

Urgent Concerns About the Fiscal Year 2025 Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Grant Process

On the evening of July 9, 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services' Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) released some of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program grants: [Transitional Living Programs](#), [Maternity Group Homes](#), and [Basic Center Programs](#). There are [249 RHYA grants](#) set to expire on September 30, 2025. FYSB has given providers only 19 days to complete the extensive, detailed NOFO, that includes new provisions, requirements, and information that will be nearly impossible—if not totally—to collect, report, and submit by the July 28, 2025 deadline.

The Rushed Deadline Is In Violation of the Law

FYSB has given providers just 19 days—instead of the standard 60—to apply for an RHYA grant. **This is in direct violation of [2 CFR 200.204\(b\)](#) which says “no funding opportunity should be available for less than 30 calendar days unless the Federal agency determines that exigent circumstances justify this.”**

This rushed timeline means:

- RHYA grant applications are now due in less than two weeks with no advance notice—despite major program changes and new requirements—leaving providers scrambling to respond.
- Applicants must meet new demands—including detailed budgets, staffing plans, and signed MOUs with law enforcement and others—within the same page limits, forcing them to divert staff from core services and cancel time off.
- The compressed timeline makes it nearly impossible to secure new required partnerships or thoughtfully revise proposals—threatening the quality and effectiveness of federal youth homelessness programs.

“This compressed timeline is devastating... Like many nonprofits, our personnel are responsible for operations along with writing grants, which means that essential operations will suffer while focusing on this application. We are unsure if we will be able to submit a complete application on time, due to the required collateral documents that must be signed by other parties such as memorandums of understanding with collaborative partners and with our state department of child welfare.” —Catherine Hummel, DreamTree Project, NM

Elimination of the Vital, Standalone Street Outreach Program (SOP)

FYSB has eliminated SOP as a standalone grant and folded it into shelter-based programs—without adequate time, guidance, or clarity.

- TLP/MGH applicants must now provide intensive, full-time street outreach services—despite many lacking adequate time, staffing, infrastructure, or experience to do so effectively.

- Applicants must submit more documentation (e.g., audit reports, new protocols, MOUs) without additional space, time, or guidance.
- Existing SOP grantees face confusion about how to proceed, with no clarity for grants ending after September 2025. There is also concern that key SOP data tracked in RHY-HMIS may be lost or diluted within broader program categories.

“SOP funding is not only vital to sustaining our outreach team, but also to maintaining the trust and visibility we have built in the community over years of consistent presence. A disruption in funding could unravel this progress, creating gaps in services and eroding the fragile support systems many young people rely on.”

—SOP Provider, Oregon

New Law Enforcement MOU Requirement is Unworkable Within Timeline

FYSB now requires signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with law enforcement agencies for Transitional Living Program (TLP) and Maternity Group Home (MGH) applicants. These must be completed within 13 days.

- MOUs typically take months to complete and require legal review. Agreements with law enforcement typically require review by legal departments and other government offices, taking weeks or months to finalize—not days.
- This new requirement was introduced without advance notice, making it virtually impossible for applicants who do not already have such agreements in place.
- Raises serious compliance issues under RHYA’s own confidentiality laws ([34 USC §11275](#)). Rushing these documents raises compliance risks.

“MOUs aren’t just paperwork—they require deep planning and trust-building. You can’t fake or rush that.”

—National Network for Youth

Inappropriate Marriage Education Mandate

The new TLP and MGH NOFOs require youth—including minors—to receive education on marriage and family structure.

- Youth in crisis may find this irrelevant or retraumatizing.
- Promotes a specific ideology instead of trauma-informed care.
- Pulls limited resources from core services.

We Urge Congress and FYSB to:

- Extend the application deadline by at least 30 days.
- Accept letters of intent in place of signed law enforcement MOUs.
- Restore SOP as a standalone grant program.
- Remove mandates that do not serve core functions of the programs.

Providers need time. Youth deserve better.