

Strengthening Support for Youth: Learn About the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)

Webinar
June 24, 2025
2:00 - 3:00 PM ET



NATIONAL

NETWORK
for **YOUTH**

Welcome!

- Introduce yourself in chat with your name, pronouns, organization, location, and an emoji to show how your day is going so far. 🥰 😁 😭 😨 😡 😊 😜
- Put your questions in the Q&A throughout the presentation.
- The slides and recording will be available on our website.
- Complete the post-webinar survey so we can improve for next time.

AGENDA

01. Introduction

02. Overview of Youth Homelessness and RHYA

03. Overview of RHYTPA

04. Path Forward

05. Questions

About National Network for Youth

**NN4Y is on a mission to
transform systems so that no
young person in America
experiences homelessness.**



collaborate • advocate • transform

<http://nn4youth.org/>

NN4Y works with youth who have experienced homelessness 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.

Our Programs

- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Youth + Youth Adult Partnerships
- Community-Based Solutions

Youth Homelessness in America



No young person should ever experience homelessness.

- Every year, **4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness in communities across the United States.**
- One in five young adults experiencing homelessness also experience trafficking.
- An estimated 29 percent of young men and 43 percent of young women ages 18 to 25 who experience homelessness have at least one child.
 - This means 1.1 million minors, including 447,000 infants and toddlers, are with a parent experiencing homelessness each year.

Youth Homelessness in America



The long-term impacts of youth homelessness can be severe.

- **Increased** likelihood of experiencing homelessness chronically as an adult.
- **Increased** likelihood of involvement in other systems, such as child welfare or criminal justice.
- **Increased** likelihood of substance use and poor mental health outcomes.
- **Decreased** likelihood of educational attainment and employment.

Featured Speaker

RHYA



Etelvina A.

Minnesota

*National Youth Advisory
Council Member*



Spring 2024

POLICY BRIEF RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT

Every year, 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness on their own. 700,000 are ages 13 to 17 and 3.5 million are young adults ages 18 to 25.¹

All of us need support on the journey to adulthood, but for youth experiencing homelessness, that climb can be particularly steep. As young people become adults, they need to be plugged into support networks that power their growth and success, but young people in homeless situations are often disconnected from these networks.

The federal government provides targeted support for youth experiencing homelessness primarily through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), a program administered by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Other federal programs that support youth experiencing homelessness include the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Youth Homeless Demonstration Program.

RHYA became law in 1974 as Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act to provide youth-specific community-based services as an alternative to involvement in policing and incarceration systems for youth status offenders (a noncriminal act that is a violation of the law because of the youth's age, e.g. running away, staying out past curfew, truancy). Instead of a punitive response, RHYA programs connect young people with support services that promote positive youth development, create healthy connections with caring adults, and aid in life skills development, education, and employment. It was last reauthorized in 2018 (P.L. 115-385).



Runaway and Homeless Youth Act: An Overview

- ★ Provides funding to community-based organizations that provide housing and supportive services to youth, young adults, and young parent families experiencing homelessness.
- ★ Became law in 1974 as part of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.
- ★ Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- ★ Currently funded at \$146.3 million.
- ★ Last reauthorized in 2018.

**These vital
programs are
made possible by
the Runaway and
Homeless Youth
Act:**



- 1 STREET OUTREACH**
Connects outreach workers with young people through street outreach and drop-in centers to refer young people to housing and essential services that prevent and end sexual abuse and/or trafficking. This program provides an essential pathway for young people to get off the streets.
- 2 BASIC CENTER**
Provides short-term crisis housing, food, clothing, and counseling services for minors. Reunites youth with their families when safe and appropriate, or transitions youth to stable housing.
- 3 TRANSITIONAL LIVING/MATERNITY GROUP HOME**
Provides long-term housing for youth ages 16 to 22, coupled with supportive services to promote independence, including employment, education, life skills, and healthcare. MGHs support pregnant and parenting youth.
- 4 NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**
A 24/7 phone, text, and online crisis intervention hotline for youth and families to connect them with prevention services, referrals for housing and services, and to reunify families.
- 5 NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**
Provides training and technical assistance to all RHYA grantees.

RHYA Programs are Effective

RHYA

Data from FY2022, last year available.

Basic Center Program Outcomes

- ★ 87 percent of youth participants had a safe exit rate.
- ★ 68 percent of youth participants attended school regularly, graduated from high school, or obtained a GED at exit.

