

## FACT SHEET

# FY 2025 LHHS + THUD APPROPRIATION REQUESTS TO PREVENT + END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



**We need Congress to take action. Enacting these recommendations is critical to ending youth homelessness and vital to stopping youths' trajectory into chronic adult homelessness.**

Every year, 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness on their own, of which 700,000 are youth ages 13 to 17 and 3.5 million are young adults ages 18 to 25 (Chapin Hall, *Missed Opportunities*).

Experiences of homelessness too often prevent youth and young families from joining America's workforce, transitioning safely and successfully to adulthood, and participating meaningfully in their communities. The persistence of systemic racism, coupled with the ongoing economic crisis, and the resulting family and individual stress are key contributors to youth homelessness. BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by these stressors, leading to a higher likelihood of experiencing homelessness. Additionally, other at-risk youth and young family populations include those who do not complete high school or attain an equivalent degree, young parents, and individuals involved in the system.

The following recommendations come from our National Youth Advisory Council, comprised of young people who have experienced multiple forms of homelessness throughout the US, and our 300+ youth service provider and affiliate network. **We need Congress to take action. Enacting these recommendations is critical to ending youth homelessness and vital to stopping their trajectory into chronic adult homelessness.**

### Health and Human Services

#### ***Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Program***

Youth experiencing homelessness face a particularly steep climb to adulthood. They are not plugged into the networks of support needed for healthy development. RHYA programs provide the support and connection youth need to safely and successfully transition to adulthood. These programs include short- and long-term housing options, street outreach, and supportive services. RHYA programs are more cost-effective than other systems (child welfare, policing, and court systems) that youth experiencing homelessness might encounter while homeless.

RHYA programs have been chronically underfunded, with only 25% of qualified applicants receiving funding.

**For FY25, appropriate \$300 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program to:**

- **Support approximately 1,400 RHYA projects** in communities across the United States that meet our young people where they are. These particular youth are not eligible for HUD homeless assistance due to HUD's narrow definition of homelessness and the hidden nature of homelessness among youth.
- **Allow approximately 49,034 young people access housing and 70,000 youth to connect via street outreach and drop-in centers.** While this is far from meeting the need, it would significantly increase our country's capacity to end youth homelessness by doubling the number of young people served. It would also provide a cost savings of more than \$12 billion in fiscal costs and over \$30 billion in costs to society.
- **Ensure that our young people are not left out of national efforts to end homelessness.** Successfully addressing youth homelessness saves money and dramatically reduces chronic adult homelessness.

## Department of Education

### ***McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program***

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is the only federal education program that removes barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and success caused by homelessness. This federal funding goes to State Education Agencies (SEAs), who then make subgrants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs). These EHCY subgrants are used for outreach and identification, enrollment assistance, transportation, school records transfer, immunization referrals, tutoring, counseling, school supplies, professional development for educators and community organizations, and referrals for community services.

For FY25, appropriate \$800 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program

- **Only 24% of schools receive EHCY subgrants.** This insufficient funding restricts schools from properly identifying homeless students, ensuring their access to school, and connecting them to community supports.
- **A bipartisan amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act provided \$800 million** specifically dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including through wrap-around services. These funds, known as the American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth Funds (ARP-HCY), have reached 44% of school districts to date - nearly double the number of LEAs reached with previous annual funding allocations.

## Housing and Urban Development

### ***Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)***

HUD has historically focused solutions and priorities on adults experiencing homelessness. The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a competitive 2 year-grant program through HUD that provides funding for local Continuum of Care (CoC) to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. YHDP projects work in partnership with community stakeholders and Youth Action Boards.

For FY25, appropriate \$100 million for the YHDP with a maximum of \$2 million for Technical Assistance

- **97 CoCs have received YHDP funding**, out of 387 total CoCs across the country. We need continued funding until every CoC has received this carve out of funding to serve youth experiencing homelessness.
- NN4Y strongly urges HUD to require every CoC to implement lessons learned by YHDP communities and to implement YHDP project outcomes to all CoC youth-funded projects.

### ***Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)***

ESG funds may be used for street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, and a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

For FY25, appropriate \$300 million for the ESG program

- Improve the number and quality of emergency housing options for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.

### ***Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI)***

YHSI grants create a more seamless and coordinated system of care for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

For FY25, appropriate \$25 million for the YHSI program

- Improve the identification of youth in need and make it easier for them to navigate available services.
- Statewide or cross-community projects are incentivized to emphasize the importance of coordination across communities.

Visit: [nn4youth.org/policy/federal-policy-on-youth-homelessness/fy-24-federal-appropriations](https://nn4youth.org/policy/federal-policy-on-youth-homelessness/fy-24-federal-appropriations)

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