENNSYLVANIA

Covenant House Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
(215) 923-8350
www.covenanthousepa.org

Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family
Services
Pittsburgh, PA
(412) 366-6562
www.manynet.org

Valley Youth House
Allentown, PA
(610) 820-0166
www.valleyyouthhouse.org

TEXAS

Connections Individual and Family Services,
Inc.
New Braunfels, TX
(830) 629-6571
www.connectionsnonprofit.org

Covenant House Texas
Houston, TX
(713) 523-2231
www.covenanthousetx.org

Harris County Children's Protective Services
for Children and Adults
Houston, TX
(713) 295-2510
www.hc-ps.org

LifeWorks
Austin, TX
(512) 735-2400
www.lifeworksweb.org

North Texas Youth Connection
Sherman, TX
(903) 893-4717
www.ntxyouthconnection.org

Promise House, Inc.
Dallas, TX
(214) 941-8578
www.promisehouse.org

Texas Network of Youth Services
Austin, TX
(512) 328-6860
www.tnoys.org

UTAH

Salt Lake County Youth Services
Salt Lake City, UT
(801) 269-7500
www.slcoyouth.org

VIRGINIA

Seton Youth Shelters
Virginia Beach, VA
(757) 963-5795
www.setonyouthshelters.org

VERMONT

Spectrum Youth & Family Services
Burlington, VT
(802) 864-7423
www.spectrumvt.org

WASHINGTON

Auburn Youth Resources
Auburn, WA
(253) 351-5946
www.ayr4kids.org

Community Youth Services
Olympia, WA
(360) 943-0780
www.communityyouthservices.org

Friends of Youth
Redmond, WA
(425) 869-6490
www.friendsofyouth.org

Northwest Network for Youth
Seattle, WA
www.nwny.org

Volunteers of America - Eastern WA & N
Idaho
Spokane, WA
(509) 624-2378
www.voaspokane.org

YFA Connections
Spokane, WA
(509) 532-2000
www.yfaconnections.org

YouthCare, Inc.
Seattle, WA
(206) 694-4500
www.youthcare.org

WISCONSIN

SAFE Haven of Racine, Inc.
Racine, WI
(262) 637-9559
www.safehavenofracine.org

WIS Association of Runaway Services
(WARS)
Madison, WI
(608) 241-2649

WEST VIRGINIA

Daymark, Inc.
Charleston, WV
(304) 340-3675
<http://daymark.org>

WYOMING

Youth Crisis Center, Inc.
Casper, WY
(307) 577-5718



APPENDIX D

Links to Youth-friendly Healthcare and Other Service Providers

LINKS TO YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH CARE AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

<http://www.gyt09.org> provides information on sexually transmitted infections and other sexual health information; allows users to enter their zip codes to find local testing sites for HIV and other STIs.

HOTLINES

Family Planning and Contraception

- 800 230 PLAN
[Planned Parenthood Health Center Locator](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 888 NOT 2 LATE
[Emergency Contraception Hotline](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

HIV and AIDS

- 800 CDC INFO (800 232 4636)
[CDC National AIDS Hotline](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 800 232 4636
[Línea Nacional del SIDA de los CDC](#)
24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana
- 800 232 6348
[CDC National AIDS Hotline TTY for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)
Monday - Friday, 10am-10pm EST

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Information

- 800 227 8922
[CDC National STD Hotline](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 800 344 7432
[Línea Nacional de las ETS de los CDC](#)
8am- 2am EST, 7 días a la semana
- 800 243 7889
[CDC National STD Hotline TTY for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)
10am-10pm EST, Monday - Friday
- 919 361 8488
[National Herpes Hotline](#)
9am-7pm EST, Monday - Friday
- 919 361 4848
[National HPV and Cervical Cancer Hotline](#)
2pm-7pm EST, Monday - Friday

Support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Youth

- 866 4 U TREVOR (866-488-7386)
[Trevor Helpline](#) Crisis Intervention for LGBT Youth
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 888 THE GLNH (888-843-4564)
The [Gay & Lesbian National Hotline](#)
4pm-midnight EST, Monday - Friday; noon-5pm EST, Saturday
- 800-96-YOUTH
[OutYouth](#) Austin Helpline
5:30pm-8:30pm CST, 7 days a week
- 800-347-TEEN
IYG National Hotline
7pm-10pm EST, Friday and Saturday

Suicide & Crisis

- 800 SUICIDE (800-784-2433)
[National Hope Line Network](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Substance Abuse

- 888-4-AL-ANON (888 425 2666)
[Al-Anon/Al-Ateen](#)
8am - 6pm EST, Monday - Friday
- 800 ALCOHOL (800-252-6465)
Alcohol Hotline
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 800 662 HELP (800-662-4357)
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Referral Helpline
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

- 800-799-SAFE (800-799-7233)
800-787-3224 (TTY)
[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 800-4-A-CHILD (800-422-4453)
800-2-A-CHILD (TDD)
[National Child Abuse Hotline](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 800-656-HOPE (800-656-4673)
[National Sexual Assault Hotline](#)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

[Homeless/Runaway](#)

- 800-231-6946
National Runaway Switchboard
24 hours a day, 7 days a week