

THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

2023 Hill Day

MARCH 3, 2023



NATIONAL NETWORK
 *for* **YOUTH**



Our Mission

National Network for Youth is on a mission to transform systems so that no young person in America experiences homelessness.

Our Programs



FEDERAL POLICY ADVOCACY

With our network of young leaders and service providers we work to expand public resources and implement common-sense policies that prevent and respond to youth and young adult homelessness.



YOUTH + YOUNG ADULT PARTNERSHIPS

We invest in young leaders through our NYAC to educate policymakers, service providers, and community officials throughout the country about youth and young adult homelessness and advocate for solutions so that no young person in America has to experience even one day of homelessness.



PLACED-BASED COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

We provide on-the-ground support in local communities to address the root causes of homelessness among young people, identify gaps in services and support, and build strong collaborative relationships amongst youth-serving agencies in communities nationwide, leading to improved youth outcomes and system functioning.

Agenda

1

**Scheduling + Preparing
for Hill Meetings**

2

Effective Advocacy Strategies

3

Congressional Asks for Hill Day

Legislation updates + specific asks

4

Q & A


Scheduling + Preparing for Hill Meetings



2023 Hill Day: Friday, March 3rd 9 AM to 12 PM

- When scheduling your meetings, request to have the Member of Congress present
- The person you are meeting with (staffer and/or Member of Congress) may not be available during the allotted 9 AM to 12 PM ET - it is common for folks to have meetings at other days/times during the Summit
- For virtual attendees, you should schedule your meetings via Zoom and the meetings can be anytime, including the week of or week after the Summit - the key is to have the meetings and advocate
- We will have paper copies of Fact Sheets for you to hand out to your meetings

[ABOUT](#)[PROGRAMS](#)[LEARN](#)

NATIONAL NETWORK
for YOUTH

[EVENTS](#)[POLICY](#)[GET INVOLVED](#)

Hill Day

[Register](#)[Sponsor](#)[Agenda](#)[Hill Day](#)[Hotel and Travel](#)

We are so excited you are joining us in taking action to advocate for our collective policy agenda. Together, we can transform systems to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness. This page provides high-level information and resources you need to have a successful hill day. We have more detailed information about how to schedule your meetings + more in our [virtual advocacy toolkit](#).

Would you like NN4Y's assistance in scheduling and preparing for your meeting? Email darla.bardine@nn4youth.org for more information.

PLANNING FOR YOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

- Are you interested in being a State Captain? [Learn More.](#)
- [Legislature lookup tool](#)
- [Draft emails templates to schedule your meeting + follow-up](#)
- [Hill Day meeting agenda template](#)
- [Hill Day Asks + Talking Points](#)
- [Post Meeting Report Form \(one per meeting\)](#)

FACT SHEETS COMING SOON

Scheduling Your Meetings

1. Identify your U.S. Senators + U.S. House Representative
2. Call or email to schedule meeting
3. Specify the meeting is in person
4. Ask for the elected official to join
5. Be clear what you want to meet about (*e.g. if you want to talk about RHYA, specify HHS and not HUD*)

Tips!

- Research who you are meeting with
- Prepare talking points, assign roles, and have an agenda
- Plan for 15 minutes, but be prepared for a 30 minute meeting
- Take notes



Make sure you have a good internet connection



- Ensure youth have equal access to advocacy. To do so, you may need to:
 - role play an advocacy meeting
 - provide written materials of policies/recommendations to be discussed



provide a laptop, quiet space, or Wifi

Draft Meeting Agenda

- Thank the Member of Congress and/or staff for the meeting.
- Introductions.
- Give information about your organization and the work you do.
- Introduce the purpose of the meeting/the ask.

- Make your points in support of your ask.
- Make a clear ask.
- Thank them for the meeting and tell them you will follow-up.
- Grab a picture to share on social media.

Make a copy of [this agenda](#) to plan your meetings.

Every meeting should have **at least one clear ask**

The Ask



Debrief After the Meeting

- Questions to discuss together:
 - How do you feel after that meeting?
 - What do you think went well?
 - What could we do better next time?
 - What are our next steps? e.g. *Thank you email to policymaker + other follow-up*



Report Back After Your Meetings

nn4youth.org/policy/hill-day-meeting-report

Complete one form per
meeting

Please submit a separate form for each meeting you attended.

