



# STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM

## PROGRAM HISTORY

To prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of young people who are surviving on the streets, and to provide them with services that help them enter safe and stable shelter, Congress established the Education and Prevention Services to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth Program, through the Violence Against Women Act of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322).

The legislation funds street-based outreach and education for runaway and homeless youth. The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) has funded the Street Outreach Program as part of its Runaway and Homeless Youth Program grants since 1996.

The Street Outreach Program (SOP) enables organizations around the country to help young people out of homelessness and into safe shelter.

To that end, the SOP promotes efforts by its grantees to build relationships between street outreach workers and street youth and youth who have run away or are experiencing homelessness.

The primary goal of the SOP is to provide street-based services to youth under 22 years of age who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and severe forms of sexual and labor trafficking; and to build relationships in order to move these youth into stable housing and prepare them for independence.

Street Outreach Programs made contact with 13,372 runaway and homeless youth and young adults in Fiscal Year 2021.



## SERVICES

Street Outreach Programs provide services directly or by collaborating with other agencies. SOPs work closely with other organizations to protect and provide treatment to young people who have been or are at risk of sexual abuse or exploitation. Street outreach services include:

- Street-based education and outreach
- Access to emergency shelter
- Survival aid
- Individual assessments

### FYSB MISSION

FYSB supports organizations that work to promote youth well-being, prevent & end youth homelessness, & support a holistic adolescent approach by fostering collaborative partnerships across communities; leading in partnership with youth & young adults; promoting diversity, equity, inclusion & accessibility; & supporting data-driven practices.

### FYSB VISION

A future in which all our nation's youth & young adults can thrive & achieve safety, stability, & well-being.



- Trauma-informed treatment and counseling
- Prevention and education activities (alcohol and drug abuse; sexual exploitation; sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and physical and sexual assault)
- Information and referrals
- Crisis intervention
- Follow-up support

FYSB requires grantees to incorporate a positive youth development (PYD) framework and a trauma-informed care (TIC) approach in their programs. PYD suggests the best way to prevent risk and trauma is to help young people achieve their full potential.

Youth development strategies focus on giving young people the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and become involved in their communities.



## GRANT AWARD PROCESS

FYSB funds the Street Outreach Program under provisions of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-415), most recently reauthorized by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law No: 115-385).

FYSB solicits applications for the Street Outreach Program by posting funding announcements on [Grants.gov](https://www.fysb.gov/grants) and the [FYSB Funding Opportunities](#) page. Applications are competitively reviewed, and successful applicants receive three-year grants.

In Fiscal Year 2023, FYSB awarded \$5,138,740 to SOP grant recipients.

**FYSB** Family & Youth  
Services Bureau

## Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth

Click [here](#) for a full list of  
Street Outreach Program grant  
recipients funded by FYSB.

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