FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau | Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

BRIGHTER FUTURES
STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH SUCCESS

General Federal Session

November 17, 2021

Overview of the Session

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. FY 2020 RHY-HMIS Data Highlights
3. American Rescue Plan (ARP) – Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
4. Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program Updates
    - FY 2021 & FY 2022 RHY Funding
    - National Runaway Safeline Listening Session
    - Transitional Living Program Youth Outcome Study
    - National Needs Assessment
5. RHY Program Monitoring: Trends and Insights

Introductions

- Sanzanna Dean, Director, Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Chris Holloway, Program Manager
- Keith Wallace, Regional Program Manager
- Jeff Daniels, Regional Program Manager
- Ana Cody, Human Trafficking Advisor

DATA

RHY-HMIS Data Updates

- Reminder: RHY-HMIS repository is open for data upload November 8-19, 2021
  - Data upload covers the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021
- RHY-HMIS Consultation today from 5:15-6:00 pm ET

Upcoming Resources/Activities

- Revised RHY-HMIS manual
- Bi-monthly group calls with FPOs will occur in 2022

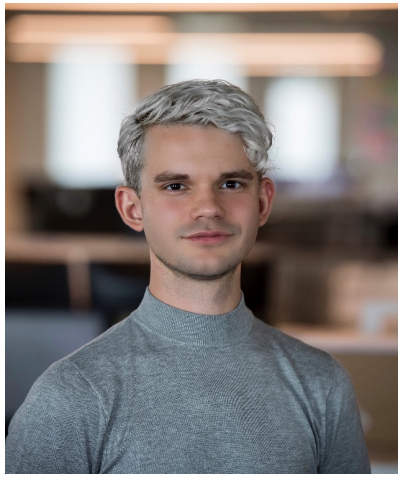
RHY-HMIS Resources

- RHY-HMIS Manual
- RHY-HMIS FAQs
- RHY-HMIS Data Collection & Reporting User Guide
- RHYTTAC's RHY-HMIS webpage: https://www.rhyttac.net/rhy-hmis

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATE: OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES FOR ARP-HCY

November 17, 2021, 4:00-5:15 pm
2021 RHYTTAC Grantee Meeting

PRESENTERS



Levi Bohanan
Special Assistant
Office of Elementary &
Secondary Education

John McLaughlin
Education Program Specialist
Homeless Education Programs
Office of Elementary & Secondary Education

TODAY'S TOPICS

- Opportunities and priorities for ARP-HCY
- ARP Resources and Interagency Collaboration on Preventing and Ending Homelessness
- ED's EHCY/ARP-HCY Team and Activities
- Recent Homeless Education Data Releases and Plans to Track the Impact of ARP-HCY

MAIN PURPOSES OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN-HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

Areas of focus include supporting the

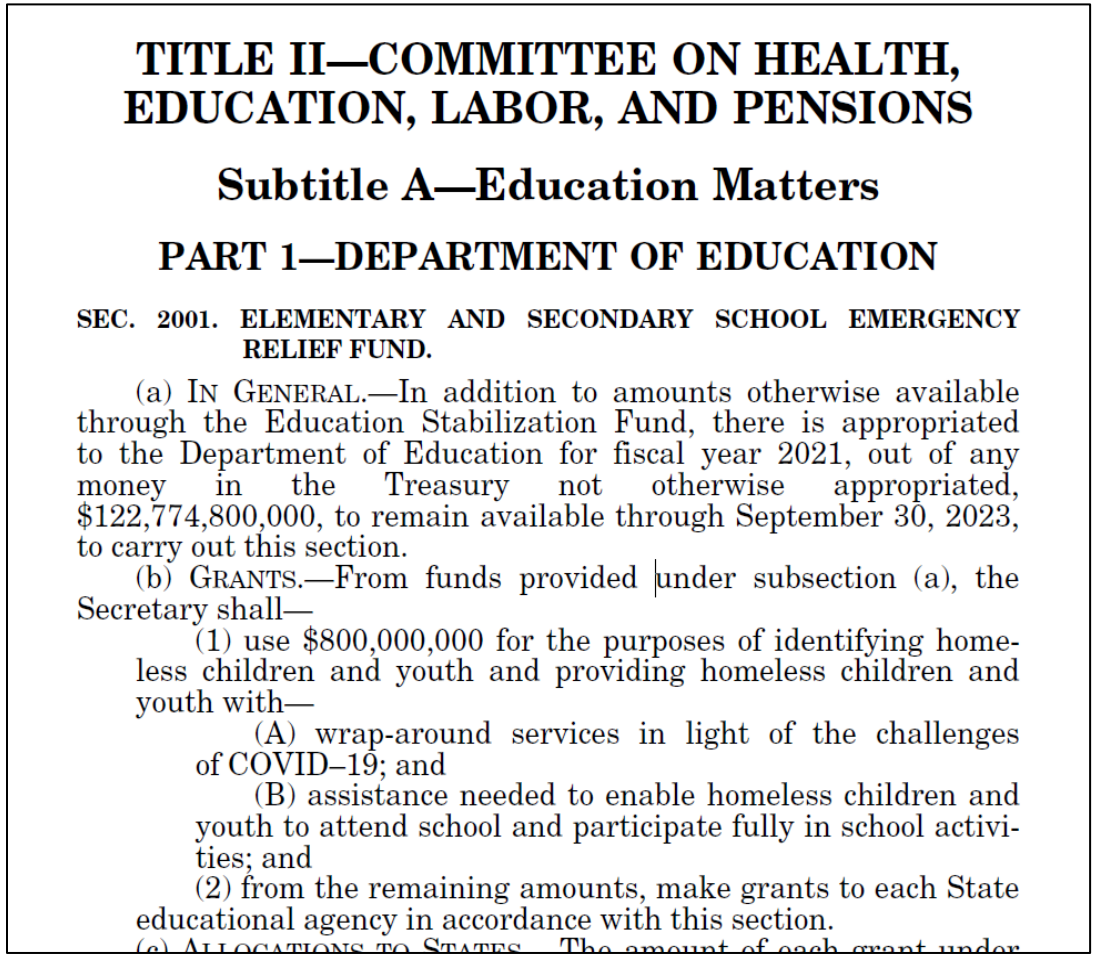
Identification

School engagement and

Provision of wrap-around services

to children and youth experiencing homelessness

Particularly for underserved populations



TITLE II—COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Subtitle A—Education Matters

PART 1—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 2001. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available through the Education Stabilization Fund, there is appropriated to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $122,774,800,000, to remain available through September 30, 2023, to carry out this section.

(b) GRANTS.—From funds provided under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) use $800,000,000 for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with—

(A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID–19; and

(B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities; and

(2) from the remaining amounts, make grants to each State educational agency in accordance with this section.

