



Federal Budget Update on Child and Youth Homelessness

June 18, 2025

General Housekeeping



This webinar will last one hour



Please type questions into the Q&A box



Session is being recorded



Certificate issued for attendance



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About

About SchoolHouse Connection



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.

Learn more:

schoolhouseconnection.org

Join our Newsletter:

<https://bit.ly/4brxboR>

About National Network for Youth

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



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.

WEBSITE: <https://nn4youth.org>

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP: <https://nn4youth.org/subscribe/>

Webinar Agenda

1. Review current budget processes and their implications for family and youth homelessness.
2. Learn about two recently reintroduced bipartisan bills to address child and youth homelessness.
3. Consider effective advocacy strategies in this volatile environment.

Federal Budget Bills

Budget Legislation in the 119th Congress

	Time period of funding	Types of Programs Impacted	Votes Needed	Status as of 6/17/2025
1. Budget Reconciliation	The next ten years, but some changes should go into effect next year	Mandatory spending (Medicaid, SNAP, Pell grants, student loans) and taxes and debt ceiling.	Simple majority (Democratic votes not needed)	House passed its bill, HR 1 . Senate committees are now writing their sections of the bill. The House and Senate final combined bill must be identical. The goal is for final passage by July 4th.
2. FY2026 Appropriations	The next fiscal year (starting Oct 1 for most federal programs; for schools, 2026-2027 school year)	Discretionary annual funding (EHCY, RHYA, Head Start, TRIO/GEAR UP, etc.)	60 votes in the Senate: (Democratic votes are needed)	The President released a budget proposal with broad recommendations. Congress has begun hearings. Some House committees have planned mark ups/votes. Deadline is Sept. 30, 2025.
3. Rescissions bill	Previously enacted FY2025 funding	USAID, public broadcasting	Simple majority (Democratic votes not needed)	House passed a bill, H.R. 4 , to rescind \$9.4 billion in funding from USAID and CPB. The Senate Appropriations Committee is reviewing. Must be completed within 45 days (by July 18).

Budget Reconciliation: What's Happened So Far + What is Expected

- On May 22, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 215-214 to advance the 2025 budget reconciliation bill, [H.R. 1](#) (One Big Beautiful Bill Act).
- This is a massive bill, with far-ranging impact across policy areas, from guns to AI.
- The bill is now making its way through the U.S. Senate's budget reconciliation process.
- Republican leaders set a goal of July 4th Senate passage, but this seems increasingly unlikely given internal disagreements.
- This bill is the top priority in the Senate, slowing down other budget bills.

Budget Reconciliation

K-12 Education

Diverting public funds to private schools

- Both House and Senate bills provide a 100%, dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit to individuals who donate to private scholarship-granting organizations, essentially creating a national private school voucher program.
- Scholarships are for students whose family income is no greater than 300 percent of the area median gross income.
- Senate bill: \$4 billion; creates a permanent tax credit that begins in 2027
- House bill: \$5 billion; tax credit would be in effect from 2026-2029

Concerns:

- Most students experiencing homelessness attend public school.
- Private schools are not required to follow the McKinney-Vento Act and other federal laws that protect students.

Budget Reconciliation:

Higher Education

Pell Grants

- **HOUSE:** Eliminates Pell eligibility for students less-than-half-time, and changed the definition of full-time enrollment to 15 credits.
- **SENATE:** Does not include either of the House-passed provisions on PELL eligibility, but does eliminates eligibility for students who receive scholarships, federal aid, institutional aid, or state aid up to the cost of attendance.
- **BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE:** End eligibility for Pell Grants and Title IV aid to many non-citizens that are currently eligible, including refugees, survivors of human trafficking, and people granted asylum

Student Loans

- **HOUSE:** Eliminates new subsidized loans for all undergraduate students starting with the award year 2026-27. (This does not impact currently enrolled students.) Eliminates Graduate PLUS program.
- **SENATE:** Maintains subsidized loans. Eliminates Graduate PLUS program.

