



**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FOR FOSTER CARE
& PERMANENCY PLANNING**

at the Hunter College
School of Social Work

INFORMATION PACKET: *Runaway and Homeless Youth*

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Runaway and Homeless Youth
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Summary of the Issue

Homeless youth are individuals under the age of 18 who lack parental, foster, or institutional care; they are in need of services and without a place of shelter where they receive supervision and care. These individuals are sometimes referred to as “unaccompanied” youth. The category of homeless youth is defined to include runaway, throwaway, and street youth.

A runaway youth is a person under 18 who is away from home or place of legal residence at least one night without the permission of parents, guardians, or custodial authorities. A throwaway youth is one who has been told or forced to leave or deserted by parents or guardians. Street youth manage to live for an extended time on the streets, sleeping outdoors or in abandoned buildings. Many of the street youth are long-term runaway, throwaway, or other homeless youth.

Many homeless youth leave home after years of physical and sexual abuse, strained relationships, addiction of a family member, and/or parental neglect. In addition to family problems, economic reasons force youth into homelessness. Homeless youth also include those whose families themselves are homeless. Some youth may become homeless when their families suffer financial crises and do not have the adequate resources to deal with these crises, resulting in homelessness. Residential instability also contributes to homelessness among youth. A history of foster care is correlated with becoming homeless at an earlier age and remaining homeless for a longer period of time (Roman & Wolfe, 1995). Also, many youth living in institutional or residential placements become homeless when they are discharged into the community without housing or income support.

It is unknown how many homeless youth are out there. Most of them are not in the child welfare, juvenile justice, or mental health systems, making it difficult to accurately gather statistical data. The National Runaway Switchboard (2001) estimates that every day 1.3 million runaway and homeless youth live on the streets of America. One out of every seven children will run away before the age of 18. And each year approximately 5,000 runaway and homeless youth die from assault, illness, and suicide.

During the already difficult development stage of adolescence, many youth face dilemmas and/or crises alone and without someone to talk to. And for many youth, running away is a solution to their problems, believing that no other options exist for them. In an attempt to escape their problems by running away, homeless youth encounter even more problems. Because of their age, homeless youth have few legal means to earn income to fulfill their basic needs. Many youth are forced into exchanging sex for food, clothing, shelter or money as a means of survival.

Securing shelter is an ongoing problem. Emergency shelters and transitional living programs are forced to turn away teens seeking residence. Many homeless youth have few skills or life experiences to enable them to earn a living. They may be invisible because they are disconnected from community life and lack access to schools, health care and other community support systems. Life on the streets presents many dangers for teens. Many of these youth lack prevention information and access to health services, putting them at an increased risk for unintended pregnancy and HIV or other STD's.

This packet contains information about the homeless and runaway youth population, including statistics, a review of policies and legislation, identification of model programs, and a list of resource material, including websites.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Fact Sheet

GENERAL STATISTICS

(The following statistics have been compiled from the websites listed in the *Resources* section.)

In 1999, 70.2 million Americans—more than 1 in 4—were under age 18. The juvenile population is increasing less than any other segment of the population. Between 1995 and 2015, the population of persons under age 18 is expected to increase 8%. In contrast the population of persons ages 18 through 24 will increase 22%, persons ages 25 to 64 will increase 18%, and persons ages 65 and older will increase 36%. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention {OJJDP}(1999) *FAQ Sheet*.

Over 12 million children (up to age 18) live in poverty (4.2 million under the age of six) and the number of children living in poverty has increased by 1.2 million since 1979. National Center for Children in Poverty {NCCP}(2001) *Child Poverty Fact Sheet*.

Between 1993 and 2000, the juvenile poverty rate declined 7 percentage points, compared with a 2-percentage point decline for persons over age 18. The 2000 juvenile poverty rate (16%) remained well above the poverty rate for those 18 and over (10%). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention {OJJDP}(2001) *Statistical Briefing Sheet*.

In the course of a year, an estimated 500,000 to 1.5 million young people run away from or are forced out of their homes, and an estimated 200,000 are homeless and living on the streets. Administration for Children and Families {ACF} (2000) *Fact Sheet*.

