



Local Law 86 of 2018 Report to the Speaker of the City Council

Fiscal Year 2025

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.

Demographics and Services Fiscal Year 2025

During Fiscal Year 2025, 1,526 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,094 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, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) 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 2025, 1,526 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,094 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs.

Age (at time of enrollment)				
	Crisis Services	%	TIL	%
16-17	182	12%	71	6%
18-20	1,106	72%	924	84%
21+	137	9%	48	4%
Infants + children	101	7%	51	5%
Total	1,526	100%	1,094	100%



Reported Gender Identity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	467	31%	475	43%
Female	862	56%	533	49%
Non-binary	66	4%	19	2%
Gender non-conforming	12	1%	3	0%
Two-spirit	0	0%	0	0%
Not sure	5	0%	4	0%
Another gender	0	0%	2	0%
Decline to answer	114	7%	58	5%
Total	1,526	100%	1,094	100%

Transgender			
Crisis Services		TIL	
112	7%*	59	5%*

*Percentage of total

Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Heterosexual	910	60%	797	73%
Gay	91	6%	28	3%
Lesbian	58	4%	33	3%
Queer	35	2%	27	2%
Bisexual	180	12%	84	8%
Asexual	11	1%	8	1%
Pansexual	97	6%	25	2%
Another sexual orientation	2	0%	0	0%
Not sure	11	1%	14	1%
Declined to answer	126	8%	75	7%
Questioning	5	0%	3	0%
Total	1,526	100%	1,094	100%



Parent and Parenting Status				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Parents	101	7%	51	5%
No. of Children	101	7%	51	5%
Total individuals in families	101	7%	51	5%

*Percentage of total

Race/Ethnicity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
American Indian and Alaskan Native	6	0%	3	0%
Asian	20	1%	13	1%
Black or African American	822	54%	590	54%
Hispanic or Latinx/e/a/o	319	21%	127	12%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	0%	0	0%
Middle Eastern or North African	35	2%	60	5%
Other	65	4%	62	6%
White or Caucasian	77	5%	45	4%
Multi-Race	181	12%	194	18%
Total	1,526	100%	1094	100%



During fiscal year 2025, DYCD collected data from providers regarding participants' disabilities. Throughout the year Crisis Services programs reported serving 16 youth with disabilities and Transitional Independent Living support programs reported serving 36 youth with disabilities.

Disability				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Yes	16	1%	36	3%
No	963	63%	881	81%
Declined to answer	547	36%	177	16%
Total	1,526	100%	1,094	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 because 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 2025 RHY Mental Health Support Services

DYCD-funded RHY residential programs and drop-in centers receive funding as part of their contract 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 5,172 individuals during Fiscal Year 2025. Youth participated in psychological evaluations, service referrals, individual and group therapy.

Mental Health Support Services - Youth Served	
Drop-in	2,303
Crisis	1526
TIL	1,343
Total	5,172



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	11	1%	26	2%
Community College	27	2%	48	4%
Elementary School	9	1%	7	1%
High School	1215	80%	869	79%
Master's Degree	0	0%	0	0%
Middle School	47	3%	31	3%
Blank	103	7%	56	5%
Other	92	6%	51	5%
Vocational/Trade School	22	1%	6	1%
Total	1,526	100%	1,094	100%

In FY 2025, RHY programs reported educational services were provided to 45% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 57% 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, including referrals to specialized mental health services.

Young People Reporting Sexual Exploitation (CSEC)	
Crisis Services	62
TIL	27
Drop In	46
Total	135

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 2025				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Home (Returned to Parent or Guardian)	87	7%	83	15%
Other residence (Including friends and relatives)	115	10%	114	20%
DYCD-funded Crisis Services Program	159	14%	41	7%
DYCD-funded Transitional Independent Living Program	401	34%	67	12%
Foster home	10	1%	5	1%
Other shelter	108	9%	45	8%
DHS shelter	35	3%	43	8%
Youth detention center/Correctional facility	2	0%	1	0%
Hospital	6	1%	6	1%
Housing Choice Voucher	0	0%	4	1%
Supportive Housing	6	1%	17	3%
Rapid Re-Housing	1	0%	41	7%
Unsubsidized Apartment	13	1%	14	2%
Subsidized Apartment (NYCHA, Mitchell Lama, Etc.)	6	1%	11	2%
Subsidized Housing	7	1%	6	1%
Shared Living (Not friends or relatives)	8	1%	11	2%
CityFHEPs	1	0%	6	1%
Emergency Housing Voucher	1	0%	0	0%
Unknown	208	18%	52	9%
Total	1,174	100%	567	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 FY2025, Crisis Services Programs served 1,526 young people. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 1,094 youth. Eight Drop-in centers served 26,651 youth, and street outreach teams connected with 13,445 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY25 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$63.4M.

Crisis Services Programs

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. DYCD funds 258 beds for youth under 21 and 35 beds for young adults ages 21 through 24.

Transitional Independent Living Support Services

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. DYCD funds 495 beds for youth under 21 and 25 beds for young adults ages 21 through 24.

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 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 FY25, the Drop-In Centers provided 28,161 walk-ins with a variety of services including providing 2,588 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 FY25, Street Outreach Services contacted 13,445 (duplicated) 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 FY25, 82 young people were referred, 64 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter, 8 declined the placement, 8 were already associated with a DHS shelter and 2 were pending when the Local Law 81 report was published.

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.

Permanent Housing Programs

During Fiscal Year 2025, DYCD providers continued to make progress utilizing permanent housing options. DYCD funded 16 housing navigators, located at each of the drop-in centers, support youth with vouchers with the housing search and the lease up process.

The Emergency Housing Voucher program, a type of Section 8, started in FY22 and concluded during FY25. Since the inception of the program, more than 600 vouchers have been awarded, and 545 youth have moved into their new apartments.

Since FY22, DYCD has been implementing a CityFHEPS pilot program to lease apartments with that subsidy. This pilot ended during FY25, resulting in 61 youth renting apartments.

Effective January 2025, DYCD and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) entered into an agreement to designate DYCD as a referral agency for Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8). At the end of Fiscal 2025, 218 Housing Choice Vouchers had been awarded, and 83 youth were in the process of leasing up or had rented an apartment.

Mental Health Hubs

In Fiscal Year 2022, RHY drop-in centers implemented Mental Health Hubs (Hubs) to provide mental health services to youth ages 14 to 24. During FY25, Mental Health Hubs continue to assist young people at risk for experiencing trauma and homelessness with counseling services and emotional support during their transition to adulthood. Hub therapists offer short-term individual and group therapy sessions, wellness activities, as well as program-to-program case consultations, and service referrals.