Concerns:

Youth experiencing homelessness or foster care need financial aid, and often loans, in order to pursue and complete postsecondary education, which remains their best long term path out of poverty.

Budget Reconciliation

House Bill:

- Cuts more than \$700 billion in funding for Medicaid over the next ten years. According to the [Congressional Budget Office](#), the Medicaid changes would result in 7.6 million people no longer qualifying for the program.

Senate Bill:

- Cuts as much as \$1 trillion in funding for Medicaid over the next ten years.
- Adds work requirements for parents with children age 14 or over.

Additional Concerns:

- Medicaid is the fourth largest federal funding source for public schools. Cuts to Medicaid would result in reductions to school health staff and mental and behavioral health staff – services that are essential for many students experiencing homelessness.
- [Medicaid finances 42% of all U.S. births; it is the largest source of health insurance for all children in poverty, and is the third largest funding source of early intervention services.](#)

Budget Reconciliation

House Bill:

- The House-passed bill would cut nearly \$300 billion from SNAP over the next ten years.

Senate Bill

- The Senate bill would cut \$209 billion from SNAP over the next ten years.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Concerns:

According to the [Congressional Budget Office](#), the House bill would cut food assistance benefits for 1 in 5 children across the country, and 420,000 children would have less food to eat because of the loss of the automatic eligibility for free school meals, summer food assistance, and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).

Budget Reconciliation

- The Senate bill eliminates the bipartisan SNAP work requirement exemptions for youth exiting foster care and young people experiencing homelessness, which were enacted in the [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#)
- These exemptions were carefully designed to ensure that highly vulnerable 18- to 24-year-olds are not denied basic nutrition assistance due to circumstances beyond their control.

Homeless and Foster Youth SNAP Work Requirements

Concerns:

Eliminating these exemptions will create additional hardship for young people who already have limited supports and resources and who frequently have no close family members or supportive adults that can assist them.

What are these budget cuts paying for?



