



Local Law 86 of 2019 Report to the Speaker of the City Council

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 2019

During Fiscal Year 2019, 2,084 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 986 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 2019, 2,084 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 986 were served in Transitional Independent Living support programs.

Age (at time of enrollment)	Crisis Services	TIL	Total*	
16-17	162	56	218	7%
18-20	1,823	875	2,698	88%
Infants/Children	99	55	154	5%
Total	2,084	986	3,070	100%



Gender Identity*				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	926	44%	405	41%
Female	1,104	53%	523	53%
Transgender Male	24	1%	17	2%
Transgender Female	30	1%	41	4%
Total	2,084	100%	986	100%

*Beginning on July 1, 2019, DYCD RHY programs utilize a new data collection system that has more expansive categories for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Preferred Gender Pronouns. Those categories will be reported for FY20.

Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
LGBQI	542	26%*	233	24%*

*Percentage of the total youth served.

Mothers with residing children				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Mothers	95	5%	55	6%
Infants/Children	99	5%	55	6%
Total	194		111	

Ethnicity and Race				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
White/Non-Hispanic	128	6%	67	7%
Black	1,129	54%	612	62%
Hispanic	525	25%	248	25%
Native American /Alaskan	7	0%	4	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	20	1%	10	1%
Other	275	13%	45	5%
Total	2,084	100%	986	100%



In FY19, DYCD did not collect centralized data on participants’ disabilities. However, beginning on July 1, 2019, our new data collection system will request applicant information regarding disabilities.

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 2019 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 2,569 individuals during Fiscal Year 2019. Youth participated in psychological evaluations, service referrals, individual and group therapy.

ThriveNYC Youth Served	Fiscal 2019
Drop-in (Unduplicated)	1,443
Crisis (Unduplicated)	666
TIL (Unduplicated)	460
Total	2,569



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	440	21%	268	27%
High School Graduate/GED	562	27%	358	36%
Attending College/Voc Program	23	1%	67	7%
Other/College Grad	13	1%	7	1%
Not Attending School	947	45%	231	23%
Unreported	99	5%	55	6%
Total	2,084	100%	986	100%

In FY 19, RHY programs reported educational services were needed and provided to 39% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 39% of youth exiting TILS for the period of July 2018 to June 2019. 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.

FY19 Young People Reporting Sexual Exploitation	
Crisis Services	272
TIL	105
Drop In	255
Total	632



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	
TIL	754	28%	57	9%
Crisis Services Program	181	7%	89	14%
Reconnected with Family Housing	317	12%	212	32%
Own Apartment/Supporting Housing	37	1%	61	9%
Other Residential Care/Hospitalization	663	24%	50	8%
DHS Shelter	59	2%	64	10%
Non DYCD Crisis/TIL	21	1%	10	2%
Undisclosed	683	25%	112	17%
Total Number of Youth Exited	2,715		655	

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 FY2019, Crisis Services Programs served 2,084 young people. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 986 youth. Eight Drop-in centers served 17,147 youth, and street outreach teams connected with 9,600 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY19 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$43.6M a \$10.3M increase from the 33M FY18 budget. This increase brought the total number of funded RHY beds to 813, including funding for 60 beds for Homeless Young Adults, and ensures there is a 24-hour drop-in center in every borough.

Crisis Services Programs

In FY19, 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 FY19, DYCD opened 8 additional Crisis Service beds bringing the total to 246 Crisis services residential beds. A total of 2,084 unduplicated youth received residential services through the Crisis Services programs.



Transitional Independent Living

In FY19, 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 FY19, DYCD opened 69 additional Transitional Independent Living beds bringing the total to 428 TIL beds. A total of 986 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 14-24 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, three of the five 24-hour Drop-In Centers were added in Fiscal Year 19.

In FY19, the Drop-In Centers provided 17,147 unduplicated youth with a variety of services and provided 1,635 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 FY19, Street Outreach Services contacted 9,600 (includes duplications) young people, and 41 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 FY19, 102 young people were referred, 85 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter and 17 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



**Department of
Youth & Community
Development**

**Runaway
& Homeless
Youth Services**

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.