



Federal Policy Update on Child & Youth Homelessness

July 7, 2026



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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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

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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.**

NN4Y works with young leaders 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.



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Today's Agenda

- **Status of FY2027 Federal Appropriations**
- **OMB Proposed Regulations/Restrictions on Federal Funding**
- **HUD Homeless Assistance:**
 - **2026 Continuum of Care NOFO and Litigation**
 - **2026 YHDP/YHSI NOFO**
- **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act: NOFO and Regulations**
- **US Department of Education Program Transfers**
- **Pending Legislation**



FY2027 Appropriations: Status as of July 7, 2026

Big Picture Outlook on FY2027 Funding

This is an election year. That means:

- It is highly unlikely that Congress will pass all 12 appropriations bills prior to the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2026).
 - The House has just 24 legislative days until Election Day, and six of those are fly-in days.
 - Lawmakers will be out for all of August, a week in September, and all of October.
 - That means there are only 18 real legislative days before the midterm elections.

Big Picture Outlook on FY2027 Funding (Continued)

- A short-term continuing resolution will be needed to keep agencies open until after the November elections, and another government shutdown is not out of the question.
- Nonetheless, Congress is working now on the FY2027 budget. They will pick back up when they return in November.
- In other words, what is happening now matters.

FY2027 Appropriations Timeline

- ✓ **April:** President's Budget released; each member of Congress finalized their priorities.
- ✓ **April-May:** House and Senate Committees held hearings on the President's FY2027 Budget
- ✓ **May:** House Appropriations Committee held markups on some of their versions of each of the 12 appropriations bills.
- ✓ **June 2026:** House Appropriations Committee passed its version of FY2027 funding for housing and homeless assistance, and also early care, education, health, labor, and other federal programs.
- ❑ **The Senate Appropriations Committee has not released any bill text or marked up any bills.**

House Appropriations Committee Levels for Early Care, Education, Homelessness and Housing Programs

- The funding levels in the House bills are NOT final, but they do indicate House Republican priorities.
- These funding levels also show where the President's priorities have been rejected, accepted, or modified by House Republicans.

What's in the House FY2027 Funding Bills? (1)

Federal Programs Receiving the Same Amount of Funding

- McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program – \$129 million. The House bill rejects the President's proposal to block grant the EHCY program.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (afterschool programs) – \$1.3 billion
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs – \$146.3 million
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School – \$75 million
- Emergency Solutions Grant (HUD emergency shelters) - \$290 million
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (HUD) - \$72 million

What's in the House's FY2027 Funding Bill? (2)

Programs with Significant Cuts

- Title I, Part A: Education for the Disadvantaged – \$16.5 billion (10% cut)
- Federal Work Study – \$908 million (26% cut)
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) – \$546 million (40% cut)
- Federal Work Study – \$908 million (26% cut)
- Basic Needs in Postsecondary Education – \$5 million (50% cut)
- Job Corps – \$880 million (50% cut)
- Americorps – \$970.5 million (13.7% cut)
- HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) – \$3.78 billion (5.7% cut)

What's in the House's FY2027 Funding Bill? (3)

Programs Eliminated Entirely

- Title I, Part C: Migrant Education – \$376 million
- Title I, Part D: Neglected/Delinquent – \$49 million
- Title III: English Language Acquisition – \$890 million
- Preschool Development Grants – \$315 million
- Full-service community schools – \$150 million
- Subsidized student loans – eliminated in order to make up for the shortfall in Pell grants; as a result, borrowing for low-income undergraduates would shift to unsubsidized loans.
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Training – \$948 million

What's in the House's FY2027 Funding Bill? (4)

Programs with Funding Increases

- Child Care and Development Block Grant – \$8.8 billion (\$10 million, 1% increase)
- Head Start – \$12.367 billion (\$10 million, 1% increase)
- Charter Schools – \$500 million (\$60 million, 13.6% increase)
- Special Education – \$15.5 billion (46 million, .3% increase)
- Impact Aid – \$1.630 billion (\$5 million, .3% increase)
- Rural education – \$230 million (\$5 million, 2.2% increase)
- Title IV-A – \$1.385 billion (\$5 million, .4% increase)
- Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (\$1 million, 2.26%)
- TRIO – \$1.197 billion (\$6 million, .5% increase)
- GEAR UP – \$394 million (\$6 million, 1.5% increase)
- Pell Grants (Maximum Award) – \$7,445 (\$50 , but the increase comes from the elimination of subsidized student loans)

What Happens Next?

- The House bills *may* advance to the House floor for a vote.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee *may* release FY2027 bill text before the August recess
 - The Senate is more likely to reject big cuts
 - Disagreements about defense v. non-defense funding are delaying the Senate process and making it more partisan
- A continuing resolution to keep the government open between September 30th until after the election is very likely. Another government shutdown is possible.



Federal Agency Updates



Federal Agencies

Office of Management and Budget



Proposed Regulation Changes to All Federal Grants

OMB's [proposed regulation](#) makes **significant** changes to federal grant administration across most federal agencies, including:

- Restricting programming that “promotes” DEI or gender ideology (as defined by the Administration).
- Allowing for discretionary termination of grants at any time.
- Requiring all grant applications to be reviewed by a political appointee over career staff or subject matter experts.
- Prohibiting grant funding to be used for conferences, printing, or high school commencements.

These changes primarily apply to discretionary grants (eg, RHYA, CoC). Formula grants are not as impacted (eg, McKinney-Vento EHCY, Title I, IDEA).

What You Can Do: [Sign on](#) to this letter of opposition from the National Council of Nonprofits. July 13th deadline.

Federal Agencies

Department of Housing and Urban Development



FY 2026 Continuum of Care (CoC) and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Renewals NOFO

- ➔ Funds CoCs and **renewals, replacements, or reallocations** of current YHDP communities.
- ➔ Major changes include:
 - ◆ Tier 1 is set at 60% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD).
 - ◆ \$1.3 billion set aside for new projects with a priority for transitional housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO).
 - ◆ All YHDP renewals and domestic violence set-asides are competitive.
 - ◆ New CoC-level merit scoring around reducing encampments, service participation, and substance use treatment requirements.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

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FY 2026 CoC and YHDP Renewals NOFO

How HUD will spend the \$4.04 billion:

1. CoC planning and Unified Funding Agency costs
2. Tier 1 projects (60% of ARD)
3. DV bonus projects (competitive) - \$104 million
4. PH projects for families with children - \$430 million
 - a. Not a new set-aside, but good for family providers.
5. New projects in Tier 2 (first new TH and SSO then others, if funding is available) - \$1.3 billion
 - a. Potentially good for family providers that would prefer to create new or transition to TH or SSO project types.
6. Continue selecting renewal projects in Tier 2

Department of Housing and Urban Development

FY 2026 CoC and YHDP Renewals NOFO

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4. PH projects for families with children - \$430 million
5. New projects in Tier 2 (first new TH and SSO then others, if funding is available) - \$1.3 billion
 - a. PH YHDPs and youth projects that want to transition to TH or SSO could fit here.
6. Continue selecting renewal projects in Tier 2
 - a. **This is where most YHDP renewals and other youth projects will be ranked. As such, we are worried about loss of dedicated funding for YHDP and youth projects.**

Department of Housing and Urban Development

FY 2026 CoC and YHDP Renewals NOFO

- On July 2, national homelessness advocates filed a [new lawsuit](#) challenging this NOFO.
- Among other things, the lawsuit challenges:
 - ◆ The \$1.3 billion set-aside for new TH and SSO projects.
 - ◆ Supportive service incentives.
 - ◆ Requirements to break up encampments.
 - ◆ Elimination of harm reduction activities.
 - ◆ Risk review criteria.
- These advocates recently won the FY 2025 CoC NOFO challenge. This lawsuit has similar complaints and has been presented to the same judge.

Federal Agencies

Department of Housing and Urban Development



FYs 2024 and 2025 YHDP and Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grants NOFO

- Funds **new** YHDP/YSHI awards.
- Major changes include:
 - ◆ Applicants do not have to submit as part of the CoC.
 - ◆ Public- and state-controlled institutions of higher education are now eligible to apply.
 - ◆ Communities can apply for a YHDP and a YHSI grant concurrently.
 - ◆ FY 2016-2021 YHDP communities can apply for an additional round of funding.
 - ◆ No new YHDP PH or RRH applications—only TH, SSO, HMIS, SSO-CE, or planning grants (non-CoC ineligible for planning).
 - ◆ YHSI awards will be approximately \$1 million per grant.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

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FYs 2024 and 2025 YHDP and YHSI NOFO

- This NOFO is **not** part of the CoC lawsuit.
- Some merit review provisions are identical to ones being challenged by the lawsuit (public safety, self-sufficiency, etc), so there may be some impact if the lawsuit is successful.

