

Finding Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Human Trafficking



Runaway and Homeless Youth
Training and Technical Assistance Centers

OJJDP's MECP

- MECP offers assistance to local, state and tribal law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, and other juvenile justice practitioners to:
 - strengthen their responses
 - increase the use of evidence-based practices
 - identify and address operational and programmatic needs
- Coordinated by Fox Valley Technical College
- For more information or to submit a training and technical assistance request:
 - www.mecptraining.org
 - mecptraining@fvtc.edu
 - 1-888-347-5610

Webinar Objectives

- Recognize characteristics of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) and the trauma they have experienced.
- Learn about the Legislative Authority providing for Family Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) funded RHY Programs
- Discover how FYSB funded RHY agencies/programs are addressing the needs of RHY through their mandatory (and optional) services.
- Understand the eligibility requirements for accessing FYSB funded RHY services.
- Find out how to locate a FYSB funded RHY program in your area.

What the Research Says



Youth & Homelessness

- It is estimated that between 1 million to 1.6 million youth experience homelessness each year (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2006).
- A large body of research developed over the past two decades documents the high levels of exposure homeless youth have to potentially traumatizing events.

Homeless Youth and Trauma

- Experience potentially traumatic events at home (sexual and physical abuse and neglect, family conflict, and witnessing family violence)
- Experience potentially traumatic events in the community (gang violence)
- Experience potentially traumatic events in out-of-home placements (foster care system, juvenile justice system)
- Experience potentially traumatic events on the street (assault, hate crimes, partner abuse, prostitution)

2007

Study of Homeless Youth in Hollywood, CA

n=389

- 32% female, 60% male, 5% transgender, 3% other
- 25% ages 12 – 17
- 35% ages 18-20
- 40% ages 21- 25
- 84% youth of color
- 39% gay, lesbian, bisexual, questioning

http://hhyp.org/downloads/HHYP_TCE_Report_11-17-10.pdf

Trauma at Home

- 69% of youth were victims of any type of child abuse and/or neglect
- 45% reported witnessing physical abuse between parents
- 40% were removed from home by Child Protective Services (CPS)

Trauma on the Streets

- 21% of youth were victims of physical assault
- 21% were victims of partner abuse
- 13% of youth were victims of sexual assault
- 18% were victims of crime due to race
- 14% were victims of crime due to sexual orientation

Interpersonal Trauma

- 73% of homeless youth surveyed reported some kind of interpersonal violence

<http://www.thepca.org/what-is-ipv>

Mental Health Indicators of Trauma

- 49% of youth met criteria for clinical depression
- 31% reported self injurious behavior ever
- 18% of youth met criteria for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- 14% reported serious thoughts of suicide at some point in their life
- 8% reported one or more suicide attempts

Homeless Adolescents Trauma and Stress

- Most youth on the street have experienced potentially traumatizing events before they became homeless
- Enormous trauma and stress associated with survival on the street
- Few resources to manage stress
- Alcohol and drugs readily available

Legislative Authority and Mandatory Services by Program Type



Runaway and Homeless Youth
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Legislative Authority

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (Title II of the Juvenile Justice Prevention Act of 1974), as amended by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 5701 through 5752.

- Authorized by Congress in response to widespread concern about the problem of runaway and homeless youth.
- Administered by the Family and Youth Services Bureau.
- Authorizes Runaway and Homeless Youth Street Outreach Program (SOP) grants.
- Street Outreach Program funds are allotted annually for the Nation.

Street Outreach Program



Street Outreach Program Purpose

To conduct outreach efforts to build relationships between street outreach staff and street youth which will provide support services to assist youth in moving and adjusting to safe and appropriate alternative living arrangements to become independent, self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

Definitions

- **Runaway Youth** – A person under 18 years of age who absents himself or herself from home, or place of legal residence, without the permission of his or her family.
(45 CFR 1351.1 (a))
- **Street-Based Services** – Services provided to Runaway and Homeless Youth and street youth in areas where they congregate.
(45 CFR 1351.1)
- **Street Youth** – An individual who is a runaway youth; or indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth; and spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug abuse. (Section 387 RHY Act, as amended)

Scope of Services

SOPs must be designed to address the homelessness issue of street youth, build trusting relationships with street youth, and encourage them to leave the streets.

