



FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

MISSION STATEMENT

To support the organizations and communities that work every day to put an end to youth homelessness, adolescent pregnancy and domestic violence.

Vision

A future in which all our nation's youth, individuals and families can live healthy, productive, violence-free lives.

PROGRAMS

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

Every year, as many as 550,000 young people are homeless for more than a week, according to estimates by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. On the street, youth can become victims of violence, develop serious mental health and addiction problems, and be forced to trade sex for basic needs. FYSB funds three programs and a hotline that work toward ending youth homelessness:

- Street outreach programs work with youth on the street to help them find stable housing and services.
- Basic center programs meet the immediate needs of youth under 18 and try to reunite them with their families or connect them to other appropriate resources and services.
- Transitional living programs and maternity group homes provide long-term residential services to homeless young people who are at least 16 and younger than 22. Youth receive housing, healthcare, trauma-informed counseling, life skills training, and education and employment support.
- The National Runaway Safeline provides education and solution-focused interventions to youth in crisis and their families 24 hours a day.

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program

Although teen birth rates have been falling for the last two decades, more than 365,000 teens, ages 15–19, gave birth in 2010, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Teen pregnancy and childbearing can carry high health, emotional, social and financial costs for both teen parents and their children. To prevent teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents, FYSB supports state, Tribal and community efforts to promote medically accurate comprehensive sex education, adulthood preparation programs and abstinence education.

- The State and Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Programs promote proven methods for reducing adolescent pregnancy, delaying sex among young people and increasing the use of condoms and other contraceptives among sexually active youth.

Acting Associate Commissioner

Debbie A. Powell

Address

330 C Street S.W.
Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20201

Phone Number

(202) 205-8102

Fax Number

(202) 260-9333

Website Link

acf.hhs.gov/fysb



- The Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program helps Tribes combat the disproportionately high rates of teen pregnancy and birth in Indian Country.
- The Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies Program supports organizations that are using innovative strategies to prevent pregnancy among youth ages 10-19 who are homeless, in or “aging out” of foster care, live in rural areas or in geographic areas with high teen birth rates, or come from racial or ethnic minority groups, as well as pregnant youth and mothers under the age of 21.
- The State and Competitive Abstinence Programs help teach young people the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Program

Approximately 12.6 million people in the United States experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend in 2010, according to the CDC. Around 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, or FVPSA, funds programs that provide both a safe haven to victims and their children and an array of supportive services to intervene in and prevent abuse.

- FVPSA Formula Grants to States and Territories fund programs that provide shelter, safety planning, crisis counseling, information and referral, legal advocacy and a range of supportive services for victims of domestic and dating violence and their children.
- FVPSA Grants to Tribes provide for culturally competent services, including shelter and supportive services, for victims of domestic violence and their dependents. The program currently funds over 200 Tribes and Tribal organizations.
- FVPSA-funded State Domestic Violence Coalitions provide technical assistance and training to local domestic violence programs and serve as the go-to organizations for coordination of statewide services and emerging issues.
- Discretionary programs aim to improve family violence prevention, victim protection, service delivery and design, and understanding of issues related to family violence.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides an immediate response to thousands of victims and survivors of domestic violence, their families and friends, and concerned others.
- A network of resource centers specialize in issues related to domestic violence. In addition, culturally specific institutes promote culturally relevant services for victims of domestic violence, their families and communities.

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