Federal Agencies

Department of Housing and Urban Development



Proposed Regulation Changes to the Equal Access Rule

HUD's [proposed regulation changes](#) would:

- Require all HUD programs to “place, serve, and accommodate” based on “sex,” using a similar definition to the one found in [this Executive Order](#).
- Permit facilities to “require reasonable assurances or evidence to establish” sex. (The current Equal Access rule limits intrusive questioning or documentation requirements about a person’s SOGI.)
- Remove all SOGI nondiscrimination provisions across all HUD programs.
- Attempt to make this federal mandate supercede any state or local anti-discrimination laws.
- NN4Y submitted [this comment](#) in opposition.

This regulation change will likely be challenged in court soon.

Federal Agencies

Department of Health and Human Services



RHYA Regulation Changes

HHS' [final rule](#) removes a number of RHYA regulations that they deem either:

- Unnecessary for regulation and better suited as a directive in the NOFO, or
- Duplicative, meaning the language already exists in statute (law) or another regulation.

We are concerned that eliminating these regulations would:

- Destabilize the consistent, national standard that RHYA programs are held to.
- Disrupt stability for long-term program planning.
- Give Administrations more power to change RHYA programs year to year.
- Delay the NOFO process if the NOFO is sued over exceeding statutory authority.

NN4Y submitted [this comment](#) in opposition.

Department of Health and Human Services

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act NOFOs

- [Basic Center Program](#) - June 22
- [Primary Prevention Demonstration Program](#) (PDP) - June 22
- [Street Outreach Program](#) - July 7

Education Entities Eligible to Apply for PDP

- Public and state institutions of higher education
- Independent school districts
- *Current projected application close date is July 22—hopefully this will change once the NOFO is released.*

PDP provides funding to identify and implement strategies and services for youth and young adults between ages 12 and 26 in order to prevent homelessness. Primary prevention efforts should focus on reasons youth become homeless, such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty, and family dynamics.

All Federal Agencies



Uniform Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions Announced on July 3, 2026

- This is [a preview of regulation changes](#) that the Administration will pursue across federal agencies in the near term, aligned to Administration priorities.
 - [US Dept. of Education](#)
 - [US Dept. of Health and Human Services](#)
 - [Head Start](#) expected in November
 - [US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development](#)
 - [Continuum of Care program](#) in September
 - [Emergency Solutions Grant](#) in July

“Dismantling” the U. S. Department of Education

- The Trump Administration has entered into interagency agreements (IAAs) that move most federal education programs to other federal agencies as a “proof of concept” that the Education Department is not necessary.
- The entire Office of Elementary and Secondary Education is slated to move to the Department of Labor this summer (EHCY, Title I, II, III);
- Special Education is slated to move to the US Department of Health and Human Services
- **FY2026 funding (2026-2027 school year) for formula programs (including EHCY, Title I, Title III, Migrant Education, etc.) did go out to states last week through ED’s grants system.**

Why It Matters: Disruption, Loss of Expertise, and Loss of Capacity

Related Resource:

[What the U.S. Department of Education is Required to Do for Homeless Children and Youth - And Why It Matters](#)

- Federal education programs are very likely to encounter disruptions: new systems, processes, and political appointees who are unfamiliar with the populations and policies.
- This reorganization likely will strain staff capacity even further.
- Key ED functions like data, monitoring, guidance and responding to inquiries from parents, youth, schools and providers may be jeopardized.



Federal Legislation on Child, Youth, and Family Homelessness

Problems with the PIT Count (1)

- The PIT essentially measures shelter capacity and the ability of volunteers to identify visibly unsheltered people, not homelessness. For example:
 - Massachusetts notes in the AHAR that the apparent drop in family homelessness was because of loss of shelter due to eligibility restrictions and forced exits.
 - Maryland attributes their increase to more shelter capacity.
- A single point in time misses annual fluctuations and dynamics – especially in January.