Transitional Living Program Outcomes

- ★ 91 percent of youth participants had a safe exit rate.
- ★ 70 percent of youth participants attended school regularly, graduated from high school, or obtained a GED at exit.
- ★ 82 percent of youth participants were employed or looking for work at exit.

Street Outreach Program Outcomes

- ★ 71 percent of youth contacted by SOPs engaged in a deliberate case plan or client assessment, a 3 percent increase over the previous year.

Fiscal Year	Funding Amount	Number of Grants Awarded	Total spending divided by the approximately 40,000 youth served by RHYA programs	Total spending divided by the 4.2 million youth in need
FY 2020	\$132m	672	\$3,300 per young person/year	\$31 per young person/year
FY 2021	\$137m	682	\$3,425 per young person/year	\$33 per young person/year
FY 2022	\$140m	658	\$3,500 per young person/year	\$33.3 per young person/year
FY 2023	\$146m	657	\$3,650 per young person/year	\$35 per young person/year
FY 2024	\$146m	791 (expected)	\$3,650 per young person/year	\$35 per young person/year
NN4Y's FY 2026 request	\$304m	1,300 (expected)	<i>\$304m would allow more young people to access services</i>	\$71 per young person/year

Funding for RHYA: Critically Low

For more information, see NN4Y's resource, [Runaway and Homeless Youth Act: Cost and Effectiveness of the Program](#).

A photograph of four young adults (two men and two women) of diverse ethnicities smiling and posing together outdoors. The woman in the center has curly brown hair and is wearing a plaid shirt over a white tank top. The man to her left has short dark hair and is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The man to her right has short dark hair and is wearing a yellow t-shirt. The woman on the far right has long brown hair and is wearing a blue denim jacket. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees.

**The Runaway and
Homeless Youth and
Trafficking Prevention
Act of 2025**
(S.2012/H.R.3856)

**Strengthening Support
for YOUTH.**

RHYTPA: An Overview

RHYTPA Overview



The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2025 ([S.2012](#) / [H.R.3856](#))

- ★ Bipartisan, bicameral bill introduced on June 10.
- ★ Senate champions:
 - Susan Collins (R-ME) and Dick Durbin (D-IL)
 - Original cosponsors: Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Peter Welch (D-VT)
- ★ House champions:
 - Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01) and Don Bacon (R-NE-02)
 - Original cosponsor: Morgan McGarvey (D-KY-03)

RHYTPA reauthorizes and updates the current Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program.

RHYTPA: Changes Across All Programs

- ★ Five-year grant awards staggered every two to three years.
- ★ Grant award notice to be 90 days in advance of the start of the grant.
- ★ Establishes appeals process for unsuccessful applicants.
- ★ Geographic distribution to be considered when issuing grants.
- ★ Programs to provide training to staff on human trafficking, trauma, sexual abuse, and assault.
- ★ Mandatory non-discriminatory practices.
- ★ Services must be trauma-informed as well as age, gender, and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

RHYTPA: Street Outreach Programs (SOP)

- ★ Changes “The Secretary **may** make grants” to “The Secretary **shall** make grants.”
- ★ Updates eligibility to include youth who have experienced trafficking.
- ★ Adds the option of using online methods and social media to outreach to youth.

We must build outreach teams to go out into the community to meet unhoused youth where they are. **You cannot always expect them to find you.**

— RHYA Provider, Ohio

RHYTPA: Basic Center Programs (BCP)



- ★ Services to be provided to “runaway youth, street youth, homeless youth, or youth at risk of separation from the family.”
 - *Current law says, “...as an alternative to involving runaway and homeless youth in the law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems.”*
- ★ Increases length of stay from 21 to 30 days, or longer if state law allows.

RHYTPA: Transitional Living Programs (TLP) and Maternity Group Homes (MGH)

RHYTPA Overview

- ★ Increases eligible age from 22 to 25, allowing the provider discretion over offering services to youth ages 22 and up, and prioritizing youth under age 22.
- ★ Requires providing aftercare services (if possible and to the extent practicable), including to youth who have relocated.

Support for youth while they learn skills, increase employment and earning potential, and cultivate the support in the community is essential for long-term success.

— RHYA Provider, Pennsylvania

RHYTPA: BCP, TLP, and MGH

- ★ Allows providers to include “individuals identified by youth as family” in counseling and therapeutic services.
- ★ Increases coordination in services with McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons.
- ★ If a youth requests assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the provider will assist and verify status as experiencing homelessness.
- ★ Allows grantees to serve a minimum of four youth and maximum of 20 youth per project, unless regulation allows a higher max.
- ★ Clarifies that grantees can have more than 20 beds in a building if that building contains multiple, separate projects.

RHYTPA: National Communications System (NCS) and Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)

RHYTPA Overview



- ★ **NCS:** Includes the use of online methods and social media as ways to outreach to youth.
- ★ **TTA:** Allows for trainings and technical assistance to be “onsite and web-based ... such as on-demand and online learning,” and requires that trainings are trauma-informed.

RHYTPA: Other Changes

- ★ Requires HHS to release a report on the prevalence of youth homelessness every three years.
- ★ Gives the HHS Secretary authority to waive program requirements in the event of extraordinary circumstances, such as natural disasters, public health emergencies, or financial crises.
- ★ Providers that have been awarded grants for five consecutive fiscal years will have an evaluation, which can be virtual.
- ★ Increases maximum grant for rural projects from \$100 million to \$200 million.

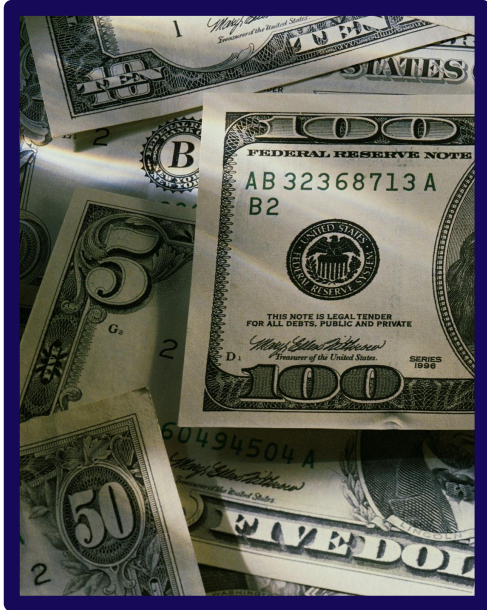
RHYTPA: **New!** Prevention Services Program (PSP)

RHYTPA Overview

Providers that receive a BCP, TLP, or MGH grant can also apply for an additional \$75,000 to provide prevention services, which can include:

- ★ Individual, family, group, and peer counseling
- ★ Family mediation
- ★ Connecting youth to public services and housing options
- ★ Emergency respite care
- ★ Connecting youth to education and employment programs
- ★ Case management and resource navigation
- ★ Activities to improve access to local mental health and substance use treatment and prevention.

RHYTPA: Authorizations vs. Appropriations



Authorizations

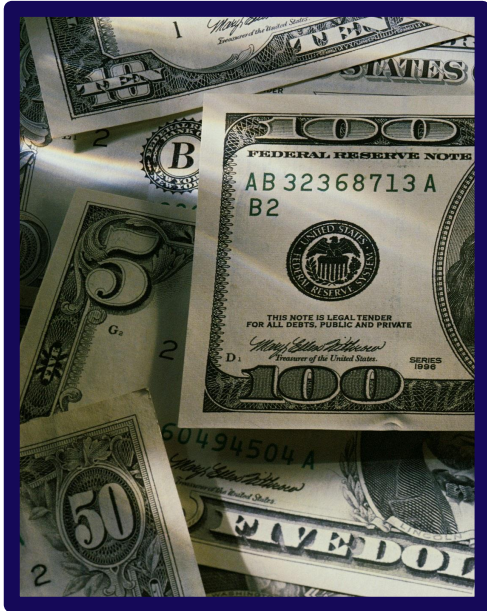
- ★ A law that establishes or continues a federal program and sets maximum or recommended funding levels.
- ★ Authorizations can last for one or multiple years.
- ★ **Does not** actually provide money to that program.

Appropriations

- ★ A law that provides agencies the money to carry out its programs.
- ★ Appropriations happen every year.
- ★ **Does** provide money to that agency/program.

RHYA is **authorized** at **\$152.4 million**.
It's currently **appropriated** at **\$146.3 million**.