(c) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—The amount of each grant under

ARP-HCY FUNDS

- $800 million in ESSER funds "set-aside" for children and youth experiencing homelessness under ARP section 2001(b)(1)
- ARP Homeless I: $199,750,000 disbursed to SEAs in late April
  - Distributed primarily to local educational agencies (LEAs) already receiving McKinney-Vento subgrant funds
- ARP Homeless II: $599,250,000 disbursed to SEAs in late July
  - Distributed to LEAs via a formula established via emergency rulemaking
- ARP-HCY State Plans under review and revision
  - 15 States approved by mid-November; 40 received feedback so far

THE OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES FOR ARP-HCY

- **Collaborating and contracting with State and local agencies and community-based organizations to plan for and provide wrap-around services**

- Engaging CBO's that are **well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness from historically underserved communities:**
  - rural children and youth
  - tribal children and youth
  - students of color
  - pregnant, parenting, or caregiving
  - LGBTQ+ youth
  - justice-involved youth
  - children and youth with disabilities
  - English learners

- Innovative practices to support unaccompanied homeless youth
  - State or regional systems navigators for housing and higher education
  - State and school district advisory councils incl. people with lived experience of homelessness

ARP RESOURCES AND INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION ON PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

- **USICH drafting FSP to prevent and end homelessness** by next spring.
  - Open for public this month at https://www.usich.gov/fsp
- **ED Coordination with other agencies:**
  - Recent webinar with Treasury on Emergency Rental Assistance
  - Supporting HUD on House America initiative and YHDP
  - Collaborating with HHS on RHYTTAC and Head Start, joint TA and reports
- **Public health and homeless students:**
  - COVID-19 resources posted at https://www.ed.gov/Coronavirus, including ED's **COVID-19 Handbook Vo. 2 on "Reopening and Meeting Students' Needs"**
  - **Forthcoming DCL** reminding SEAs/LEAs of the rights of unaccompanied homeless youth to immediate enrollment and the same academic program that other students receive, and making COVID-19 vaccines and tests more accessible for them

INTRODUCING THE GROWING EHCY/ARP-HCY TEAM AND ACTIVITIES

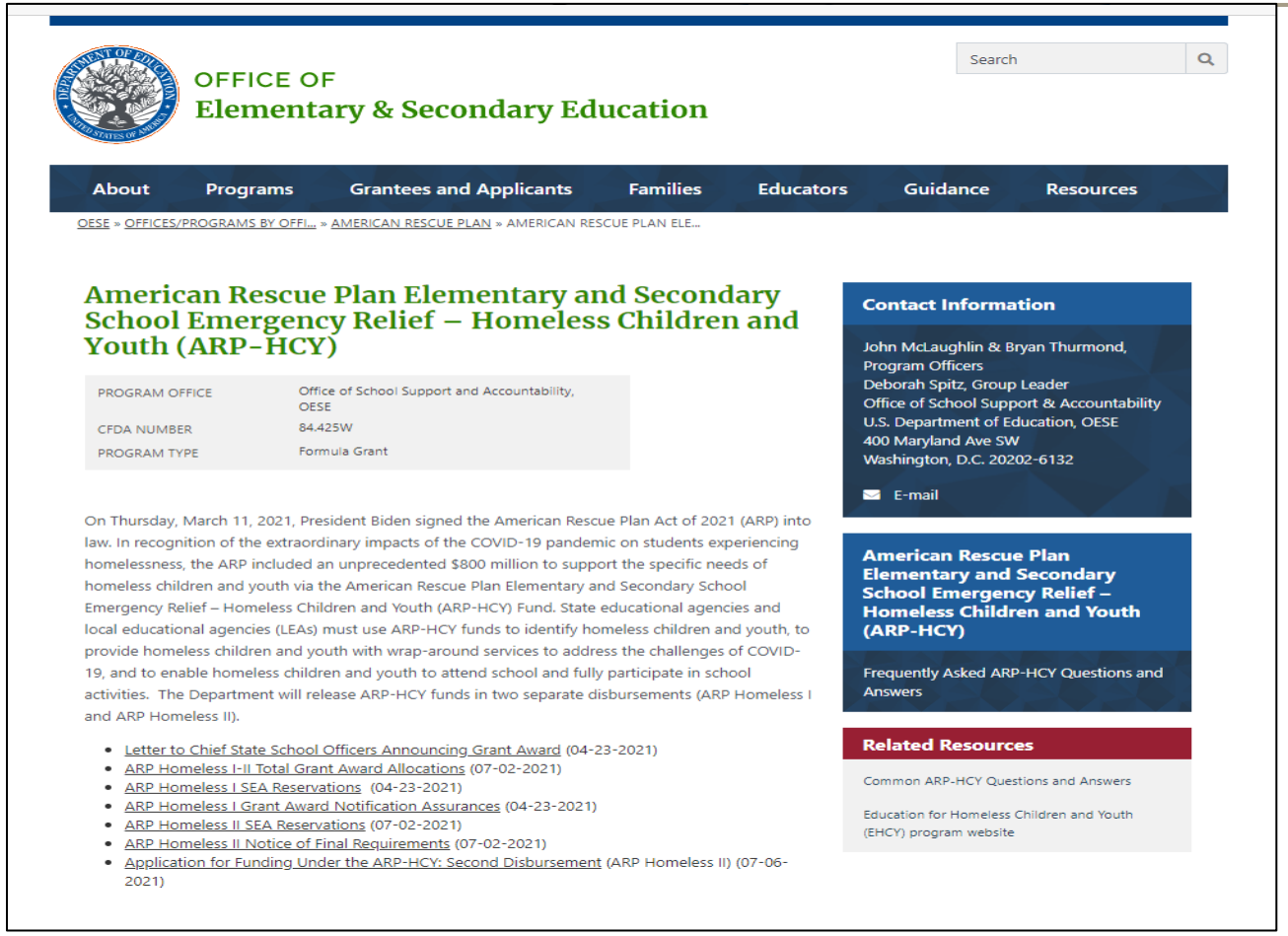
- TLSP Program team for EHCY and ARP-HCY:
  - Since Fall 2020, John McLaughlin, Bryan Thurmond and Deborah Spitz
  - Since August 2021, Presidential Management Fellow Sophia Hart
  - Since late October 2021, Heather Denny (American Rescue Plan)

Sophie Hart
Management & Program Analyst

Heather Denny
Program Specialist

Bryan Thurmond
Program Specialist

ARP-HCY RESOURCES: PROGRAM WEBSITE



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Elementary & Secondary Education

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American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)

PROGRAM OFFICE	Office of School Support and Accountability, OESE
CFDA NUMBER	84.425W
PROGRAM TYPE	Formula Grant

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) into law. In recognition of the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students experiencing homelessness, the ARP included an unprecedented $800 million to support the specific needs of homeless children and youth via the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund. State educational agencies and local educational agencies (LEAs) must use ARP-HCY funds to identify homeless children and youth, to provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities. The Department will release ARP-HCY funds in two separate disbursements (ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II).