Judiciary (Immigration) **+\$110B**

Defense **+\$150B**

Homeland Security **+\$90B**

Energy and Commerce
(Health - Medicaid) **-\$880B**

Education **-\$350B**

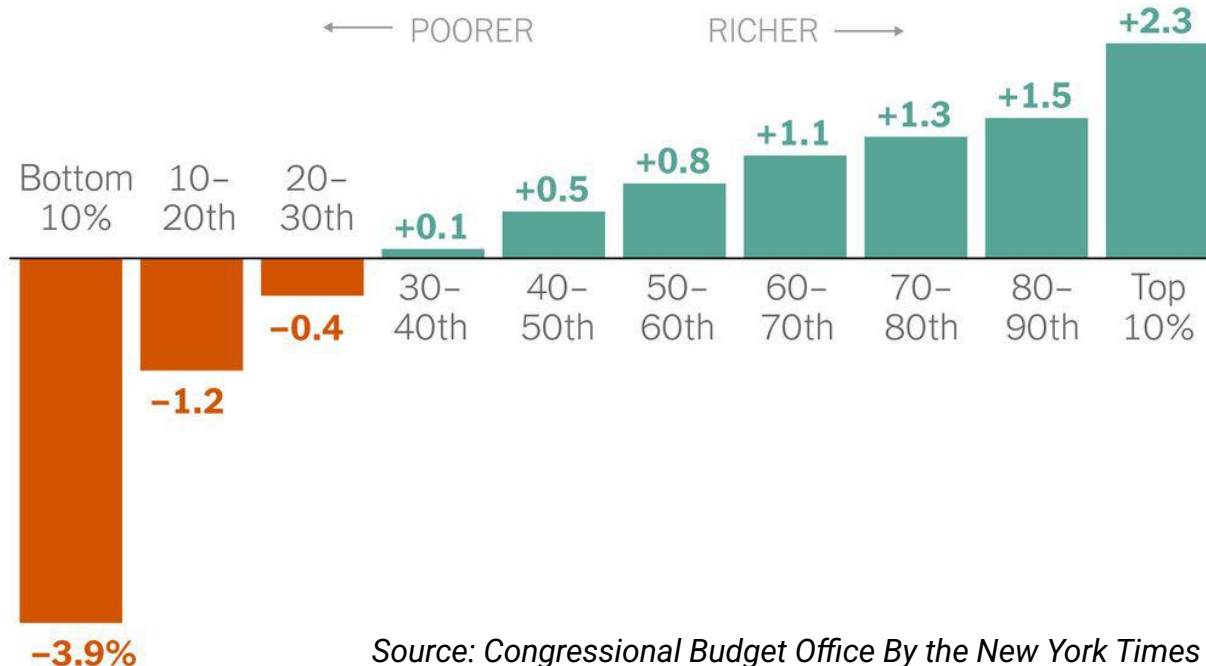
Agriculture (SNAP) **-\$300B**



Who benefits the from the budget reconciliation bill?

How the House bill would affect different income ranks

Average annual change in after-tax income between 2026 and 2034



Source: Congressional Budget Office By the New York Times

Budget Reconciliation Advocacy Strategy

1. Limit harm by trying to influence and modify some of the most egregious aspects of the legislation.
2. Create as much pressure as possible to sow division among Republican legislators.

Key states: AK, AR, KS, ME, MO, WV.

Budget Reconciliation: Actions to Take Now

Higher education: [Student Aid Alliance](#)

Medicaid: [American Federation of Teachers](#)

SNAP: [Child Welfare League of America](#)

Budget Reconciliation: Deeper Dives

Private School Tax Credit: [NPR](#)

Higher Education: [NASFAA](#); [EducationCounsel](#)

SNAP:

- [Food Research & Action Center](#)
- [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

Medicaid: [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

FY2026 Appropriations

Budget Legislation in the 119th Congress

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Before FY2026, What Happened to FY2025 Education Funding?

- States did receive their McKinney-Vento EHCY preliminary allocations for FY 2025 (next school year). [See here](#).
- Eight federal programs are still waiting for their funds for next school year, including Migrant Education, Title II-A (teacher professional development), Title III (English learners), and 21st Century Community Learning Centers (after school).

President's FY2026 Budget Proposal:

Department of Education

Key Points:

- Total budget request for education: \$66.7B (\$12B less than FY2025, a 15% cut)
- Recommends the elimination of nearly 40 federal education programs
- Viewed as the starting point for the House's FY2026 budget. It will not be adopted as written.

President's FY2026 Budget Proposal:

Programs Targeted for Elimination Via Consolidation

- 18 programs – including the McKinney-Vento Act's EHCY program – would be eliminated via a 'consolidation' (i.e. block grant)
- The Trump Administration claims that state and local education agencies could choose to use funds for the purposes of the 18 programs, including homeless students.
- The reality is that these programs cease to exist. **They are zeroed out.** When we finally see legislative text, we are likely to see that these programs would be formally repealed.
- We have seen – in the pandemic and otherwise - that without targeted funding, homeless students are not identified or served. That means they aren't in school to benefit from any local, state, or federal funds.

What Does “Return to the States” Mean for Homeless Students?

Next week, SHC will release an analysis of all 50 states’ education codes

- Only three states provide *all* of the core protections provided by the McKinney-Vento Act, independent of the McKinney-Vento Act itself.
- A handful of states have revised their state education codes to provide *some* of the core protections.
- The majority of states rely entirely on the McKinney-Vento Act to provide homeless children and youth with any of the core protections.
- Only four states provide dedicated state funding for homeless students to supplement EHCY.
- Three additional states provide specific transportation reimbursement for homeless students.

President's FY2026 Budget Proposal: **Other Programs Targeted for Elimination**

- Migrant Education
- Title III (English Learner Acquisition)
- Preschool Development Grants
- Career and Technical Education
- GEAR UP

For the full list, see [this Education Week article](#).