Please fill out and submit the form below about your Capitol Hill meeting. If you have any questions, please contact member@nn4youth.org.

Name *

Your First Name

First

Your Last Name

Last

Email *

Your Email

Please enter your email, so we can follow up with you.

State *

Your State

Tell us about your meeting

Member of Congress Name *

Did you meet directly with the Congress person or a member(s) of their staff? *

- ☐ Congress person
- ☐ Staff Member
- ☐ Congress person + Staff

Name(s) & title(s) of Congressional staff present: *

Staff Email(s)

Which of the following priorities did you discuss (select all that apply): *

- ☐ The Runaway and Homeless Youth + Trafficking Prevention Act
- ☐ Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act
- ☐ Homeless Children and Youth Act
- ☐ Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Student Rule Fix

Resources for Your Hill Meetings

<https://nn4youth.org/national-summit-hill-day/hill-day/>

PLANNING FOR YOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

- ✓ Are you interested in being a State Captain? [Learn More.](#)
- ✓ Legislature lookup tool
- ✓ Draft emails templates to schedule your meeting + follow-up
- ✓ Hill Day meeting agenda template
- ✓ Hill Day Asks + Talking Points
- ✓ Post Meeting Report Form (one per meeting)



Effective Advocacy Strategies

Five Features of Effective Advocacy

1 EVIDENCE

translate and present the evidence/research as urgent

2 POLICY RELEVANCE

present issue as relevant to policy issues in the current debate

3 SOLUTIONS

present policy solutions- also known as “the ask”

4 PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION

translate evidence and policy solutions through persuasive message framing. This includes:

- perseverance
- passion
- creativity
- personality
- media savvy

5 Different Advocacy Strategies

- Meetings (in-person or virtual)
- Letter writing
- Phone calls
- Community roundtables
- Congressional briefing/hearing
- Social Media
- Grassroots Organizing
- Protest/sit-ins
- etc.





“You are powerful--your lived experiences and expertise can help shape the policies that are created.”

Effective Advocacy and Storytelling



Engages the heart

Share a story to appeal to their emotions.



Influences a legislator's mind

Provide practical and relatable information to educate them on the issue.



Gets your legislator to consider their political health

What is the cost to society for not helping youth experiencing homelessness?

ROAR Advocacy Strategies + Tactics

Research - be knowledgeable and prepared

Outreach - reach out to meet with others working in the issue you are focused on and your policymaker targets

Advocacy is about influencing federal policymakers to change current policies

Relationship Building is about making personal and professional connections with policymakers





Congressional Asks for Hill Day

Current Context for U.S. Congress

- New two-year Congressional session- the 118th Session (2023-2025)
 - All previous legislation needs introduced
- Democrats control the Senate and Executive Branch
 - 48 Democrats + VP Kamala Harris
 - 49 Republicans
 - 3 Independents - skew Democrat
- Republicans control the House
 - 222 Republicans and 212 Democrats
 - Strict rules regarding funding/budget increase
- **This means a bipartisan approach is especially important**



Current Focus for U.S. Congress



HOUSE

- Investigate President Biden



SENATE

- Judicial nominations
- Abortion access



BOTH

- Finalizing committee assignments
- Debt ceiling
- Farm Bill
- Annual appropriations

Your asks for NN4Y 2023 Hill Day

SUPPORT KEY
FEDERAL PROGRAMS
TO END YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS

FY 2024 FUNDING

\$150 million for Runaway &
Homeless Youth Act
\$150 million for Education for
Homeless Children & Youth
\$100 million for HUD Youth
Homeless Demo Program

HOMELESS
CHILDREN & YOUTH
ACT

co-sponsor after
introduction to unify
different federal definitions
of homelessness


LIHTC “STUDENT
RULE” FIX

no cost policy solution to
increase access to
affordable housing for youth

SUPPORT CRITICAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



The following vital programs are made possible by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA):

- 
- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 01
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 | 02
BASIC CENTER

temporary housing with, counseling, therapeutic family intervention, connection to education, and supportive services for minors experiencing homelessness for youth under the age of 18 | 03
TRANSITIONAL LIVING

longer-term housing with supportive services, including Maternity Group Homes for pregnant and parenting youth | 04
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

24/7 national phone, text, and online communications system which connects youth and families in crisis with prevention services and reunifies families | 05
NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

training and technical assistance to all RHYA grantees |
|---|--|---|---|--|

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

Asks + Talking Points



ASK: \$300 million for FY24 appropriations

- RHYA programs are vital to scaling up youth-centric community response to serve these 4.2 million youth who experience homelessness on their own every year
- RHYA programs are effective and the only targeted federal funding serving 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 projects 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 Centers 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 regulation.
- New funding stream focused on preventing homelessness among youth

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 that is 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.

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Ask + Talking Points



ASK: \$800 million for FY24

- **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 and after the two-year grant ends, the same amount of funding per year must continue to be set aside for youth projects.
- There have been six rounds of funding that has provided funding and support to 94 CoCs.

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

Youth Homeless Demonstration Program *Ask + Talking Points*

ASK: \$100 Million for FY 2024

- There have been six rounds of funding that has provided funding and support to 94 CoCs.
- This setaside of funding is critical to ensuring every community has funding to provide housing options and services to young adults experiencing homelessness.
- There are X 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 Solution Grants *Ask + Talking Points*

ASK: \$300 Million for FY24

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
- Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless

COMMITTEES OF IMPORTANCE



RHYA Reauthorization - Committee of Jurisdiction

SENATE: JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATS

Durbin, IL - Chair

Blumenthal, CT

Booker, NJ

Coons, DE

Feinstein, CA

Hirono, HI

Klobuchar, MN

Ossoff, GA

Padilla, CA

Welch, VT

Whitehouse, RI

REPUBLICANS

Graham, SC - Ranking

Grassley, IA

Cornyn, TX

Lee, UT

Cruz, TX

Hawley, MO

Cotton, AR

Tillis, NC

Blackburn, TN

Neely Kennedy, LA

RHYA Reauthorization - Committee of Jurisdiction

HOUSE: EDUCATION & WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

REPUBLICANS

Foxx, NC - Chair

Miller, IL	Owens, UT	Wilson, SC
Steel, CA	Bood, VA	Thompson, PA
Letlow, LA	McClain, MI	Walberg, MI
Estes, KS	James, MI	Grothman, WI
Kiley, CA	Chavez-Deremer,	Stefanik, NY
Bean, FL	OR	Allen, GA
Burlison, MO	Williams, NY	Banks, IN
Moran, TX	Houshin, IN	Comer, KY

DEMOCRATS

Scott VA - Ranking

Grijalva, AZ	DeSaulnier, CA	Stevens, MI
Courtney, CT	Norcross, NJ	Fernandez, NM
Sablan, Northern Mariana Islands	Jayapal, WA	Manning, NC
Wilson, FL	Wild, PA	Mrvan, IA
Bonamici, OR	McBath, GA	Bowman, NY
Takano, CA	Hayes, CT	
Adams, NC	Levin, MI	
	Omar, MN	

RHYA + EHCY - Appropriations Subcommittees

SENATE: LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEMOCRATS

Murray, WA - Chair

Baldwin, WI

Durbin, IL

Manchin, WV

Merkley, OR

Murphy, CT

Reed, RI

Schatz, HI

Shaheen, NH

REPUBLICANS

Braun, IN - Ranking

Moore Capito, WV

Graham, SC

Hyde-Smith, MS

Moran, KS

Rubio, FL

RHYA + EHCY - Appropriations Subcommittees

**HOUSE: LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

REPUBLICANS

Aderholt, AL - Chair

Ciscomani, AZ

Clyde, GA

Ellzey, TX

Fleischmann, TN

Harris, MD

LaTurner, KS

Letlow, LA

Moolenaar, MI

Simpson, ID

DEMOCRATS

Clark, MA - Ranking

DeLauro, CT

Frankel, FL

Harder, CA

Lee, CA

Pocan, WI

Coleman, NJ

HUD YHDP + ESG - Appropriations Subcommittees

SENATE: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEMOCRATS

Schatz, HI - Chair

Coons, DE

Durbin, IL

Feinstein, CA

Manchin, WV

Murphy, CT

Murray, WA

Reed, RI

Van Hollen, MD

REPUBLICANS

Collins, ME - Ranking

Boozman, AR

Braun, IN

Shelby, AL

Moore Capito, WV

Graham, SC

Hoeven, ND

Neely Kennedy, LA

HUD YHDP + ESG - Appropriations Subcommittees

HOUSE: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

REPUBLICANS

Cole, OK - Chair

Ciscomani, AZ

Cline, VA

Diaz-Balart, FL

Gonzales, TX

Rutherford, FL

Valadao, CA

Womack, AR

Zinke, MT

DEMOCRATS

DeLauro, CT - Ranking

Aguilar, CA

Clark, MA

Español, NY

Quigley, IL

Torres, CA

Trone, MD

Watson Coleman, NJ

Wexton, VA

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Requests to **House** + **Senate**