RHYTPA: Authorizations

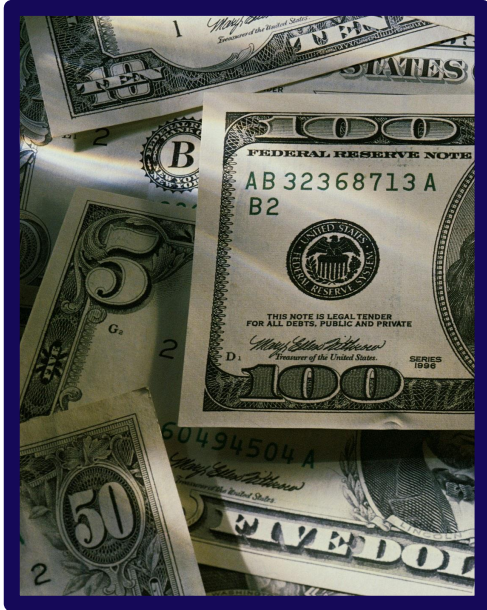


RHYTPA increases the maximum or recommended funding levels for RHYA to \$319.5 million.

- **BCP, TLP, and MGH:** Increased from \$127.4 million to \$200 million.
- **SOP:** Increased from \$25 million to \$50 million.
- **PSP:** Created at \$67.5 million.
- **Report on youth homelessness:** Increased from \$0 to \$2 million.

We would still need to advocate each appropriations cycle to actually receive this level of funding.

RHYTPA: Grant Award Amounts



RHYTPA increases grant award amounts based on the *appropriations* for that fiscal year.

- If RHYA is appropriated at **less than \$200 million**, BCP, TLP, MGH, and SOP grants will be between \$200,000 to \$250,000 per year.
- If RHYA is appropriated at **more than \$200 million**, BCP, TLP, MGH, and SOP grants will be between \$225,000 to \$275,000 per year.
- PSP grants will remain at \$75,000 no matter what RHYA is appropriated at.

Questions?



RHYTPA: The Path Forward.

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Current Context for U.S. Congress

- The 119th Congress (2025 - 2026)
 - If RHYTPA is not passed by 12/31/26, it will need to be reintroduced in 2027.
- Republicans have a trifecta—they control the House, Senate, and Executive branch.
 - House: 220 R, 212 D, 3 vacant.
 - Senate: 53 R, 45 D, 2 Independents who vote with Ds.

While a bipartisan approach is always important, Republican support is especially critical in this Congress.



RHYTPA: The Path Forward



HOUSE



**HOUSE EDUCATION
& LABOR COMMITTEE**



**FULL HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**



**FULL HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

Congressional champions in the House and Senate draft and introduce bills.



Each committee drafts, amends, and votes on its own version of the bill.



Each full chamber debates, amends, and votes on the bill from its respective committee.



House & Senate leaders, along with committee chairs, create a conference committee to merge bills, and then the full chambers vote on the final combined bill.



The final bill is sent to the White House for the president's signature.



SENATE



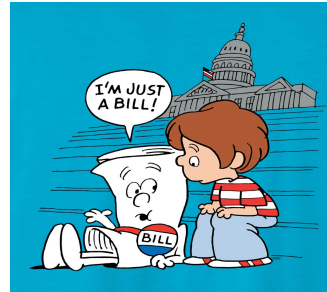
**SENATE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE**



FULL SENATE



FULL SENATE



RHYTPA: The Path Forward



HOUSE



✓ Congressional champions in the House and Senate draft and introduce bills. ✓



SENATE



HOUSE EDUCATION
& LABOR COMMITTEE

Each committee drafts, amends, and votes on its own version of the bill.



SENATE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE



FULL HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Each full chamber debates, amends, and votes on the bill from its respective committee.



FULL SENATE



FULL HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

House & Senate leaders, along with committee chairs, create a conference committee to merge bills, and then the full chambers vote on the final combined bill.



FULL SENATE



The final bill is sent to the White House for the president's signature.

Path Forward: House Education and Workforce Committee

Path Forward



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Ask: Cosponsor the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act.

The Committee is led by:

- ★ Tim Walberg (R-MI-05) - Chair
- ★ Bobby Scott (D-VA-03) - Ranking

Key members include:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| ★ Kevin Kiley (R-CA-06) | ★ Mark Messmer (R-IN-08) |
| ★ Mary Miller (R-IL-15) | ★ Jahana Hayes (D-CT-05) |
| ★ GT Thompson (R-PA-15) | ★ Summer Lee (D-PA-12) |
| ★ Burgess Owens (R-UT-04) | ★ John Mannion (D-NY-22) |
| ★ Michael Rulli (R-OH-06) | ★ Frederica Wilson (D-FL-24) |
| ★ James Moylan (R-GU-District At Large) | ★ Alma Adams (D-NC-12) |
| ★ Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA-07) | ★ Yassain Ansari (D-AZ-03) |
| ★ Mark Harris (R-NC-08) | |

Path Forward: Senate Judiciary Committee

Ask: Cosponsor the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act.