At any given time, an estimated 300,000 adolescents are living on the streets without supervision, nurturing, or regular assistance from a parent or responsible adult. National Youth Development Information Center {NCY} (2001) *NCY Public Policy Statements – Runaway and Homeless Youth*.

42% of all runaway youth had run away before. National Runaway Switchboard {NRS} (2000) *National Runaway Switchboard Statistics*.

75% of runaways are females. National Runaway Switchboard {NRS} (2000) *National Runaway Switchboard Statistics*.

The ages of runaways range from younger than 11 to over 18, with more than half being age 15 or 16. Administration for Children and Families {ACF} (2000) *Fact Sheet*.

Approximately 66% of the youth who are runaways seek assistance from youth shelters because of problems with parental relationships. Administration for Children and Families {ACF} (2000) *Fact Sheet*.

According to two 1997 studies conducted for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 46% of runaway and homeless youth reported being physically abused, 17% reported being sexually exploited, and 38% reported being emotionally abused. (*P Slavin, "Life on the Run, Life on the Streets,"* (2001) Child Welfare League of America {CWLA}).

In 1998, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' survey of homelessness in 30 cities found that children under the age of 18 accounted for 25% of the urban homeless population. National Coalition for the Homeless {NCH} (1999) *NCH Fact Sheet #3*.

In its 1998 survey of 30 American cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that families comprised 38% of the homeless population. National Coalition for the Homeless {NCH} (1999) *NCH Fact Sheet #3*.

A recent study of the health status of homeless children in New York City found that 61% of homeless children had not received their proper immunizations (compared to 23% of all New York City two-year-olds); 38% of homeless children in the City's shelter system have asthma (an asthma rate four times that for all New York City children and the highest prevalence rate of any child population in the United States); and that homeless children suffer from middle ear infections at a rate that is 50% greater than the national average. (I Redlener, MD & D Johnson, *"Still in Crisis: The Health Status of New York's Homeless Children,"* (1999) National Coalition for the Homeless {NCH} *NCH Fact Sheet #7*.

Studies indicate that the prevalence of HIV among homeless people is between 3-20%, with some subgroups having much higher burdens of disease. In turn, homeless youth are at a greater risk of contracting AIDS or HIV-related illnesses. HIV prevalence studies anonymously performed in four cities found a median HIV-positive rate of 2.3% for homeless persons under age 25. (M Robertson, *"Homeless Youth on Their Own,"* (1996) Alcohol Research Group National Coalition for the Homeless {NCH} *NCH Fact Sheet #9*.

One of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population is families with children. Families with children constitute approximately 40% of people who become homeless (M Shinn & B Weitzman, *"Predictors of Homelessness Among Family Members in New York City: From Shelter Request to Housing Stability,"* in American Journal of Public Health, 1998;88,1651-1657 (1998) National Coalition for the Homeless {NCH} (1999) *NCH Fact Sheet #7*.

In 1998, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' survey determined that requests for emergency shelter by families with children in 30 cities increased by an average of 15% between 1997-1998. The same study found that 32% of requests for shelter by homeless families were denied in 1998 due to lack of resources. National Coalition for the Homeless {NCH} (1999) *NCH Fact Sheet #3*.

Runaway and Homeless Youth References and Suggested Readings

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- U.S. Conference of Mayors. (1998). *A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: 1998*, Washington, DC.
- Welsh, L, Archambault, F., Janus, MD & Brown, S. (1995). *Running for their Lives: Physical and Sexual Abuse of Runaway Adolescents*. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Policies and Legislation

(The following summaries of policies and legislation have been compiled from the websites listed in the *Resources* section.)

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) – Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP):

Responding to public concern about increasing numbers of youth who, after running away from home, were at risk of physical and sexual exploitation, the U.S. Congress passed this legislation

in 1974. RHYA established a system of care for runaway and homeless youth outside the traditional child protection, law enforcement, or juvenile justice agencies and services.

Programs currently funded under RHYA include *Basic Centers, Transitional Living and Street Outreach*. Congress also authorized Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), which is an agency of Administration of Family and Youth Services Bureau (ACYF), Administration of Children (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to implement a national reporting system. FYSB provides youth service grants to local communities.

