



Federal Policy Update on Child & Youth Homelessness

November 20, 2025



General Housekeeping



This webinar will last one hour



Please type questions into the Q&A box



Session is being recorded



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SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness, from prenatal to postsecondary, through strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with youth, families, schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, and service providers.

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About National Network for Youth

**NN4Y is on a mission to
transform systems so that no
young person in America
experiences homelessness.**



collaborate • advocate • transform

<http://nn4youth.org/>

NN4Y works with youth who have experienced homelessness and youth service providers from across the country to prevent and end youth, young adult, and young parent family homelessness and human trafficking. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home, with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.

Our Programs

- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Youth + Youth Adult Partnerships
- Community-Based Solutions

Today's Agenda

- 1. Status of Federal Funding (2026-2027 School Year)**
- 2. Status of Fired Federal Employees at US Department of Education**
- 3. Moving K12 and Postsecondary Programs from ED to Dept. of Labor**
- 4. Status of Runaway and Homeless Youth Act 2025 Competition**
- 5. 2025 HUD Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Notice of Funding Opportunity**



Federal Funding: FY2026 Appropriations (2026-2027 School Year)

Agreement to Reopen the Federal Government

- After 44 days, Congress reached an agreement to reopen the government on November 12th.
- The agreement included full-year FY2026 funding for the Departments of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, FDA, military construction, and the legislative branch. *This includes full funding for SNAP and WIC through September 2026.*
- All other federal funding was continued at the current level through **January 30, 2026**, including early childhood, education, housing, homelessness, and health programs.

Reversing Federal RIFs

- The agreement to reopen the government required federal agencies to restore federal workers who had been fired through a Reduction in Force (RIF) during the shutdown, at least through January 30
- This means that Office of Elementary and Secondary Education – including staff who administer programs for homeless children and youth and children and youth in foster care – back at work.
- A bipartisan letter was sent to the Administration last week urging the permanent restoration of homeless and foster care education staff.

Status of the Remaining FY2026 Spending Bills

On the remaining 9 bills – including labor, health, human services, education, and housing – the House and Senate bills are very different.

- The House bills mostly reflect the President's cuts/priorities, **and are largely partisan**.
- The Senate bills reject many of the President's cuts/priorities, **and are largely bipartisan**.

FY2026 K12 Education Funding

	Senate	House
Title I Part A Funding	✓ (slight increase)	✗ (27% cut)
Migrant Education (Title I, Part C)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Title I Part D (Neglected and Delinquent)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Title III (English Learners)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Special Education	✓ (slight increase)	✓ (slight increase)

THESE FUNDING LEVELS MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

FY2026 Early Childhood Funding

	Senate	House
Preschool Development Grants	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Head Start/Early Head Start	✓ (slight increase)	✓ (level funded)
Child Care and Development Block Grant	✓ (slight increase)	✓ (level funded)
Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
IDEA Part C (Early Intervention)	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
IDEA Preschool Grants	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)

THESE FUNDING LEVELS MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

FY2026 Higher Education Funding

	Senate	House
Pell Grants	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
TRIO	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
GEAR UP	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Federal Work Study	✓ (slight increase)	✗ (36% cut)

THESE FUNDING LEVELS MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

Targeted Federal Homelessness Programs

Program	FY2026	
	Senate Committee	House Committee
Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY)	\$129 million	\$129 million
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs (RHYA)	\$146.3 million	\$146.3 million
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)	\$107 million	\$0
HUD Homeless Assistance Grants	\$4.02 billion	\$3.86 billion

What Are the Potential Scenarios for FY2026 Funding?

