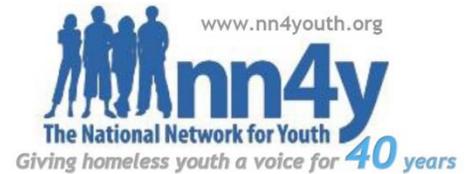


YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA: *THE CURRENT STATUS AND THE WAY FORWARD*



A Time for Action to Protect America's Most Vulnerable Youth

On any given night, more than 46,000 youth can be found living on the streets. Each year, nearly 2 million youth experience at least one night of homelessness. Many are victims of abuse, neglect, trauma, sexual exploitation, and poverty.

These statistics with human faces are not from a third-world country, but rather the United States of America.

Despite America's great wealth and prosperity, less than 5,000 youth receive access to stable housing each year according to HUD. The longer youth remain homeless, the risks of experiencing physical assault, rape, human trafficking, and mental health disabilities are greatly amplified.

America can do better.

The Federal Government currently allocates \$114 million for shelters, housing, and services for homeless youth, but local communities still often lack the capacity to serve them because the federal investment is inadequate. According to HUD, less than 4,200 beds exist nationally that are dedicated to this population, allowing less than 10% of the youth found in HUD's point-in-time surveys (46,000) to receive care.

With costs for providing services being less than half the costs of incarceration, greater investments in the following key policy priorities are required:

- A new, national investment in 'homeless youth intervention models' (implementing and evaluating community-based services and housing).
- Increased appropriations for safety net programs under HHS's Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs (street outreach, shelter, maternity group homes, and transitional housing).
- Realigned investments by HUD in youth housing models – both transitional and permanent supportive housing (McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance).
- Increased funding for school district homeless liaisons (McKinney-Vento Homeless Student services) to bolster partnerships between schools and nonprofits to serve the 1.17 million homeless children.
- Better data through a national study and evidence-based research.

The network of service providers throughout the United States has seen that these priorities produce positive outcomes for participating youth.

There is no plausible excuse for any child in America to experience homelessness. **The National Network for Youth has solutions to address youth homelessness and human trafficking of youth; however, greater federal support is necessary to reach all vulnerable youth with needed prevention and intervention services.**

No child in the United States should face a night on the streets or become a victim of abuse or human trafficking.

America can do better.

The National Network for Youth is a membership organization of service providers, state agencies, coalitions, advocates and individuals who work towards our vision of a world where vulnerable and homeless youth can escape the dangers of the streets and access safety, youth-appropriate services, hope and healing. www.nn4youth.org. Download and read our 2014 White Paper, *YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA: THE CURRENT STATUS AND THE WAY FORWARD* at www.nn4youth.org/public-policy.



U.S. CONGRESS: FY 2015 APPROPRIATIONS

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) (P.L. 110-378): Provides foundational support to address youth and young adult homelessness across the country. RHYA funds three key pillars of intervention to help homeless youth: street outreach, emergency shelters for minors and transitional living programs for youth between the ages of 16 and 22.

Current Status: RHYA, usually reauthorized on time, expired September 30, 2013. NN4Y seeks its immediate reauthorization and leads a national RHYA reauthorization working group of 35 organizations that support its immediate reauthorization and expansion. RHYA has never been funded at higher than \$115 million and in the omnibus funding bill for FY 14 was funded at \$114.1 million. The President’s FY 15 budget requested \$114 million be appropriated to fund services. ***U.S. Congress should appropriate \$152.5 million for FY 2015***

Triple RHYA’s Investment to \$345 Million by 2020

ACTUAL	TO MEET 2020 GOAL: INVEST \$38.5 MILLION EVERY YEAR					
FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
\$114 M	\$152.5 M	\$191 M	\$229.5 M	\$268 M	\$306.5 M	\$345 M

National Study - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA): In 2008, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act first authorized periodic estimates of the incidence, prevalence and needs of homeless youth in America and calls for a periodic estimate to be conducted every five years. This study has never been conducted because U.S. Congress has never appropriated any money towards this research. U.S. Congress should appropriate \$3 million dollars to HHS every five years so that this periodic study can be conducted to determine the scale of the need and the most effective interventions, housing models, and services to direct to America’s homeless youth population.

Current Status: This report has never been funded by Congress. The President’s FY 15 budget proposed \$2 million be appropriated for this research. ***U.S. Congress should appropriate at least \$2 million dollars for FY 15 to Family and Youth Services Bureau at HHS to complete this study.***

Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) (CFDA No. 84.196): Requires school districts to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance, and opportunity to succeed in school for homeless children and youth. All school districts are required to designate a homeless liaison, pro-actively identify homeless children and youth, and provide transportation to stabilize the educational experiences of homeless students.

Current Status: EHCY was last reauthorized in 2002 and in the omnibus funding bill for FY 14 was funded at \$65.042 million. Due to the low funding levels less than 1 in 5 school districts in the United States receive EHCY money. ***U.S. Congress should appropriate \$86.6 million for FY 2015***

Triple EHCY’s Investment to \$195 Million by 2020

ACTUAL	TO MEET 2020 GOAL: \$21.6 MILLION INVESTMENT EVERY YEAR					
FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
\$65 M	\$86.6 M	\$108.3 M	\$130 M	\$151.6 M	\$173.3 M	\$195 M

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77): Funds local, regional, and state homeless assistance programs through the Continuum of Care (CoC) process. Funding can be used for permanent and supportive housing, transitional housing, and services. Some funding is also distributed to communities through the Emergency Solutions Grants program.

Current Status: In the omnibus funding bill for FY 14 was funded at \$2.105 billion. The President’s FY 15 budget proposed \$2.405 billion. ***U.S. Congress should appropriate \$2.405 billion for FY 2015.***