CURRENT STATUS

Waiting for President's budget

House originates the budget and
is threatening cuts to Non
Discretionary Non Defense
Spending

ASKS

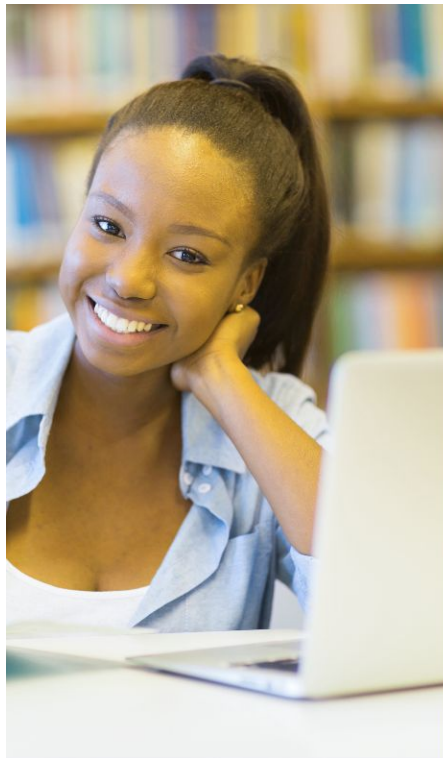
Include these funding request in your personal letter to the appropriations committee:

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)
- \$300 Million for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Other Important Legislative Priorities





**TELL CONGRESS TO
PASS THE STUDENT
RULE FIX**

NATIONAL NETWORK
 **for YOUTH**

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

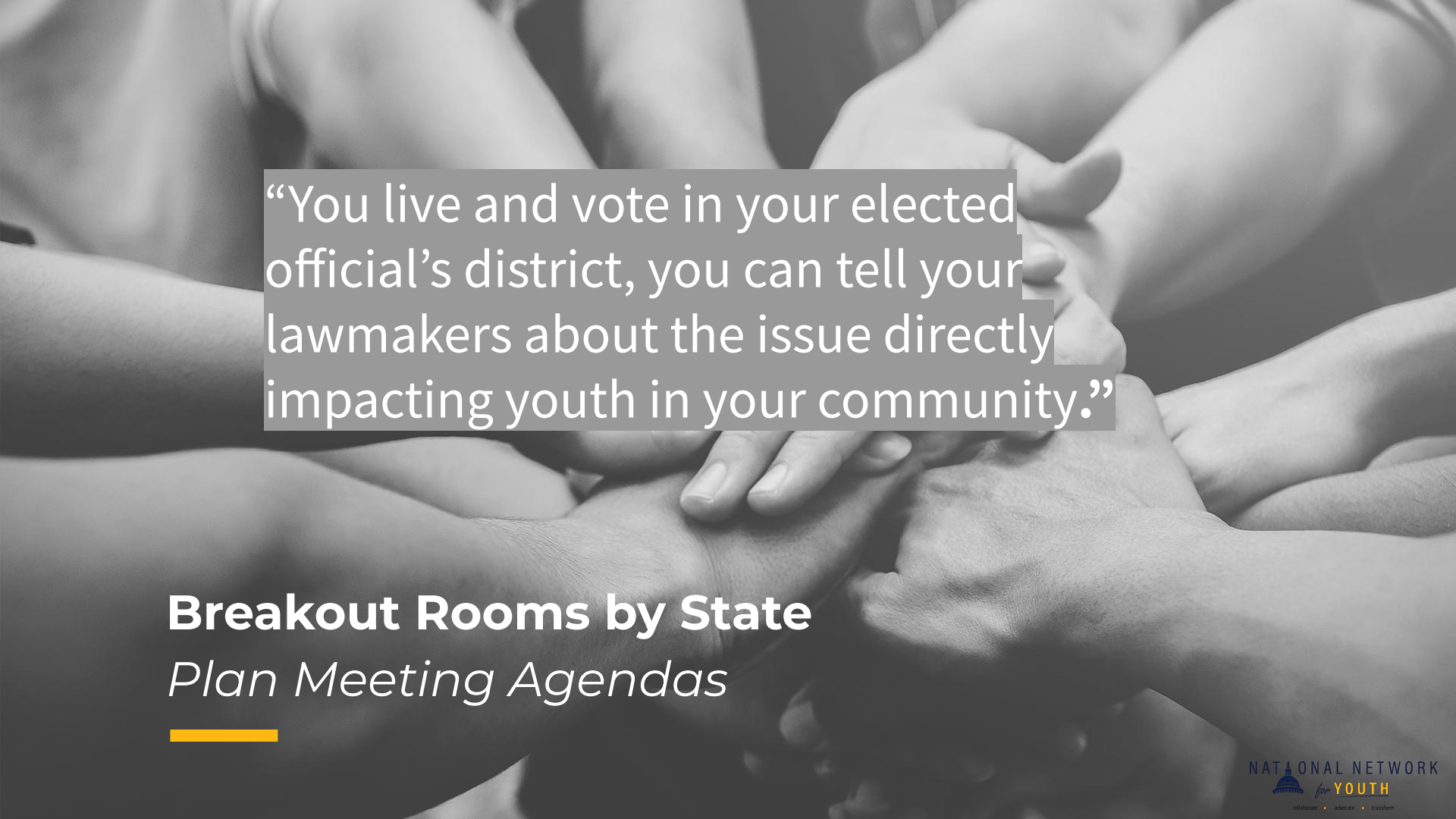
- **Current problem:** Youth can't live in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funded housing and be a full time student. This means that young people either have to attend college part-time or not at all- both of which results in youth not attending or completing higher education institutions.
- **Solution:**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

Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA)

[last session: S.1469/H.R.6287]

ASK: REINTRODUCE AND PASS BIPARTISAN NO-COST LEGISLATION

- 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 leaves out 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 more accurately and effectively scale strategies to end all forms of homelessness.



“You live and vote in your elected official’s district, you can tell your lawmakers about the issue directly impacting youth in your community.”

Breakout Rooms by State

Plan Meeting Agendas

**A PRESIDENTIAL AGENDA FOR
SOLVING YOUTH AND YOUNG
ADULT HOMELESSNESS IN
AMERICA**

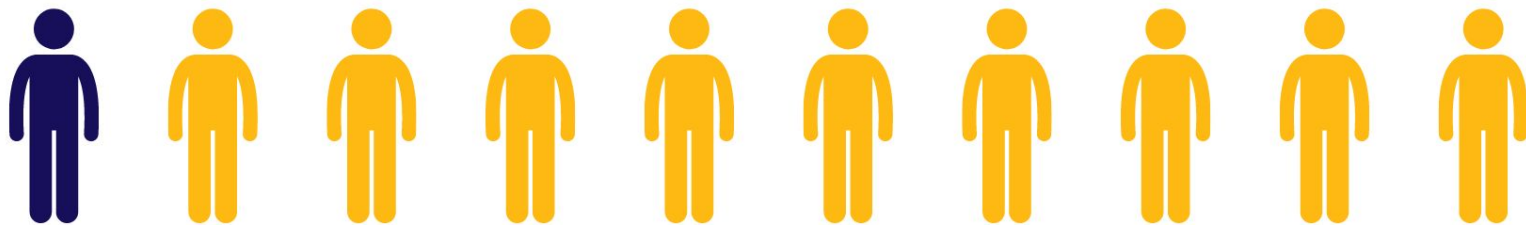


NATIONAL NETWORK
 *for* **YOUTH**

NN4Y Policy Priorities

Young Leaders + Provider
Network of Members

You can also [watch this video](#) which provides the high level content.



One in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

**BECOME A
NN4Y MEMBER**

**Join us to create systemic
change to prevent and
end youth homelessness.**

LEARN MORE ONLINE
www.NN4YOUTH.org

NATIONAL NETWORK
 **for YOUTH**
collaborate • advocate • transform

Questions?

Contact:

darla.bardine@nn4youth.org
202.783.7949

Visit our website:

www.nn4youth.org

Follow Us:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)