FACT SHEET
117th CONGRESS
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PASS THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT (RHYTPA)

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) funds three key pillars of prevention and intervention to help youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness:

**THREE KEY PILLARS OF PREVENTION + INTERVENTION**

- **STREET OUTREACH (SOP)**
  - education, treatment, counseling, and referrals to vital services to prevent sexual abuse and human trafficking

- **BASIC CENTER (BCP)**
  - temporary shelter, counseling, family reunification services, and aftercare services

- **TRANSITIONAL LIVING (TLP)**
  - longer-term housing with supportive services, including Maternity Group Homes

The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act is a bipartisan and bicameral bill that provides a comprehensive reauthorization to RHYA. Key program updates include:

- Increases the allowable length of stay from 21 to 30 days or the max as allowed by state law for BCPs
- Increases the number of beds from 12 to 20 except when state law or regulations allow for higher for BCPs
- Increases the age of eligibility from 21 to 25 for TLPs
- Updates existing language to SOPs
- Increases authorized appropriations levels to $300 million annually

INCLUDE THE EMERGENCY FAMILY STABILIZATION ACT (EFSA) IN THE NEXT COVID RELIEF BILL

The current economic crisis and related family stress threaten to create new waves of family and youth homelessness. Even before COVID-19, youth and family homelessness were at record levels: public schools identified over 1.5 million children and youth experiencing homelessness. Similarly, most young adults experiencing homelessness are not in a shelter or on the streets. These hidden homeless situations are unstable, lead to frequent moves, and put families and youth at great risk of COVID-19 transmission, infection, and illness — as well as predation, violence, and trafficking.

The Emergency Family Stabilization Act will:

- Creates a new emergency funding stream through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for local agencies that currently receive ACF grants, or have experience in serving children, families, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, as defined by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Provide direct flexible funding to meet the unique needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in the wake of the coronavirus.
- Gives special consideration to programs serving families and youth who face barriers in accessing homeless services, as well as the needs of pregnant women, pregnant and parenting youth, children under age 6, children with disabilities, families experiencing domestic violence, survivors of sexual assault or human trafficking, and historically marginalized and underserved communities of color.
- Permit funds to be used for a wide range of emergency housing, health, education, and safety-related activities, including but not limited to purchasing PPE, food, hygiene supplies, mental health services, transportation services, emergency child care, communications and connectivity needs, education, training, and employment-related needs, eviction prevention, motel stays, assistance in seeking housing placements, assistance in accessing unemployment and other federal benefits.
PASS THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) TO FIX THE LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT (LIHTC) “STUDENT RULE”

Too often youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness must choose between stable housing or obtaining full-time education. Due to a limitation in the eligibility criteria for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, individuals who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness would otherwise qualify to live in low-income housing are not eligible for LIHTC rental units if they attend school full-time. This bill would ensure that youth and young adults as well as veterans who have experienced homelessness can access affordable housing while simultaneously pursuing education.

NN4Y urges Congress to pass the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act and include the vital fix to the student rule so students experiencing homelessness can go to school full time and access vital LIHTC funded housing.

PASS THE HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT (HCYA)

The Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA) is a bipartisan and bicameral bill that restores local decision making and improves the ability of communities to meet the unique developmental needs of youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing all forms of homelessness. HCYA will allow communities to serve some of the most vulnerable YYA by aligning federal definitions of homelessness.

It will ensure flexibility for local communities to use available resources to meet the needs that they identify, by ensuring that housing and services are tailored to the unique needs of each homeless population, including YYA. Further, it will increase the visibility and awareness of YYA experiencing homelessness through transparent and accurate data collection that will lead to helping communities leverage and attract more public/private resources to address homelessness.

NN4Y urges Congress to pass the Homeless Children and Youth Act.

PASS THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND SUCCESS FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH ACT (HEASHFY)

The Higher Education and Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act (HEASHFY) is a bipartisan and bicameral bill that will remove barriers to college enrollment, affordability and completion for homeless and foster care involved youth. HEASHFY will require colleges and universities to improve outreach, resources, and policies for homeless and foster youth, including streamlining the FAFSA and eligibility process for financial aid, providing housing options between terms, and designating a single point of contact to help provide valuable services for these vulnerable students. It also requires the U.S. Department of Education to help resolve questions about a student’s independence, publish usable data, and ensure its programs identify, recruit and prepare homeless and foster students for college.

NN4Y urges Congress to pass the Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act.