



Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022 (S.4916 /H.R.8498)

Welcome

- Please introduce yourself in chat--name, pronouns, organization, city, and state + an emoji to show how your day is going so far 🥹 😁 😭 😨 😡 🙌 😜
- Please ask questions in chat throughout the presentation
- These slides and the recording will be available on our website after the presentation is over
- Please complete the survey at the end so we can improve and serve your needs

AGENDA

01. Introduction

02. Overview of the RHYA program

03. What is included in RHYTPA

04. RHYTPA strategy + How to get involved

05. Questions



No young person should ever experience homelessness. Yet, each year, an estimated 4.2 MILLION youth and young adults experience homelessness.

NN4Y is dedicated to preventing and eradicating youth homelessness in America.

NN4Y MEMBERSHIP

An advocate in DC
fighting to expand
resources and
implement common-
sense policies

Unique discounts

Breaking policy and
practice news

Strategic Consultation
+ Technical Assistance

Opportunity to take a
leadership role on the
NN4Y Policy Advisory
Committee

Opportunities for
members to hear
directly from + share
their concerns with
key policymakers and
other thought leaders

**Our 2023
Membership
Campaign is
underway.
Join now and your
membership will
go through
December 2023.**



Our Programs



FEDERAL POLICY ADVOCACY

With our network of young leaders and service providers, we work to expand public resources targeted to youth and implement systemic solutions via policy change that prevents and ends youth and young adult homelessness.



YOUTH + YOUNG ADULT PARTNERSHIPS

We invest in young leaders through our National Youth Advisory Council 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.



COMMUNITY-BASED 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.

A young Black woman with short, curly hair is seated and looking towards another person whose back is to the camera. She is wearing a white button-down shirt. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor space with large windows.

About the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act



Spring 2022

POLICY BRIEF

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT

Key Takeaways

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs have been chronically underfunded since their inception, despite these programs costing less than other systems that many youth experiencing homelessness encounter.
- FY 23, Congress should appropriate at least \$300 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program.
- The 117th Congress should pass the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA) to reauthorize this vital program.

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, the climb to adulthood can be particularly steep. As young people become adults, they need to be plugged into networks of support that power their growth and success, but young people in homeless situations are often unplugged from networks of support. The federal government provides targeted support for youth experiencing homelessness primarily through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).² Other federal programs that provide targeted support to youth experiencing homelessness are the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act program and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Youth Homeless Demonstration Program.³

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 the 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).⁴ Adolescents need to be plugged into

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- Became law in 1974 as part of juvenile justice reform
- Funded at its highest amount in FY 2022 - \$140.28 million
- Last reauthorized in 2018
- Provides base funding to communities across the country to develop community-based responses to youth and young adult homelessness

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



- 1 STREET OUTREACH**
provides 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**
provides temporary housing with counseling, therapeutic family intervention, connection to education, and other supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness under the age of 18
- 3 TRANSITIONAL LIVING/MATERNITY HOME**
provides long-term housing with counseling, therapeutic family intervention, connection to education, and other supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness age 16 to 22
- 4 NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**
24/7 national phone, text, and online communications system to connect youth and families in crisis with prevention services, referrals for housing and services, and reunified families
- 5 NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**
provides training and technical assistance to all RHYA grantees

RHYA Programs Can Serve

Homeless youth: Individuals for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who lack safe alternative living arrangements.

Basic Center Program (BCP): individuals under the age of 18 (or some older age if permitted by state or local law)

Transitional Living Program (TLP) and

Maternity Group Home (MGH): individuals aged 16 to 22. 23-year-olds may take part if they enter the program before age 22

Runaway youth: individuals under the age of 18 who absent themselves from their home or legal residence at least overnight without the permission of their parents or legal guardians.

Street youth: runaway or homeless youth who spend a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug abuse.

Youth at risk of separation from the family: individuals under the age of 18 with a history of running away; or whose parent, guardian, or custodian is not willing to provide for their basic needs; or who is at risk of entering the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as a result of the lack of services available to the family to meet such needs.

