ISSUE HISTORY
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. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program serves as the national leader for the provision of shelter services to unaccompanied homeless youth. Grants are administered to public and private organizations to establish and operate youth emergency shelters and transitional living programs.

SERVICES
The Basic Center Program (BCP) funds grants to community-based public and private agencies for the provision of outreach, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, family reunification and aftercare services to runaway and homeless youth and their families.

BCP provides the following services:

- Up to 21 days of shelter
- Food, clothing and medical care
- Mental and physical health services
- Education and employment assistance
- Individual, group and family counseling

The Transitional Living Program (TLP)/Maternity Group Home (MGH) Program provides grants to public and private organizations for community-based, adult-supervised group homes for youth ages 16 to under 22 years who cannot safely live with their own families. These services are designed to help youth that are homeless develop the skills necessary to make a successful transition to self-sufficient living. The TLP also funds maternity group homes, which are specifically designed to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting youth. These homes provide the services described below in addition to parenting support.
TLP/MGHs offer or provide referrals for the following services:

- Long-term, safe and stable shelter for homeless youth
- Individual and group counseling
- Life skills training
- Interpersonal skill building
- Educational advancement
- Job attainment skills
- Physical and behavioral health care

The Street Outreach Program (SOP) funds grants to public and private organizations for street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street youth, who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, human trafficking, or sexual exploitation.

SOP provides the following services:

- Basic needs, including food, clothing, hygiene or first aid packages
- Information about services and safe places, and encouragement to enter them

**GRANT AWARD PROCESS**
Funding for the BCP and SOP grants is awarded annually in three-year cycles. Funding for the TLP/MGH grants is awarded every three to five years in five-year cycles.