

ACF Administration for Children and Families	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration for Children and Families	
	1. Log No: ACF-ACYF-FYSB-IM-24-01	2. Issuance Date: February 28, 2024
	3. Originating Offices: Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Family and Youth Services Bureau, Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth & Division of Positive Youth Development	
	4. Key Words: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program; Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program; Lived Experience; Youth and Young Adults; Young People; Homelessness.	

TO: Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Recipients; Personal Responsibility Education Program Grant Recipients; Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grant Recipients

SUBJECT: **Leading in Partnership with Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience**

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES:

- The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (the Act) (Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, 34 U.S.C. § 11201 et seq.), as amended by the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-378), The RHY Final Rule (45 CFR Part 1351).
- Title V Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program, authorized and funded by Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 710), as amended by Section 50502 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-123) and extended by Division CC, Title III, Section 303 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-103).
- The SRAE Program is funded generally under the authority of section 1110 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 710, and specifically by the appropriation for General Departmental Management for the Office of the Secretary under Division H, Title II of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. No. 117-328).
- Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) is authorized and funded by Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 713), as amended by Section 50503 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-123) extended by Division CC, Title III, Section 302 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-260).
- Executive Order 12862. Executive Order 13985. Executive Order 14091.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to provide guidance to Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) funded programs, including Runaway and Homeless Youth

(RHY)¹ grant recipients, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (APP)² grant recipients, technical assistance providers, and other youth-serving programs on how to meaningfully and authentically partner and collaborate with youth and young adults who have lived experience and subject matter expertise. The IM also provides clarity to FYSB-funded grant recipients that they may compensate youth and young adults with lived experience using FYSB grant funds.

This IM is organized as follows:

- I. Overview
- II. Background
- III. Partnering with Youth and Young Adults
 - a. Readiness for Partnership: Organizational and Staff Preparedness
 - b. Engaging Youth and Young Adults in Decision-Making
 - c. Compensating Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience
- IV. Conclusion
- V. Resource List

I. OVERVIEW

As communities and youth-serving organizations develop plans and implement strategies that promote positive youth development, adolescent well-being, and youth homelessness prevention responses, it is important that the voices of those with lived experience are included in program design, implementation, and evaluation. Programs and services co-created with young people include more opportunities for youth engagement, leadership, and success. Furthermore, activities and programs that are developed *with* youth, rather than *for* youth increase the likelihood that positive decisions will be accepted, adopted, and will become part of their everyday lives.³

FYSB developed this IM in partnership with youth and young adults (also identified throughout this IM as “young people”) with lived experience, as well as with FYSB grant recipients who serve youth and young adults within their communities. Strategies and examples highlighted throughout this IM came directly from listening sessions and focus groups and can serve as a helpful tool in learning how to include the voices and engagement of young people in all areas of program development and design, including planning, implementation, service delivery, and evaluation.

¹ Family and Youth Services Bureau. *Runaway and homeless youth*. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth>

² Family and Youth Services Bureau. *Adolescent pregnancy prevention*. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/adolescent-pregnancy-prevention>

³ Youth.gov. *Involving youth in positive youth development*. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/involving-youth-positive-youth-development>

The input and expertise from youth and young adults with lived experience were invaluable in creating this guidance. FYSB’s goal is to continue to promote and encourage the involvement and leadership of youth in areas where they receive services and support.

II. BACKGROUND

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) administers grants to support organizations and communities as they work to prevent and end youth homelessness and adolescent pregnancy. The Bureau is comprised of three (3) divisions:

- **Division of Runaway and Homelessness Youth (RHY):** administers the RHY program - grants are administered to public and private organizations to establish and operate street outreach, emergency shelters, and transitional living and maternity group home programs to serve and protect young people.
- **Division of Positive Youth Development (PYD):** administers the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program - grants are administered to states, territories, tribes, and community-based organizations to establish adolescent pregnancy prevention programs.
- **Division of Data, Performance, and Policy (DPP):** strengthens and improves access to data and policy to enhance program performance and to analyze practices and policies to transform programming focused on youth homelessness and adolescent pregnancy.

Leading in Partnership with Youth and Young Adults

FYSB has a longstanding commitment to promoting the leadership of youth and young adults with lived experience through Positive Youth Development⁴ and authentic collaboration and meaningful youth engagement.⁵ The history of meaningful youth engagement in youth serving sectors is rooted in the recognition of young people as valuable contributors to society and social change. The ideas of “youth voice” and “nothing about us without us” capture the importance of listening to young people’s perspectives and including them in matters concerning the trajectory of their lives, notably having young people define what success looks like for themselves in their own communities.