1. Full-year funding for all nine bills completed by January 30th
2. Full-year funding for some of the nine bills completed by January 30th
3. Another short-term Continuing Resolution, or CR (moving the deadline to February or March)
4. A year-long CR (similar to what happened this year)
5. Another federal government shutdown

In all of the scenarios, EHCY, RHYA, and HUD homelessness funding is likely to be intact. **The biggest unknown remains the Administration: whether or not it will try to withhold funds that Congress appropriated.**



Efforts to Dismantle the U.S. Department of Education

Moving ED Programs to Other Agencies

- On November 18, as part of its effort to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the Trump Administration announced plans to move the management of six offices to other federal agencies through interagency “partnerships.”
- Policy and statutory oversight would be retained by ED, while grant management and other functions would move to other agencies.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Programs Moving to DOL

- Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies
- Title I, Part B: Improving Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged—State Assessment Grants
- Title I, Part C: Education of Migratory Children
- Title I, Part D: Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants
- Title III, Part A: English Language Acquisition State Grants
- Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE)
- Title IV, Part B 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Title V Small, Rural School Achievement and Rural and Low-Income School Programs
- Impact Aid
- **Education for Homeless Children and Youths**
- Charter Schools
- Full Community Schools

Placement of Other Education Programs

- Moving to Department of Labor
 - TRIO and GEAR UP
 - Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (includes the recently terminated Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program; see Hope Center statement [here](#))
- Moving to US Department of Health and Human Services
 - Child Care Access Means Parents in School Partnership
- Staying at Department of Education (for now)
 - Special Education
 - Federal Student Aid
 - Office of Civil Rights

What Happens to Funding?

According to the Administration's statement:

- “States will continue receiving all formula education funds, but they will receive funds from DOL.”
- “Grantees should not expect to experience programmatic disruptions, and should continue to remain in contact with their respective OESE staff.”

When Will Changes Take Effect?

- The Office of Postsecondary Programs are expected to move first.
- The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education programs would not move for a while – not for at least three months.

Why is the Move Problematic?

According to the agreements, policy and statutory oversight for federal programs remains at ED, while grant administration and other functions move to other agencies.

- Most of what McKinney-Vento and Title I Part A foster care staff do is not grant administration, but connects directly to policy and statute.
- Department of Labor (and other agencies) do not have the subject matter expertise or experience with state and local educational agencies.
- Having federal programs administered by two federal agencies will **increase bureaucracy**, rather than reducing it.

NEW RESOURCE:

*What the U.S.
Department of
Education is
Required to Do
for Homeless
Children and
Youth – And Why
It Matters*

Are There Efforts to Prevent These Changes?

- Litigation is very possible.
- Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle have expressed concern.
- Language could be inserted in the FY2026 funding bills to prevent any moves from proceeding.

2025 Funding for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Program

Fiscal Year 2025: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Funding

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Program

- All 2025 applicants should have received their award notices.
- There are fewer RHYA awards this cycle because:
 - The individual grant award amount was higher, but the overall program funding remained the same.
 - The Street Outreach Program was not issued as a standalone grant opportunity.

If you were not awarded a RHYA grant, please consider [completing this short form](#) to tell us your score and the reason you were not selected.

2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

CoC/YHDP

New HUD NOFO: Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program



Joint CoC/YHDP NOFO

- The FY 2025 Joint CoC/YHDP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released last week. \$3.9 billion is available, including \$228 million for YHDP.
 - *Continuum of Care (CoC): A regional or local planning body that applies for, distributes, and coordinates the funding for housing and homelessness services.*
 - *Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP): Competitive grant within the CoC to coordinate plans and implement strategies to prevent and end homelessness among youth under the age of 25.*
- Applications are due January 14, awards are expected May 1.
 - **This means many CoCs will experience a gap in funding.**

New HUD NOFO: Increased Competition

Major Changes: Overall

- Tier 1 funding (protected) is down from 90% to **30%** of a CoC's total funding.
- Tier 2 funding (70%) is now fully competitive.
 - This includes all project types, including YHDP and domestic violence bonuses.
 - All project types must be ranked and scored under the Merit Review, which includes a number of new requirements.
 - Since the entire CoC portfolio is now competitive, even small scoring differences could lead to major funding losses.
- **Impact on youth-serving programs:** Because HUD's outcome metrics are designed for chronically homeless older adults, youth-serving programs don't always score in Tier 1 and Tier 2 will be highly competitive.

New HUD NOFO: Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Major Changes: Overall

Spending on permanent housing (PH) **is capped at 30%**. Currently, most CoCs spend around 87% on PH.

- This includes permanent supportive housing (PSH), rapid rehousing (RRH), and joint projects.
- The additional 70% can be spent on transitional housing (TH), supportive services only (SSO), and HMIS.

ISSUE: Providers can not move clients from PH to TH or TH to PH - meaning providers can't just change a PH project to TH and keep the same clients in that program—they will have to be exited.

New HUD NOFO: Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Major Changes: Overall

Impact on YHDP: Only **renewal** TH-RRH projects will be funded, and the eligible costs are limited. **No new** TH-RRH projects will be funded.

Impact on youth and families: Nationally, there are **16,369** PH beds dedicated for youth under age 24 and **392,014** beds and units for families with children. This will dramatically decrease, especially as PSH will be prioritized for the elderly and people with physical disabilities.

New HUD NOFO: Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Major Changes: Overall

- **Incentivizes supportive service requirements for all projects:** Under the merit review, CoCs must “demonstrate that the proposed project will require program participants to take part in supportive services.”
 - **10** points if 100% of the CoC’s projects have participation requirements.
 - **5** points if 50% have participation requirements.
- **Incentivizes additional service requirements for TH projects:** For **2** points, TH applicants must “demonstrate that the proposed project will provide 40 hours per week of customized services for each participant,” such as case management, employment training, substance use treatment.
 - The 40 hours can be adjusted based on employment schedule, but the NOFO doesn’t explicitly state if they can be adjusted based on education schedule.

New HUD NOFO: Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Major Changes: Overall

- **Heavily incentivizes “public safety” initiatives: 13** points are awarded if the CoC demonstrates that:
 - Their state and/or local government that covers the entire geographic area has laws (2 points) and/or “protocols” (2 points) to ban encampments and public drug use.
 - Utilizes policies such as involuntary commitment (3 points).
 - Is compliant with SORNA (3 points).
 - Assists law enforcement (3 points).
- **Incentivizes CoCs that verify immigration status: 4** points are awarded if the applicant demonstrates that all CoC projects use SAVE or coordinate with a “governmental entity” to verify immigration status before enrolling someone in services.
- **Evaluates a project’s previous activities:** Applicants can be rejected if they have previously or currently “subsidize[d] or facilitate[d] racial preferences” or “conduct[ed] activities that rely on or otherwise use[d] a definition of sex other than as binary in humans.”

2025 HUD NOFO: Less Funding for Rapid Rehousing Projects

Rapid Re-housing (RRH) is a permanent housing model that provides short- to medium-term rental assistance and services in a tenant's own unit, with no built-in time limit on the housing itself.

- RRH is considered permanent housing, and is now subject to the 30% cap = less funding for RRH.

While appropriate and successful for some families and youth, RRH has had its share of serious concerns:

- Families and youth have difficulty maintaining rent when assistance ends - evictions.
- Per HUD's own evaluations, many families experienced high mobility and periods of being doubled up or otherwise unstably housed for the first year after assistance ended.

2025 HUD NOFO: More Funding for Transitional Housing Projects

Transitional housing (TH) is a temporary, program-run housing placement with a time-limited stay (usually up to 24 months) meant to bridge people into permanent housing.

- There is now more funding for TH models.
- TH may be particularly appropriate for some youth, young adults, and families.
- [See SHC-NN4Y-CHI report on youth-supportive transitional housing.](#)

2025 HUD NOFO: More Funding for Supportive Services Only Projects

Allowable under [24 CFR 578.53\(e\)](#): Supportive services must be necessary to assist program participants obtain and maintain housing.

- Assistance with moving costs
- Case management
- Child care
- Education services
- Employment assistance and job training
- Food
- Housing search and counseling services
- Legal services
- Life skills training
- Mental health services
- Outpatient health services
- Outreach services
- Addiction treatment
- Transportation
- Utility deposits
- Direct provision of services

Collaboration for Children and Youth

Previous NOFO: 3 Points

- Indicate written agreements are in place between their CoC or its HUD-funded projects and educational supports and services for children ages 0-5, such as Public Pre-K, Head Start, Child Care (Child Care and Development Fund), and home visiting (including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV);
- identify the formal partnerships their CoC has with youth education providers, local educational authorities, or school districts; and
- describe policies and procedures their CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who have recently begun experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for educational services.

