



Local Law 86 of 2019 Report to the Speaker of the City Council Fiscal Year 2021

Introduction

The Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) funds community-based organizations to provide services to support runaway and homeless youth (RHY) and help them develop a plan to reunite with their families or identify other resources.

Since the PAUSE order was enacted in March 2020, DYCD funded community-based organizations have gone above and beyond in helping New York City meet one of its top priorities during the COVID-19 emergency: keeping New Yorkers safe. Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Services programs continue to offer vital support. Residential programs remained open to serve youth in need, while adjusting to ensure space for social distancing and isolation as needed. Drop-in Centers continue to offer in person services including referrals to housing and health care; providing on-line supports such as counseling and support for coping during the pandemic, clinical support for anxiety or depression, as well as recreational activities to maintain social connections during this time.

Demographics and Services Fiscal Year 2021

During Fiscal Year 2021, 2,641 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 814 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs. These service levels include the programs for homeless young adults (HYA) for individuals aged 21 through 24. Additional services include Drop-In Centers and Street Outreach and Referral Services. More information about these services can be found at the end of the report.

DYCD RHY providers offer specialized programming to runaway and homeless youth who are pregnant and parenting, sexually exploited and or who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Questioning and Intersex (LGBTQI) youth. The agency and its funded providers are committed to providing runaway and homeless young people with the resources they need to stabilize their lives and prevent street homelessness.



Description of the size and characteristics of the current populations of RHY including but not limited to gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, pregnancy and parenting status, and disabilities.

During Fiscal Year 2021, 2,641 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 814 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs.

Age (at time of enrollment)				
	Crisis Services	%	TIL	%
16-17	285	11%	80	9.8%
18-20	2,149	81%	665	81.7%
21+	110	4%	38	4.7%
Infants + children	97	4%	31	3.8%
Total	2,641	100%	814	100.0%

Reported Gender Identity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	1,122	42.5%	377	46.3%
Female	1,369	51.8%	388	47.7%
Non-binary	20	0.8%	7	0.9%
Gender non-conforming	24	0.9%	8	1.0%
Two-spirit	0	0.00%	0	0.0%
Not sure	5	0.2%	0	0.0%
Another gender	1	0.0%	1	0.1%
Decline to answer	100	3.8%	33	4.1%
Total	2,641	100%	814	100%

Transgender			
Crisis Services		TIL	
90	3%*	39	5%*

*Percentage of total



Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Heterosexual	1808	68%	581	71%
Gay	157	6%	43	5%
Lesbian	95	4%	28	3%
Queer	58	2%	9	1%
Bisexual	323	12%	91	11%
Asexual	6	0%	4	0%
Pansexual	44	2%	16	2%
Another sexual orientation	0	0%	0	0%
Not sure	20	1%	1	0%
Declined to answer	116	4%	38	5%
Questioning	14	1%	3	0%
Total	2641	100%	814	100%

Parent and Parenting Status				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Parents	88	3%*	31	4%*
No. of Children	99	4%*	31	4%*
Total individuals in families	187	7%*	62	8%*

*Percentage of total



Race				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	16	1%	4	0%
Asian	34	1%	11	1%
Black or African American	1560	59%	496	61%
Middle eastern/North African	3	0%	0	0%
Multi Race	11	0%	27	3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9	0%	5	1%
No Answer	27	1%	15	2%
Other	818	31%	179	22%
White/Non Hispanic	163	6%	77	9%
Total	2641	100%	814	100%

Ethnicity				
	Crisis		TIL	
Hispanic/Latinx	869	33%	289	36%
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	1745	66%	509	63%
No answer	27	1%	16	2%
Total	2641	100%	814	100%

During fiscal year 2021, DYCD collected data from providers regarding participants' disabilities. Throughout the year Crisis Services programs reported serving 98 youth with disabilities and Transitional Independent Living support programs reported serving 108 youth with disabilities.

Disability				
	Crisis		TIL	
Yes	98	4%	108	13%
No	482	18%	552	68%
Declined to answer	2061	78%	154	19%
Total	2641	100%	814	100%

Description of service needs of the current population of runaway and homeless youth including but not limited to educational assistance, TASC preparation, medical services, mental health services for sexually exploited children and temporary shelter.

Young people become homeless for many complex reasons including family conflict, shortage- of affordable housing, and family poverty. Youth run away for many reasons including violence, abuse or



neglect in the home; mental illness or substance abuse among family members; challenges at school. Others are rejected by their families or experience family conflict as a result of their sexual orientation or gender identity, an unplanned pregnancy, use of drugs or alcohol, or inability to comply with parent/caretaker rules. Lacking the financial resources and basic life skills needed to live independently, they can experience criminal victimization, including commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking, resulting in traumas that jeopardize their well-being and development into thriving adults.

The service information below demonstrates how the RHY providers address some of these adverse experiences.

Fiscal Year 2021 Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health

DYCD-funded RHY residential programs and drop-in centers receive funding as part of their contract amount to offer mental health services and supports to youth, directly and through referral, including mindfulness activities, counseling and psychological evaluations. DYCD RHY providers offered mental health services to 2,794 unduplicated individuals during Fiscal Year 2021. Youth participated in psychological evaluations, service referrals, individual and group therapy.

Office of Community Mental Health - Youth Served	
Drop-in	1,229
Crisis	771
TIL	794
Total	2,794

Educational Services

Below is a table showing the educational status of young people when they begin services at an RHY residential program.

Last Educational Level at Intake				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
College/University	6	0.2%	21	3%
Community College	28	1.1%	48	6%
Elementary School	9	0.3%	2	0%
High School	2390	90.5%	678	83%
Middle School	58	2.2%	22	3%
No Response	102	3.9%	36	4%
Other	2	0.1%	3	0%
Vocational/Trade School	46	1.7%	4	0%
Total	2641	100.0%	814	100%



In FY 2021, RHY programs reported educational services were provided to 25% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 38% of youth exiting TILS.

Services for Sexually Exploited Children

The data below reflects young people who report having been sexually exploited. Young people have an opportunity to disclose abuse and exploitation at any time. Key moments are during assessment at intake, and during regular case management sessions at which point the young person can receive a range of services available, including referrals to specialized mental health services.

Young People Reporting Sexual Exploitation (CSEC)	
Crisis Services	281
TIL	82
Drop In	42
Total	405

A breakdown of dispositions of runaway and homeless youth who exited the temporary shelter system in the previous calendar year disaggregated by categories including but not limited to transitioned from a runaway and homeless youth crisis services program to a TIL; reconnected with family; transitioned to a private apartment and exited to an unknown location.

Discharge Dispositions Fiscal Year 2021				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Home (Returned to Parent or Guardian)	203	8%	116	14%
Other residence (Including friends and relatives)	338	13%	165	20%
DYCD-funded Crisis Services Program	144	6%	57	7%
DYCD-funded Transitional Independent Living Program	528	20%	136	16%
Foster home	16	1%	0	0%
Other shelter	241	9%	52	6%
DHS shelter	32	1%	56	7%
Youth detention center/Correctional facility	2	0%	1	0%
Hospital	53	2%	8	1%
Supportive Housing	18	1%	24	3%
Rapid Re-Housing	2	0%	24	3%
Unsubsidized Apartment	11	0%	41	5%
Subsidized Apartment (NYCHA, Mitchell Lama, Etc.)	0	0%	7	1%
Shared Living (Not friends or relatives)	22	1%	47	6%
Exited to an unknown location	976	38%	103	12%
Total	2586	100%	837	100%



A description of public resources available to serve runaway and homeless youth including any new services established since the submission of the previous report required pursuant to this section and any existing services that will be expanded.

In FY2021, Crisis Services Programs served 2,641 young people. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 814 youth. Eight Drop-in centers served 12,685 youth, and street outreach teams connected with 4,308 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY21 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$46.5M.

Crisis Services Programs

In FY21, Crisis Services Programs offer emergency services for runaway and homeless youth and young adults with a maximum stay of 120 days. These voluntary, short-term residential programs provide support services and crisis intervention aimed at reuniting youth with their families or, if family reunification is not possible, arranging appropriate transitional and long-term placements.

In FY21, DYCD contracted providers opened 35 Homeless Young Adult (HYA) Crisis Service beds bringing the total to 293 Crisis services residential beds. A total of 2,641 youth received residential services through the Crisis Services programs.

Transitional Independent Living Support Services

In FY21, Transitional Independent Living (TIL) programs provide homeless youth and young adults with residential support as they work to establish independence. Youth may stay in the Transitional Independent Living Support Programs for up to 24 months.

In FY21, the total number of Transitional Independent Living beds, including the HYA beds is bringing the total to 520 TIL beds. A total of 814 youth received residential services through the TIL programs.

Drop-In Centers

Eight RHY Drop-In Centers serve as the main point of entry to the residential services. Drop-In Centers are in each of the five boroughs of New York City; including three which are located in Manhattan. There are now five centers offering overnight services: one in each borough. The Drop-In Centers provide youth ages 14 through 24 with food, clothing, access to counseling, support, mental health services and referrals to shelter and other relevant services.

In FY21, the Drop-In Centers provided 12,685 unduplicated youth with a variety of services and provided 1,064 youth with more intensive case management services.

Street Outreach

DYCD funds citywide Street Outreach Services to identify and distribute information about available services to RHY and youth at-risk for homelessness, provide food, clothing and other resources, make referrals to other service providers, and encourage youth to accept transport to their homes, to Crisis Services, or to other safe locations as appropriate. By developing rapport with young people in the



streets and elsewhere, outreach workers provide direct information about RHY programs and refer those in need of services to the Drop-In Centers and Crisis Services programs.

In FY21, Street Outreach Services contacted 4,308 (includes duplications) young people.

Streamlined Referral to DHS Shelter

In October 2017, DYCD in partnership with DHS launched a direct referral process to allow youth exiting DYCD-funded residential programs, who are interested in DHS shelter, to transition to the DHS shelter system more easily. This practice was codified in Local Law 81. The Streamlined Referral process allows DYCD programs to refer interested young people directly to DHS shelters, bypassing the need for youth to report to the intake centers while maintaining a continuity of services.

In FY21, 70 young people were referred, 59 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter, 8 declined the placement and 3 were pending placement at the time of the report.

Supportive Housing for Homeless Youth

The NY/NY III supportive housing agreement between NYC and NY State provides 400 permanent supportive housing beds for youth. Within the City's new Supportive Housing initiative, NYC 15/15 aims to develop 15,000 new supportive housing units by 2030, including a set-aside of nearly 1,700 units for young people (both RHY and youth leaving foster care). DYCD and the Human Resources Administration are working together to interview and place eligible young people as the supportive housing apartments become available.