

# Key Federal Funding Related to Homeless Youth



Over **46% of youth** who have experienced homelessness have been held in juvenile detention centers at some point, compared to 15% of youth in the general population. The programs and resources highlighted below and on the accompanying table identify key funding that juvenile justice agencies should be aware of to identify possible collaboration activities.

**In FY2022, the federal government invested nearly \$8 billion in funding to address homeless.**

Some federal programs directly support individuals who are homeless, while others serve vulnerable populations more broadly, including those experiencing homelessness. There are a smaller number of grant programs specifically targeted to youth who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless. Federal funding is awarded to states, local government, non-profits, and community-based organizations through grants. For information on the proposed FY 2023 budget related to homelessness programs as compared to previous years see <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/fy-2023-proposed-federal-budget-for-homelessness/>. Below is a brief description of federal agencies that support homelessness services and resources.



## United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) • <https://www.usich.gov/>

The **USICH** coordinates 19 federal member agencies (some of which are listed below), state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to provide resources and evidence-based practices. Among its many activities and goals, USICH works to strengthen partnerships between law enforcement systems and

homelessness services, combat the criminalization of homelessness, divert individuals away from incarceration, and reduce barriers to housing among those with a criminal history.

**Key Resource:** [The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)

## Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

**HHS** provides a wide variety of public and human services, in addition to conducting life-saving research for the nation, to enhance the health and wellbeing of Americans. The most relevant offices and programs under HHS focused on those who are homeless are:

- o **Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)** supports organizations and communities to reduce the risk of youth homelessness, adolescent pregnancy, and domestic violence (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb>).

**Highlighted Programs:** Runaway and Homeless Youth Program- Basic Grant Program; Runaway and Homeless Youth Program- Transitional Living and Maternity Group Homes; and Runaway and Homeless Youth Program- Street Outreach program.

- o **Children’s Bureau (CB)** partners with federal, state, tribal and local agencies to improve the overall health and well-being of our nation’s children and families <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>.

**Highlighted Programs:** John H. Chafee Foster Care independence program for Successful Transition into Adulthood and the Education and Training Voucher Program.

- o **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** mission is to reduce the impact of substance use and mental illness on America’s communities. Highlighted Program: Grants to the Benefit Homeless Individuals.

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# Key Federal Funding Resources for Homeless Youth

There are also several HHS programs that provide grants to states, localities, or community-based organizations that support those who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. In addition, some provide direct benefits to individuals. For youth over 18 years old, they may be eligible for direct benefits if eligibility criteria are met.

**These include:**

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** provides support, including cash assistance to low-income families with children. The program serves about two million individuals. States who may use TANF funds to support families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/programs/temporary-assistance-needy-families-tanf>).
- **Medicaid** provides health and long-term care services and supports eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant individuals, elderly adults, and people with disabilities (<https://www.medicaid.gov/>).
- **Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** provides health coverage to uninsured children (under age 19) and pregnant individuals in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid and too low to afford private health coverage. Serves about 6.9 million children (<https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/index.html>).
- **The Health Centers Program** are community based and patient directed organizations that deliver health care services to vulnerable families and children. Some health centers receive funding to focus on special populations including those who are homeless (<https://bphc.hrsa.gov/>).

## U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**HUD** is the federal agency responsible for national policy and programs to address America's housing needs, improve and develop the Nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws. Through voucher and direct assistance programs, HUD works to provide youth and families with proper housing.

**Highlighted Programs:** Continuum of Care Program (COC); Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP); and the Family Unification Program Voucher Program, with more details in the table. (<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/>).

- **U.S. Department of Education (ED)** • <https://www2.ed.gov/about/landing.jhtml>

**ED** promotes student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

**Highlighted Programs:** Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grants, as described in the table on the next page.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**USDA** provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues (<https://www.usda.gov/>).

**Highlighted Programs:** Food and Nutrition Service-Child and Adult Food Program, as described in more detail in the table on the next page.

Please see the table on the next page for more information on these agencies and programs.

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# Department of Health and Human Services