Basic Center Program

Basic Centers, the core of RHYA (as amended by the **Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Act of 1999**), are designed to accomplish three goals: immediate, safe shelter and services for runaway youth; reunification of families whenever possible; and alternative placements of the youth when reunification is not appropriate. To achieve these goals, Basic Centers provide a wide range of services to runaway and homeless youth, including 24-hour access to all program services, emergency shelter, food and clothing, medical assistance, counseling, and referrals to health care and educational systems.

Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Transitional Living Programs (authorized by the RHYA, as amended by the **Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Act of 1999**) provides shelter and an array of comprehensive social services for older homeless youth. In TLPs, youth live in a supported, structured environment in which the overall goal is to increase their independent living skills and ability to be self-sufficient. Housing and a range of life-skills services are provided for up to 18 months to youth ages 16-21 who are unable to return to their homes.

Street Outreach Program

Street Outreach programs provide street-based education and outreach to youth who have been, or who are at risk of being, sexually abused or exploited. The ultimate goal of the program is to move these young people off the streets and into shelters where they can access other needed services. The Street Outreach programs provide access to medical and mental health treatment, counseling, and information and referral services.

- Congress established the *Education and Prevention Services to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless and Street Youth Program*, through the **Violence Against Women Act of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994**. Grants were created for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (also known as the Street Outreach Program).

The Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1977 to the *Runaway and Homeless Act of 1974*:

Through this legislation, Congress established FYSB's Regional Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) as "coordinated networks." Today, FYSB has cooperative agreements with regional organizations in the 10 Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Regions to provide T/TA to FYSB grantees.

- The T/TA Providers assist FYSB grantee agencies by helping them develop new

approaches for responding to challenges in serving young people, accessing new resources, and establishing linkages with other grantees. Through this system, FYSB tracks regional trends in youth and family issues, identifies and shares best practices, sponsors conferences and workshops, and provides direct T/TA.

In 1986, Congress passed the Independent Living Initiatives Program Legislation:

This law amended Title IV-E of the *Social Security Act* to provide funds for programs for youths in out-of-home care who would neither return to their families nor be adopted-youth for whom out-of-home care is a permanent situation until they become too old for care. Services may be made available to youth beginning at age 16 and continue through age 18, or at state option, through age 21. Independent living services included that can be funded under the federal program include:

- Teaching the basics of daily living such as housekeeping, money management, and nutrition.
- Assistance in finishing high school
- Preparation for college
- Employment preparation
- Job training and placement
- Individual and group training

The Children's Bureau, DHHS, administers the Independent living Program (ILP) to provide funding to States to assist young people making the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which was created by the **Welfare Reform Law of 1996**. TANF became effective July 1, 1997, and replaced what was then commonly known as welfare: *Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)* and the *Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS)* programs.

- Provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs.
- The TANF is a block grant created by the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* and replaced the *Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)* program, which had provided cash welfare to poor families with children since 1935.
 - Under the TANF structure, the federal government provides a block grant to the states, which use these funds to operate their own programs. States can use TANF dollars in ways designed to meet any of the four purposes set out in federal law, which are to: "(1) provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; (2) end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; (3) prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for

preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and (4) encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families."

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999:

Provides States with more funding and greater flexibility in implementing programs designed to assist young people leaving foster care.

- Doubles Federal funding for the Independent Living Program to \$140 million per year.
- Requires States to use some portion of their funds for assistance and services for older youths who have left foster care but have not reached age 21.
- Allows states to use up to 30 percent of their Independent Living Program funds for room and board for youths ages 18 to 21 who have left foster care.
- Allows states to extend Medicaid to 18, 19 and 20-year-olds who have been emancipated from foster care.
- Establishes the *John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program*, in honor of the late Senator John H. Chafee of Rhode Island.
 - The *Chafee Independence Program* replaces the former *Independent Living Initiative of 1986*.
 - This program allows States to use the funding to provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, and educational support to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age.