RHYA Spending Per Youth Experiencing Homelessness (4.2 million youth per year)

Fiscal Year (FY)	Funding Amount	Number of Grants Awarded	Total spending per youth *divided by 4.2M youth in need
FY 2018	\$126.2M	675 grants	\$30 per young person/year
FY 2019	\$127.4M	619 grants	\$30.3 per young person/year
FY 2020	\$135M	635 grants	\$32 per young person/year
FY 2021	\$137M	825 grants	\$32.6 per young person/year
FY 2022	\$140M	845 grants	\$33 per young person/year
FY 2023 ASK	\$369.5M	2,000 grants	\$87.9 per young person/year

RHYA Programs Are Effective

Transitional Living Programs achieved the following in 2019:

- 90% safe exit rate
- 71% of youth attended school regularly, graduated high school, or obtained a GED at exit
- 75% of youth were employed or looking for work at exit

Basic Center Programs achieved the following in 2019:

- 90% safe exit rate
- 78% of youth receiving out-of-shelter prevention services were diverted from entering an emergency shelter and excited to another safe and stable destination
- 71% of youth that attended school regularly, graduated high school, or obtained a GED at exit

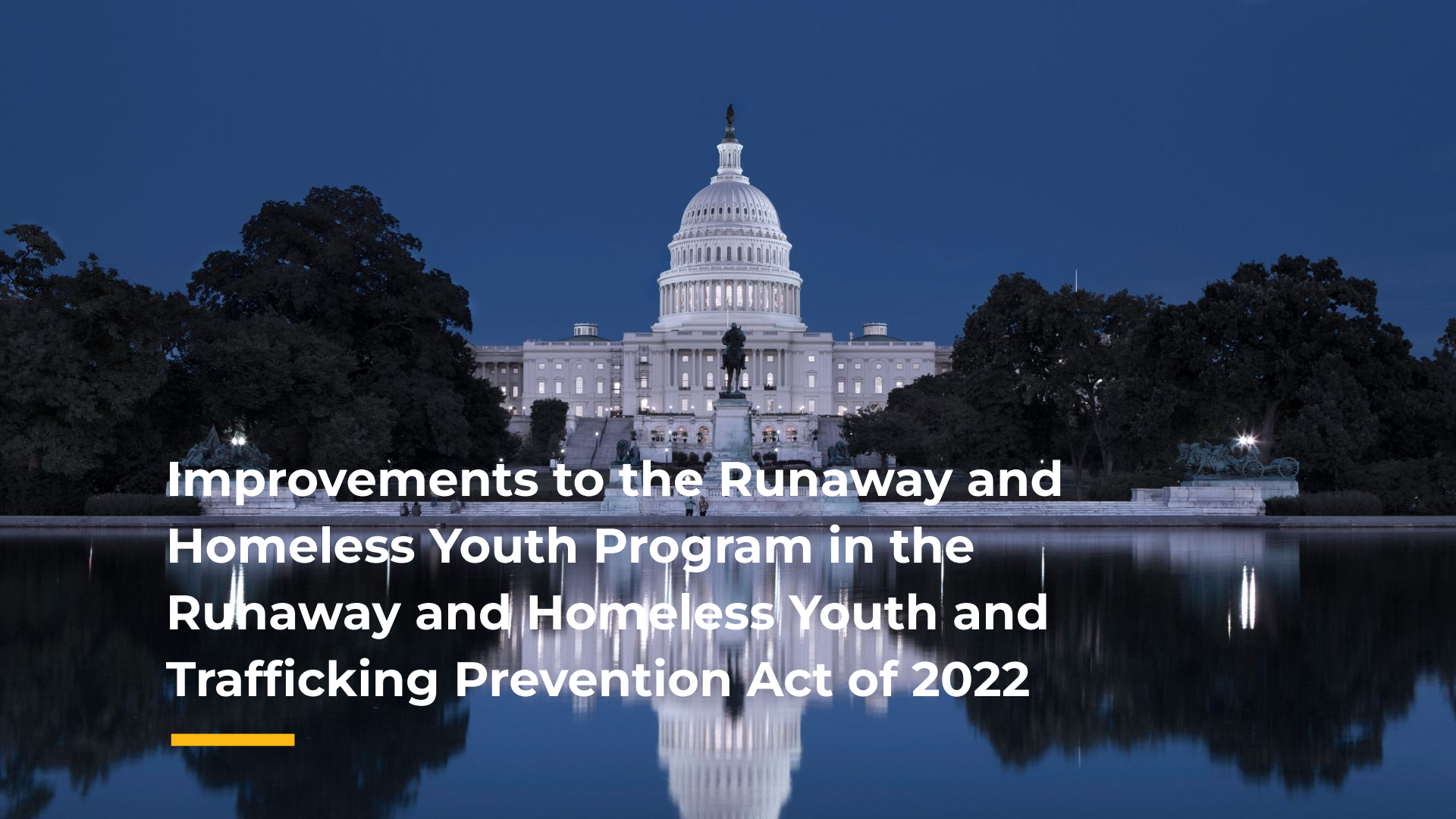
The 2013 Street Outreach Data Collection Study Found:

- 53% of participants said they were unable to access a shelter because it was full
- 52% did not know where to go
- 43% did not have transportation to shelter

National Communications System 2020 data:

- 83% of these connections were from youth in crisis
- 11% came from parents, family members, or other caring adults
- 6% came from a youth's friend or a social service agency

Family dynamics is the most common issue reported by youth with abuse being the highest reported issue (61%), followed by neglect (41%), peer and social issues (19%), and mental health related issues (16%)

A photograph of the U.S. Capitol building at night, illuminated by lights, with its reflection in the water in the foreground. The building is surrounded by trees and a statue on a pedestal in front of it. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Improvements to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program in the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

Across All RHYA Programs

- 5 year grants (staggered every 2-3 years)
- Grant award notice to be 90 days in advance of the start of the grant
- Establishes appeal process for unsuccessful applicants
- Geographic distribution will be considered when issuing grants
- Programs to provide training to staff on human trafficking, trauma, sexual abuse, and assault
- Mandatory non-discriminatory practices
- Facilities are now called “projects”
- Services must be trauma-informed, age, gender, and culturally and linguistically appropriate

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

Street Outreach Program (SOP)

- Updates language to include youth who have been trafficked
- Adds the option of online and social media methods for outreach to youth

Basic Center Program (BCP)

- Increases length of stay to 30 days or longer as state law allows
- Services shall be provided to runaway youth, street youth, homeless youth, and youth at-risk of separation from their family, or at risk of becoming homeless

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

Transitional Living Program (TLP) Maternity Group Home (MGH)

+

Basic Center Program (BCP)

- Involve people identified as family of youth in counseling and therapeutic services as appropriate
- Coordinate services with McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons
- Ensure youth know of their eligibility of the Free application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and help with completion

- Grantees can serve a minimum of 4 youth and maximum of 20 youth per project, unless regulation allows a higher max
- Grantees can have mixed project facilities with segregated access and programming and allow more than 20 beds in a building.

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

Transitional Living Program (TLP) + Maternity Group Home (MGH)

- Increases eligible age to 25
- Provide aftercare services, if possible
- Transition plans written in partnership with the youth

National Communications System

- Assisting runaway and homeless youth, including through online and social media

National Training and Technical Assistance

- Provide training and assistance, including onsite and web-based techniques, such as on-demand and online learning

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

Administration

- Gives HHS Secretary power to waive program requirements in the event of extraordinary circumstances, such as natural disasters, public health emergency or financial crisis

Evaluation

- BCP, TLP, MGH, SOP and PSP grantees for five (was three) consecutive years shall have an evaluation

Performance Standards

- Shall issue performance standards for BCP, TLP, MGH, SOP and PSP within one year of enactment and to be integrated in grantmaking, monitoring, and evaluation

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

NEW!