Engaging youth and young adults in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and services is an important component of leading in partnership with youth and young adults. A recent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) study⁶ found that engaging people with lived experience helped improve the outcomes of federal agencies, programs, and initiatives

⁴ Family and Youth Services Bureau. *Positive youth development*. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/positive-youth-development>

⁵ Youth.gov. *Involving youth in positive youth development*. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/involving-youth-positive-youth-development>

⁶ Skelton-Wilson, S., Sandoval-Lunn, M., Zhang, X., Stern, F., & Kendall, J. (2021, December). Methods and emerging strategies to engage people with lived experience: Improving federal research, policy, and Practice. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/47f62cae96710d1fa13b0f590f2d1b03/lived-experience-brief.pdf>

while simultaneously promoting knowledge and awareness among federal staff and increased self-efficacy and community connectedness for individuals with lived experience.

HHS defines youth with lived experience as “...individuals directly impacted by a social issue, or combination of issues, who share similar experiences or backgrounds and can bring the insights of their experience to inform and enhance systems, research, policies, practices, and programs that aim to address the issue or issues.” HHS further states, “people with lived experience are those directly affected by social, health, public health, or other issues and the strategies that aim to address those issues. This gives them insights that can inform and improve systems, research, policies, practices, and programs.”⁷

As youth engagement continues to evolve, there is a growing emphasis on improving collaboration, striving toward deeper partnership, leading toward co-creation, and promoting greater power-sharing in decision-making. Ensuring youth and young adults are leaders in decision-making processes creates autonomy and ownership, which are critical aspects of positive youth development and healthy adolescent brain development. The future of youth engagement shifts from solely “engagement” to partnering with youth and young adults as empowered agents of change.

The following sections of this IM provide information and guidance to FYSB grant recipients and other youth services professionals on how they can include the voices, expertise, and engagement of young people in all areas of program development and design, including planning, implementation, service delivery, and evaluation.

III. Partnering with Youth and Young Adults

Readiness for Partnership: Organizational and Staff Preparedness

An important part of the process of authentically and meaningfully partnering with youth and young adults with lived experience is examining internal structures and supports at the outset of engagement, throughout the lifespan of such efforts, and with an intention toward continuous quality improvement. Organizational and staff readiness for partnering with youth and young adults with lived experience can be demonstrated through several strategies:

- **Leadership Commitment:** Secure strong support from organizational leaders for involving young people in decision-making processes. Cultivate a culture of engagement by valuing the unique experiences of youth and young adults. Leadership should set expectations for authentic youth involvement, recognizing its central role in improving program design, implementation, and evaluation. Integrate genuine engagement into

⁷ HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. *Engaging people with Lived Experience to Improve Federal Research, Policy, and Practice*. Retrieved October 30, 2023, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/lived-experience>

mission statements and strategic planning to establish a culture that embraces and values these partnerships.

- **Training and Education:** Take time to provide staff with training and education on trauma-informed practice and cultural humility with the goal of creating inclusive environments for young people. Consider engaging young people in opportunities when directly training staff and other partners.
- **Capacity and Relationship Building:** Commit to expanding leadership and skill development opportunities by supporting youth and young adults with lived experience to attend and present at trainings and workshops. Create space for peer support groups and mentorship to foster growth. Be intentional about building inclusive spaces that allow for relationship building, by creating time for check-ins and debriefs before and after activities.
- **Resource Allocation:** Strongly consider equitably compensating youth and young adults as subject matter experts and allocate resources to support youth engagement initiatives. When doing this, ask young people the forms of compensation that best meet their individual circumstances, including gift cards, checks, cash, electronic cash payments, and other incentives, and try to accommodate those options, when possible, to mitigate potential barriers to accessing payment.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure diverse representation among youth and young adult participants to capture a wide range of perspectives and experiences. It is important to create opportunities for youth and young adults with different cultures and experiences, including diverse races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, languages, gender identities, sexual orientations, and more. Embracing inclusion and building diversity will lead to more responsive and comprehensive solutions.
- **Preparation and Expectations:** Clearly define roles and responsibilities for both youth and young adult participants and staff members to ensure effective collaboration and mutual understanding. Consider the power dynamics and the role that leadership and staff have in fostering an anti-biased work environment by supporting a culture of learning, coaching, and mentorship.
- **Supportive Environments:** Support young people in staff roles, including those transitioning from service recipients to supporting their peers. Foster an inclusive agency culture by consistently communicating and valuing young voices at all partnership levels. Concrete strategies, such as access to counseling, peer connections, ongoing staff training, transportation and childcare support, open communication, and an empathetic environment, contribute to creating supportive and inclusive atmospheres. Adaptability and patience are crucial, recognizing varying support needs based on individual experiences.
- **Increasing Accessibility:** To increase opportunities for greater inclusion and accessibility, identify solutions to barriers that prevent young people from participation. Consider offering flexible schedules for meeting times that fall outside of normal business hours to accommodate youth engagement. For in-person meetings, consider offering ride shares and access to bus passes to address transportation challenges. Seek feedback from young people at various stages of engagement about strategies to continuously improve accessibility for participation.

- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish mechanisms for collecting feedback from youth and young adults to ensure their voices are heard and their input is valued on an ongoing basis. Feedback methods may include (but is not limited to) receiving their thoughts on policy changes that may impact the services within their communities; inviting them to complete surveys or partake in informational sessions that asks their opinions on various topics, campaigns or initiatives being developed; and hosting focus groups or interviews regarding their thoughts on the progression of decisions that will affect them or their peers. Be transparent about how their feedback may be used and implement feedback loops to share progress on actions taken. Consider mechanisms to showcase their contributions, highlighting their role in driving positive changes and improvements.
- **Evaluation and Reflection:** Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of youth engagement initiatives and reflect on lessons learned to continuously improve practices. Involve youth and young adults in setting indicators of successful engagement and create space for them to be included when discussing opportunities for improvement.

Readiness for partnering with young people is an ongoing process. It requires commitment to learning, adapting, and fostering an environment that values the contributions of youth and young adults as subject matter experts and continuously creates space for inclusion in all phases of work.

Engaging Youth and Young Adults in Decision-Making

Engaging youth and young adults as key partners in decision-making is critical as they are the most impacted by the programming that serves them. This creates equity in practice and provides a sense of ownership and agency for the youth and young adults who directly benefit from the services and supports they help make decisions for. Below are examples of some activities organizations and communities may consider when working to grow partnerships with young people.

- **Listen to Youth and Young Adults in Planning and Design:** Be prepared to authentically listen to the feedback and guidance from youth and young adults. Youth and young adults bring new and relevant ideas that drive program innovation. The world is constantly changing and partnering with young people will ensure that services are relevant, inclusive, and accessible to youth and young adults. Ongoing and consistent youth and young adult feedback may lead to increased equity, efficiency, and innovative approaches to structuring the ways services are designed and delivered. Co-creating programs, workshops, and events with youth and young adults ensures that programs and services are engaging and relevant.⁸ When young people can see their ideas come to life,

⁸ Skelton-Wilson, S., Sandoval-Lunn, M., Zhang, X., Stern, F., & Kendall, J. (2021, December). Methods and emerging strategies to engage people with lived experience: Improving federal research, policy, and Practice. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/47f62cae96710d1fa13b0f590f2d1b03/lived-experience-brief.pdf>

they can be motivated and encouraged to participate in what they have created. They also can feel a sense of pride and accomplishment.