- Letter to Chief State School Officers Announcing Grant Award (04-23-2021)
- ARP Homeless I-II Total Grant Award Allocations (07-02-2021)
- ARP Homeless I SEA Reservations (04-23-2021)
- ARP Homeless I Grant Award Notification Assurances (04-23-2021)
- ARP Homeless II SEA Reservations (07-02-2021)
- ARP Homeless II Notice of Final Requirements (07-02-2021)
- Application for Funding Under the ARP-HCY: Second Disbursement (ARP Homeless II) (07-06-2021)

Contact Information

John McLaughlin & Bryan Thurmond,
Program Officers
Deborah Spitz, Group Leader
Office of School Support & Accountability
U.S. Department of Education, OESE
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-6132

E-mail

American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)

Frequently Asked ARP-HCY Questions and Answers

Related Resources

Common ARP-HCY Questions and Answers

Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program website

You can access several ARP Homeless I-II resources on the ARP-HCY program website:

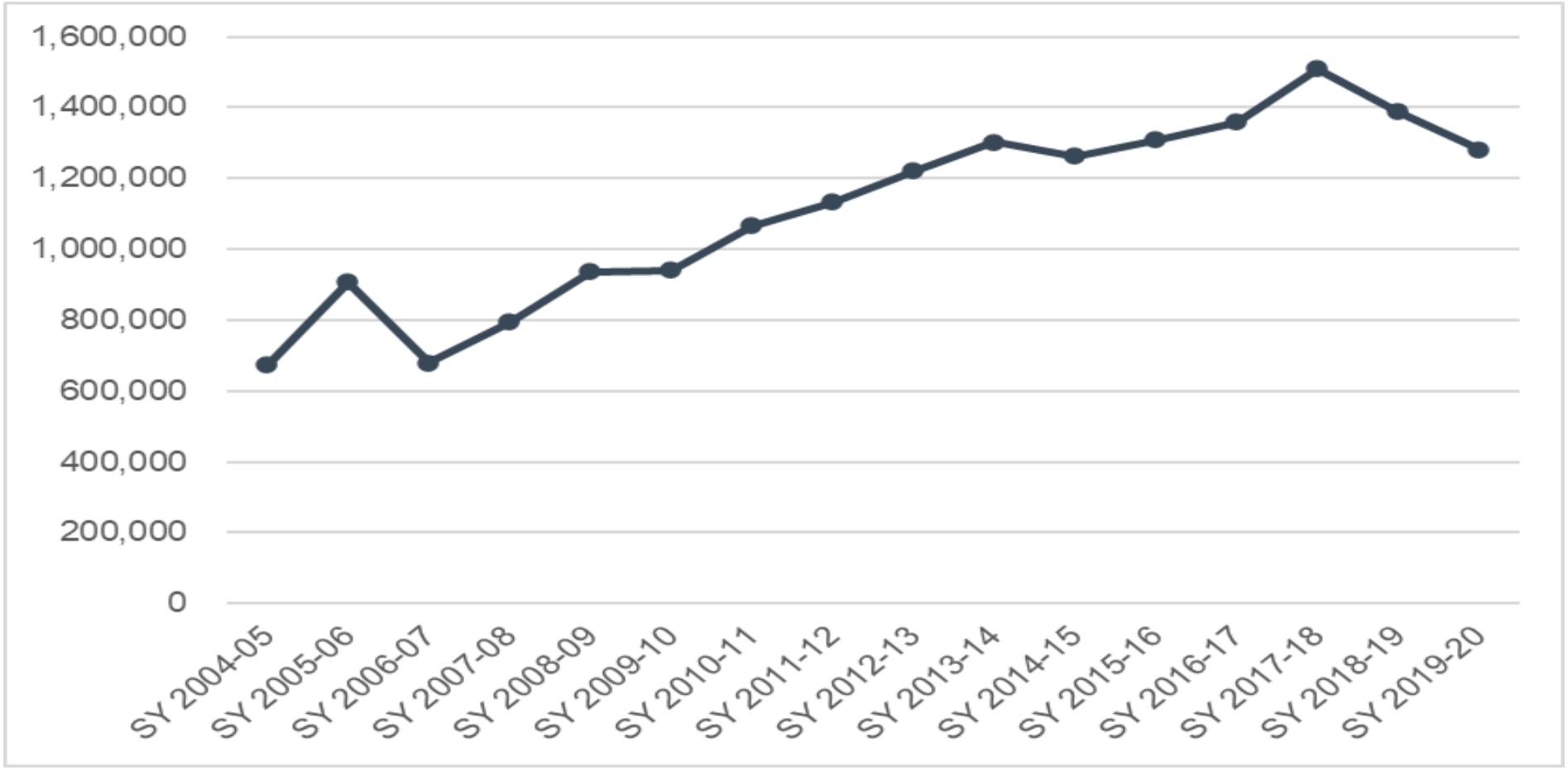
1. ARP Homeless I-II Documents
2. ARP-HCY FAQs
3. ARP-HCY State plans

https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-homeless-children-youth-arp-hcy/

RECENT HOMELESS EDUCATION DATA RELEASES AND PLANS TO TRACK THE IMPACT OF ARP-HCY

- **SY 19-20 enrollment data released on ED Data Express in October: 1.28M students experiencing homelessness**
  - with racial/ethnic counts included for the first time
  - LEA data are available on ED Data Express or as a file on the EDFacts Initiative webpage
- **Chronic Absenteeism** data on students experiencing homelessness released on ED Data Express in March and July 2021 (LEA level)
  - In SY 2018-19, 36.8 percent of students experiencing homelessness were chronically absent
- **Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates** including the homeless subgroup were released on the EDFacts Initiative page in 2020-21 (LEA and school levels)
  - In SY 2018-19, 67.8% of students who experienced homeless in high school graduated in 4 years or on time.
- **NCHE** will release trend reports chronic absenteeism and ACGR for students experiencing homelessness early next year

HOMELESS STUDENTS ENROLLED, NATIONWIDE, 2004-2020



NUMBER AND PERCENT OF ENROLLED UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH BY PRIMARY NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE: SCHOOL YEARS 2017-18 THROUGH 2019-20

Primary Nighttime Residence	SY 2017-18	Percent of UHY	SY 2018-19	Percent of UHY	SY 2019-20	Percent of UHY	Percent change SYs 2017-18 to 2019-20
National Total	116,067	100.0	124,255	100.0	112,656	100	-2.9
Shelters, transitional housing	16,300	14.0	13,221	10.6	11,212	10.0	-31.2
Doubled-up	92,607	79.8	104,155	83.8	95,516	84.8	3.1
Unsheltered	5,067	4.4	5,041	4.1	4,350	3.9	-14.2
Hotels/motels	2,093	1.8	1,838	1.5	1,578	1.4	-24.6

NEW DATA ON RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (SY 2019-20)

Race/ethnicity	Homeless students	Percent of homeless students	All students	Percent of all students
Total	1,252,906	100.0	51,010,849	100.0
Hispanic/Latino	479,147	38.2	14,287,046	28.0
Black or African American	335,784	26.8	7,599,017	14.9
White	320,150	25.6	23,540,022	46.2
Two or more races	62,867	5.0	2,188,855	4.3
Asian	27,303	2.2	2,691,917	5.3
American Indian or Alaskan Native	20,585	1.6	518,912	1.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	7,070	0.6	185,080	0.4

PLANS TO TRACK THE IMPACT OF ARP-HCY

- The CSPR from SY 2020-21 through SY 2024-25 will have questions that ask States to list the following information about ARP-HCY grantees:
  - The number and names of LEAs receiving ARP Homeless I grants and the award amounts
  - The number and names of LEAs receiving ARP Homeless II grants and the award amounts
  - The number and names of LEAs participating in ARP Homeless II consortia with the total award amount assigned to the lead LEA

- All other EHCY data comes to ED at the LEA level so we can connect enrollment, academic achievement, ACGR and chronic absenteeism to ARP-HCY LEA grantees.