Problems with the PIT Count (2)

- Lack of homeless shelter space in many communities, fear of shelter, and fear of family separation cause most homeless families and youth to resort to situations that are not counted: staying in motels, with other people temporarily, or in other hidden places.
- Families move fluidly between these hidden situations.
- Hidden homelessness is injurious to children and youth; several studies show comparable negative outcomes for ED-defined homelessness. Leaving them out of the “official” source of homelessness data that goes to Congress means they are left out of policy solutions.



BLOG (JUNE 2026)

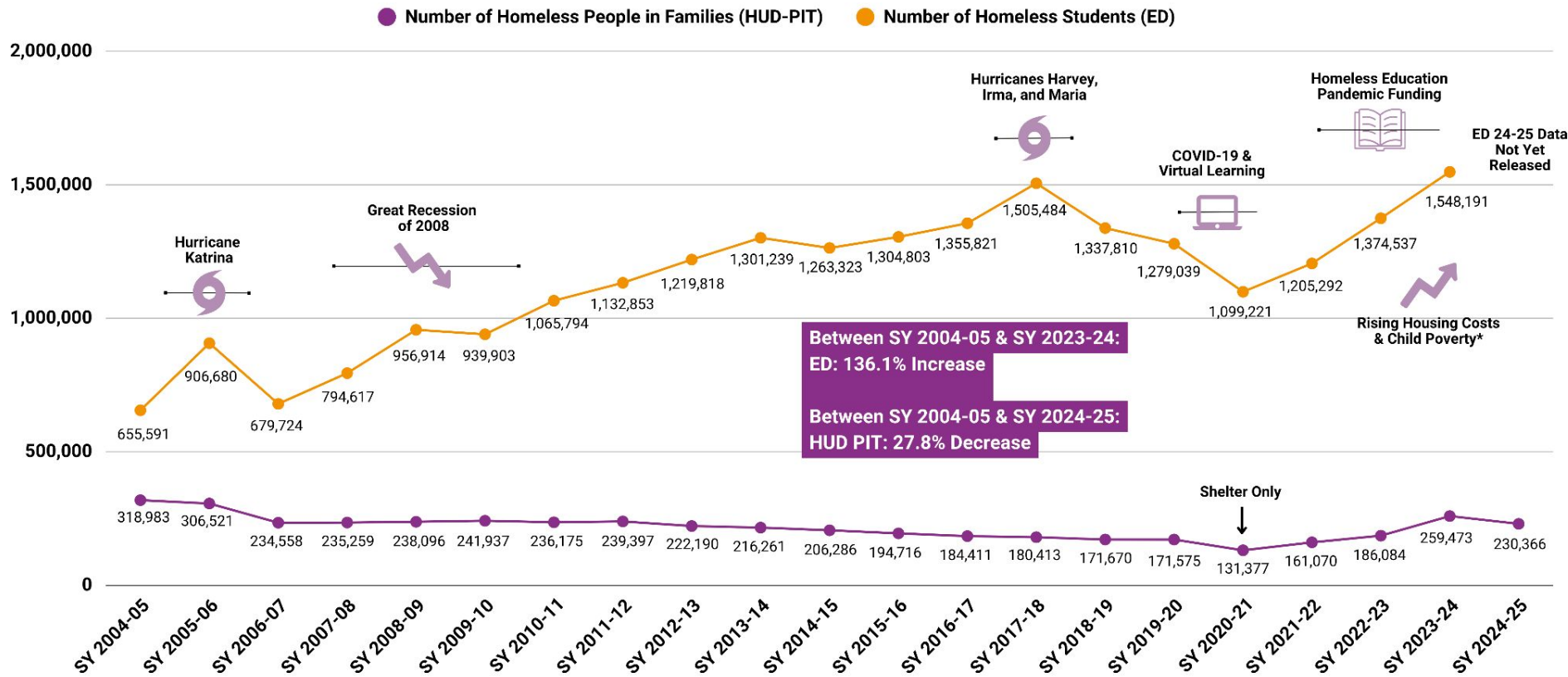
Missing the Point: When Media, Advocates, and Policymakers Use Data That Exclude Children and Youth

HUD's "Point in Time" count excludes most homeless children and youth. See what school and early childhood data reveal that policymakers are missing.