Prevention Services Program (PSP)

- Purpose: to prevent youth from running away and/or becoming a homeless or street youth.
- Eligible applicants can apply for a PSP when applying for a BCP, TLP, or MGH grant. Must be successful in base grant to receive PSP
- Funding is for up to \$75,000 per year, which is in addition to the funding received for the underlying base grant.
- Priority will be given to organizations with experience in providing services to runaway and homeless youth, street youth, and youth at risk of separation from the family.

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

New Definitions

Prevention Services

- means services to prevent youth from becoming a runaway youth, street youth, or homeless youth and may include:
 - individual, family, group, and peer counseling
 - family mediation
 - assessing the strengths, vulnerabilities, and needs of youth
- connecting youth to public services and housing options
- emergency respite care (provide parents and other caregivers with emergency services and temporary shelter that offer relief)
- connecting youth to education and employment programs
- case management and resource navigation; and
- activities to improve access to local mental health and substance use treatment and prevention

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

New Definitions Trafficking

- The term ‘trafficking’ has trafficking in persons’ in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(11) and ‘sex trafficking’ in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(12))

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate

- Has the meaning given the term ‘culturally and linguistically appropriate services’ in the ‘National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care’, issued in April 2013, by the Office of Minority Health of HHS. [Read more.](#)

RHYTPA Would Make the Following Updates

BCP + TLP + MGH + SOP + PSP

If funded at less than \$200 million,
grants will be \$200,000 to \$250,000
per year

If funded at more than \$200 million,
grants will be \$225,000 to \$275,000
per year

new **Prevention Services** program would
be an additional \$75,000 for successful
BCP, TLP, + MGH applicants

National Prevalence Estimates +
characteristics research at \$2 million per
year every three years

RHYA Funding History + RHYTPA Funding Levels

RHYA Programs	FY 2021	FY 2022	RHYTPA Bill Language
Basic Center Program (BCP)	\$64.2 M	\$64 M (fund 313 BCP)	\$100 Million (would fund 530 BCPs)
Transitional Living Program (TLP) and Maternity Group Home (MGH)	\$52.5 M	\$56 M (funds 242 TLP/MGH)	\$125 M (would fund approximately 500 TLPs/MGHs)
Street Outreach Program (SOP)	\$20 M	\$20 M (funds 127 SOP)	\$75 M (would fund approximately 372 SOPs)
Periodic Estimate	-	-	\$2 M
Prevention Services Program (PSP)	-	-	\$67.5 M (would fund approximately 900 PSPs)
TOTAL	\$136.7 Million (+4.3 million)	\$140 Million (+3.5 million)	\$369.5 Million (would fund approximately 2,302 programs)