The Committee is led by:

- ★ Chuck Grassley (R-IA) - Chair
- ★ Dick Durbin (D-IL) - Ranking

Key members are:

- ★ Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
- ★ John Cornyn (R-TX)
- ★ Mike Lee (R-UT)
- ★ Ted Cruz (R-TX)
- ★ Josh Hawley (R-MO)
- ★ Thom Tillis (R-NC)
- ★ John Kennedy (R-LA)
- ★ Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
- ★ Eric Schmitt (R-MO)

- ★ Katie Britt (R-AL)
- ★ Ashley Moody (R-FL)
- ★ Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
- ★ Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
- ★ Chris Coons (D-CT)
- ★ Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
- ★ Cory Booker (D-NJ)
- ★ Alex Padilla (D-CA)
- ★ Adam Schiff (D-CA)



The Ask: Cosponsor the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act.

Who to Ask: Both of your U.S. Senators and your U.S. House Representative.

- Use NN4Y's [Legislator Lookup Tool](#) to find out who your Members of Congress are.
- *Pro tip: If your organization spans multiple Congressional districts, you may have more than one House Representative.*

Path Forward: Take Action Today!

Visit our [RHYTPA Take Action Page](#) for more information and resources.

1. **Have your organization [endorse](#) RHYTPA.** We share this list with Members of Congress and their staff so they can see how much support there is for this bill.
2. **Send a [message](#) to your Members of Congress.** Send a pre-drafted email to all three of your federal Representatives to express your support for RHYTPA. It is very important for Members of Congress to know that their constituents care about this bill.
3. **Share about RHYTPA with your [network](#).** Use these pre-drafted messages and social media posts to spread the word about RHYTPA.
4. **NN4Y is here to help you advocate!** Email trinady.maddock@nn4youth.org. We can:
 - a. Help schedule meetings for you.
 - b. Give you contact information for your U.S. Members of Congress.
 - c. Help you prepare for your meeting or site visit.

In-District Advocacy- A Powerful Tool

- Lawmakers are more accessible and responsive in their home districts—this is your chance to make an impact.
- Invite legislators to your site or program to see your work firsthand. It's far more persuasive than talking points alone.
- **Upcoming opportunities** to engage in-person:
 - **August 4–29**
 - **September 22**
 - **November 10**
- Use NN4Y's [Legislator Lookup](#) to find your Representatives and get started today.



^ In District Advocacy Toolkit ^

Build Relationships, Build Power

Strategies

- **Personal connections influence policy**—Members of Congress are people first.
- **Map your network:**
 - Do you know someone who knows someone?
 - Explore connections through church, school, nonprofit boards, state/local officials, even social clubs.
- Know what matters to them. Do they care about:
 - **Mental health? Child welfare? Trafficking? Education? The economy?**
- Tailor your message and make it personal.

Examples

My City Council member knows the Senator personally.

My board member used to work for the Representative.

The Senator's wife used to volunteer at our program.

Questions?

NN4Y is Launching a New Tool for Young Leaders:

The Youth Action Leadership Certificate

- For young advocates (ages 18-24) and their supporters
- 8 weeks of live virtual sessions
- Gain skills in:
 - Youth Advocacy
 - Housing & Homelessness Systems
 - Effective Stakeholder Relationships
 - Meeting Facilitation & Project Management
 - Leading Youth Action Boards (YABs)

NN4Y is exploring ways to deliver this to your community, reach out through our interest form and our team will follow up!

Interest form: bit.ly/YouthActionInterest



Labor Law & Contracting for Youth and Young Adults: Breaking Down Barriers to Equitable Compensation

Register
Today!



June 25, 2025

1:00 - 2:30 PM Eastern

12:00 PM Central

11:00 AM Mountain

10:00 AM Pacific



Starting July 2, 2025!



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

1-800-870-DOCS

****Voicemails are welcome and will be returned.**

Every Wednesday

12 to 8 PM Eastern | 11 AM to 7 PM Central

10 AM to 6 PM Mountain | 9 AM to 5 PM Pacific

**Baker
McKenzie.**

NATIONAL

NETWORK
for **YOUTH**

**Together, we
can end youth
homelessness.**

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trinady.maddock@nn4youth.org

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nn4youth.org

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