- The Department has reserved up to $1M for a national study and technical assistance related to ARP-HCY implementation.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

- For additional questions please contact
  - EHCY Program Office staff at homelessED@ed.gov
  - NCHE at homeless@serve.org

RHY Program Updates

How many programs does the RHY Program Support?

- 674 individual grants awarded in FY 2021 (New and Continuation)
- 238 new awarded in FY 2021
- 351 organizations receive RHY funding
- 14 new organizations received RHY funding in FY 2021
- 294 Basic Center Program Grants
- 204 Transitional Living Program Grants
- 130 Street Outreach Program Grants
- 46 Maternity Group Homes Grants

FY 2021 RHY Awards

- **Basic Center Program:** $16.4 million/87 awards
- **Street Outreach Program:** $6.5 million/45 awards
- **Transitional Living Program:** $18.3 million/78 awards
- **Maternity Group Home:** $6.6 million/28 awards

FY 22 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Street Outreach Program

- Anticipated publication: Spring 2022
- $6.9 Million
- 47 Awards
- $150,000 per year, maximum award

Basic Center Program

- Anticipated publication: Spring 2022
- $13.4 Million
- 68 Awards
- $200,000 per year, maximum award

FY 22 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Transitional Living Program

- Anticipated Publication: Spring 2022
- $20.6 Million
- 83 Awards
- $250,000 per year, maximum award

Maternity Group Homes

- Anticipated Publication: Spring 2022
- $6.8 Million
- 28 Awards
- $250,000 per year, maximum award

RHY Products Released in FY 2021

- National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families (NCHYF)
  - Literature Review Database – Updated Quarterly
  - FY 16 & 17 Report to Congress
- RHYTTAC
  - COVID-19 Webinar Series
  - National Needs Assessment
- National Runaway Safeline
  - 2020 Crisis Services and Prevention Report
  - Let's Talk Podcast
  - Let's Step Forward Together – Social Media Campaign
- Abt. Associates
  - RHY-HMIS Data Standards (October 1, 2021)
  - Transitional Living Program Youth Outcome Study

RHY Products – Coming in FY 2022

- Virtual Site Visit Training for Grantees (Gray Matters)
  - December 2nd & 8th (Monitoring Visits Scheduled Jan – March 2022)
- Program Focused Peer to Peer Training (RHYTTAC)
- Performance Outcomes Training & Pilot Project (RHYTTAC)
- Updated Needs Assessment Tools (RHY Clearinghouse)

The National Communication System For Runaway and Homeless Youth: The National Runaway Safeline (NRS)

National Runaway Safeline®

Ana Cody, Human Trafficking Advisor & Project Officer

Let's Step Forward Together Social Media Campaign

- Back-to-school campaign **August-September 2021** via Facebook/Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, and TikTok
  - Targeted young people, with specific focus on ages 15-17
  - Focus on underserved populations and several key cities and regions across the country
- Achieved 4.64 million impressions and 29,330 clicks.
- TikTok was most impactful platform.

Youth Voices Roundtable - Highlights

A diverse group of youth with lived experience from across the country highlighted day-to-day challenges they have faced, as well as available services and effective prevention efforts they have experienced.

1. **Homelessness and Runaway Experiences**
   - Critical need for increasing effective outreach efforts focusing on youth
2. **Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness**
   - Criteria for accessing programs and services (age, citizenship status, duration of their homeless experience, or lack of a formal medical diagnosis required to receive care)
   - While experiencing a crisis, young people found support in meaningful connection with the service providers or mentors
3. **Moving Forward: Improving Access and Services for RHY**
   - Access to mental health and health services for young people
   - Integrate social media platforms in outreach and education efforts targeting young people

Summary Report and recorded session: https://www.1800runaway.org/roundtable-series

2020 Crisis Services and Prevention Report

Contacts Age

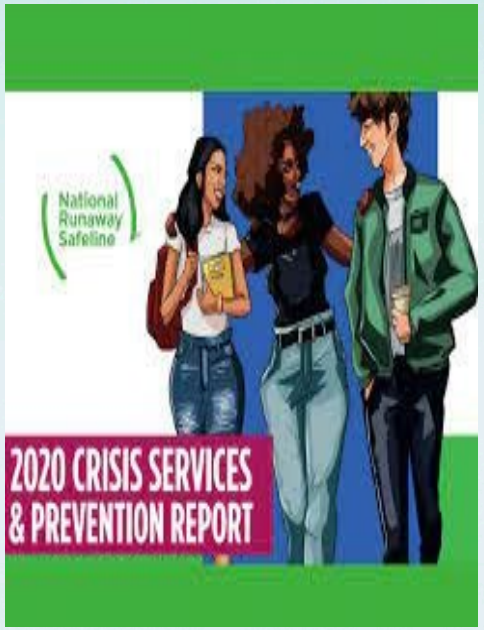
- Under age 15 up 53%
- Under age 12 up over 200%

Digital services are becoming increasingly popular

- Live chat up 16%, other services decreased slightly from 2019 to 2020

Issues raised by the youth

- Family dynamics cited by 88% of contacts in 2020, up from 57% in 2019
- Mental health up 30%
- Over 500 contacts specifically cited COVID-19 as reason for outreach



Upcoming Event: Youth in Crisis: What the Data is Telling Us

- **Tuesday, November 30th – 2:00-3:30PM ET**
- **Registration Link:** https://www.1800runaway.org/youth-in-crisis

Upcoming 2022 NRS Activities and Resources

Planned activities for 2022:

- Let's Talk Prevention Curriculum
  - Updated version (1.5 version)
  - Final version with NEW Modules (2.0 version) focusing on key themes, such as social media and human trafficking
- Release of the NEW Crisis Intervention Training for Youth Serving Agencies
- Adding LIVE texting as part of the menu of digitally-based crisis services offered 24/7 for youth and families
- Expansion of the Let's Talk Runaway and Homeless Youth Podcast
- 2022 National Runaway Prevention Month

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BRIGHTER FUTURES
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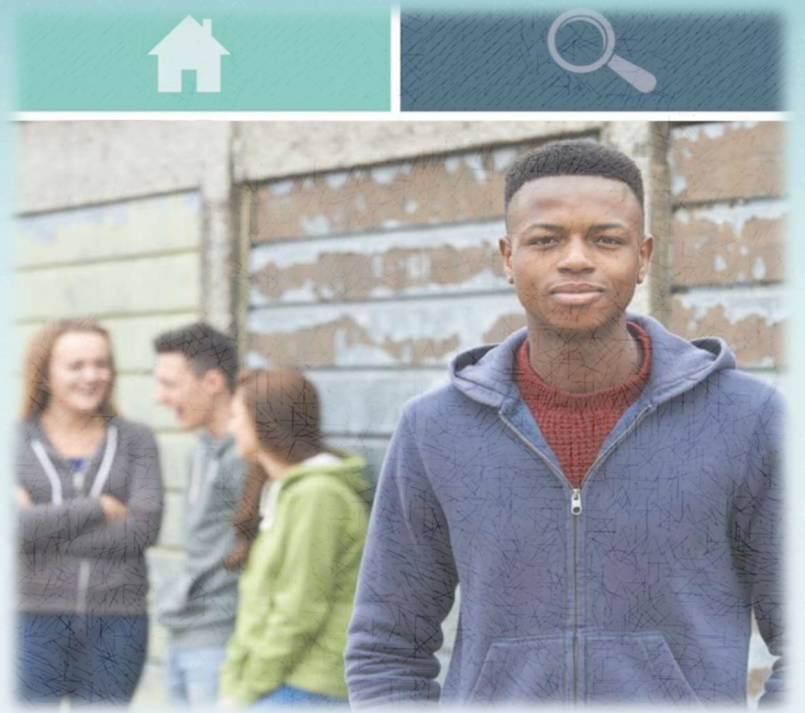
Findings from the Transitional Living Program Youth Outcomes Study



