



Local Law 86 of 2019 Report to the Speaker of the City Council Fiscal Year 2022

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 2022

During Fiscal Year 2022, 1,881 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,146 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 2022, 1,881 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,146 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs.

Age (at time of enrollment)				
	Crisis Services	%	TIL	%
16-17	229	12%	100	8.7%
18-20	1,401	74%	964	84.1%
21+	190	10%	47	4.1%
Infants + children	61	3%	35	3.1%
Total	1,881	100%	1,146	100.0%

Reported Gender Identity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	751	39.9%	560	48.9%
Female	964	51.2%	513	44.8%
Non-binary	26	1.4%	20	1.7%
Gender non-conforming	66	3.5%	15	1.3%
Two-spirit	1	0.05%	0	0.0%
Not sure	5	0.3%	0	0.0%
Another gender	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Decline to answer	68	3.6%	37	3.2%
Total	1,881	100%	1,146	100%

Transgender			
Crisis Services		TIL	
108	6%*	69	6%*

*Percentage of total



Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Heterosexual	1191	63%	825	72%
Gay	113	6%	50	4%
Lesbian	59	3%	36	3%
Queer	1	0%	12	1%
Bisexual	286	15%	126	11%
Asexual	1	0%	6	1%
Pansexual	114	6%	29	3%
Another sexual orientation	1	0%	2	0%
Not sure	18	1%	9	1%
Declined to answer	20	1%	46	4%
Questioning	77	4%	5	0%
Total	1,881	100%	1,146	100%

Parent and Parenting Status				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Parents	62	3%*	35	3%*
No. of Children	62	3%*	35	3%*
Total individuals in families	124	7%*	70	6%*

*Percentage of total

Race				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10	1%	8	1%
Asian	34	2%	17	1%
Black or African American	1,087	58%	712	62%
Middle eastern/North African	4	0%	4	0%
Multi Race	17	1%	52	5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	6	0%	3	0%
No Answer	11	1%	16	1%
Other	596	32%	229	20%
White/Non Hispanic	116	6%	105	9%
Total	1,881	100%	1,146	100%



Ethnicity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Hispanic/Latinx	714	38%	412	36%
Non-hispanic/Latinx	1,157	62%	718	63%
No answer	10	1%	16	1%
Total	1,881	100%	1,146	100%

During fiscal year 2022, DYCD collected data from providers regarding participants' disabilities. Throughout the year Crisis Services programs reported serving 78 youth with disabilities and Transitional Independent Living support programs reported serving 118 youth with disabilities.

Disability				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Yes	78	4%	118	10%
No	539	29%	787	69%
Declined to answer	1,264	67%	241	21%
Total	1,881	100%	1,146	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 2022 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 4,317 individuals during Fiscal Year 2022. Youth participated in psychological evaluations, service referrals, individual and group therapy.



Mental Health Support Services - Youth Served	
Drop-in	1,719
Crisis	1,547
TIL	1,051
Total	4,317

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	17	0.9%	39	3%
Community College	17	0.9%	63	5%
Elementary School	7	0.4%	3	0%
High School	1,629	86.6%	971	85%
Master's Degree	1	0.1%	-	0%
Middle School	51	2.7%	17	1%
Blank	65	3.5%	40	3%
Other	45	2.4%	5	0%
Vocational/Trade School	49	2.6%	8	1%
Total	1,881	100.0%	1,146	100%

In FY 2022, RHY programs reported educational services were provided to 23% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 50% 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	51
TIL	12
Drop In	49
Total	112



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 2022				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Home (Returned to Parent or Guardian)	269	12%	127	16%
Other residence (Including friends and relatives)	349	16%	168	21%
DYCD-funded Crisis Services Program	129	6%	74	9%
DYCD-funded Transitional Independent Living Program	417	19%	145	18%
Foster home	11	1%	0	0%
Other shelter	290	13%	46	6%
DHS shelter	32	1%	34	4%
Youth detention center/Correctional facility	6	0%	2	0%
Hospital	47	2%	5	1%
Supportive Housing	14	1%	18	2%
Rapid Re-Housing	0	0%	21	3%
Unsubsidized Apartment	13	1%	27	3%
Subsidized Apartment (NYCHA, Mitchell Lama, Etc.)	13	1%	17	2%
Shared Living (Not friends or relatives)	10	0%	8	1%
CityFHEPs	1	0%	2	0%
Emergency Housing Voucher	8	0%	13	2%
Unknown	579	26%	101	13%
Total	2,188	100%	808	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 FY2022, Crisis Services Programs served 1,881 young people. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 1,146 youth. Eight Drop-in centers served 17,117 youth, and street outreach teams connected with 11,002 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY22 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$51M.



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 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 FY22, the Drop-In Centers provided 17,117 unduplicated youth with a variety of services including providing 1,930 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 FY22, Street Outreach Services contacted 11,002 (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 FY22, 43 young people were referred, 37 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter, 3 declined the placement, 2 were pending placement and 1 was already associated with a DHS shelter 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.

Permanent Housing Programs

During Fiscal Year 2022, permanent housing options were expanded for youth accessing RHY programming. DYCD received an allocation of 50 CityFHEPS shopping letters and implemented a pilot program. 50% of the DYCD CityFHEPS shopping letter holders have been linked or moved into an apartment.

Permanent housing options were further expanded through the Emergency Housing Voucher program (HUD Section 8). 600 Emergency Housing Vouchers were allocated to DYCD for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Additional resources included 16 housing navigators located at each of the drop-in centers to support youth with vouchers with the lease up process. Since the program's inception, 575 vouchers have been awarded, and 34% of these voucher holders have been linked or moved into 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. Mental Health Hubs 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.