

**All Members of Congress Should Support the Following Policies  
to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness**

Health and Human Services

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

The following vital programs are made possible by RHYA funding:

**1 STREET OUTREACH**

education, prevention, treatment, counseling, connection, and referrals to vital services to prevent sexual abuse and human trafficking for youth at-risk of and experiencing trafficking and homelessness

**2 BASIC CENTER**

temporary housing with counseling, therapeutic family intervention, connection to education, and supportive services for minors experiencing homelessness for youth under 18

**3 TRANSITIONAL LIVING**

longer-term housing with supportive services, including Maternity Group Homes for pregnant and parenting youth

**4 NATIONAL COMMS SYSTEM**

24/7 national phone, text, and online communications system which connects youth and families in crisis with prevention services and reunifies families

**5 NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**

training and technical assistance to all RHYA grantees

**ASK: \$300 million for FY25 appropriations**

- RHYA programs are vital to scaling up youth-centric community responses to serve the 4.2 million youth who experience homelessness on their own every year.
- RHYA programs are effective and the only targeted federal funding of housing and service options for minor-aged youth and families in crisis OUTSIDE of the child welfare or policing and carceral systems.
- \$300 million will support approximately 1,400 RHYA project grants in communities across the US that meet our young people where they are.
- \$300 million will allow approximately 49,034 young people access housing and connect with 70,000 youth via street outreach and drop-in centers.

**ASK: RHYA is long overdue for reauthorization and needs the following critical updates:**

- New provisions to combat trafficking and prohibit discrimination.
- Increase the length of stays in Basic Center Programs from 21 to 30 days or longer, as state law allows.
- Increase grant award amount and overall program funding.
- Increase allowable age for Transitional Living Programs.
- Fix the 20-bed per building issue.
- New funding stream focused on preventing homelessness among youth.



**4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness every year in America.**

*Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago,  
Missed Opportunities*

NATIONAL NETWORK  
 *for* **YOUTH**

### Department of Education

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

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, strengthened by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), is the only federal education program that removes barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and success caused by homelessness. Under this law, every LEA must have a designated Homeless Liaison responsible for ensuring students experiencing homelessness are identified and provided with supports that ensure their educational success.

This federal funding goes to State Education Agencies who then make subgrants to Local Education Agencies. 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.

#### **ASK: \$800 million for FY25 appropriations**

- Only 24% of local educational agencies receive EHCY subgrants. This lack of funding limits the ability of schools to identify homeless students, ensure their access to school, and connect them to community supports.
- In 2020-2021, 41.9% of students experiencing homelessness were chronically absent, more than twice the rate of housed students (20.3%), and significantly higher than the homeless student chronic absence rate in 2019-2020 (27.3%).
- The 2019-2020 national average graduation rate for homeless students was 68.2%. This is 13% below other low-income students (81.3%) and nearly 18% below all students (86.5%).
- A bipartisan amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act provided \$800 million in funding 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 American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth Funds (ARP-HCY), have reached 44% of school districts to date - nearly double the number of school districts reached with previous annual funding allocations.

Housing and Urban Development  
***Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)***

This funding is given to HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) to fund solutions to youth homelessness. These community plans must be developed with youth with lived experience of homelessness. Funding is for two years. After the two-year grant ends, the same amount of funding per year must continue to be set aside for youth projects within the CoC.

**ASK: \$100 Million for FY 2025 appropriations**

- There have been six rounds of grants providing funding and support to 94 CoCs.
- This set aside of funding is critical to ensure every community has funding to provide housing options and services to young adults experiencing homelessness.
- There are 387 total CoCs and we ask for continued funding until every CoC has received this grant and achieves a carve out of funding to serve young adults experiencing homelessness.

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

ESG funds may be used for these five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), as well as up to 7.5% of a recipient's allocation can be used for administrative activities.

**ASK: \$300 Million for FY25 appropriations**

ESG funds the following critical support:

- Engage homeless individuals and families living on the street;
- Improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families;
- Provide essential services to shelter residents;
- Rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families; and
- Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.



## Summary of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Appropriations Requests

**ASK:** All Members of U.S. Congress should include the following requests in their personal letters to the Appropriations Committee:

These programs need the following funding and should face no decrease in funding:

- **\$300 Million** for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Program
- **\$800 Million** for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program
- **\$100 Million** for HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)
- **\$25 Million** for HUD Youth Homeless System Improvement (YHSI) grants
- **\$300 Million** for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)



### Fix the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Student Rule

**Current Issue:** Youth can't live in Low- Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funded housing and be a full time student. This means that young people either have to attend college part-time or not at all- both of which result in youth not attending or completing higher education institutions.

**Solution:** There is simple no-cost legislation that would fix this issue, so that youth can live in LIHTC funded housing and still attend college full time.

**Ask:** Pass no-cost legislation to fix this issue, such as the *Housing for Homeless Students Act* or *Affordable Housing and Credit Improvement Act*. **Learn more:** [nn4youth.org/affordable-housing-credit-improvement-act](https://nn4youth.org/affordable-housing-credit-improvement-act).

### Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA) [last session: S.1469/H.R.6287]

**ASK: Reintroduce and Pass Bipartisan No-Cost Legislation to Align Federal Homeless Definitions**

- Bipartisan legislation to align the different federal definitions of homelessness across agencies and programs.
- HUD uses a narrow and arbitrary definition of homelessness that excludes some of the most vulnerable children + youth + families from getting assistance.
- HCYA would expand the definition of chronically homeless to include other household members.
- HUD's Point in Time (PIT) count excludes many children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, keeping them invisible and limiting public and private investment and action.
- HCYA would give communities a complete picture of homelessness among all who experience it, allowing organizations, communities, and states to scale strategies to end all forms of homelessness.
- **Learn more:** <https://nn4youth.org/policy/federal-policy-on-youth-homelessness/hcya>