Current Strategy for Preserving EHCY

- Focusing on Republican members on [the House Appropriations Committee](#), or other Republicans who have supported education funding
- **The ask: please preserve EHCY funding, do not include it in any consolidation proposal**
- [One-page fact sheet on EHCY](#)
- Contact TJ to get more involved: tj@schoolhouseconnection.org

President's FY2026 Budget Proposal:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)

- Requests flat-funding for RHYA as a whole, keeping the program at \$146.3 million.
- Reduces funding for Basic Center Programs (short-term housing for minors) by \$3 million and increases funding for Transitional Living Programs (long-term housing and supportive services) by \$3 million.

President's FY2026 Budget Proposal:

Early Childhood

- Requests flat-funding for Head Start and child care (Child Care and Development Fund).
- Requests a \$47 million increase for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.
- Request \$46 million decrease for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

President's FY2026 Budget Proposal: Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG)

- Consolidates Continuums of Care (CoC) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS into an expanded Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program, with an overall reduction in funding.
- HUD Secretary would have total discretion over state/local (ESG) allocations.
- The **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)** and **Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grants** are under CoC. The proposal is unclear as to whether YHDP and YHSI would be funded or not, but it seems likely that they would be lumped into the new ESG (ie, effectively eliminated).

President's FY2026 Budget Proposal:

HUD and Department of Labor

- **Foster Youth Housing**
 - Creates a dedicated line item of \$25 million specifically for Foster Youth to Independence vouchers.
- **Department of Labor**
 - Job Corps and AmeriCorps eliminated.
 - Make America Skilled Again (MASA) consolidates 11 workforce programs into a single grant program, including YouthBuild, youth employment and training, and apprenticeships. Proposed MASA funding is \$2.965 billion, approximately \$1 billion less than the 11 programs combined.

FY2026 Appropriations: Timeline

House Deadlines

- July 7: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) subcommittee markup due (CoC, YHDP, YHSI, ESG, FYI).
- July 10: THUD full committee markup due.
- July 21: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) subcommittee markup due (RHYA and EHCY).
- July 24: LHHS full committee markup due.

Senate

- The Senate will not begin the appropriations process until reconciliation is finished.

FY2026 Appropriations: Bipartisan Support for Homeless Programs

NN4Y and SHC worked on Dear Colleague Letters (DCL) in the House and Senate in support of funding for RHYA and EHCY.

- [House DCL](#) asked appropriators for \$304 million for RHYA and \$200 million for EHCY. 121 House Representatives signed on.
- [Senate DCL](#) asked appropriators for robust funding for RHYA and EHCY. 33 Senators signed on.

The Urgency of Advocacy in 2025

- Harmful policy proposals are moving through both the legislative and administrative branches of the federal government.
- At the same time, **advocacy is having an impact**—from protecting critical funding to changing administrative decisions.
- Now more than ever, your voice matters. Advocacy can protect programs and ensure important policies remain in effect.

In-District Advocacy- A Powerful Tool

- Lawmakers are more accessible and responsive in their home districts—this is your chance to make an impact.
- Invite legislators to your site or program to see your work firsthand. It's far more persuasive than talking points alone.
- **Upcoming opportunities** to engage in-person:
 - **August 4–29**
 - **September 22**
 - **November 10**
- Use NN4Y's [Legislator Lookup](#) to find your Representatives and get started today.



^ In District Advocacy Toolkit ^

Build Relationships, Build Power

Strategies

- **Personal connections influence policy**—Members of Congress are people first.
- **Map your network:**
 - Do you know someone who knows someone?
 - Explore connections through church, school, nonprofit boards, state/local officials, even social clubs.
- Know what matters to them. Do they care about:
 - **Mental health? Child welfare? Trafficking? Education? The economy?**
- Tailor your message and make it personal.

Examples

My City Council member knows the Senator personally.

My board member used to work for the Representative.

The Senator's wife used to volunteer at our program.

FY2026 Appropriations: What Can You Do?

- ★ **Email your legislators to express support for investments to RHYA and EHCY in FY2026 and to share the bipartisan DCLs.**
 - [Take Action Page](#) - fill out a pre-drafted email.
 - Email your legislators directly—let us know if you need contact information. Share DCLs.
- ★ **Consider hosting your legislators for an in-person meeting or site visit when they are in district.**
 - Both the House and Senate will be in their districts/states the month of August!