Homeless and Runaway Youth Best Practice Tips and Model Programs

The following recommendations and recognition of existing model programs have been compiled from the following resources:

Toolkit for Youth Workers: Fact Sheet, Runaway and Homeless Youth. Washington, DC: National Network for Youth 1998, **NCH Fact Sheet #11.** National Coalition for the Homeless. April 1999, **Children's Voice Article: "Life on the Run, Life on the Streets."** Child Welfare League of America. July 2001, **Youth Programs.** Administration for Children and Families. February 2000, **Runaway and Homeless Youth, Policy Positions.** National Youth Development Information Center of the National Collaboration for Youth 2001, **Family and Youth Services Bureau State Youth Development Collaboration Project Grantees, Summary of First Year Activities.** Administration for Children and Families. April 2000.

Best Practice Tips:

- A congressionally authorized study of runaway, throwaway and homeless youth concluded that a continuum of services is needed to help prevent young people from leaving home and to protect them if they do. Such services include: family preservation and support services, such as mediation and family counseling, to assist families at risk while young people are still in the home; outreach and early intervention to kids who have just left home; and drop-in centers to allow youth who have been on the street for some time to gain access to substance abuse and mental health services and shelter care.
- Easy access to shelters and outreach to draw homeless and runaway youth into services is critical.
- Homeless youth benefit from programs that meet immediate needs first, and then help them address other aspect of their lives.
- Programs that minimize institutional demands and offer a range of services have had success in helping homeless youth regain stability.
- Runaway and homeless youth benefit from programs in which they are actively engaged as participants and services are far-reaching in scope (including outreach, crisis intervention, stabilization, and long-term support and aftercare).
- Simple strategies to engender trust and productive effective communication with young people include: the development of rapport and engagement of young people on their level, the showing of respect, proactive confirmation of client confidentiality.
- Services are more acceptable to youth when they are framed in a health care context.
- Services should be part of a more comprehensive health services where these youth can receive a variety of assistance in a one-stop, shopping service center format.
- A comprehensive approach is also needed to enlist and coordinate the many organizations that have a role in preventing and responding to youth homelessness, including, among others, those that provide street outreach, shelter services, day care, health clinics, transitional or independent living services, and youth development activities.
- Effective programs are characterized by the following attributes: flexibility, comprehensiveness, responsiveness, front-line discretion, high standards of quality and good management, a family focus (where appropriate), community rootedness, a clear mission, and respectful, trusting relations.
- The storefront triage model of placing a chemical dependency worker in a runaway drop-in center has proven to be a workable model.
 - One example of such a program is the DePaul Homeless/Street Youth Day Treatment Project in Portland, Oregon. The program consists of a pretreatment program that is linked with a street clinic for homeless youth in an urban area. The street clinic adjoins a shelter that provides housing for youth. This program

provides alcohol and drug assessments, group and individual counseling, and support groups, and meet daily with youth.

- In the long term, homeless youth would benefit from many of the same measures that are needed to fight poverty in the adult population, including provision of affordable housing and employment that pays a living wage.
- In order to work and avoid homelessness, families with children need access to quality childcare that they can afford and adequate transportation. Education and training are also essential elements in preparing parents for better paying jobs to support their families.
- All support should aim to prevent unnecessary referrals to the juvenile justice system, and use a youth development approach, which will foster self-esteem and encourage individual empowerment and eventual self-sufficiency.

Funding for Programs:

Before going on to recognize model programs, it would be beneficial for the reader to understand the basic breakdown of funding for programs servicing runaway and homeless youth.

Executive Director of the *Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services* Margo Hirsch succinctly describes the funding flow. The Federal and State legislations are different, which sometimes causes problems for programs. For example, one grant may include youth *through* the age 21, while the other grant may only include *up to* age 21. Sometimes these contradictions cause logistical problems for certain programs.

The maximum amount for a Federal grant is \$200,000. Ms. Hirsch points out that it is almost impossible to run a program solely with a Federal grant. Many programs must combine Federal and State grants to fund their services. Federal funding is direct, while State funds are funneled to different counties; the counties are obligated to match the State funds with tax levy funds.

There are two types of grants, for crisis and transitional-oriented programs. The grant for crisis-oriented programs is formula based on a 60/40 ratio. For example, a Federal grant may make up 60% of an agency's budget. The State/County portion may account for 20% of the budget. The agency is then responsible for the remaining 20% balance of the budget, which may come in the form of donations or services in kind. For the transitional living programs, a county is not obligated to provide any of the 40% balance remaining after the agency receives 60% of its budget from a Federal grant.

