Street Outreach Program

FACT SHEET

Family and Youth Services Bureau

The mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is to promote safety, stability and well-being for people who have experienced or been exposed to violence, neglect or trauma. FYSB achieves this through supporting programs that provide shelter, community services and prevention education for youth, adults and families.

PURPOSE

The **Street Outreach Program** enables organizations around the country to help young people get off the streets. To that end, the program promotes efforts by its grantees to build relationships between street outreach workers and runaway, homeless and street youth. Grantees also provide support services that aim to move youth into stable housing and prepare them for independence. The program's ultimate goal is to prevent the sexual abuse or exploitation of young people living on the streets or in unstable housing.

SERVICES

Street outreach programs provide services directly or by collaborating with other agencies. In particular, street outreach programs work closely with other organizations that work to protect and treat young people who have been or are at risk of sexual abuse or exploitation. Street outreach services include the following:

- Street-based education and outreach
- Access to emergency shelter
- Survival aid
- Individual assessments
- Treatment and counseling
- Prevention and education activities
- Information and referrals
- Crisis intervention
- Follow-up support

FYSB requires grantees to incorporate elements of the **Positive Youth Development**, or PYD, approach into their programs. PYD suggests that the best way to prevent risky behavior 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.

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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 leave the streets, 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. FYSB has funded the Street Outreach Program since 1996.

GRANT AWARD PROCESS

Today, FYSB funds the Street Outreach Program under the provisions of the **Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008** (Public Law 110-378). In FY 2011, 155 programs received a total of $16.3 million.

FYSB solicits applications for the Street Outreach Program by posting funding announcements on the Grants.gov Web site. Applications are competitively reviewed by peer panels, and successful applicants receive three-year grants.

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