Advocacy Strategies: How NN4Y and SHC Can Help

NN4Y and SHC can:

- ★ Help schedule meetings for you.
- ★ Give you contact information for your U.S. Members of Congress.
- ★ Help you prepare for your meeting or site visit.

If you would like NN4Y's assistance, email Trinady at trinady.maddock@nn4youth.org.

If you would like SHC's assistance, email TJ at tj@schoolhouseconnection.org.

What About Rescissions?

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Now, Some Good News:
Bipartisan Bills
Reintroduced

Homeless Children and 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).

This legislation would ensure 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.

Key Components of HCYA:

- 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.

[More information and take action.](#)

Legislation: Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act

NATIONAL NETWORK
 for YOUTH

Updates and Reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program!

- ★ 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 to provide preventative services.
- ★ Extends the allowable length of stay for BCPs from 21 to 30 days (or longer as state law allows).
- ★ Increases the eligible age for TLPs from 22 to 25 years old.
- ★ Clarifies that providers can have more than 20 beds in a building if the building houses multiple, separate programs.
- ★ Increases annual competitive grants for rural youth from \$100,000 to \$200,000.
- ★ Requires HHS to develop a national estimate of the prevalence of youth experiencing homelessness every three years.
- ★ More than doubles authorized funding levels.

Legislation: Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act



Current Status:

- [S.2012](#): Susan Collins (R-ME) and Dick Durbin (D-IL)
 - Original cosponsors: Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
- [H.R.3856](#): Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01) and Don Bacon (R-NE-02)
 - Original cosponsor: Morgan McGarvey (R-KY-19)

What You Can Do:

1. [Send an email to your legislators asking them to cosponsor](#)
2. Organizations can endorse this legislation [using this form](#)

Questions or Discussion

A Reminder on Advocacy

- You don't need to be a policy wonk or understand the finer points of the legislative process to engage policymakers and their staff.
- Speak to what you do, speak to what you know, speak to what is on your mind and in your heart.
- If not you, who?
 - Community-based partners
 - Local coalitions or foundations
 - Faith-based organizations

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](#)

Helpful Resources

Federal Protections



What it does :

Summarizes the core education protections for K12 students experiencing homelessness

Who it is for :

State and local educational agencies, community partners, advocates

Protecting EHCY



What it does :

Explains the EHCY program for policymakers across the political spectrum

Who it is for :

Legislators, legislative staff, local elected officials and policymakers

2025 EHCY Facts



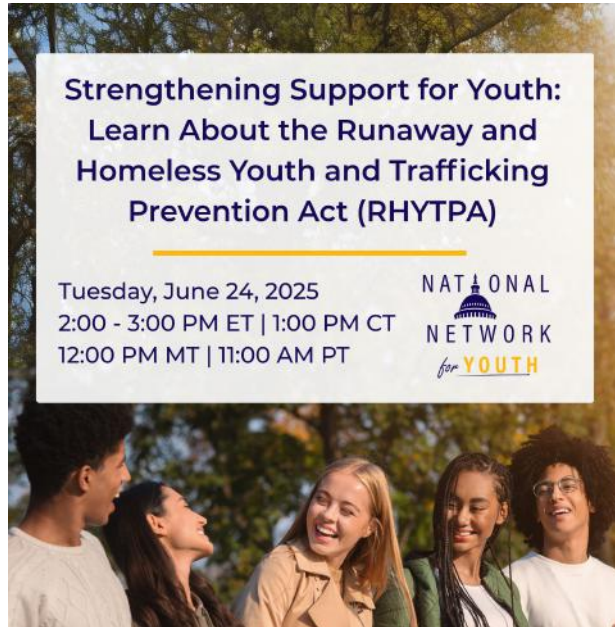
What it does :

Provides the latest data on student homelessness, basic EHCY information. Downloadable/editable.