OPRE FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau Abt

Youth Outcome Study Background

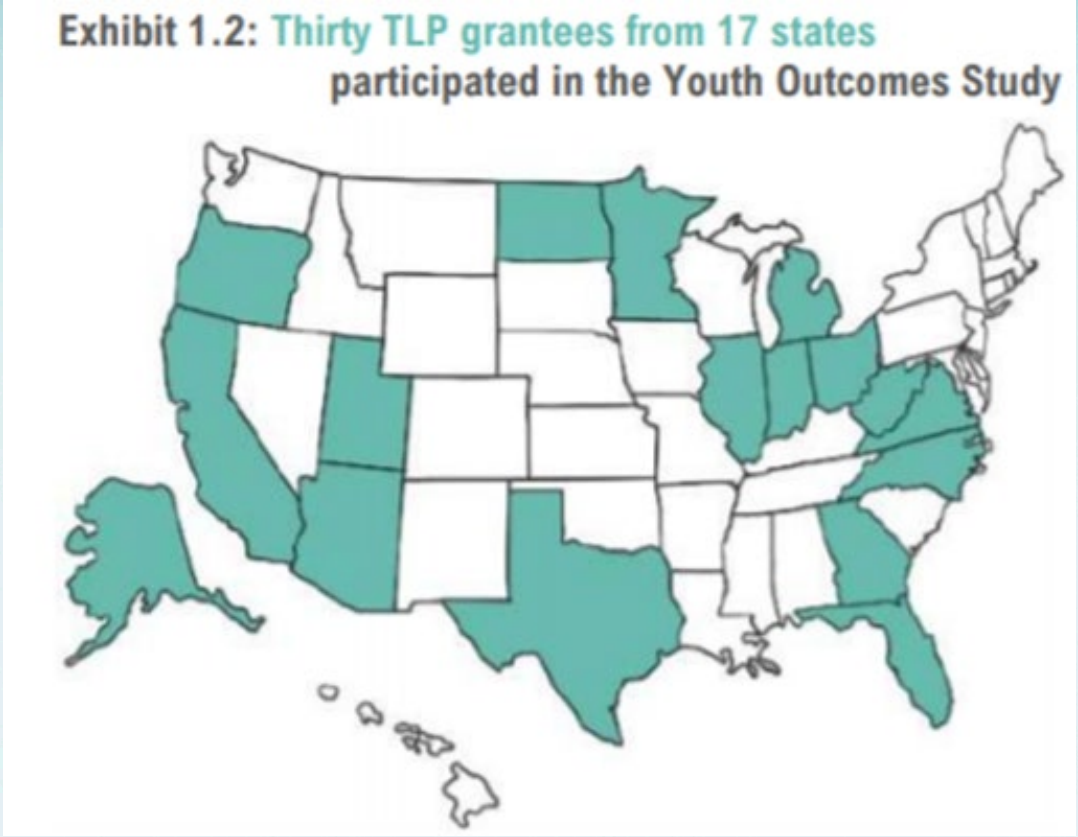
- Conducted from January 2017 to June 2021 to better understand key youth outcomes in **housing**, **employment**, **earnings**, and **education** before, during, and after program participation
- Explored how the **COVID-19 pandemic** may have affected TLP services and participants' experiences regarding outcomes of interest
- Part of a larger research effort that included TLP Demonstration Program Evaluation and TLP Pilot Study aimed at **measuring TLP impact on the lives of runaway and homeless youth**

Study Participants

30 Transitional Living Programs and Maternity Group Homes participated in the study

365 youth were enrolled:

- 57% female
- 80% between ages 18-20 at entry
- 3% younger than 18
- 39% White
- 39% Black
- 26% Hispanic/Latinx
- 17% MGH youth
- 100% participated in TLP for at least 1 month prior to the start of the study



TLP YOS Findings

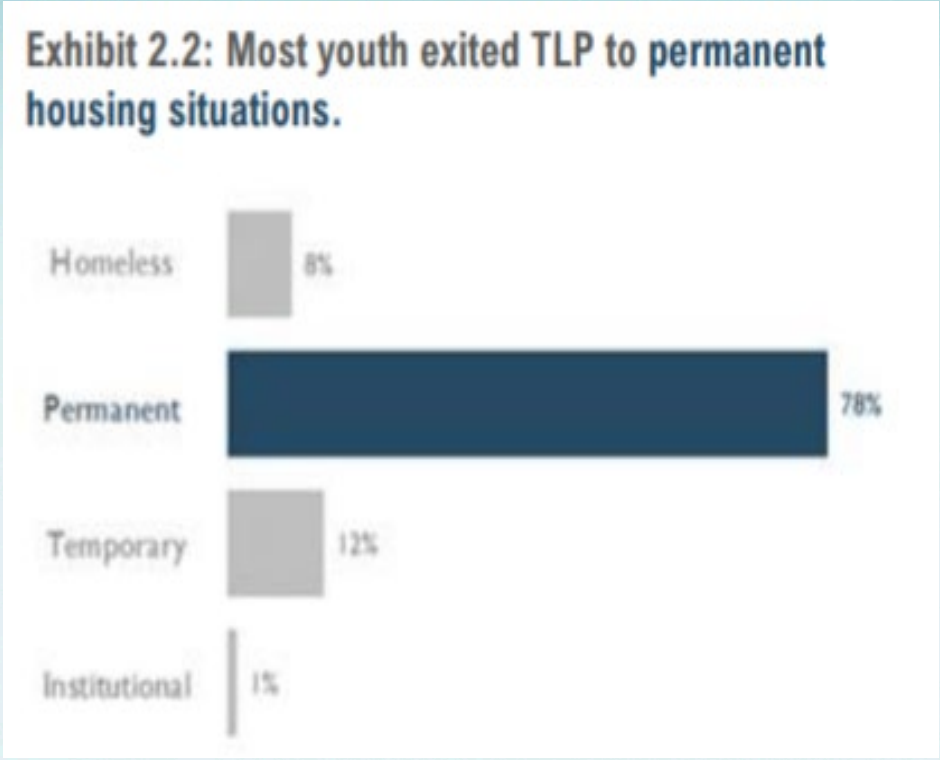
Housing

Of the 56 youth who exited TLP during the period of the study, **less than 1 in 10 experienced homelessness immediately upon exit**, with similar rates observed three months after exiting.

Education

Rates of **enrollment** in post-secondary education were **higher prior to TLP entry than for enrollment while in a TLP.**

Youth who were already enrolled at start of TLP (8%) remained enrolled an average of 12 months.



