



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

Fiscal Year 2023

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 2023

During Fiscal Year 2023, 2,000 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,182 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.

In Fiscal Year 2023, DYCD saw an increase in migrant youth who need legal services to obtain work authorization, and interpretation services.

Additional services include the implementation of the NYC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning Committee to develop the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) called *Opportunity Starts with a Home: New York City's Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness*. The plan is a result of strong collaborations among key stakeholders representing New York City government agencies, community-based organizations and advocacy stakeholders.



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 2023, 2,000 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,182 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs.

Age (at time of enrollment)				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
		%		%
16-17	252	11%	74	3.40%
18-20	1,471	73%	1030	81.70%
21+	197	12%	46	12.20%
Infants + children	80	4%	32	2.70%
Total	2,000	100%	1,182	100%

Reported Gender Identity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	753	37.70%	564	47.70%
Female	998	49.90%	537	45.40%
Non-binary	64	3.20%	24	2.00%
Gender non-conforming	49	2.50%	16	1.40%
Two-spirit	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Not sure	3	0.20%	2	0.20%
Another gender	14	0.70%	4	0.30%
Decline to answer	119	6.00%	35	3.00%
Total	2,000	100%	1,182	100%

Transgender			
Crisis Services		TIL	
120	6%*	70	6%*

*Percentage of total



Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Heterosexual	1244	62%	828	70%
Gay	118	6%	51	4%
Lesbian	64	3%	35	3%
Queer	25	1%	14	1%
Bisexual	221	11%	136	12%
Asexual	22	1%	4	0%
Pansexual	119	6%	36	3%
Another sexual orientation	10	1%	2	0%
Not sure	14	1%	9	1%
Declined to answer	141	7%	56	5%
Questioning	22	1%	11	1%
Total	2,000	100%	1,182	100%

Parent and Parenting Status				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Parents	80	4%*	32	3%*
No. of Children	80	4%*	32	3%*
Total individuals in families	160	8%*	64	5%*

*Percentage of total

Race				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	9	0%	7	1%
Asian	13	1%	6	1%
Black or African American	1,102	55%	677	57%
Middle eastern/North African	12	1%	6	1%
Multi Race	70	4%	59	5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	10	1%	2	0%
No Answer	17	1%	10	1%
Other	632	32%	321	27%
White/Non-Hispanic	135	7%	94	8%
Total	2,000	100%	1,182	100%



Ethnicity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Hispanic/Latinx	810	41%	452	38%
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	1,180	59%	719	61%
No answer	10	1%	11	1%
Total	2,000	100%	1,182	100%

During fiscal year 2023, DYCD collected data from providers regarding participants' disabilities. Throughout the year Crisis Services programs reported serving 30 youth with disabilities and Transitional Independent Living support programs reported serving 121 youth with disabilities.

Disability				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Yes	30	2%	121	10%
No	678	34%	817	69%
Declined to answer	1,292	64%	244	21%
Total	2,000	100%	1,182	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.

RHY Mental Health Support Services

DYCD-funded RHY residential programs and drop-in centers receive funding as part of their contract to support youth, directly and through referral, with mindfulness activities, psychoeducational groups, and



mental health evaluation. In fiscal Year 2023, 3,913 individual youth were supported by RHY Mental Health Support Activities.

Mental Health Support Services - Youth Served	
Drop-in	1,237
Crisis	1,503
TIL	1,173
Total	3,913

RHY Drop-in Centers Mental Health Hubs

In response to demonstrated need, RHY drop-in centers implemented Mental Health Hubs (Hubs) to provide trauma-focused therapy to youth ages 14 to 24. Throughout FY23, Hub clinicians assisted 1,018 young people at risk for experiencing trauma and homelessness with screening, psychosocial assessment, and therapy sessions. In addition to short-term individual and group therapy, Hub therapists offer program-to-program case consultations, and work with young people on mental health service planning.

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	16	0.80%	21	2%
Community College	28	1.40%	68	6%
Elementary School	14	0.70%	9	1%
High School	1,740	87.00%	1,013	86%
Master's Degree	1	0.10%	-	0%
Middle School	53	2.70%	17	1%
Blank	82	4.10%	40	3%
Other	39	2.00%	12	1%
Vocational/Trade School	27	1.40%	2	0%
Total	2,000	100%	1,182	100%

In FY 2023, RHY programs reported educational services were provided to 29% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 23% 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	75
TIL	30
Drop In	41
Total	146

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 2023				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Home (Returned to Parent or Guardian)	187	11%	79	11%
Other residence (Including friends and relatives)	161	10%	131	19%
DYCD-funded Crisis Services Program	117	7%	52	7%
DYCD-funded Transitional Independent Living Program	559	33%	137	19%
Foster home	23	1%	1	0%
Other shelter	180	11%	33	5%
DHS shelter	26	2%	44	6%
Youth detention center/Correctional facility	4	0%	3	0%
Hospital	22	1%	9	1%
Supportive Housing	20	1%	14	2%
Rapid Re-Housing	6	0%	18	3%
Unsubsidized Apartment	10	1%	15	2%
Subsidized Apartment (NYCHA, Mitchell Lama, Etc.)	18	1%	27	4%
Shared Living (Not friends or relatives)	2	0%	15	2%
CityFHEPs	0	0%	2	0%
Emergency Housing Voucher	5	0%	31	4%
Unknown	348	21%	96	14%
Total	1,688	100%	707	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 FY2023, Crisis Services Programs served 2,000 young people. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 1,182 youth. Eight Drop-in centers served 23,730 youth, and street outreach teams connected with 13,395 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY23 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$57.4M.

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 FY23, the Drop-In Centers provided 23,730 unduplicated youth with a variety of services including providing 2,231 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 FY23, Street Outreach Services contacted 13,395 (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 FY23, 75 young people were referred, 53 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter, 12 declined the placement, and 10 were 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 2023, DYCD providers continued to make progress utilizing permanent housing options. Since FY22, DYCD has been implementing a CityFHEPS pilot program with an allocation of 50 apartment rentals. During FY23, most of the completed rentals were through the Emergency Housing Voucher programs. However, the number of youth searching for permanent housing with a CityFHEPS shopping letter increased the number of youth searching for an apartment using CityFHEPS increased by 68%.

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, more than 600 vouchers have been awarded and 78% of the youth who received vouchers are in the rental process or have moved into their new apartments.

Another recently expanded permanent housing option is Rapid Rehousing (RRH). DYCD is working with providers and the continuum of care to create a referral pipeline to the HUD funded rapid rehousing programs. The RRH programs were recently expanded through the *Opportunity Starts with a Home* initiative.

Financial Empowerment

Starting in Fiscal 2023, DYCD implemented a financial empowerment program consisting of financial coaches located at each of the drop-in centers. This is an *Opportunity Starts with a Home* initiative. Using a tailored financial counseling model to meet the unique needs of the youth ages 14 through 24,



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these specially trained financial coaches will meet with youth one-on-one, host clinics, and participate in drop-in center functions and team meetings to increase financial literacy and build life skills that will ensure the financial needs and goals of youth are being met. The goal is to financially empower vulnerable youth. The program model is being developed in conjunction with the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP).