



Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

Basic Center Program (BCP)

Opening Remarks

Kimberly Waller,
Associate Commissioner of the Family and Youth Services Bureau

Program Specific Training: Purpose

1. Understand and discuss key program specific requirements
2. Learn strategies to improve and enhance outcomes
3. Learn strategies for effectively serving the youth in your programs
4. Develop and strengthen partnerships with colleagues in the RHY field



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Agenda

- Legislative Authority and Program Purpose
- BCP Project Goal and Vision
- Important BCP Definitions
- Basic Center Program Requirements
- Program Administration Requirements

Legislative Authority & Program Purpose

Legislative Authority

The Basic Center Program is funded under the authority of section 311 of the RHY Act (34 U.S.C. 11211) which states, “The Secretary shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities (and combinations of such entities) to establish and operate (including renovation) local centers to provide services for runaway and homeless youth and for the families of such youth.



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Legislative Authority

Pursuant to section 312(b)(1) & (2) of the RHY Act (34 U.S.C. 11212(b)(1) & (2)), applicants...

- (1) shall operate a runaway and homeless youth center located in an area which is demonstrably frequented by or easily reachable by runaway and homeless youth;
- (2) shall use such assistance to establish, to strengthen, or to fund a runaway and homeless youth center, or a locally controlled facility providing temporary shelter, that has –
 - (A) a maximum capacity of not more than 20 youth, except where the applicant assures that the State where the center or locally controlled facility is located has a State or local law or regulation that requires a higher maximum to comply with licensure requirements for child and youth serving facilities; and
 - (B) a ratio of staff to youth that is sufficient to ensure adequate supervision and treatment"

Legislative & Regulatory Authority

In accordance with section 312(b)(4) of the Act, Basic Center grantees must also develop a plan that ensures the return of runaway and homeless youth who have run away from the correctional institution back to the correctional institution.

Additionally, pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.23(e) and (f), shall develop and implement a plan for addressing youth who have run away from foster care placement or correctional institutions, in accordance with federal, state, or local laws or regulations that apply to these situations.



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Important Basic Center Program Definitions

Important BCP Related Definitions

HOMELESS YOUTH: An individual less than 21 years of age or, in the case of a youth seeking shelter in a basic center under part A (section 387(3)(a)) of the RHY Act, less than 18 years of age or less than a higher maximum age if the state where the center is located has an applicable state or local law (including a regulation) that permits such higher maximum age in compliance with licensure requirements for child and youth-serving facilities ... and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement. (Section 387(3) RHY Act, 34 U.S.C. 11279)

RUNAWAY YOUTH: An individual who is less than 18 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian. (Section 387(4) of the RHY Act, 34 U.S.C. § 11279(4))

Important BCP Related Definitions

STREET YOUTH: An individual who is a runaway youth or an indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth who spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug and/or alcohol abuse. For the purposes of this definition, youth means an individual who is age 21 or less. (45 CFR 1351.1)

PREVENTION SERVICES: Services provided to a youth and/or the youth's family prior to residential stay, including at least, 3 months of aftercare once the provision of after care services has been completed. These services can be offered to a youth and/or their family if there is a break in residential stay or aftercare and the BCP has not provided or sustained regular aftercare services after 3 months.



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Important BCP Related Definitions

STREET-BASED SERVICES: Services provided to runaway, homeless, and street youth in areas where they congregate, designed to assist those youth in making healthy personal choices regarding where they live and how they behave.

OUTREACH: Finding runaway, homeless, and street youth, or youth at risk of becoming runaway or homeless, who might not use services due to lack of awareness or active avoidance, providing information to them about services and benefits, and encouraging the use of appropriate services.



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Important BCP Related Definitions

SHELTER: Temporary shelter means all Basic Center Program shelter settings in which runaway and homeless youth are provided room and board, crisis intervention, and other services on a 24-hour basis for up to 21 days. The 21 day restriction is on the use of RHY funds through the Basic Center Program, not a restriction on the length of stay permitted by the facility. [81 FR 93058, Dec. 20, 2016]

RESPITE (care): Respite care provides parents and other caregivers with short-term childcare services that offer temporary relief.

