



Local Law 86 of 2019 Report to the Speaker of the City Council

Fiscal Year 2024

Introduction

The Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) funds community-based organizations to provide services to support runaway and homeless youth (RHY) and help them develop a plan to reunite with their families or identify other resources.

Demographics and Services Fiscal Year 2024

During Fiscal Year 2024, 1,866 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,244 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs. These service levels include the programs for homeless young adults (HYA) for individuals aged 21 through 24. Additional services include Drop-In Centers and Street Outreach and Referral Services. More information about these services can be found at the end of the report.

DYCD RHY providers offer specialized programming to runaway and homeless youth who are pregnant and parenting, sexually exploited and or who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) youth. The agency and its funded providers are committed to providing runaway and homeless young people with the resources they need to stabilize their lives and prevent street homelessness.

Description of the size and characteristics of the current populations of RHY including but not limited to gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, pregnancy and parenting status, and disabilities.

During Fiscal Year 2024, 1,866 youth were served in Crisis Services Programs and 1,244 were served in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) support programs.

Age (at time of enrollment)				
	Crisis Services	%	TIL	%
16-17	224	12%	80	6%
18-20	1,371	73%	1069	86%
21+	170	9%	52	4%
Infants + children	101	5%	43	3%
Total	1,866	100%	1,244	100%



Reported Gender Identity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Male	622	33%	598	48%
Female	1008	54%	549	44%
Non-binary	72	4%	27	2%
Gender non-conforming	24	1%	12	1%
Two-spirit	0	0%	0	0%
Not sure	14	1%	5	0%
Another gender	20	1%	5	0%
Decline to answer	106	6%	48	4%
Total	1,866	100%	1,244	100%

Transgender			
Crisis Services		TIL	
127	7%*	59	5%*

*Percentage of total

Sexual Orientation				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Heterosexual	1150	62%	877	70%
Gay	108	6%	46	4%
Lesbian	60	3%	24	2%
Queer	45	2%	23	2%
Bisexual	231	12%	123	10%
Asexual	13	1%	4	0%
Pansexual	96	5%	31	2%
Another sexual orientation	5	0%	4	0%
Not sure	13	1%	30	2%
Declined to answer	135	7%	74	6%
Questioning	10	1%	8	1%
Total	1,866	100%	1,244	100%



Parent and Parenting Status				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Parents	102	5%	43	3%
No. of Children	99	5%	43	3%
Total individuals in families	201	11%	86	7%

*Percentage of total

Race				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	11	1%	8	1%
Asian	22	1%	8	1%
Black or African American	1,047	56%	685	55%
Middle eastern/North African	56	3%	59	5%
Multi Race	96	5%	64	5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	0%	4	0%
No Answer	16	1%	21	2%
Other	503	27%	319	26%
White/Non-Hispanic	113	6%	76	6%
Total	1,866	100%	1,244	100%

Ethnicity				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Hispanic/Latinx	652	35%	444	36%
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	1,202	64%	775	62%
No answer	12	1%	25	2%
Total	1,866	100%	1,244	100%



During fiscal year 2024, DYCD collected data from providers regarding participants’ disabilities. Throughout the year Crisis Services programs reported serving 13 youth with disabilities and Transitional Independent Living support programs reported serving 66 youth with disabilities.

Disability				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Yes	13	1%	66	5%
No	580	31%	937	75%
Declined to answer	1273	68%	241	19%
Total	1866	100%	1244	100%

Description of service needs of the current population of runaway and homeless youth including but not limited to educational assistance, TASC preparation, medical services, mental health services for sexually exploited children and temporary shelter.

Young people become homeless for many complex reasons including family conflict, shortage of affordable housing, and family poverty. Youth run away for many reasons including violence, abuse or neglect in the home; mental illness or substance abuse among family members; challenges at school. Others are rejected by their families or experience family conflict because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, an unplanned pregnancy, use of drugs or alcohol, or inability to comply with parent/caretaker rules. Lacking the financial resources and basic life skills needed to live independently, they can experience criminal victimization, including commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking, resulting in traumas that jeopardize their well-being and development into thriving adults.

The service information below demonstrates how the RHY providers address some of these adverse experiences.

Fiscal Year 2024 RHY Mental Health Support Services

DYCD-funded RHY residential programs and drop-in centers receive funding as part of their contract to offer mental health services and supports to youth, directly and through referral, including mindfulness activities, counseling, and psychological evaluations. DYCD RHY providers offered mental health support services to 5,043 individuals during Fiscal Year 2024. Youth participated in psychological evaluations, service referrals, individual and group therapy.

Mental Health Support Services - Youth Served	
Drop-in	2,191
Crisis	1,708
TIL	1,144
Total	5,043



Educational Services

Below is a table showing the educational status of young people when they begin services at an RHY residential program.

Last Educational Level at Intake				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
College/University	21	1%	28	2%
Community College	44	2%	64	5%
Elementary School	16	1%	11	1%
High School	1,502	80%	1,000	80%
Master's Degree	0	0%	0	0%
Middle School	65	3%	28	2%
Blank	103	6%	54	4%
Other	88	5%	56	5%
Vocational/Trade School	27	1%	3	0%
Total	1,866	100%	1,244	100%

In FY 2024, RHY programs reported educational services were provided to 34% of the young people who exited Crisis Services Programs and 24% of youth exiting TILS.

Services for Sexually Exploited Children

The data below reflects young people who report having been sexually exploited. Young people have an opportunity to disclose abuse and exploitation at any time. Key moments are during assessment at intake, and during regular case management sessions at which point the young person can receive a range of services, including referrals to specialized mental health services.