TLP YOS Findings

Employment

Youth **employment rates were higher** during their time in TLP than those prior to entry, but **still experienced substantial employment instability.**

Earnings

Average earnings remained similar to rates prior to TLP entry. **Only 27% of youth had earnings above the poverty level.** Earnings were shown to be higher three to six months after exiting TLP.

TLP YOS Limitations

- The study was conducted with no control group. That is, no sample of youth outcomes was observed for young people who were eligible to enter a TLP but did not.
- Not all youth involved in study exited a TLP during the research period.
- Much of the observation and data collection was during a global pandemic, which impacted education stability, employment practicality, and housing precarity.

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BRIGHTER FUTURES
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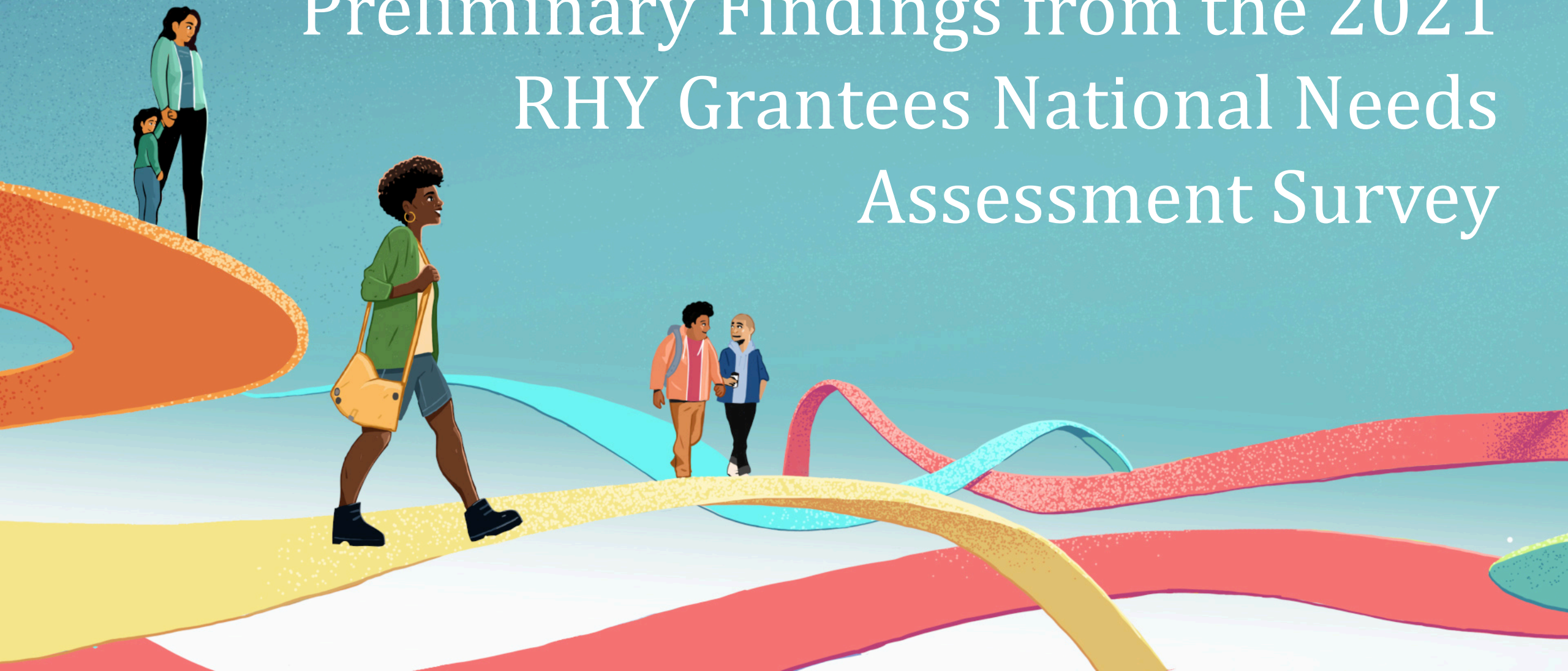
Preliminary Findings from the 2021 RHY Grantees National Needs Assessment Survey



2021 RHY Grantees National Needs Assessment (NNA) Survey

- Annual survey of all RHY grantees
- Opportunity to share TTA needs
- Used to inform for RHYTTAC's future TTA trainings, webinars and events
- Preliminary findings presented here; final report will be available in early 2022
- https://tinyurl.com/NNA-interim-infographic

NNA Survey Topics

Background/ Organizational Characteristics

T/TA for Monitoring Visits

RHYTTAC Utilization/ Experiences

Training Needs for :

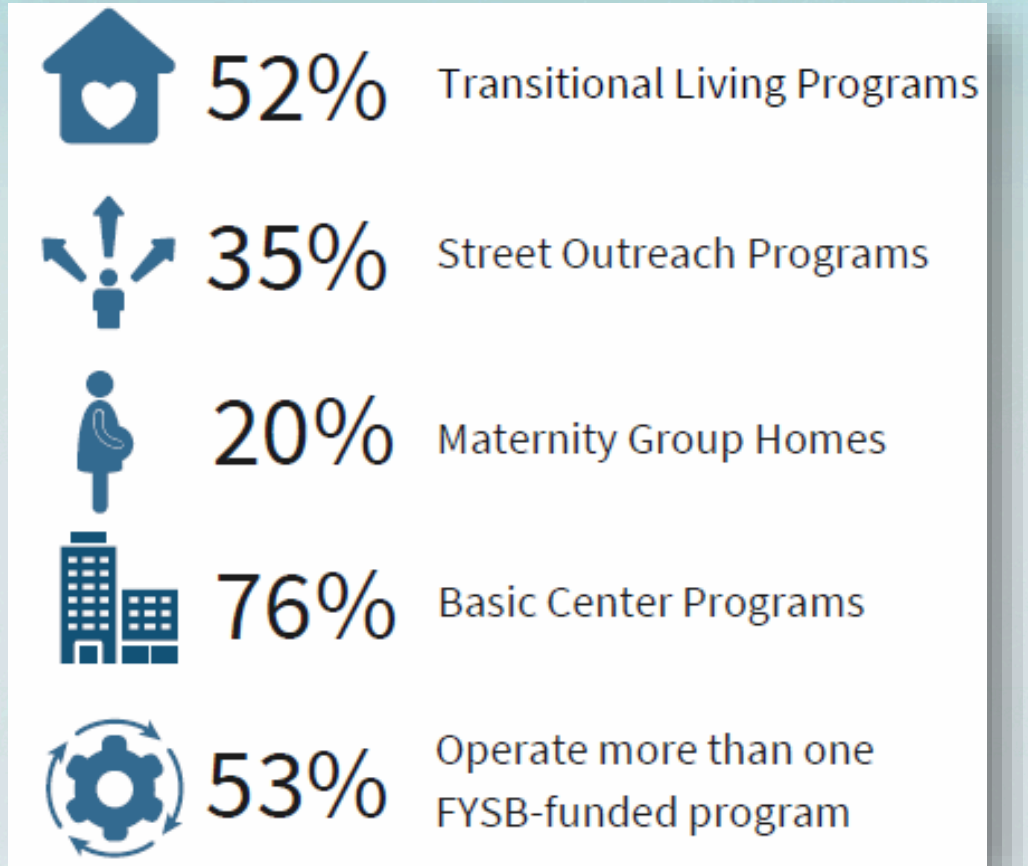
- Operations
- Improvement within federal government's 4 Core Outcome Areas
- Outcomes Measurement
- Pandemic-related Needs