Model Programs:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

As highlighted in the *Policies and Legislation* section of this packet, this ACF program is funded at \$88 million in fiscal year 2002 to assist homeless youth with making the transition to independent living. It includes the following programs:

The *Basic Center Program* provides grants to community-based public and private agencies to provide outreach, crisis intervention, temporary shelter, counseling, family reunification and aftercare services to runaway and homeless youth and their families.

The *Transitional Living Program* helps homeless youth ages 16 through 21 make a successful transition to self-sufficient living and avoid long-term dependency on social services by funding comprehensive services in a supervised living arrangement for up to 18 months.

In addition, ACF's *Street Outreach Program* provides grants for prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation to eligible private, nonprofit agencies for street-based outreach, education and referral for runaway, homeless and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse. The program is funded at \$15 million in fiscal year 2002.

Based on available information by the *National Network for Youth*, the following are examples of programs that have shown promise in working with runaway and homeless youth:

***The Sanctuary**, in *Pontiac, Michigan*, offers youth emergency shelter and transitional living programs. Based on data collected from contacts with youth and families 90 days after they received care, the agency reported that 84% of the youth were currently in safe living situations and 99% of the youth had avoided homelessness.

* **Huckleberry House**, in *San Francisco, California*, provides 24-hour crisis intervention and resolution services, including family preservation and mediation counseling. Results from a multi-year, comprehensive outcomes-based evaluation of their services found that approximately 72% of the youth served reported that the physical abuse they had been experiencing stopped by the time of their aftercare interview. Also, 52.2% reported that the emotional abuse they had been experiencing had stopped by time of follow-up

* **New Beginnings**, in *Lewiston, Maine*, has successfully integrated HIV prevention education throughout its shelter and transitional living programs, serving youth 12 to 21 years of age. Named as one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Reputationally Strong Programs," New Beginnings' HIV prevention component has shown promise in reducing risk behaviors and/or increasing protective behaviors. For example, youth participants have shown an increased tendency to use condoms, correctly identify high-risk behaviors for HIV, and reduce the number of their sexual partners.

* **Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center**, in *Matteson, Illinois*, provides crisis intervention and family stabilization services for acute situations that have a potential for family disruption through their Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) program. Outcome data collected from an agency study in 1997 found that 96% of runaway and other youth served were reunited with their families within 21 days of receiving services.

* **YouthCare's Orion Center**, in *Seattle, Washington*, provides comprehensive case management services to runaway and homeless youth. In a joint research venture with the University of Washington, YouthCare reported that nine to twelve months after entering

the program, youth's aggression, depression, anxiety, delinquency and substance abuse decreased.

In 1998, the *Family and Youth Services Bureau* (FYSB) awarded more than \$1 million for **State Youth Development Collaboration Projects** to nine States (\$120,000 each) to develop and support innovative youth development strategies.

On February 9, 2000, FYSB held the second Forum of the State Youth Development Collaboration Projects, in Washington, D.C. Representatives from the nine State projects attended the meeting and reported on their first-year activities. As with any new endeavor, most of the projects spent some time during the first year focusing on implementation issues such as hiring staff, developing a detailed workplan, and establishing collaborative networks to support future project activities. In addition, the projects established task forces and sponsored conferences on youth development, conducted needs assessment, and began providing training and technical assistance. Below are highlights of the first-year activities of a selection of the States involved in the project:

Arizona Youth Development Initiative

- Established the Statewide Youth Development Policy Task Force, with representatives from a range of State and community agencies. The task force includes a tribal liaison that represents the 21 tribes in Arizona.
- Provided training and technical assistance to the task force and youth participants.
- Issued a request for proposals (RFP) announcing the availability of 10 mini-grants that will support the development of youth councils statewide. Each youth council will be responsible for planning regional and statewide youth forums.

Connecticut for Community Youth Development

- Hosted three community forums on youth development across the State, involving more than 350 participants in sharing best practices and establishing the project's priorities for years 2-5.
- Conducted a forum on youth development for approximately 100 representatives of public and private funding agencies.
- Conducted a statewide conference on youth development for more than 200 youth workers and youth; young people conducted presentations and facilitated workshops at the event.
- Conducted a 30-hour training program on youth development for direct service youth workers and a 20-hour course for managers.
- Provided workshops and forums to assist more than 400 youth to develop leadership skills.

- Convened a 10-agency State steering committee.

Iowa Youth Development Collaboration Project

- Expanded representation of the project's Youth Development Team to include representatives of State agencies, FYSB grantees, AmeriCorps, the local 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, the National Guard, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and others.
- Helped organize two statewide conferences: (1) the Governor's Youth Conference, and (2) the Risky Business Conference, organized by Youth and Shelter Services, a FYSB grantee in Ames, Iowa.
- Contracted with Iowa's Child and Family Policy Center to support project activities.
- Began publishing a calendar of events related to youth development that are organized by local agencies.
- Collaborated with a local university to modify and implement a survey of 85,000 Iowa school students to include questions regarding young people's assets and positive experiences.
- Provided youth input to the Governor's Strategic Planning Council, which is developing a strategic plan for Iowa for the next decade.
- Facilitated the development of a youth development results framework to assist State agencies to align program goals and local communities to collect and analyze planning data for program development and monitoring purposes.
- Began participating in a National Crime Prevention Council project attempting to demonstrate how States can support and sustain local collaborative prevention activities.
- Established a process to develop a statewide series of telecommunication-supported youth forums that will enable youth and public policy leaders to explore relevant issues together.
- Developed "Leadership Opportunities: A Guide for Iowa Youth."
- Provided input to the Governor in preparing his budget and program plans for 2000-2001; as a result of the project's input, youth development is listed as one of the Governor's program priorities.
- Began several cross-agency initiatives to combine and coordinate State funds from various programs to support local youth development initiatives.
- Began participating in the National Governors' Association's newly formed Youth Policy Network.

New York Youth Development Partners Project

- Designed a youth development blueprint, which was endorsed by the Governor, and implemented activities identified in the blueprint: (1) the Safe Places Program, implemented in 19 counties; (2) the Careers in Law Enforcement Program, involving over 300 youth participants; and (3) the Advantage Afterschool Program, for which

funding is being increased from \$5 million in 1999-2000 to \$20 million in 2000-2001, to provide afterschool services for approximately 20,000 youth from kindergarten to grade 12.

- Created the Youth Leadership Congress, some members of which also served on the Governor's Task Force on Violence Prevention. Trained Youth Leadership Congress delegates who then facilitated workshops at a conference attended by the Governor and other State officials.
- Helped create "Partners for Children," comprising State agency commissioners and key representatives of local municipal government agencies. The project has responsibility for improving the outcomes for children and youth served by New York programs and agencies. The project formed a subcommittee, the Adolescent Project Team (APT), which drafted a youth development discussion paper and collaborated with State agencies to develop RFPs supportive of youth development principles.
- Cosponsored trainings of 24 facilitators who will conduct trainings on youth development in counties using the Academy for Educational Development's Advancing Youth Development curriculum.
- Cosponsored a training session on interpreting various youth development approaches at the Fall 1998 Annual Youth Bureau Association Conference.
- Continued implementing the Integrated County Planning process, through which 15 counties have incorporated youth development principles into their operation.
- Began participating in the National Governors' Association's newly formed Youth Policy Network.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Websites and Resources

Federal Agencies:

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

<http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/>

OJJDP is guided by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974 and subsequent amendments. Provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP accomplishes this by supporting States and local communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects the public safety, holds offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of families and each individual juvenile.

OJJDP
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 307-5911

US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

<http://www.dhhs.gov>

DHHS Agencies:

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov>

Responsible for Federal programs that promote the social and economic well-being of families and youth. These 60 or so programs provide services and assistance to needy children and families; administers the new state-federal welfare program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families; administers the national child support enforcement system and the Head Start program; provides funds to assist low-income families in paying for child care; and supports state programs to provide for foster care and adoption assistance.

Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)

<http://www.acyf.dhhs.gov>

Administers programs that support communities' efforts to provide services to families in crisis and to improve the quality of life for children, young people, and families in difficult circumstances. ACYF administers the major Federal programs that support: social services that promote the positive growth and development of children and youth and their families; protective services and shelter for children and youth in at-risk situations; child care for working families and families on public assistance; and adoption for children with special needs. These programs provide financial assistance to States, community-based organizations, and academic institutions to provide services, carry out research and demonstration activities and undertake training, technical assistance, and information dissemination.