Federal Agency and Program	Purpose	Funding	Age Range	Eligibility	Program Link
<b>FYSB: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Basic Grant Program (BGP)</b>	Basic Grant Program are community-based programs designed to meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth under 18 years old. In addition, BCP works to reunite young people with their families or locate appropriate alternative placements. The program provides up to 21 days of shelter; food, clothing and medical care; individual, group and family counseling; crisis intervention; recreation programs; and aftercare services for youth after they leave the shelter.	FY21 enacted- <b>\$64.2 million</b>	Runaway and homeless youth under 18 years old.	Competitive grants to community-based public and private agencies.	<a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth</a>
<b>FYSB: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Transitional Living (TLP) and Maternity Group Homes (MGH)</b>	Transitional Living Programs provide adult supervised group homes, host homes, and supervised apartments. The program provides counseling in basic life skills, interpersonal skill building, educational advancement, job attainment skills. The Maternity Group Homes for Pregnant and Parenting Youth (MGH) Program provides support to homeless pregnant and/or parenting young people, as well as their dependent children. MGH programs provide comprehensive services to teach parenting skills, child development, family budgeting, and health and nutrition.	FY21 enacted- <b>\$52.5 million</b>	Young must be between the ages of 16 and 22 to enter a TLP. Pregnant and parenting youth must be between the ages of 16 and 22 to enter the MGH program.	Competitive grants to public and private organizations;	<a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth</a>
<b>FYSB: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program: Street Outreach Program (SOP)</b>	The Street Outreach Program provides homeless, runaway and street youth help in finding stable housing and services. The program focuses on developing relationships between outreach workers and young people that allow them to rebuild connections with caring adults. Street outreach services include: street based education and outreach; access to emergency shelter; survival aid; treatment and counseling; crisis intervention; and followup support.	FY21 enacted- <b>\$20 million</b>	Youth under the age of 21 and who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, sexual exploitation, and severe forms of trafficking	Competitive grants to public and private organizations	<a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth</a>
<b>Children’s Bureau: John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee program), including the Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)</b>	<p>The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides assistance to help current and former foster care youth achieve self-sufficiency. Services include assistance with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support and, for older youth in foster care, connections to caring adults.</p> <p>The Education and Training Voucher Program provides education and training resources for youth aging out of foster care. The program offers available vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year per youth for post secondary education and training for eligible youth.</p>	FY21 enacted- <b>\$143 million</b> for Chafee and \$43 million for ETV	The program is intended to serve youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18, youth who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, and young adults ages 18-21 who have “aged out” of the foster care system. Youth are eligible to receive ETVs for as many as five years (up to age 26).	Grants are offered to States and Tribes who submit a plan to assist youth in a wide variety of areas designed to support a successful transition to adulthood.	<a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/grant-funding/john-h-chafee-foster-care-independence-program">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/grant-funding/john-h-chafee-foster-care-independence-program</a> ; <a href="https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/763">https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/763</a>
<b>SAMHSA: Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)</b>	Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals provides treatment and recovery support services for individuals (including youth and families) experiencing homelessness who have substance use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. The program supports substance use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders treatment and other recovery-oriented services; coordination of housing and services that support the implementation and/or enhance the long-term sustainability of integrated community systems that provide permanent housing and supportive services to the target population; and efforts to engage and connect clients who experience substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders to enrollment resources for health insurance, Medicaid, and mainstream benefits programs (e.g., TANF).	FY21 enacted- <b>\$36.4 million</b>	Individuals, including youth and families	Competitive grants to public and private nonprofit entities.	<a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/gbhi-program">https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/gbhi-program</a>

## Department of Housing and Urban Development

Federal Agency and Program	Purpose	Funding	Age Range	Eligibility	Program Link
<b>Continuum of Care (CoC)</b>	The Continuum of Care Program provides services to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation to homeless individuals, families, and communities; access and use of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families (e.g., TANF; Medicaid); and fosters self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.	FY21 enacted- <b>\$2.65 million</b>	All people experiencing homelessness as defined by HUD	Nonprofit providers, states and local governments.	<a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/</a>
<b>Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)</b>	The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program supports selected communities, including rural, suburban, and urban areas across the United States, in the developing and implementing a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. There have been five rounds of grant funding since 2016 (96 communities total).	<b>\$155 million</b> total from FY 2016 through FY 2020	Youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24. There is no lower age limit, although youth that are accompanied by a parent or guardian above the age of 24 are not eligible.	A Collaborative Applicant designated by a Continuum of Care (CoC) that applies on behalf of the CoC and community stakeholders.	<a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/</a>
<b>Family Unification Program (FUP)</b>	The Family Unification Voucher Program provides vouchers to promote unification of families where the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor for family separation, or the threat of separation, of children from their families or the delay in discharge from out-of-home care is imminent.	FY21 enacted- <b>\$25 million</b>	Families seeking to reunify and 18-21 year olds who have left foster care at age 16 and lack adequate housing	Public Housing Agencies with demonstrated experience and resources for supportive services.	<a href="https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/family">https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/family</a>

## Department of Education

<b>Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grants</b>	Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program provides support to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to free and appropriate education through coordination and collaboration with other local agencies to provide comprehensive services to homeless children and youth and their families.	Funding based on each state's share of Title I, Part A funds	Children and youth K-12	Formula grants to states, DC, and Puerto Rico based on each state's share of Title I, Part A funds.	<a href="https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/education-for-homeless-children-and-youths-grants-for-state-and-local-activities/">https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/education-for-homeless-children-and-youths-grants-for-state-and-local-activities/</a>
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## Department of Agriculture

<b>Food and Nutrition Service: Child and Adult Food Program</b>	The Child and Adult Food Program provides access to meals for youth experiencing homelessness by allowing shelters to be reimbursed for meals served to children and young adults under 25 years old. Under normal circumstances, USDA only reimburses shelters for meals served to children through age 18.	Entitlement program with fluctuating funding based on need and usage.	Emergency shelters serving persons under age 25	Grants to emergency and nonprofit shelters.	<a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp">https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp</a>
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