- **Peer-Delivered Services:** Youth and young adults have expressed the need to have people they can relate to when receiving services. Age, life stage, and experience can all matter in making youth feel comfortable with the delivery of programs aimed at meeting their needs. Peer outreach workers, mentors, and educators can build bridges between youth and young adults and others working within organizations.
- **Hiring and Internships:** Involving young people in staff roles expands the opportunities for inclusion and creates pathways for partnership in decision-making processes within organizations. These positions can also help challenge stereotypes and bridge generational gaps. Organizations can do this by specifically including lived experience as a priority for employment, where possible, or acknowledging the importance of having people with lived experience in job postings. This will lead to a more inclusive and diverse workforce. Paid internships provide an opportunity for youth to build job skills while providing support to the organization.
- **Advisory/Action Boards:** Youth advisory or action boards are a powerful platform for young people to inform change. Youth boards provide formal and ongoing opportunities to receive input and feedback on organizational strategies and initiatives.⁹ These boards are generally made up of youth and young adults who have lived experience and often have experience with sponsoring organizations' programs.
- **Organizational Governance:** Organizations may consider including youth and young adults with lived experience as voting members on boards of directors. Organizations should properly ready themselves if considering this by establishing training opportunities for both existing board members and the youth and young adults. To increase opportunities for greater inclusion and accessibility, identify solutions to barriers that prevent youth and young adult participation.
- **Media Creation:** Many grantees partner with young people for social media management, specifically to create content that reflects their experiences and addresses challenges or stereotypes. Social media communication is an important and ever-changing mode of outreach that benefits greatly from youth and young adult leadership and feedback. Some specific examples might include social media campaign ideation, creating short videos, interactive content development, engagement challenges, awareness campaigns, and hashtag generation.
- **Research and Evaluation:** Including young people in research and evaluation development is crucial for producing meaningful and relevant outcomes. Youth-Led Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a method communities and organizations can use to allow young people to identify issues and areas of need and the opportunity to

⁹ Centers for Disease Control. *Youth Advisory Councils*. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yac/index.htm#:~:text=Youth%20advisory%20councils%20\(YACs\)%E2%80%944,a%20positive%20influence%20on%20others](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yac/index.htm#:~:text=Youth%20advisory%20councils%20(YACs)%E2%80%944,a%20positive%20influence%20on%20others)

create a roadmap to execute solutions for their assessment and findings.¹⁰ This might include piloting and cognitive testing surveys with youth to identify issues or areas for improvement and youth engagement in the study design and implementation of evaluation activities (e.g., measurement development, data collection). This could also include collaborative data analysis (which involves young people in analyzing and communicating research data for greater understanding). The final results of research and evaluation should be shared with participating youth, and youth should be invited to discussions and convenings to review and share these results.

Compensating Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience

The value youth and young adults with lived experience bring to our work is immeasurable, and it is crucial we acknowledge this value not just through words, but, when possible, through equitable compensation that truly signals our commitment to youth and young adults as partners. Compensation is also a powerful incentive to increase participation and input to shape programs to be genuinely responsive to the needs and challenges faced by all youth and young adults.

“Recognize the value that people with lived experience offer your programs or practices. Lived experience is a unique type of expertise that cannot be learned in a professional or educational setting. Seek to at least mirror compensation your program offers experts with other valued experiences that may draw from one’s profession, educational credentials, or type of work performed.” -FYSB Grant Recipient

Compensating young people is a best practice, and as we strive to consider fair wages that reflect the value of young people’s contributions, it is important to be transparent when and if there are budget or payment constraints that may not allow for direct monetary compensation. As FYSB grant recipients determine how they will compensate youth and young adults with lived experience, organizations are encouraged to engage youth and young adults in identifying what incentives and mechanisms will best meet their needs. For instance, organizations are encouraged to consider consulting youth and young adults on the form of compensation they would like to receive, including gift cards, checks, cash, electronic cash payments, and other incentives.¹¹

Allowable use of FYSB Funding to Compensate Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience

FYSB is committed to continuing to strengthen the important work of leading in partnership with youth and young adults with lived experience. Currently, all FYSB NOFOs require engagement with youth with lived experience and use of Positive Youth Development strategies. As these requirements are in NOFOs, FYSB programs may consider compensating youth and young

¹⁰ Anyon, Y., Kennedy, H., Durbahn, R., & Jenson, J.M. (2018). Youth-Led participatory action research: Promoting Youth voice and adult support in afterschool programs. *Afterschool Matters*, 27, 10-18. [EJ1175037.pdf \(ed.gov\)](#)

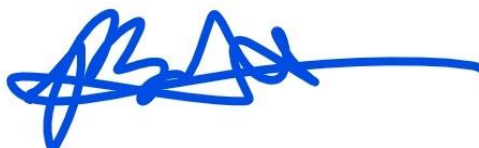
¹¹ Payments to youth and young adults with lived experience may be taxable income and may potentially impact other benefits the young person receives, while subsidies for transportation and childcare are generally not taxable.

adults with lived experience using FYSB grant funds. This applies to all Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (APP) Programs, and FYSB-funded technical assistance.¹² Grant recipients also have access to training and technical assistance resources through [RHYTTAC](#) and [APP](#) training and technical assistance providers to support this work.