Congressional Targets + Strategy

Current Context for Federal Policy

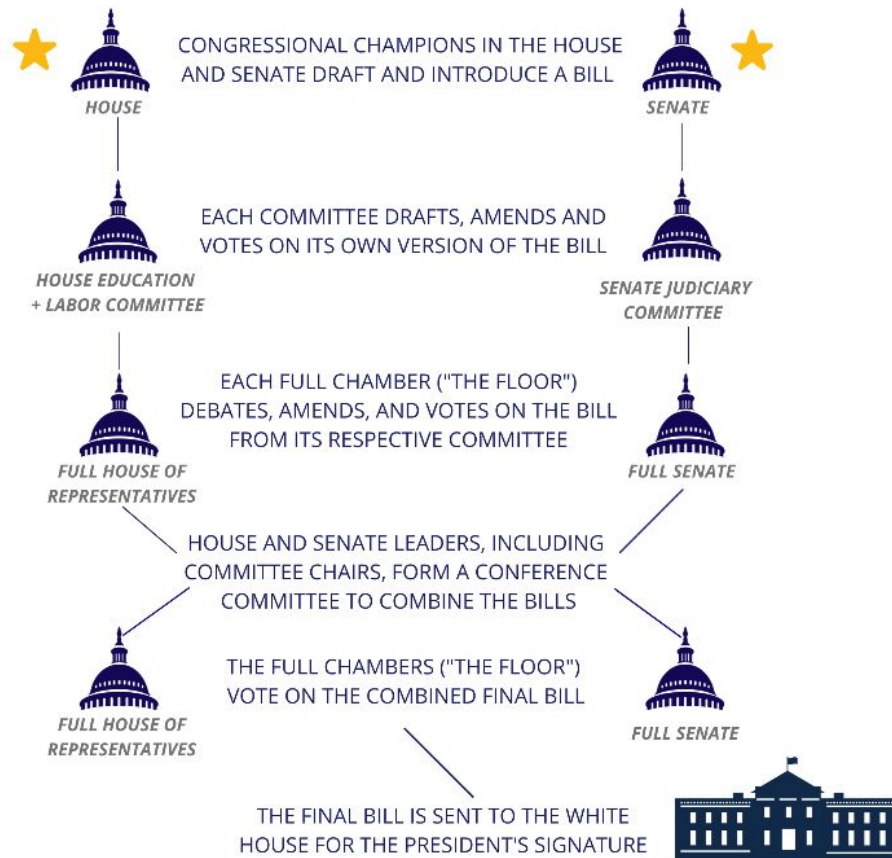


- Democrats in control of House, Senate, and Executive Branch
- **A 50-50 Senate and very narrow House majority mean a bipartisan approach is especially important**
- Current focuses of Congress:
 - November elections
 - End of year omnibus
 - Energy bill
 - Federal funding

REAUTHORIZATION PROCESS

Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022

NATIONAL NETWORK
 for **YOUTH**



Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)

CURRENT STATUS

Senate and House introduced bill on 9/21

Champions:

Senate: Leahy (D-VT) + Collins (R-ME)

House: Yarmuth (D-KY) + Bacon (R-NE)

ASK

1. Every member of US Senate and US House should cosponsor
2. Make it a priority of each committee:
 - Senate: Judiciary Committee
 - House: Ed & Labor Committee

STRATEGY

Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)

Get as many cosponsors in the House and Senate as possible through individual meetings, emails and phone calls

SENATE

Senate Judiciary Committee

- cosponsors- 1 R is needed for a vote
- Chairman Durbin (D-IL) + Ranking Member Grassley (R-IA) brings the bill for a vote

Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) brings to the full floor for a vote

HOUSE

House Education and Labor committee

- cosponsors
- Chairman Scott (D-VA) brings the bill for a vote

Speaker Pelosi makes a priority and brings to the full floor for a vote

President Biden signs into law

RHYTPA - Committees of Jurisdiction

SENATE: JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATS

Durbin, IL - Chair

Leahy, VT

Feinstein, CA

Whitehouse, RI

Klobuchar, MN

Coons, DE

Blumenthal, CT

Hirono, HI

Booker, NJ

Padilla, CA

Ossoff, GA

REPUBLICANS

Grassley, IA - Ranking

Graham, SC

Cornyn, TX

Lee, UT

Cruz, TX

Sasse, NE

Hawley, MO

Cotton, AR

Kennedy, LA

Tillis, NC

Blackburn, TN

⚡ **We need 1 R on
committee for the
committee to bring
it for a vote**

RHYTPA - Committees of Jurisdiction

HOUSE: EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATS

Manning, NC	Norcross, NJ	Scott VA - Chair
Mrvan, IA	Jayapal, WA	Grijalva, AZ
Bowman, NY	Morelle, NY	Courtney, CT
Pocan, WI	Wild, PA	Sablan, Northern
Castro, TX	McBath, GA	Mariana Islands
Sherril, NJ	Hayes, CT	Wilson, FL
Espailat, NY	Levin, MI	Bonamici, OR
Mfume, MD	Omar, MN	Takano, CA
Cherfilus-	Stevens, MI	Adams, NC
McCormick,FL	Fernandez, NM	DeSaulnier, CA
	Jones, NY	