Who it is for :

Broader education as well as policymakers

Upcoming Webinars

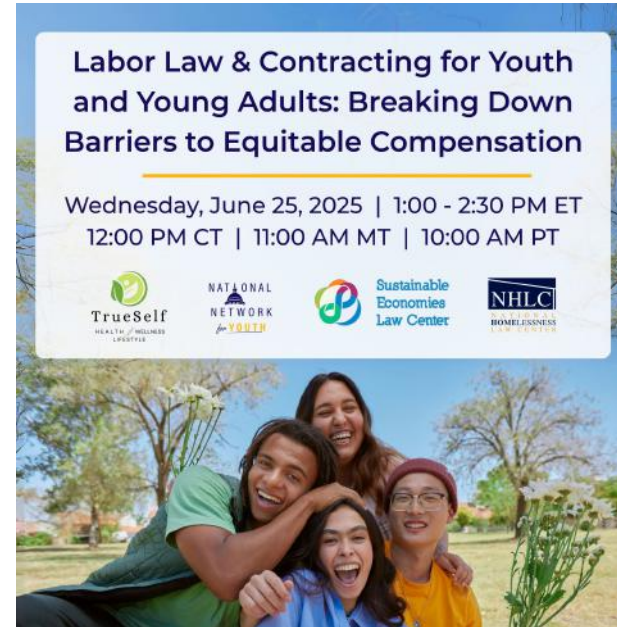


**Strengthening Support for Youth:
Learn About the Runaway and
Homeless Youth and Trafficking
Prevention Act (RHYTPA)**

Tuesday, June 24, 2025
2:00 - 3:00 PM ET | 1:00 PM CT
12:00 PM MT | 11:00 AM PT

**NATIONAL
NETWORK
for YOUTH**

[Register Today!](#)



**Labor Law & Contracting for Youth
and Young Adults: Breaking Down
Barriers to Equitable Compensation**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 | 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET
12:00 PM CT | 11:00 AM MT | 10:00 AM PT

TrueSelf
HEALTH • WELLNESS
LIFESTYLE

**NATIONAL
NETWORK
for YOUTH**

**Sustainable
Economies
Law Center**

NHLC
HOMELESSNESS
LAW CENTER

[Register Today!](#)

starting July 2, 2025!



I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth

A free, dedicated state-specific legal assistance hotline for **youth experiencing homelessness** to help obtain:

State ID cards and licenses

Social Security Cards

Birth certificates

Documents needed to obtain an ID and license

1-800-870-DOCS

****Voicemails are welcome and will be returned.**

Every Wednesday

12 to 8 PM Eastern | 11 AM to 7 PM Central

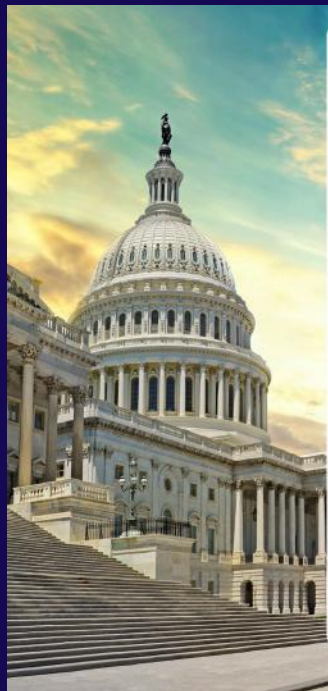
10 AM to 6 PM Mountain | 9 AM to 5 PM Pacific

**Baker
McKenzie.**

NATIONAL

NETWORK
for **YOUTH**

Join us in making an impact.



NATIONAL NETWORK
 *for* **YOUTH**
collaborate • advocate • transform

**Join the National Network to
End Youth Homelessness**

Strengthen Your Services
Expand Your Impact
Shape Policy
Share Power

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www.nn4youth.org

Email:

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Get on the list!



- Important legislative updates
- Useful resources, including tips, tools, and guides
- Webinar announcements
- News related to education and homelessness



Sign up for our newsletter: <https://bit.ly/4brxbor>

Contact Information

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