



An affinity group of the National Human Services Assembly

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs (RHYA)

Background:

It is estimated that 1.6 million youth experience runaway and homelessness episodes each year. Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs RAISE ACHIEVEMENT among homeless youth, are COST-EFFECTIVE, and BUILD STRONG YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES with partnerships among community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement, local governments, and other sectors of society. The last federally-funded evaluation of RHYA programs demonstrated that the programs reduced drop-out rates, doubled school attendance; increased college attendance; increased employment rates; reduced parental physical abuse; and improved family relationships. In FY 2003, RHYA programs served over **619,000** youth through **Street Outreach**; **77,882** youth through the **Basic Center Program**, and **4,312** youth through the **Transitional Living Program**. The average cost of serving a youth in a Transitional Living Program is \$8,348.00 per year - a mere fraction of the public dollars spent on housing youth in costly corrections systems.

Demonstrated Need

According to the federally-administered Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS), during FY 2003:

- 40% of youth going into Transitional Living Programs are turned away due to lack of resources
- 4,226 youth were turned away from Basic Center Programs due to lack of resources

Programs:

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs are comprised of three components: Street Outreach, Basic Centers, and Transitional Living.

- The RHYA **Street Outreach** program ensures rapid engagement with young people living on the street in an effort to prevent their physical and sexual abuse and assault, commercial sexual exploitation, disease, long-term homelessness, and death.
- The RHYA **Basic Center** program provides funds for family reunification services, counseling, and temporary shelter to serve children and youth under age 18.
- The RHYA **Transitional Living** program provides transitional housing and independent living services to older homeless youth (up to age 21) for up to 18 months.

Authorization Level: Such Sums as Necessary

<u>Funding:</u>	<u>Basic Center</u>	<u>Transitional Living</u>	<u>Street Outreach</u>	<u>Maternity Group Homes</u>
FY 2005 Appropriation	\$49 million	\$40 million	\$15 million	\$ 0
FY 2006 President's request	\$49 million	\$40 million	\$15 million	\$10 million

National Collaboration for Youth Funding Request: \$140 million

- \$120 million for the Consolidated Account (Basic Centers and Transitional Living)
- \$20 million for the Runaway Prevention Account (Street Outreach)

For more information, contact Mishaela Duran, National Network for Youth (mduran@nn4youth.org) or Beth P. Lovell, Volunteers of America (bethp@voa.org).