REPUBLICANS

Foxx, NC - Ranking

Wilson, SC	Fulcher, ID	Miller, IL
Thompson, PA	Keller, PA	Spatz, IN
Walberg, MI	Murphy, NC	Fitzgerald, WI
Grothman, WI	Miller-Meeks, IA	Cawthorn, NC
Stefanik, NY	Owens, UT	Steel, CA
Allen, GA	Bood, VA	Letlow, LA
Banks, IN	McClain, MI	
Comer, KY	Harshbarger, TN	

RHYTPA Talking Points

- 4.2 million young people experience homelessness on their own every year
- RHYA programs are vital to scaling up youth-centric community response to serve these 4.2 million youth



RHYTPA makes some key updates to the current RHYA program:

- Includes new provisions to combat trafficking and prohibit discrimination
- Increases the length of stays in Basic Centers from 21 to 30 days
- Increases grant award amount and overall program funding
- Increase allowable age for Transitional Living Programs
- Fixes 20-bed per building regulation issue

Strategic Storytelling + Advocacy

Helps to create conversations and build connections. It is a way to open the doors to new relationships, allies, and partnerships.



Heart

Who are you sharing your story with? What story will you tell? What values do you want to uplift in the story you share? (Share a story to appeal to their emotions)



Mind

Connect the dots between your story and the issue that you want a policymaker to take action on. Provide practical and relatable information to educate them on the issue. (Share examples from the community. Talk about data)



Political Health

What is at stake? What is the risk if the policymaker does not take action now and in the future? What is the cost to society for not helping youth experiencing homelessness? (Share solutions)



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

Virtual Advocacy Resource

You can also [watch this video](#) which covers how to schedule and prepare for your congressional meetings.

[Download.](#)



VIRTUAL ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

An Advocate's Guide on How to Effectively Build Relationships with Policymakers in a Virtual World

**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

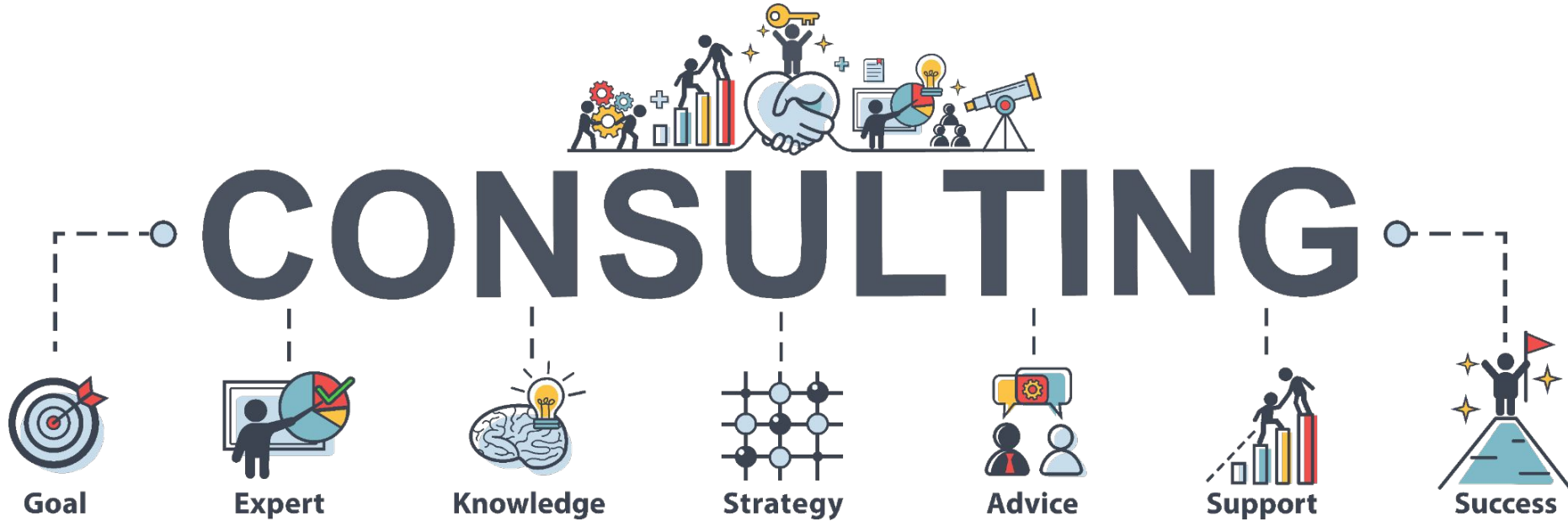
You can also [watch this video](#) which provides the high level content.