Children's Bureau (CB)

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/>

CB is the oldest federal agency for children and is located within DHHS' ACF, ACYF. It is responsible for assisting States in the delivery of child welfare services - services designed to protect children and strengthen families. The agency provides grants to States, Tribes and communities to operate a range of child welfare services including child protective services (child abuse and neglect) family preservation and support, foster

care, adoption and independent living. In addition, the agency makes major investments in staff training, technology and innovative programs.

Children's Bureau
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20447
(202) 205-8769

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb/>

FYSB is a Bureau within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF); Administration for Children and Families (ACF); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). ACF Regional Offices oversee the administration of FYSB's grant programs.

FYSB is dedicated to supporting young people and strengthening families. FYSB provides runaway and homeless youth service grants to local communities and also funds research and demonstration projects. Its mission is to provide national leadership on youth issues.

Basic Center Program (authorized through the JJDPA's Runaway Homeless Youth Act, as amended by the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act) – The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) of 1974 created a system of financial support for States that was linked to several mandates designed to improve community treatment of young people in at-risk situation. The central purpose of these programs is to provide youth with emergency shelter, food, clothing, clothing and referrals for health care. FYSB encourages its programs to support young people through a youth development approach once their primary needs have been addressed.

Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth (authorized by the RHYA, as amended by the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children protection Act) – FYSB supports projects that provide longer term residential services to homeless youth ages 16-21 for up to 18 months, designed to help homeless youth make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

Street Outreach Program

Congress established the Education and Prevention Services to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless and Street Youth Program, through the Violence Against Women Act of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Grants were created for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (also known as the Street Outreach Program). This street-based outreach provided education for runaway and homeless youth and youth on the streets who have been, or are at risk of being sexually abused and exploited.

FYSB Funded Programs:

National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth (NCFY)

<http://www.ncfy.com>

FYSB,ACYF,ACF,DHHS established the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth as a source of information for communities, organizations, and individuals interested in developing new and effective strategies for supporting young people and their families.

National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)

<http://www.nrscrisisline.org>

(800) 621-4000

FYSB established the National Runaway Switchboard as a national communication system designed to assist youth who have run away, or are considering running away, and their families. NRS links youth and families to crisis counseling, programs and resources, and sometimes each other. NRS' goal is to have one central place for young people to call for help when in crisis.

National Runaway Switchboard

3080 N. Lincoln Ave.

Chicago, IL 60657

(773) 880-9860

Regional Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Providers

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb/TTAP.htm>

FYSB funds 10 organizations to provide assistance to local youth service agencies receiving Bureau funding. T/TA Providers assist FYSB grantee agencies by helping them develop new approaches in serving young people, accessing new resources and establishing linkages with other grantees with similar interest and concerns.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS)

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb/rhyspage/homepage.htm>

RHYMIS is an automated management information tool designed to capture data on the number of runaways and homeless youth being served by the FYSB grantee programs (Basic Center Program and Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth), demographic information on these youth and the types of services offered by these programs.

National Organizations and Associations:

Casey Family Programs

<http://www.casey.org>

Casey Family Programs provides an array of services for children and youth, with foster care as its core. Casey services include adoption, guardianship, kinship care (being cared for by extended family), and family reunification (reuniting children with birth families). Casey is also committed to helping youth in foster care make a successful transition to adulthood.

Covenant House

<http://www.covenanthouse.org>

Covenant House is the largest privately-funded childcare agency in the United States providing shelter and service to homeless and runaway youth. In addition to food, shelter, clothing and crisis care, Covenant House provides a variety of services to homeless youth including health care, education, vocational preparation, drug abuse treatment and prevention programs, legal services, recreation, mother/child programs, transitional living programs, street outreach and

aftercare.