2025 NOFO: 2 points

- The CoC must Indicate written agreements are in place between their CoC or its HUD-funded projects and educational supports and services for children ages 0-5, such as Public Pre-K, Head Start, Child Care (including Child Care and Development Fund), or home visiting (including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV);
- Identify formal partnerships the CoC has with youth education providers, local educational authorities, or school districts; and
- Show policies and procedures that have been adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services

New HUD NOFO: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Major Changes: YHDP

- \$228 million in funding for YHDP renewal, replacement, and reallocation.
 - There is **no funding for new communities** under this NOFO.

Definitions:

- *Renewal: Reapplying for funding for an existing, eligible YHDP project and its current activities.*
- *Replacement: Creating a new YHDP project to replace a current one. Funds must go to youth projects only.*
- *Reallocation: Shifting funds from one or more existing projects (CoC, DV, or YHDP) to create one or more new projects—can go to different subpopulations.*

New HUD NOFO: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Major Changes: YHDP

- **All YHDP renewals and replacements must now compete.** Previously, YHDP projects renewed noncompetitively.
- YAB approval is needed to renew/replace a project under **special/innovative activities**. This could impact communities that disbanded their YABs due to lack of funding (YHDP only funds YABs for two years).
- **YHDP reallocations must go to youth projects.**
 - This is good—the previous NOFO allowed youth money to be reallocated to non-youth projects.

New HUD NOFO: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

There are national **advocacy efforts** to offer a non-competitive one-year extension to CoCs to prevent funding gaps, as well as **potential litigation**.

It's unclear if those efforts will be successful, so many communities are applying under this NOFO just in case.

- [Advocacy Alert](#): Contact your U.S. Representatives to offer a non-competitive one-year extension for eligible CoCs.
- [Advocacy Guide](#): Information about the NOFO.
- Both the House and Senate have sent letters to HUD expressing concerns over the timeline and changes in the NOFO:
 - [House Letter](#)
 - [Senate Letter](#)

Unpacking the Joint CoC/YHDP NOFO: What it Means for Youth Homelessness Programs

A Members Only Support Webinar

Monday, November 24, 2025 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM ET



How Can We Help?

Please complete the post-webinar evaluation to help inform and shape our work (or type in the chat).

1. How are programs for families and youth in your CoC responding to the NOFO?
2. How are the changes in the 2025 NOFO likely to impact your work, if at all?
3. What assistance would be helpful from SHC or NN4Y to navigate these changes?

Eligibility Changes for Food Assistance (SNAP)

- New SNAP eligibility rules are now fully in effect as a result of HR 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act), which **cuts \$187 billion from SNAP over the next 10 years.**
- People experiencing homelessness, veterans, and youth aging out of foster care are no longer automatically exempt from work requirements. They must provide proof of working or participating in a qualifying program 80 hours a month, unless they qualify for another exemption (such as being pregnant, medically “unfit,” or caring for a child under age 14).
- Certain lawfully present immigrants are no longer eligible for SNAP: refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, and victims of domestic violence.
- States must document compliance.

SHC and NN4Y Trackers

- [SHC's Live Tracking of Major Actions](#)
- [SHC Federal Policy Page](#)
- [Read NN4Y's latest blog posts](#)
- [NN4Y's Take Action Center](#)
- [Sign up for NN4Y's Newsletter to stay up-to-date](#)



