



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

Fiscal Year 2026

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 2026

During Fiscal Year 2026, 1,740 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,212 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs. These service levels include both RHY programs serving youth under 21, and homeless young adult (HYA) programs serving individuals aged 21 through 24. The Crisis Services Programs served 14% (214) more youth than in FY25, while the TILs served 11% (118) more youth. In addition to the increase in youth in Crisis and TIL services, the number of HYA residential programs increased in FY26 allowing programs to serve additional young adults. HYA Crisis Services Program beds increased by 20 for a total of 60 beds, and HYA TIL beds increased by 25 for a total of 50 beds. Additional HYA beds are expected to be available during Fiscal 2027. 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 also 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.

Age (at time of enrollment)				
	Crisis Services	%	TIL	%
16-17	181	10%	60	5%
18-20	1,240	71%	1020	84%
21+	236	14%	87	7%
Infants + children	83	5%	45	4%
Total	1,740	100%	1,212	100%



Reported Gender Identity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	571	33%	539	44%
Female	985	57%	586	48%
Non-binary	54	3%	20	2%
Gender non-conforming	23	1%	<10	1%
Two-spirit	<10	0%	<10	0%
Not sure	<10	0%	<10	0%
Another gender	<10	0%	<10	0%
Decline to answer	94	5%	51	4%
Total	1,740	100%	1,212	100%

Transgender			
Crisis Services		TIL	
166	10%*	61	5%*

*Percentage of total

Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Heterosexual	1054	61%	894	74%
Gay	90	5%	26	2%
Lesbian	71	4%	29	2%
Queer	83	5%	31	3%
Bisexual	198	11%	86	7%
Asexual	20	1%	<10	1%
Pansexual	88	5%	23	2%
Another sexual orientation	<10	0%	<10	0%
Not sure	<10	0%	23	2%
Declined to answer	119	7%	85	7%
Questioning	<10	0%	<10	0%
Total	1,740	100%	1,212	100%

Parent and Parenting Status				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Parents	84	5%*	45	4%*
No. of Children	84	5%*	45	4%*
Total individuals in families	168	10%*	90	7%*

*Percentage of total



Race/Ethnicity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
American Indian and Alaskan Native	<10	0.2%	<10	1%
Asian	32	1.8%	27	2%
Black or African American	937	53.9%	733	60%
Hispanic or Latinx/e/a/o	403	23.2%	216	18%
Hispanic or Latinx/e/a/o, Asian	<10	0.2%	<10	0%
Hispanic or Latinx/e/a/o, Black or African American	112	6.4%	45	4%
Hispanic or Latinx/e/a/o, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<10	0.0%	<10	0%
Hispanic or Latinx/e/a/o, Other	<10	0.0%	15	1%
Hispanic or Latinx/e/a/o, White or Caucasian	19	1.1%	<10	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<10	0.2%	<10	0%
Middle Eastern or North African	17	1.0%	47	4%
White or Caucasian	98	5.6%	49	4%
Multi-Race	63	3.6%	18	1%
Other	26	1.5%	19	2%
Unknown/not reported	24	1.4%	28	2%
Total	1,740	100%	1,212	100%

Note: Due to updates in Federal reporting, race and ethnicity have been combined. Individuals who report both a race and Hispanic Latinx/e/a/o are tracked distinctly.

DYCD collected data from providers regarding participants' disabilities. Throughout the year Crisis Services programs reported serving fewer than 10 youth with disabilities and TILs reported serving 36 youth with disabilities.

Disability				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Yes	<10	0.4%	36	3%
No	1,254	72%	1,053	87%
Declined to answer	479	28%	123	10%
Total	1,740	100%	1,212	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; and 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 2026 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 5,975 individuals during Fiscal Year 2026. Youth participated in psychological evaluations, service referrals, individual and group therapy and case management.

Mental Health Support Services - Youth Served	
Drop-in	1,917
Crisis	2,411
TIL	1,647
Total	5,975

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	
High School	1505	86%	997	82%
N/A*	84	5%	47	4%
Community College	53	3%	53	4%
Middle School	29	2%	18	1%
College/University	28	2%	40	3%
Other	25	1%	31	3%
Vocational/Trade School	13	1%	20	2%
Elementary School	<10	0%	<10	0%
Professional Degree	0	0%	<10	0%
Total	1740	100%	1212	100%

*Infants and Children

RHY programs reported that educational services were provided to 46% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 56% 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 and support, including referrals to specialized mental health services.

Young People Reporting Sexual Exploitation (CSEC)	
Crisis Services	57
TIL	44
Drop In	47
Total	148

A breakdown of dispositions of runaway and homeless youth who exited the temporary shelter system in the previous 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 2026				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
DHS shelter	46	3%	80	12%
DYCD-funded Crisis Services Program	126	9%	31	5%
DYCD-funded Transitional Independent Living Program	486	35%	113	16%
Emergency Housing Voucher (subsidized apt)	1	0.1%	4	1%
Foster home	12	1%	2	0%
Home (Returned to Parent or Guardian)	156	11%	59	9%
Hospital	9	1%	5	1%
Housing Choice Voucher (Subsidized apt)	0	0%	32	5%
Other residence (Including friends and relatives)	134	10%	129	19%
Other shelter	134	10%	37	5%
Rapid Re-Housing	0	0%	35	5%
Shared Living (Not friends or relatives)	1	0.1%	7	1%
Subsidized Apartment (NYCHA, Mitchell Lama, Etc.)	20	1%	34	5%
Supportive Housing	20	1%	27	4%
Unsubsidized Apartment	18	1%	28	4%
Youth detention center/Correctional facility	2	0.1%	5	1%
Unknown	223	16%	60	9%
Total	1,388	100%	688	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.

During FY26, Crisis Services Programs served 1,704 youth and young adults. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 1,212 youth and young adults. Eight Drop-in centers provided case management services to 3,219 youth and young adults, and street outreach teams connected with 15,076 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY26 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$63M.

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 60 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 50 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. Housing navigators continue to support youth with apartment search and support to find permanent housing. Financial coaches provide workshops and one-on-one financial counseling.

The Peer Navigator program re-launched in fiscal 2026. Peer Navigators are community-based organization (CBO) staff who are based in eight DYCD-funded RHY Drop-In Centers. Peer Navigators (“Peers”) are young adults with lived experience of homelessness who provide one-on-one mentorship, guidance and coaching to youth and young adults (YYA) currently in the RHY system. Peer Navigators use their experience navigating systems and overcoming barriers to

1. build trust with RHY youth for the purpose of helping them advance goals
2. promote wellness, and help youth achieve stability and independence through coaching, accountability and support.
3. offer system-informed feedback to strengthen services by proposing innovations, enhancing existing practices, and centering youth voice and experience.



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 FY26, Street Outreach Services contacted 15,076 (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 FY26, 151 young people were referred, 128 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter, 9 declined the placement, 13 were already associated with a DHS shelter.

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 2026, DYCD providers continued to make progress utilizing permanent housing options. DYCD funds 16 housing navigators, located at each of the drop-in centers, to support youth with vouchers with housing search and the lease up process.

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). By the end of fiscal year 2026, 210 youth moved into permanent housing. This process is currently on hold.

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 continue to assist young people at risk to experience 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.