On the Page



Read "Missing the Point" →



Note:

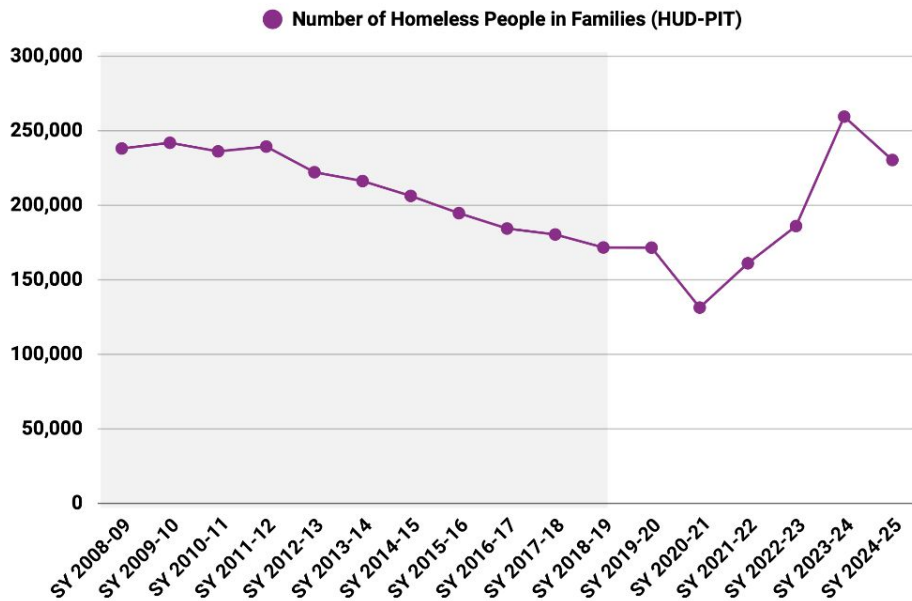
HUD data represent a single point in time, while ED data represent entire academic year. HUD data include only people in shelters and those visible outside, while ED data include children and youth in motels and staying temporarily with others due to lack of alternatives. HUD data include both children and parents, while ED data only include children and youth, preK-12, identified and enrolled in public schools.

* Rental costs associated with renting were 7.7% higher in July 2023 than a year earlier and remained 5.2% higher in June 2024. The Supplemental Poverty Measure child poverty rate rose to 13.7% in 2023 (U.S. Census Bureau).

Sources:

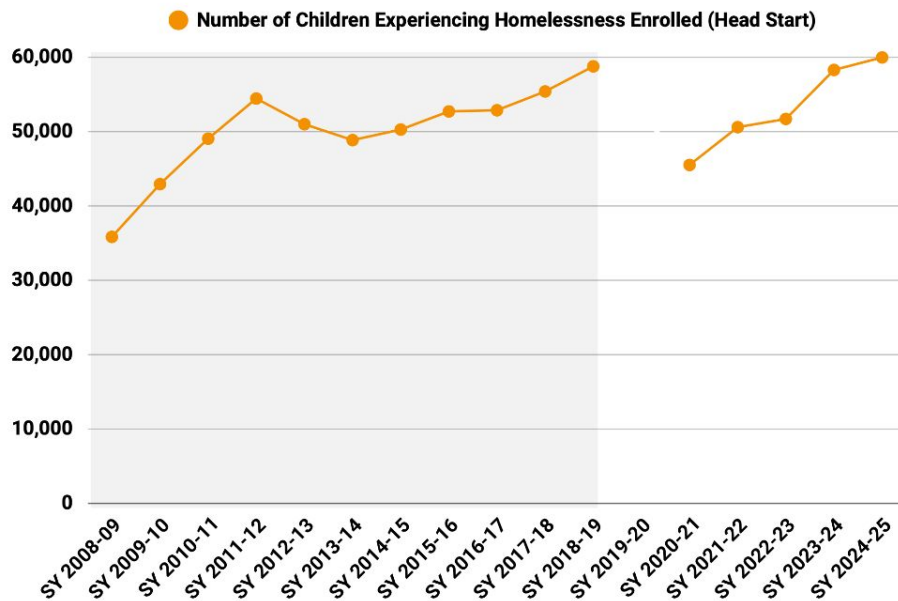
1. [Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar.html) (https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar.html): HUD identifies the category as persons in households with children. 2010: HUD changes the category to person in households with adults and children. 2011-2025: HUD changes the category to persons in households with at least one adult and one child. This category includes households with one adult and at least one child under age 18.
2. [Homeless Student Data from the Department of Education](https://nche.ed.gov/data-and-stats/) (https://nche.ed.gov/data-and-stats/). ED Data from SY 2006-2007 through SY 2023-2024

HUD PIT Data on Homeless People in Families



2009-10 to 2018-19: 29.1% decrease

Head Start Data on the Number of Homeless Children Identified and Served



2009-10 to 2018-19: 36.9% increase

During the same decade that HUD reported family homelessness was declining, Head Start programs identified a 36.9% increase in young children experiencing homelessness. Head Start serves children from birth to age 5 and uses the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homelessness, not HUD's narrower definition.

Note: HUD data represent a single night in January. Head Start data represent enrollment over a full program year. 2019-20 Head Start data not available due to COVID-19. HUD 2021 is sheltered only. Sources: [HUD Annual Homelessness Assessment Reports to Congress](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar.html) (<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar.html>); [Head Start Program Information Reports \(PIR\)](https://headstart.gov/program-data/article/program-information-report-pir), [Administration for Children and Families](https://headstart.gov/program-data/article/program-information-report-pir) (<https://headstart.gov/program-data/article/program-information-report-pir>)

The PIT Count Modernization Act

- Bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Barrasso (R-WY), Lummis (R-WY), Sullivan (R-AK), and Peters (D-MI)
 - Moves the PIT Count from January to the last ten days of April.
 - Authorizes the HUD Secretary to establish standardized HMIS reporting requirements for PIT Counts conducted among CoCs for mapping and spatial analysis of unsheltered and sheltered homeless populations.
 - Requires CoCs to maintain HMIS data for unsheltered and sheltered populations at a midpoint between annual PIT counts.
 - Directs the GAO to conduct a non-partisan study evaluating PIT Count methodology and recommend modernization strategies to Congress.
- The significance of this legislation is less about what it does, and more that it indicates growing recognition of the many flaws of the PIT Count

Legislation

Other Important Legislation



- ★ **Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act:** Reauthorizes and updates the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program. [Endorse here.](#)
- ★ **Homeless Children and Youth Act:** Ensures that children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness are no longer shut out of homeless assistance because they do not meet HUD's restrictive definition of homelessness. [Endorse here.](#)
- ★ **Housing for Homeless Students Act:** Allows college students who are or have experienced homelessness to remain full-time and live in housing funded by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. [Endorse here.](#)
- ★ **Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act:** Removes barriers and ensures that homeless and foster youth have clear and reliable pathways into and through higher education. [More info.](#)

In-District Advocacy

In-district advocacy is engaging with your lawmakers and their staff when they are in their home districts and states rather than in DC.

- ★ Meet with lawmakers and their staff at their local offices.
- ★ Host a site visit to show the impact of your programs and services.

[Use our in-district toolkit!](#)

Upcoming State Work Periods

Senate:

- August 10 - September 11
- October 5 - November 6
- November 11 - November 13
- November 23 - November 27
- December 21 - December 31

House:

- July 27 - August 28
- September 7 - September 11
- October 5 - November 6
- November 23 - November 27
- December 21 - December 31

Summary of Priority Advocacy Action Items

- ❑ **By July 13:** [Sign the letter to oppose the OMB rule](#) that would impose new restrictions on federal funding.
- ❑ **Over the summer:**
 - ❑ Consider in-district or virtual meetings to educate your Members of Congress about the needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. Reach out [SHC](#) or [NN4Y](#) for assistance.
 - ❑ Gather local and state endorsements for the [Runaway and Homeless Youth Act](#), the [Housing for Homeless Students Act](#), and the [Homeless Children and Youth Act](#).
 - ❑ Sign up for e-news from [NN4Y](#) and [SHC](#) to find out when and how to comment on proposed rules for Head Start, HUD CoC, and ESG.

Q&A

SHC and NN4Y Trackers

- [SHC Federal Policy Page](#)
- [NN4Y's Take Action Center](#)
- [Sign up for NN4Y's Newsletter to stay up-to-date](#)





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

**Text or
Call!**

1-888-870-DOCS

*Voicemails and texts are welcome and will be returned.