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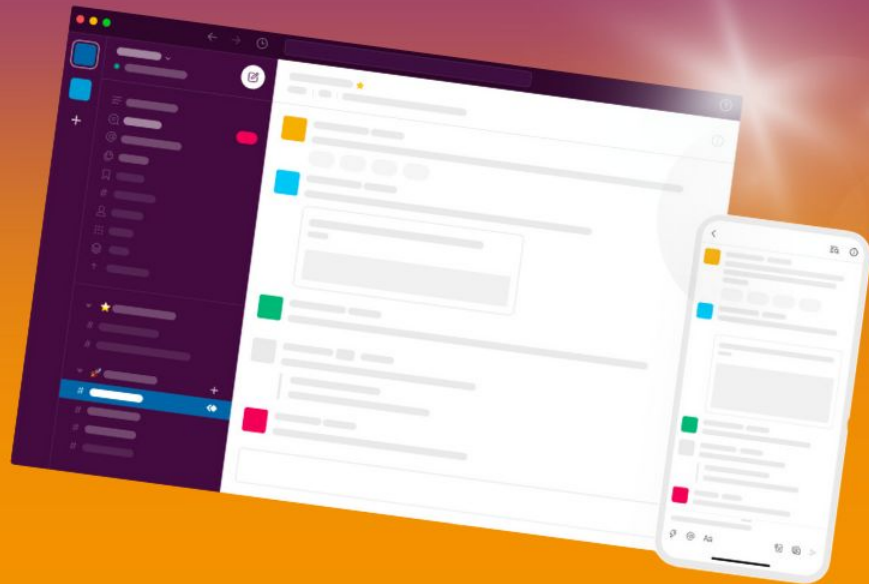
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NATIONAL
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National Summit on Youth Homelessness + Hill Day

March 12-13, 2026 | Washington DC, Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill



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Other Legislation: Safety Net Programs, Housing, Higher Education, and State-Level EHCY Protections

Enacted:

H.R. 1, “One Big, Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA)

- On July 4th, President Trump signed the sweeping budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 1, into law.
- The legislation makes deep, long-term cuts to food assistance, health care, and higher education over the next ten years to fund increased defense spending, extend tax breaks, and raise the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion.
- State budgets will be severely impacted by loss of federal revenue
- States will face significant policy and budget decisions.

Resources:

- [NASFAA](#): higher education provisions (including Workforce Pell and student loan changes)
- [FRAC](#): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provisions
- [KFF](#): Medicaid work requirements
- [EdWeek](#): Impact of Medicaid and SNAP provisions on schools
- [Stateline](#) and also [EdWeek](#): state choices on federal school voucher program
- [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#): timeline for most provisions

Introduced: Homeless Children & Youth Act

On May 7, 2025, the S. 1667 - Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA) was reintroduced by U.S. Senators Katie Britt (R-AL) and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD).

Ensures that children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness are no longer shut out of homeless assistance because they do not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) restrictive definition of homelessness.

[More information and take action.](#)

Key Components:

- Aligns HUD's definition of homelessness with those of other federal programs.
- Requires HUD to score applications primarily on whether they are cost-effective in meeting the priorities and goals that communities identify in their local plans.
- Improves HUD homeless assistance data and transparency.

Coming Soon: Housing for Homeless Students Act (HHSA)

Bipartisan, Bicameral Re-Introduction of the Housing for Homeless Students Act

The Issue:

- Since 1987, over 3.7 million Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units were created to provide affordable housing options to lower-income individuals.
- However, full-time students are excluded from the list of eligible tenants.
- There are some exceptions to this student rule - including former foster youth. However, homeless youth are not eligible. As a result, they must choose between being a full-time student, and having a place to live.

The Solution:

- HHSA would add homeless youth and veterans to the list of eligible tenants. It has no budget impact.

Coming Soon-ish: Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act (HEASHFY)

Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill to Remove Obstacles to Higher Education

- Requires the designation of a higher education liaisons for homeless and foster youth (similar to K-12 liaison) with specified duties
- Requires a plan for housing during breaks and during semester, and priority for on-campus housing
- Requires that admissions applications provide youth the opportunity to identify as homeless or foster youth for the purposes of being provided information about financial aid and student support services.
- Requires that TRIO and GEAR-UP programs identify, conduct outreach to, and recruit homeless children and youth, and children and youth in foster care
- Provides homeless and foster youth in-state tuition.
- Prioritizes homeless and foster youth for the Federal Work-Study Program.

Legislation

Introduced: Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)



RHYTPA reauthorizes and updates the current Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program.

Updates RHYTPA would make include:

- ★ Prioritizes outreach and extends services to survivors of sexual abuse, exploitation, and/or trafficking.
- ★ Allows RHYA grantees the option of applying for an additional \$75,000 for preventative services.
- ★ Increases the eligible age for Transitional Living Programs and Maternity Group Homes from 22 to 25 years old.
- ★ Ensures youth are assisted in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- ★ Requires HHS to develop a national estimate of the prevalence of youth experiencing homelessness every three years.