Early Bird Registration is Open Now!

NN4Y 2023 Summit is HUD-approved!

Project administrative funds awarded under HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC), Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs may be used to cover the costs of attending.

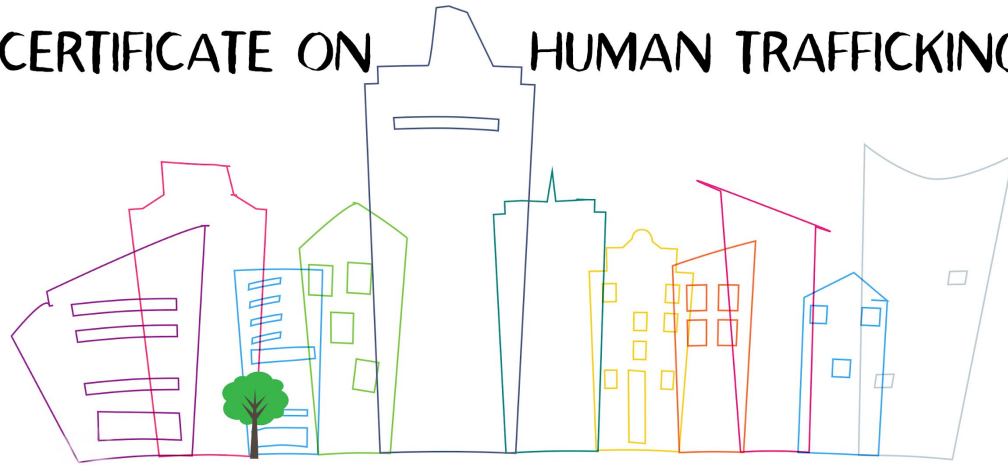


NATIONAL NETWORK
 for **YOUTH**

We provide a host of onsite and virtual individual and small-group consulting services. For more information visit:

<https://nn4youth.org/consultation-request/>

CERTIFICATE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



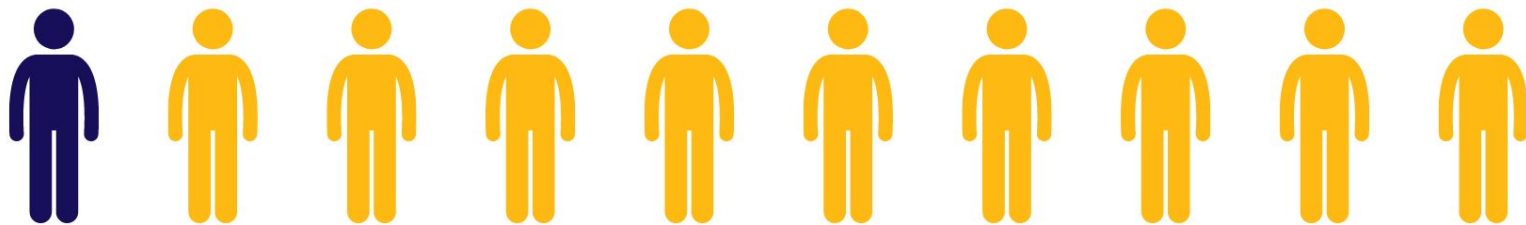
Offered in two sequenced courses, this program ensures participants understand the fundamentals of human trafficking, as well as how to identify and respond to youth experiencing trafficking in appropriate and trauma-informed ways.

View course information and enroll:
courses.cpe.asu.edu

20% discount for NN4Y members!

Eligible for Continuing Education credits through the National Association of Social Workers





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:

nn4youth.org

Follow Us:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)