Mandatory Services

- Establish and operate a program that will deliver outreach and education services to street youth, up to age 21, who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse, prostitution, or sexual exploitation where street youth congregate. Grantees must conduct outreach services that encourage street youth to leave the streets, including but not limited to:
 - Street-based outreach and education
 - Access to emergency shelter
 - Survival aid
 - Individual assessments
 - Treatment and counseling
 - Prevention and education activities
 - Information and referrals
 - Crisis intervention
 - Follow-up support

Access to Shelter

- Street youth must have GURANTEED access to age appropriate emergency shelter for those youth willing to come in off the street.
- Shelter can be provided through a referral network, BUT street outreach staff must have 24-hour access to the shelter in order to maintain interaction with youth while they are there.

Supervision and Training of Staff

SOPs must provide a plan for supervision and training of staff which includes:

- On-street supervision by appropriately trained staff
- Back-up personnel for on-street staff
- Initial and periodic training of staff to provide such outreach services

Basic Center Program



www.mecptraining.org



Legislative Authority

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 5701-5752, as most recently amended by Public Law 110-378 on October 8, 2008.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/aboutfysb/rhycompo8.htm>

Basic Center Program Purpose

- To provide temporary emergency shelter and support services that assist youth in crisis, reunite youth with their families (as appropriate), and strengthen family relationships.

Definitions

- **Runaway Youth** – A person under 18 years of age who absents himself or herself from home, or place of legal residence, without the permission of his or her family.
(45 CFR 1351.1)
- **Youth at Risk of Separation from the Family** – An individual who is less than 18 years of age; and who has a history of running away from the family of such individual whose parent, guardian, or custodian is not willing to provide for the basic needs of such individual; 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. (Section 387 RHY Act, as amended)

Definitions Cont'd

- **Temporary Shelter** – The provision of short-term (maximum of 21 days) room and board and core crisis intervention services, on a 24-hour basis by a RHY Project. (45 CFR 1351.1)

Scope of Services

- Funds granted under this award may be used to establish, renovate (not to exceed 15 percent of the grant award) and/or to operate local basic center programs that provide services for runaway youth, youth at risk of separation and their families outside of law enforcement and the child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems.

Program Requirements

- Mandatory Services

- Optional Services

Mandatory Services

- Establish, operate or renovate a local center to provide temporary emergency shelter and counseling services to runaway, homeless, and street youth, who must be **less than 18 years of age**.
- Provide temporary, safe and appropriate shelter (**up to 21 days**) for RHY.
- Deliver individual, family and group counseling services (as appropriate) to youth that encourage, where possible, the involvement of parents or legal guardians.

Optional Services

- Street-based services.
- Home-based services for families with youth at risk of separation from the family.
- Drug abuse education and prevention services.
- Testing for sexually transmitted diseases when requested by the youth.

(Requirements for optional services are detailed within the RFA.)

Transitional Living Program (TLP)



Runaway and Homeless Youth
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Legislative Authority

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act,
as amended, 42 U.S.C. sections 5701
through 5752.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/aboutfysb/RHYComp.pdf>

Definition of Homeless Youth for TLP Purposes

- **Homeless Youth**-An individual who is not more than 21 years of age, or in the case of a youth seeking shelter in a center under Part A of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, not more than 18 years of age, and for the purposes of Part B, not less than 16 years of age; for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement. (Section 387 RHY Act, as amended)

Scope of Services

To establish or operate a TLP that provides services to homeless youth outside of law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, and the juvenile justice system to make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

Mandatory Services

- Provide homeless youth shelter, ages 16-21 up to 18 months
- Provide appropriate capacity of shelter not more than 20 youth per facility or not less than 4 beds
- Appropriate Supervision
- Outreach to eligible youth
- Aftercare
- Confidentiality and consent from youth on release of records
- Education Opportunities
- Coordination with McKinney Vento Liaison
- Written Transitional living plans

Mandatory Services Cont'd.