Screening and Assessment Use and Training Needs

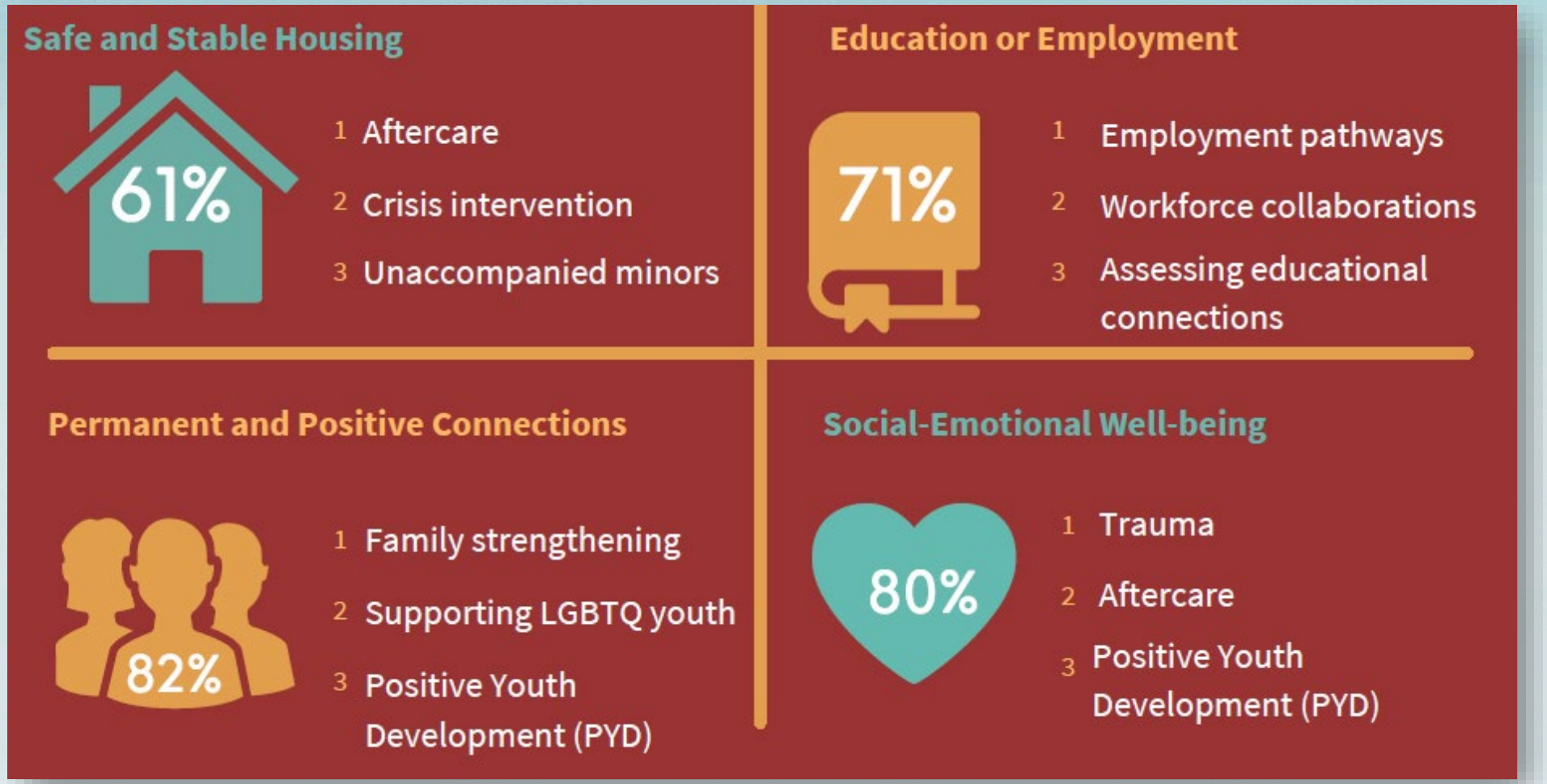
Evidence-Based/Informed Practices and Programs

Who Completed the NNA this Year?

- All regions are represented
  - Regions 7 and 8 had the highest proportion of grantees respond
- Nearly half reported serving over 100 youth each year
- 42% of the grantees who operate FYSB-funded RHY programs responded to the NNA