Headquarters

1300 Dexter Avenue N.
Seattle, WA 98109-3547
(206) 282-7300, 282-3330
(800) 228-3559

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<http://www.centeronbudget.org>

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is a nonpartisan research organization and policy institute that conducts research and analysis on a range of government policies and programs, with an emphasis on those affecting low- and moderate-income people.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
820 1st Street, NE
#510
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 408-1080

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

<http://www.cwla.org>

CWLA is an association of more than 1,100 public and private nonprofit agencies that assist over 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a wide range of services, which include advocacy on all levels, formulation and promotion of public policies, provision of training to promote high-quality services. CWLA is committed to engaging people everywhere in promoting the well-being of children, youth, and their families, and protecting every child from harm.

CWLA Headquarters
440 First Street, NW
Third Floor
Washington, DC 20001-2085
(202) 638-2952

Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services

<http://www.empirestatecoalition.org>

An advocacy organization for runaway, homeless and street youth, promoting voluntary strength-based services for youth and their families, advocating for resources in every community, and developing program models to meet new and changing needs.

Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services
121 6th Avenue
New York, NY 10013-1510
(212) 966-6477

Focus Adolescent Services

<http://www.focusas.com/Runaways.html>

(877) FOCUS-AS / (877) 362-8727

Focus Adolescent Services is an internet clearinghouse of information and resources to help and support families with troubled and at-risk teens. Its mission is to provide information and

resources to empower individuals to help their teens and heal their families. Provides valuable resources (journals, articles, books, etc) and links to related sites.

National Alliance to End Homelessness

<http://www.endhomelessness.org>

The Alliance is a nationwide federation of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to end homelessness. The Alliance's network of concerned individuals and organizations work towards advancing practical, community-based solutions to homelessness. The site contains statistics, discussion of policies and legislation, best practice tips, resources and links.

National Alliance to End Homelessness
1518 K Street NW, Suite 206
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 638-1526

National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)

<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/nccp/index.html>

NCCP's mission is to identify and promote strategies that prevent child poverty in the United States and that improve the lives of low-income children and their families. NCCP works to define the problem, identify strategies that work stimulate new research and its application and communicating fact about child poverty and how to overcome it.

NCCP
Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University
154 Haven Avenue
New York, NY 10032
(212) 304-7100

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

<http://www.missingkids.org>

NCMEC serves as a focal point in providing assistance to parents, children, law enforcement, schools, and the community in recovering missing children and raising public awareness about ways to help prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation.

NCMEC
Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
699 Prince Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3175
(703) 274-3900

National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH)

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>

NCH's mission is to end homelessness. NCH focuses on the following 4 areas: housing justice, economic justice, health care justice, and civil rights. The agency approaches include grassroots organizing, public education, policy advocacy, technical assistance, and partnerships.

National Coalition for the Homeless
1012 Fourteenth Street, NW, #600,
Washington, DC 20005-3471
(202) 737-6444

National Network for Youth

<http://www.nn4youth.org/nn4youth>

National Network informs public policy, educates the public and strengthens the field of youth work. The National Network for Youth serves as a powerful advocate in Washington, D.C., protecting key legislation and spending affecting youth. The agency champions runaway and homeless youth, advocating with them, their families and their communities. Community Youth Development (CYD) was initiated by the National Network in 1993 as a holistic, comprehensive approach for developing capable youth, strong families and responsible communities.

National Network for Youth
1319 F Street, NW
Suite 401
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 783-7949

National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/>

The National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning is funded by the Children's Bureau/ACF/DHHS and operates out of the Hunter College School of Social Work of the City University of New York. The center is a training, technical assistance and information services organization dedicated to increasing the capacity of child welfare agencies to provide children with safe, permanent families in supportive communities. Also provides links to National Child Welfare Resource Centers and other related resources.

Hunter College School of Social Work
129 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021
(212) 452-7000

National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS)

<http://www.nrcys.ou.edu>

NRCYS, through a cooperative agreement with DHHS Children's Bureau provides training and technical assistance to publicly administered and supported child welfare agencies

The University of Oklahoma-Tulsa
National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS)
Schusterman Center
4502 E. 41st Street, Building 4 West
Tulsa, OK 74135-2512
(918) 660-3700

Streetcats Foundation and National Children's Coalition

<http://www.child.net/runaway.htm>

The two organizations created a center on the web providing information on street kids and runaways. This site also provides links to resources.

Streetcats Foundation
National Children's Coalition
P.O. Box 191396
Rincon Station

San Francisco, CA 94119-1396
(510) 286-7916