- Basic life skills
- Money management
- Budgeting
- Consumer education (including use of credit)
- Parenting skills (as appropriate)
- Interpersonal skill building
- Educational advancement
- Job attainment skills
- Mental and physical health care to homeless youth.

Maternity Group Home (MGH)

Legislative Authority

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. sections 5701 through 5752.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/aboutfysb/RHYComp.pdf>

Definition of Homeless Youth for MGH Purposes

- **Homeless Youth-** An individual who is not more than 21 years of age, or in the case of a youth seeking shelter in a center under Part A of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, not more than 18 years of age, and for the purposes of Part B, not less than 16 years of age; for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement. (Section 387 RHY Act, as amended)

Scope of Services

Establish or operate a MGH which is a community-based, adult supervised transitional living arrangements that provides all the services of a regular TLP in addition to providing pregnant or parenting youth and their children with supportive and supervised living arrangements in which such pregnant or parenting youth are required to teach parenting skills as well as child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence in order to ensure the well-being of their children.

Mandatory Services

- Provide homeless youth shelter, ages 16-21 up to 18 months (21 months in exceptional circumstances)
- Provide appropriate capacity of shelter not more than 20 youth per facility or not less than 4 beds
- Appropriate Supervision
- Outreach to eligible youth
- Written Transitional living plans
- Aftercare
- Confidentiality and consent from youth on release of records
- Education Opportunities
- Coordination with McKinney Vento Liaison
- Coordination of services to ensure continuum of care for the special needs of pregnant or parenting youth and their dependents

Mandatory Services Cont'd.

- Basic life skills
- Money management
- Budgeting
- Consumer education (including use of credit)
- Parenting skills (as appropriate)
- Interpersonal skill building
- Educational advancement
- Job attainment skills
- Mental and physical health care to homeless youth.

Mandatory Services Cont'd.

- Develop a plan that will ensure the health, well-being and safety of the RHY and their dependents
- Adequate adult supervision
- Parenting skills
- Family budgeting
- Health and nutrition
- Child care for the dependent children of RHY youth while in residential care
- Transportation services
- Parenting instruction and classes
- Family planning, abstinence education and pregnancy prevention services

Helpful Websites

- [Locate a FYSB RHY Program](http://www2.ncfy.com/locate/index.htm)
<http://www2.ncfy.com/locate/index.htm>
This link will take you to a map of the United States where you can click on a state and view a list of all the FYSB funded RHY programs in the state.
- [Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center](http://rhyttac.ou.edu/)
<http://rhyttac.ou.edu/>
The Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) serves a centralized national resource for FYSB funded Runaway and Homeless Youth grantees. Training and Technical Assistance Services are directed at assisting RHY grantees to engage in continuous quality improvement of their services and to build their capacity to effectively serve runaway and homeless youth.
- [National Runaway Switchboard](http://rhyttac.ou.edu/)
<http://rhyttac.ou.edu/>
Call 1-800-RUNAWAY if you are a teenager who is thinking of running from home, if you have a friend who has run and is looking for help, or if you are a runaway ready to go home. Call 1-800-RUNAWAY if you care about a youth and want information on how you can help someone who may be at risk of running from home. Call 1-800-RUNAWAY if you are a teacher looking for information to pass along to your students about youth homelessness or the reality of life on the streets. Our 24-hour crisis line has an experienced front-line team member ready to help you now. It's anonymous, confidential and free. 1-800-RUNAWAY.
- [National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth](http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/)
<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/>
Some of our most popular services include: Finding grant opportunities and information about best practices for new and established youth programs; Connecting nonprofit organizations and community members to like-minded potential partners in their city, state or region; Highlighting best practices from successful youth- and family-serving organizations across the country in our award-winning free publications and newsletters; Maintaining the NCFY Literature Database and Reading Room, which contain thousands of journal articles and other publications on youth and family issues; and, Promoting Positive Youth Development, a philosophy of youth service that emphasizes reinforcing youths' strengths.

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Questions may be submitted via the
evaluation form located at :

http://mecptraining.org/learning_center/