IV. Conclusion

As programs create pathways to include youth and young adults as key partners, FYSB strongly encourages grant recipients, communities, and programs to consider the available resources and local partners who can help support such efforts. Youth-led and youth-centered programming are the key to ensuring positive outcomes and long-term opportunities for youth to thrive and be a participant in creating their futures.

By committing to intentional program planning, short- and long-term goal setting for positive outcomes, and creating an action plan for youth compensation and incentives, communities, providers, and programs can ensure young people are represented in the programs that are intended to serve them.



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¹² To use FYSB funds (per the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Act), the principal purpose of the engagement must be to inform the project funded by the grant. The grant funds cannot be used to engage and compensate people with lived experience for the principal purpose of directly informing ACF's programs, policies, and practices.

FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES

- [A Starter Kit on Engaging People with Lived Experience in Child Support Programs | Office of Child Support Enforcement; Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Adolescent Development | youth.gov](#)
- [Effective Facilitation & Youth Engagement: A Toolkit for Working with Youth](#)
- [Engaging and Involving Youth and Young Adults – Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
- [Engaging Parents and Youth with Lived Experience: Strengthening Collaborative Policy and Practice Initiatives for Families with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders](#)
- [Engaging People with Lived Experience to Improve Federal Research, Policy, and Practice | Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Hart's Ladder of Youth Engagement](#)
- [Involving Youth in Positive Youth Development – Youth.Gov](#)
- [Listen Up! Youth Listening Session Toolkit](#)
- [Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center \(RHYTTAC\)](#)
- [Strategies for Authentic Integration of Family and Youth Voice in Child Welfare - Center for States - Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative](#)
- [The Exchange](#)
- [Toolkit for Implementing Authentic Youth Engagement Strategies Within State Advisory Groups | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(ojp.gov\)](#)
- [What Does Equitable Engagement Look Like? | Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [We Think Twice™](#)
- [Youth Advisory Councils | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Youth Action Board \(YAB\) Pathways to Leadership | HUD Exchange](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Authentic Youth Collaboration | Youth Collaboratory](#)
- [Core Components for Authentic Youth Engagement Identified | Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago](#)
- [Developing Sustainable Pipelines to Hire and Pay Youth | Point Source Youth \(Webinar\)](#)
- [Equitable Compensation for Community Engagement Guidebook | Urban Institute](#)
- [FosterClub's LEx \(Lived Experience\) Compensation Guide | FosterClub](#)
- [Partnering with Youth & Families in Research: A Standard of Compensation for Youth and Family Partners | CYSHCNet](#)
- [Toolkit for Implementing Authentic Youth Engagement Strategies Within State Advisory Groups | Center for Coordinated Assistance to States \(CCAS\)](#)
- [Tools and Resources for Project-Based Community Advisory Boards | Urban Institute](#)
- [Youth-Adult Partnerships Toolkit | National Network for Youth](#)
- [Youth-Led Participatory Action Research - Promoting Youth Voice and Adult Support in Afterschool Programs](#)

Appendix A: The Federal Government’s Commitment to Leading in Partnership with Individuals with Lived Experience

Federal leaders are thinking critically about how to partner more effectively with individuals who have lived experience. The following directives demonstrate a commitment and set a vision toward improving our processes for greater engagement and input from consumers of our programs and resources.

Biden-Harris Administration:

[*Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*](#), published January 2021, states, “Agencies shall consult with members of communities that have been historically underrepresented in the Federal Government and underserved by, or subject to discrimination in, Federal policies and programs.”

[*Executive Order on Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust In Government*](#), published December 2021, states, “Government must be held accountable for designing and delivering services with a focus on the actual experience of the people whom it is meant to serve. Government must also work to deliver services more equitably and effectively, especially for those who have been historically underserved.”

[*Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*](#), published February 2023, states that each agency must create “a description of how the agency intends to meaningfully engage with underserved communities, including through accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach, and the incorporation of the perspectives of those with lived experiences into agency policies, programs, and activities.”

