



Local Law 86 of 2019 Report to the Speaker of the City Council Fiscal Year 2020

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, 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.

Demographics and Services Fiscal Year 2020

During Fiscal Year 2020, 2,202 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,221 were served in Transitional Independent Living support programs. 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 2020, 2,202 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,221 were served in Transitional Independent Living support programs.

Age (at time of enrollment)			
	Crisis Services	TIL	
16-17	201	90	8.5%
18-20	1,883	1,055	85.8%
21+	15	0	0.4%
Infants	103	76	5.2%
Total	2,202	1,221	100%

*Please note youth over 21+ were granted a temporary allowance to stay at Crisis Services programs as RHY HYA programs program's opened. Once the HYA program were opened youth were transferred to RHY HYA programs.

Reported Gender Identity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	950	43.1%	519	42.5%
Female	1,094	49.7%	573	46.9%
Non-binary	9	0.4%	9	0.7%
Gender non-conforming	31	1.4%	21	1.7%
Two-spirit	1	0.05%	0	0.0%
Not sure	2	0.1%	2	0.2%
Another gender	109	5.0%	94	7.7%
Decline to answer	6	0.3%	3	0.2%
Do not understand the question	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	2,202	100%	1,221	100%



Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Heterosexual	1516	69%	838	69%
Gay	133	6%	73	6%
Lesbian	94	4%	33	3%
Queer	19	1%	19	2%
Bisexual	228	10%	100	8%
Asexual	2	0.1%	3	0.2%
Pansexual	24	1%	22	2%
Another sexual orientation	106	5%	82	7%
Not sure	37	2%	16	1%
Declined to answer	23	1%	26	2%
Questioning	20	1%	9	1%
Total	2202	100%	1221	100%

	Crisis Services		TIL	
Transgender	142	6%*	65	5%*

*Percentage of the total youth served.

Parent and Parenting Status				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Parents	89	4%*	75	6%*
No. of Children	104	5%*	76	6%*
Total	193		151	

*Percentage of the total youth served.



Race				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
White/Non-Hispanic	149	7%	108	9%
Black	1149	52%	677	55%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	11	0.5%	4	0.3%
Asian	33	1%	14	1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	6	0.3%	1	0.1%
Middle eastern/North African	4	0.2%	1	0.1%
Other	753	34%	322	26%
Multi Race	41	2%	54	4%
No Answer	56	3%	40	3%
Total	2202	100%	1221	100

Ethnicity				
	Crisis		TIL	
Hispanic/Latinx	769	35%	448	37%
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	1378	63%	731	60%
No answer	55	2%	42	3%
Total	2202	100%	1221	100%

During fiscal year 2020, DYCD collected data from providers regarding participants' disabilities. Throughout the year Crisis Services programs reported serving 47 youth with disabilities and Transitional Independent Living support programs reported serving 120 youth with disabilities.

Participant with a Disability				
	Crisis		TIL	
Yes	47	2%	120	10%
No	857	39%	638	52%
Declined to answer	1298	59%	463	38%
Total	2202	100%	1221	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, shortages 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 2020 THRIVE NYC Services

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 2,648 individuals during Fiscal Year 2020. Youth participated in psychological evaluations, service referrals, individual and group therapy.

ThriveNYC - Youth Served	
Drop-in (Unduplicated)	1,118
Crisis (Unduplicated)	852
TIL (Unduplicated)	678
Total	2,648

Educational Services

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

Educational Status at Intake				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Attending School	1454	66%	637	52%
High School Graduate/GED	427	19%	362	30%
Attending College/Voc Program	86	4%	123	10%
Other/College Grad	98	4%	10	1%
Not Attending School	30	1%	5	0.4%
Unreported	107	5%	84	7%
Total	2,202	100%	1,221	100%



In FY 2020, RHY programs reported educational services were needed and provided to 29% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 26% of youth exiting TILS for the period of July 2019 to June 2020. More youth who utilize TIL Support Programs are already enrolled in school upon arrival, than youth served in Crisis Services Programs.

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 during assessment at intake, or 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.

FY20 Young People Reporting Sexual Exploitation	
Crisis Services	265
TIL	105
Drop In	146
Total	516

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.

Dispositions for Youth Who Have Exited a DYCD Funded Program				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Total Number returned home	126	6%	103	13%
Other residence (Friends/Relatives Home)	198	10%	156	20%
DYCD Funded Crisis Services Program	238	12%	107	14%
DYCD Funded TIL Services Program	436	22%	119	15%
Foster Home	16	1%	2	0.3%
DHS Shelter	33	2%	37	5%
Correctional Facility	6	0.3%	1	0.1%
Hospitalization	51	3%	11	1%
Supportive Housing	8	0.4%	30	4%
Unsubsidized Apt	10	0.5%	19	2%
Shared Living	11	1%	43	5%
Other Shelter	160	8%	54	7%
Unknown/Self Discharge	714	36%	102	13%
Total Exits	2007	100%	784	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 FY2020, Crisis Services Programs served 2,202 young people. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 1,221 youth. Eight Drop-in centers served 12,030 youth, and street outreach teams connected with 9,131 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY20 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$46.8M a \$3.2M increase from the \$43.6M FY19 budget. This increase brought the total number of funded RHY beds to 813, including funding for 60 beds for Homeless Young Adults (HYA) of which 25 HYA TIL beds have opened, and ensures there is a 24-hour drop-in center in every borough.

Crisis Services Programs

In FY20, Crisis Services Programs offer emergency services for runaway and homeless youth aged 16 to 20 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 FY20, DYCD opened 12 additional Crisis Service beds bringing the total to 258 Crisis services residential beds. A total of 2,202 unduplicated youth received residential services through the Crisis Services programs.

Transitional Independent Living Support Services

In FY20, Transitional Independent Living (TIL) programs provide homeless youth aged 16 to 20 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 FY20, DYCD opened 3 additional Transitional Independent Living beds bringing the total to 494 TIL beds. A total of 1,221 unduplicated 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 located in each of the five boroughs of New York City; including three which are located in Manhattan. There are now five centers operating 24-hours/day; 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 partnership with the First Lady of NYC's Unity Project.

In FY20, the Drop-In Centers provided 12,030 unduplicated youth with a variety of services and provided 1,428 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 FY20, Street Outreach Services contacted 9,131 (includes duplications) young people, and 33 of those young people accepted transportation to a shelter or residential program.

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 more easily transition to the DHS shelter system. 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 FY20, 71 young people were referred, 67 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter and 4 declined the service.

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 in order to interview and place eligible young people as the supportive housing apartments become available.