Wednesday Hours (Starting May 6, 2026)

9 AM - 5 PM Eastern • 8 AM - 4 PM Central

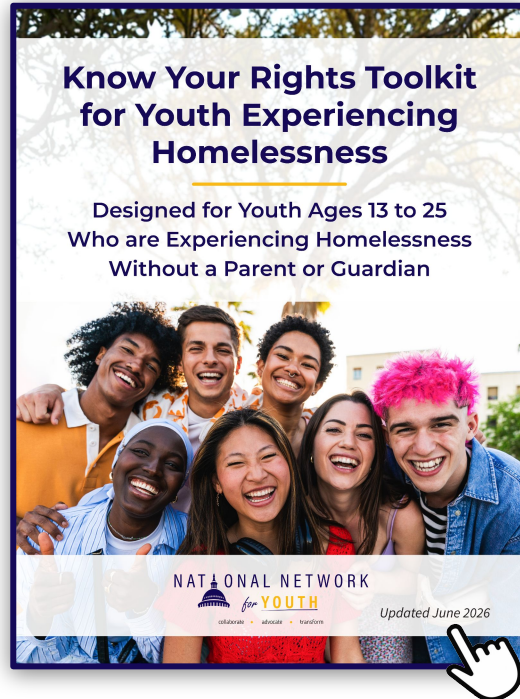
7 AM - 3 PM Mountain • 6 AM - 2 PM Pacific

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Know Your Rights Toolkit for Youth Experiencing Homelessness



This 43-page toolkit is for youth ages 13-25 who are experiencing homelessness without a parent or guardian.

- ★ Introduction to Your Legal Rights
- ★ Quick Free Help
- ★ Shelter & Housing
- ★ Food & Health Care
- ★ Public Education
- ★ Antidiscrimination Laws
- ★ Police Encounters
- ★ Vital Documents
- ★ 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth
- ★ Youth with Disabilities
- ★ Immigrant Youth

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June 1, 2026



Win two roundtrip tickets with Alaska Airlines worth up to \$1,250!

Every ticket purchased isn't just a chance to win, but an investment in our collective fight to **prevent and end youth homelessness**.

Proceeds go directly towards **National Network for Youth's work protecting core programs** that support youth experiencing homelessness.



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- ★ **Meet with Your Member of Congress:** [Policy & Advocacy](#)
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- Useful resources, including tips, tools, and guides
- Webinar announcements
- News related to education and homelessness



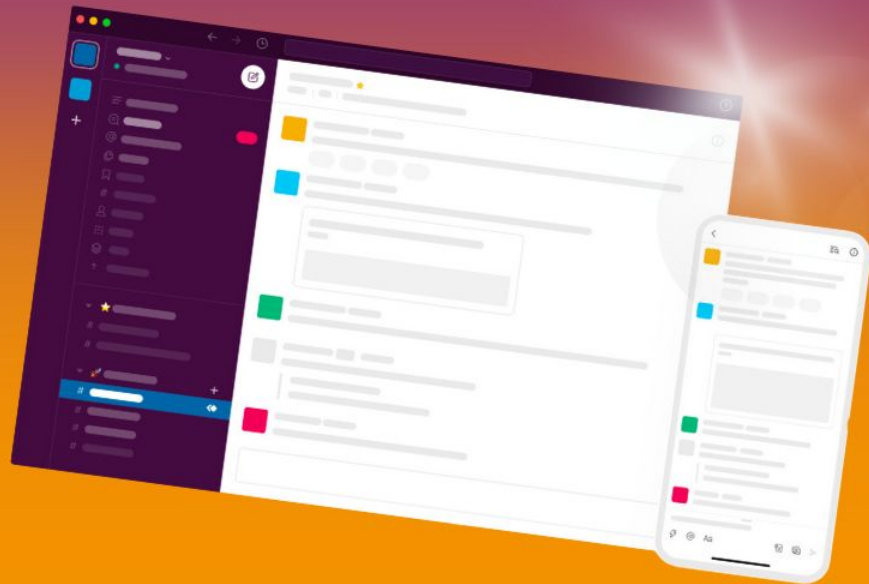
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to get started!



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