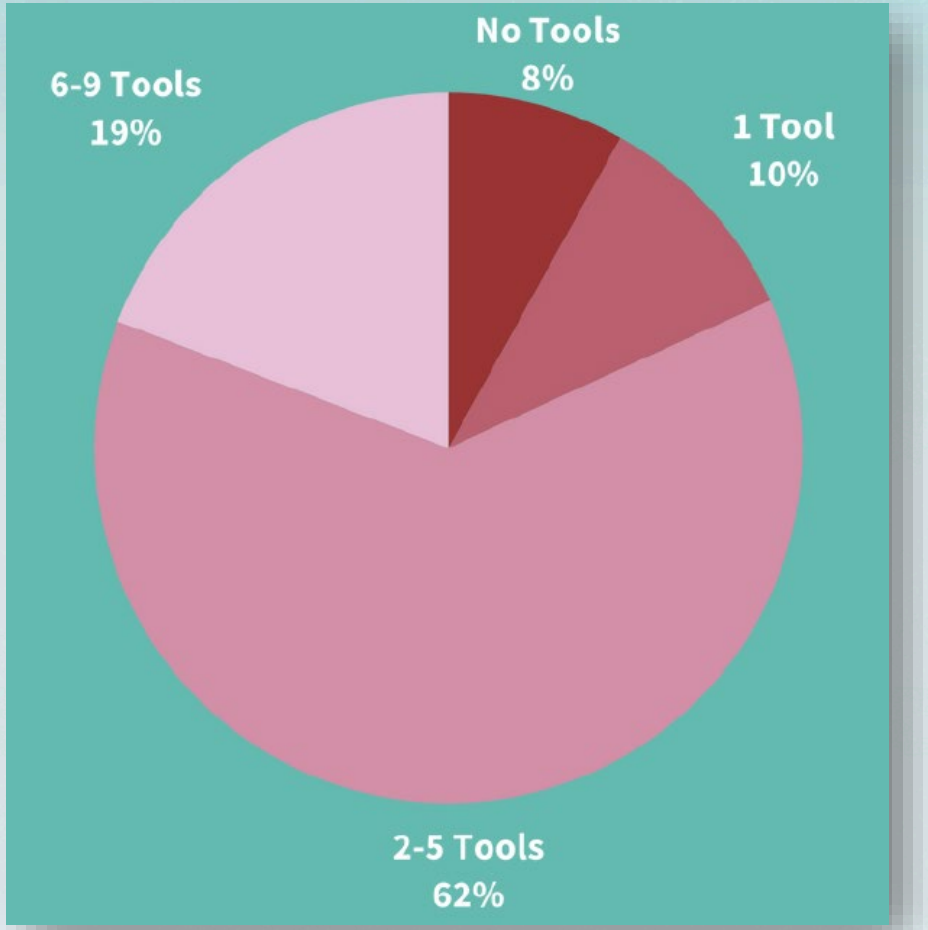
Topic Priorities



Assessments and Screening

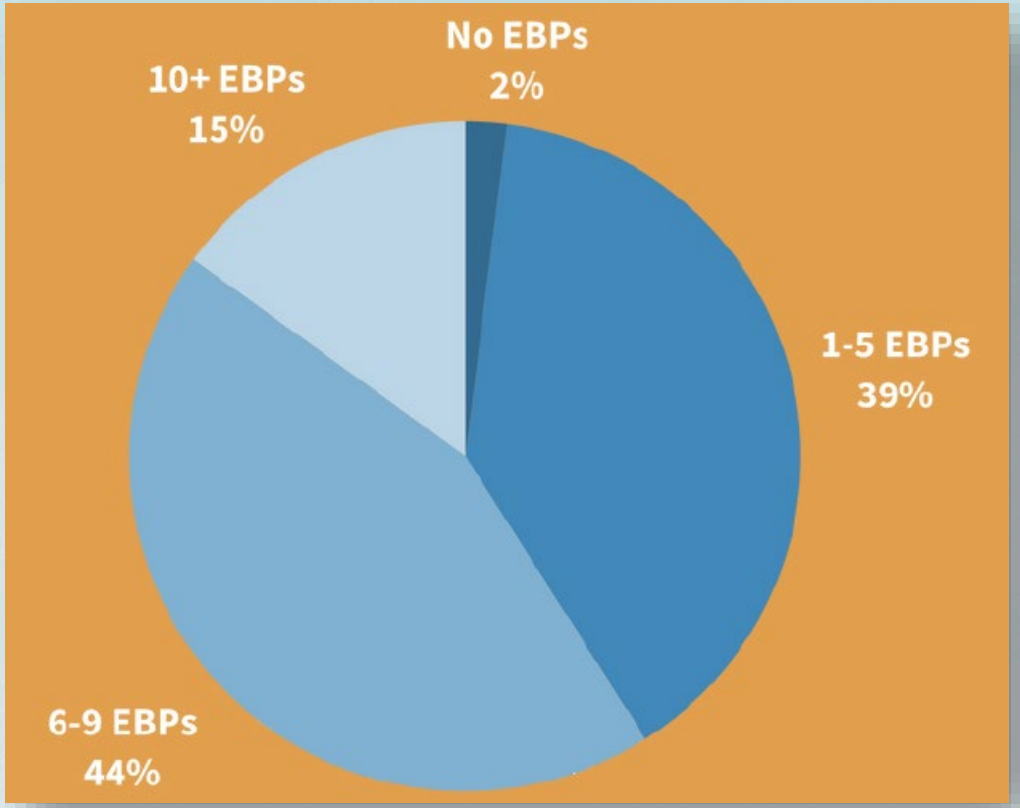
- 60% reported using 2-5 assessment and screening tools
- More than two-thirds of grantees reported needing TTA on assessments that measure:
  - Trauma/Adverse Childhood Experiences
  - Mental Health
  - Human Trafficking
  - Substance Use
  - Family Needs

Number of Assessment Tools Grantees Used

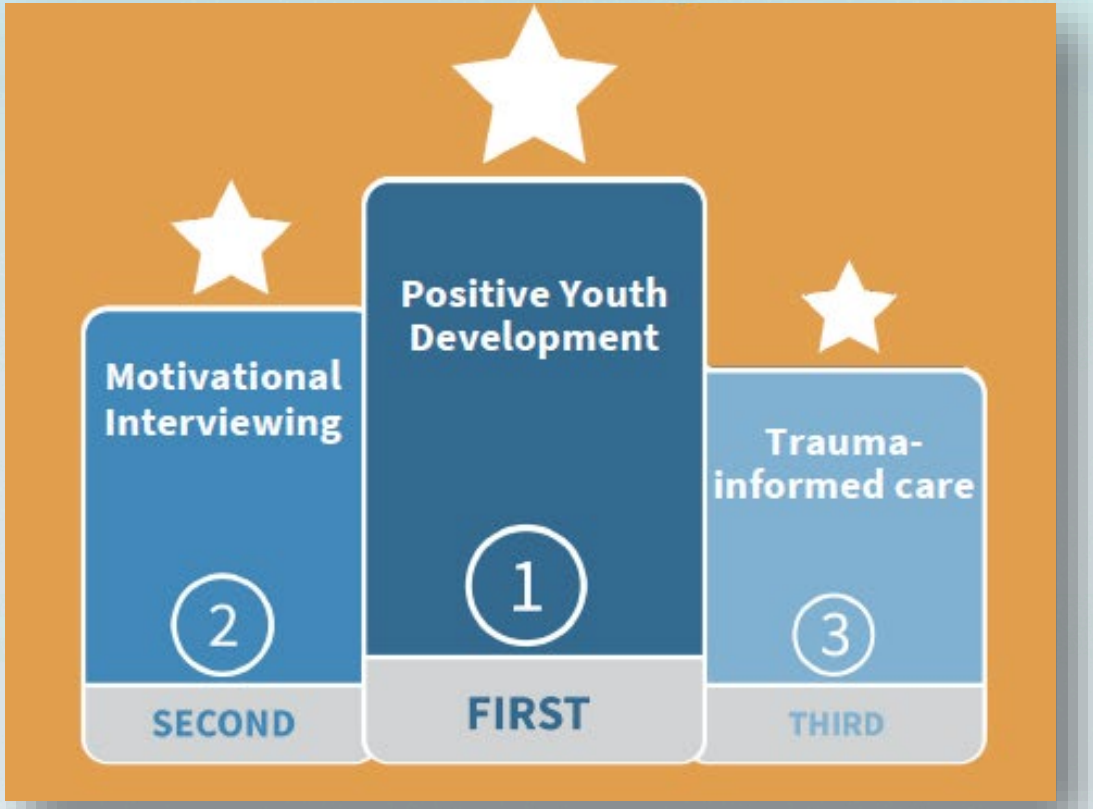


Evidence-Based Practices Implemented

Number of EBPs Grantees Reported Offering



Most Commonly Offered EBPs



RHY Program Monitoring: Trends and Insights

FY 2021 Program Monitoring Trends & Insights

What's Trending: (+) Aspects/Best Practices

- Strong community connections and linkages for services (community volunteers providing life skills training in the programs)
- Utilizing podcasts to provide free and accessible mental health and self-care to youth
- Using a secured app that youth can use to stay in touch with the program and their case manager
- Use of safe words during group counseling services that allows a youth to not answer a question and/or to let the group know they are not comfortable with the content of the discussion

FY 2021 Program Monitoring Trends & Insights

What's Trending: (-) Compliance Issues

- Documentation – lack of FBI and Child Abuse Registry checks in employee files, and lack of notes and documentation in client files
- Lack of Aftercare Plan
- Lack of Discharge Plan
- No plan for coordinating with their local McKinney-Vento Liaison
- Lack of Individual Service Plans

Questions

Remembering

Areon Kelvington

1968-2021

Family and Youth Services Bureau
Regional Program Manager
2016-2021