FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau

Runaway & Homeless Youth Program

Maternity Group Homes Program

FACT SHEET

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

FYSB Vision
A future in which all our nation's youth, individuals and families–no matter what challenges they may face–can live healthy, productive, violence-free lives.

PURPOSE

The intent of FYSB-funded Maternity Group Homes is to promote long-term economic independence in order to ensure the well-being of youth and their children.

The Maternity Group Home (MGH) Program supports homeless pregnant and/or parenting young people between the ages of 16 and 22, as well as their dependent children. Services are provided for up to 21 months, or until a young person turns 18 years old if they enter a program at age 16. MGH grantees are required to teach young people parenting skills as well as child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills.

SERVICES

Maternity Group Home grantees are required to offer the following services, either directly or by referral:

Extended residential shelter

- Group homes
- Maternity group homes
- Host family homes
- Supervised apartments

Service coordination plan

- Referral of homeless youth to social services, law enforcement, educational services, vocational training, welfare, legal services, health care programs, affordable child care, and/or child education programs

Transitional living plan

- Transition plan from supervised participation to independent living or another appropriate living arrangement

Basic life skills resources and counseling services

- Money management, budgeting, consumer education, use of credit
- Parenting skills (e.g., child-safe transitional and independent living accommodations, education in parenting, child discipline, and safety as well as direct supervision of parenting and related domestic skills)
- Interpersonal skill-building
- Educational advancement
- Job attainment skills
- Mental and physical health care
- Individual and/or group counseling and parent/child counseling

Outreach Plans

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FYSB also requires grantees to incorporate elements of Positive Youth Development, which suggests that the best way to prevent risky behavior is to help young people achieve their full potential. Youth development strategies focus on leadership, skill-building, and community involvement.

HISTORY

Thousands of young people run away from their homes, are asked to leave their homes, or become homeless in the United States each year. Many of these young people are pregnant or have already become parents. Pregnant and parenting youth not only need basic necessities like food and shelter, they must also learn to be effective parents.

Since 1975, the U.S. Government has funded emergency shelter programs for runaway and homeless youth to provide for their immediate needs and promote family reunification. Unfortunately, many homeless young people can't go home. In response to growing concern for youth in need of long-term, supportive assistance that emergency shelter programs were not designed to provide, Congress created the Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth as part of the 1988 Amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

Today, FYSB funds the MGH Program as part of the Transitional Living Program, under the provisions of the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-378).

GRANT AWARD PROCESS

FYSB solicits applications for the MGH Program through funding announcements on the **Grants.gov** Web site. Applications are competitively reviewed by peer panels, and successful applicants receive five-year grants.

CONTACT US

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