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) comprises over a dozen program offices. The work across ACF is guided by a [strategic plan](#) that identifies critical priorities that intentionally cut across ACF programs and populations and reflect the interrelatedness of our work. One priority area specifies the value of partnership with people with lived experience and specifically names the need to “*center and integrate the perspectives and experiences of program participants in the design, management, evaluation, and decision-making of ACF programs and operations.*” [ACF Strategic Plan | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#)

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB):

In alignment with the FYSB mission and vision, FYSB continues to lead in partnership with youth and young adults with lived experience by partnering with youth and young adults as subject matter experts through the development and provision of training and technical assistance

and by strengthening requirements for grant recipients to lead in partnership with youth and young adults through FYSB's Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs).

Training and Technical Assistance:

FYSB-funded training and technical assistance provides resources and supports to strengthen FYSB-funded grant recipients' capacity to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of their programs, research, and services. FYSB intentionally includes youth and young adults with lived experience as subject matter experts in this work.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance (RHYTTAC) - Youth Engagement

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Center (RHYTTAC) is the training and technical assistance provider for all federally funded RHY grantees. RHYTTAC assists the organizations in developing and implementing effective approaches to serving young people who have run away from home and/or are impacted by homelessness, accessing new resources, and establishing linkages with other programs with similar interests and concerns. RHYTTAC:

- Provides direct capacity building support for programs and communities in the form of technical assistance, training, and online communities;
- Develops tools and resources, and manages multiple communication channels for dissemination of those resources; and
- Leads a coordinated strategy across federal departments and other national grantees.

To incorporate youth and young adults in this work, RHYTTAC, which is currently administered by Youth Collaboratory, receives expert input and advice from Youth Collaboratory's *Youth Catalyst Team*, a group of young leaders, ages 18-24, who use their knowledge, skills, vision, and personal understanding of systems and services to advance the youth services field. Youth Catalyst Team members operate as paid consultants and provide training and coaching, develop tools and resources, and propel national awareness efforts and systems change. Youth and young adult leaders are part of the team, working in authentic partnership with RHYTTAC to reimagine possibilities for each youth, family, agency, and the larger youth services field.

National Runaway Safeline - Youth Advisory Board

The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) offers a crisis hotline and online services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to youth at risk of running away, those who have run away or are homeless, and their families. Through crisis intervention, information and referrals, three-way conference calls, message relay, free trips home, and advocacy, the NRS provides comprehensive services to youth and young adults who seek housing insecurity assistance.

The NRS Youth Advisory Board (YAB) adds the valuable perspective of youth with lived experience to FYSB's work in this area and helps elevate the national discussion about the

impact of runaway incidents and homelessness among young people. YAB members have a meaningful impact on the way that NRS serves youth in crisis and has provided expertise to FYSB on program implementation and improvement. All NRS YAB members are compensated for their time and subject matter expertise. More information about the NRS YAB can be found [here](#).

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program We Think Twice™ Campaign – We Think Twice™ Insiders

FYSB's Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program funds and supports the *We Think Twice™* campaign. *We Think Twice* is a youth-centered social media campaign designed for U.S. teens ages 13 to 19. The campaign engages youth as co-collaborators and is grounded in encouraging youth to set goals, establish healthy relationships, and enhance self-sufficiency to make healthy decisions.

We Think Twice supports *We Think Twice Insiders*, an opportunity for youth between the ages of 13 and 19 to shape the *We Think Twice* campaign. *We Think Twice Insiders* direct content development, advise the campaign with youth perspectives and needs, provide feedback on content and materials, and more. *We Think Twice Insiders* are compensated for their time and expertise.

Notice of Funding Opportunities:

Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) are how FYSB announces grant opportunities to identify and fund organizations and communities that serve and support youth and young adults who are eligible to receive services through FYSB-funded programs. Within FYSB's NOFOs are guidelines and instructions on how programs, services, and community providers can engage the voices, thoughts, and ideas of youth and young adults within their service design, implementation, and improvement. This engagement assists in program planning and service implementation and allows the funded partner to create a plan that has intentional buy-in of the population it serves. NOFOs are critical to moving the mission of FYSB forward and making access to resources and supports easier for programs and communities who serve youth and young adults populations identified within these funding opportunities. FYSB funding opportunities and other non FYSB federal funding opportunities can also be found at www.Grants.gov. The Grants.Gov website is the formal federal funding website that provides notice, information, and guidance on available funding opportunities throughout the federal government.

For information about FYSB funding opportunities, you may visit: [FYSB Funding Opportunities | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#).

For information about FYSB and other federal funding opportunities, you may visit: [Federal Funding Opportunities \(grants.gov\)](#) .