Young People Reporting Sexual Exploitation (CSEC)	
Crisis Services	66
TIL	20
Drop In	32
Total	118

A breakdown of dispositions of runaway and homeless youth who exited the temporary shelter system in the previous calendar year disaggregated by categories including but not limited to transitioned from a runaway and homeless youth crisis services program to a TIL; reconnected with family; transitioned to a private apartment and exited to an unknown location.



Discharge Dispositions Fiscal Year 2024				
	Crisis Services		TIL	
Home (Returned to Parent or Guardian)	146	10%	83	11%
Other residence (Including friends and relatives)	120	8%	106	15%
DYCD-funded Crisis Services Program	165	11%	60	8%
DYCD-funded Transitional Independent Living Program	584	38%	114	16%
Foster home	23	1%	0	0%
Other shelter	168	11%	29	4%
DHS shelter	39	3%	36	5%
Youth detention center/Correctional facility	2	0%	8	1%
Hospital	13	1%	4	1%
Supportive Housing	19	1%	39	5%
Rapid Re-Housing	6	0%	60	8%
Unsubsidized Apartment	9	1%	23	3%
Subsidized Apartment (NYCHA, Mitchell Lama, Etc.)	13	1%	14	2%
Shared Living (Not friends or relatives)	7	0%	13	2%
CityFHEPS	0	0%	3	0%
Emergency Housing Voucher	1	0%	16	2%
Unknown	221	14%	117	16%
Total	1,536	100%	725	100%

A description of public resources available to serve runaway and homeless youth including any new services established since the submission of the previous report required pursuant to this section and any existing services that will be expanded.

In FY2024, Crisis Services Programs served 1,866 young people. Transitional Independent Living Support Programs served 1,244 youth. Eight Drop-in centers served 28,161 youth, and street outreach teams connected with 12,186 youth to raise awareness about and offer RHY services. The FY24 budget for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs is \$72.1M.

Crisis Services Programs

Crisis Services Programs offer emergency services for runaway and homeless youth and young adults with a maximum stay of 120 days. These voluntary, short-term residential programs provide support services and crisis intervention aimed at reuniting youth with their families or, if family reunification is



not possible, arranging appropriate transitional and long-term placements. DYCD funds 258 beds for youth under 21 and 35 beds for young adults ages 21 through 24.

Transitional Independent Living Support Services

Transitional Independent Living (TIL) programs provide homeless youth and young adults with residential support as they work to establish independence. Youth may stay in the Transitional Independent Living Support Programs for up to 24 months. DYCD funds 495 beds for youth under 21 and 25 beds for young adults ages 21 through 24.

Drop-In Centers

Eight RHY Drop-In Centers serve as the main point of entry to the residential services. Drop-In Centers are in each of the five boroughs of New York City, including three which are in Manhattan. There are now five centers offering overnight services: one in each borough. The Drop-In Centers provide youth ages 14 through 24 with food, clothing, access to counseling, support, mental health services and referrals to shelter and other relevant services.

In FY24, the Drop-In Centers provided 28,161 walk-ins with a variety of services including providing 2,829 youth with more intensive case management services.

Street Outreach

DYCD funds citywide Street Outreach Services to identify and distribute information about available services to RHY and youth at-risk for homelessness, provide food, clothing and other resources, make referrals to other service providers, and encourage youth to accept transport to their homes, to Crisis Services, or to other safe locations as appropriate. By developing rapport with young people in the streets and elsewhere, outreach workers provide direct information about RHY programs and refer those in need of services to the Drop-In Centers and Crisis Services programs.

In FY24, Street Outreach Services contacted 12,186 (duplicated) young people.

Streamlined Referral to DHS Shelter

In October 2017, DYCD in partnership with DHS launched a direct referral process to allow youth exiting DYCD-funded residential programs, who are interested in DHS shelter, to transition to the DHS shelter system more easily. This practice was codified in Local Law 81. The Streamlined Referral process allows DYCD programs to refer interested young people directly to DHS shelters, bypassing the need for youth to report to the intake centers while maintaining a continuity of services.

In FY24, 126 young people were referred, 57 were accepted residence in a DHS shelter, 21 declined the placement, 18 were already associated with a DHS shelter and 30 were referred to the HERRC Arrival Centers.

Supportive Housing for Homeless Youth

The NY/NY III supportive housing agreement between NYC and NY State provides 400 permanent supportive housing beds for youth. Within the City's new Supportive Housing initiative, NYC 15/15 aims



to develop 15,000 new supportive housing units by 2030, including a set-aside of nearly 1,700 units for young people (both RHY and youth leaving foster care). DYCD and the Human Resources Administration are working together to interview and place eligible young people as the supportive housing apartments become available.

Permanent Housing Programs

During Fiscal Year 2024, DYCD providers continued to make progress utilizing permanent housing options. There was a 44% increase in completed rentals using Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) (Section 8) from FY23. Since the program's inception, more than 600 vouchers have been awarded and 545 youth have moved into their new apartments.

Since FY22, DYCD has been implementing a CityFHEPS pilot program with an allocation of 50 apartment rentals. In the first quarter of the fiscal year, more youth were searching with CityFHEPS shopping letters than those with EHV. The number of youth who moved into apartments using the CityFHEPS subsidy increased by 300% during FY24.

16 housing navigators located at each of the drop-in centers support youth with vouchers with the housing search and the lease up process.

Mental Health Hubs

In Fiscal Year 2022 RHY drop-in centers implemented Mental Health Hubs (Hubs) to provide mental health services to youth ages 14 to 24. During FY24 Mental Health Hubs continue to assist 1,129 young people at risk for experiencing trauma and homelessness with short-term counseling and referral services.