

Local Law 81 of 2018

Report on the Streamlined Referrals to the Department of Homeless Services January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

Description

In October 2017, Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) in partnership with Department of Homeless Services (DHS) launched a direct referral process to allow youth from DYCD-funded residential programs to more easily transition to the adult shelter system. The expedited intake and assessment process saves youth time and energy and streamlines the administrative process of moving to an adult bed. This practice was codified in Local Law 81 of 2018.

Update on Process

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 making adjustments 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.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Services (RHY) providers email a completed “DYCD to DHS Shelter Referral Worksheet” to the designated intake supervisors at the appropriate DHS location, either PATH for families with children or the DHS Intake Centers for single men or single women. The DHS intake supervisors enter the information on the referral form into CARES (DHS shelter tracking system) and locate a shelter bed. Once a placement is found, the RHY provider is notified and the youth is discharged directly to the DHS shelter.

To promote this resource, DYCD designed a poster for placement in RHY programs. It was distributed to the Crisis Services and Transitional Independent Living Support programs to display prominently to youth.

Total Youth Referred	29
Placed	26
Declined placement	3

Referring Agency	Total Referrals
Ali Forney Center	1
Children's Village	6
Covenant House of New York	2
Safe Horizon/Streetwork	2
SCO Family of Services	13
Sheltering Arms	5
Total	29