HOST FAMILY HOME: A family or single adult home or domicile that provides shelter to a homeless youth. (45 CFR § 1351.1)



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Important BCP Related Definitions

CRISIS STABILIZATION SERVICES: Direct services which assist with deescalating the severity of a person's level of distress and/or need for urgent care associated with a substance use or mental health condition.

GATEWAY SERVICES: Services to provide food, drink, clothing, and hygiene-related items to meet basic needs and develop trust between a youth and youth outreach worker.

AFTERCARE: Additional services provided beyond the period of residential stay that offer continuity and supportive follow-up to youth served by the program. (45 CFR § 1351.1)



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Important BCP Related Definitions

HARM REDUCTION: The provision of basic needs and services (e.g., education, referrals, case management, shelter) that aim to reduce adverse health, social, and economic consequences of high-risk behaviors, to include reducing the risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, assault, or substance use.

FOLLOW-UP SERVICES: The act of assessing youth progress after the youth has received safety and resource referrals or has agreed to shelter.

BCP Project Goal & Vision

BCP Project Goal & Vision

Goal

The primary goal of the BCP is to provide temporary shelter and counseling services to youth, under the age of 18, who have left home without permission of their parents or guardians, have been forced to leave home, or other homeless youth who might end up in contact with law enforcement or in the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems.

Vision

Establish and/or strengthen community-based projects that meet the immediate needs of runaway, homeless and street youth through the provisions of temporary shelter and services that encourage family reunification, when in the best interest of the youth.

Basic Center Program Requirements

Basic Center Program Requirements

1. Shelter & Counseling
2. Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model
3. Performance Standards
4. Sustainability Plan



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Shelter & Counseling

Shelter & Counseling

Grantee Shelter Requirements

- 24/7 residential shelter facilities
- Adequate staffing and supervision at facilities
- A minimum of 4 beds for youth and no more than 20
- Host home projects must have the ability to accommodate 4 or more youth across multiple homes
- Residential facility must be licensed
- Positive Youth Development framework
- Parent notification within 72 hours
- Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Safe and Appropriate Exits

Shelter & Counseling

Not Respite Care

BCP funds may not be used for providing respite care. Respite care services provide parents and other caregivers with short-term childcare services that offer temporary relief. A legal guardian cannot bring youth to a BCP shelter with the intention of abdicating their responsibility to provide shelter.

If a youth is forced to leave their residence, whether that was the home of their parent or any legal guardian, and has no safe alternative living arrangement, then they are considered homeless and eligible to receive BCP shelter services.

Shelter & Counseling

Human Trafficking

BCP must be prepared to interact with runaway, homeless, street, and in-crisis youth as well as youth victims of human trafficking (e.g., sex and labor) and other type of victimization (i.e., sexual assault, sexual, and physical abuse).

Shelter services and other referrals for trafficked youth should be carefully identified by the appropriate staff. Transportation to the shelter is available for youth, as needed, and barriers to entry are low enough that it is easily accessible by youth



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Shelter & Counseling

Grantee Counseling Requirements

- Provide counseling services based on youth/family needs
- Counseling is responsive to individual service plans
- Supportive services must be available to all shelter youth who are ready to receive services
- Youth are not subject to medical, psychiatric, or psychological treatment without their consent (and that of their parent/legal guardian/caregiver) unless they are a harm to themselves or others

Shelter & Counseling

Optional Services

- Street-based services
- Home-based services for families with youth at-risk of separation from the family
- Drug abuse education and prevention services
- Testing for sexually transmitted diseases, at the request of runaway, homeless, and street youth

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

1. Social and Emotional Well-being & Strengths-based Approach
2. Outreach Plans
3. Harm Reduction
4. Screening & Assessment
5. Case Management
6. Aftercare



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Social and Emotional Well-being & Strengths-based Approach

Trauma-informed approach: Involves understanding and responding to the symptoms of chronic, interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress, as well as the behavioral and mental health consequences of trauma.

Positive Youth Development (PYD): Includes healthy messages, safe and structured places, adult role models, skill development, and opportunities to serve others



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Outreach Plans

Public Outreach and Awareness: Informs community members and partners about the BCP.

- Development and distribution of materials providing information about services and benefits and encouraging the use of appropriate services.
- Communication channels: social media, public service announcements, and face-to-face collaborations with other youth and family-serving organizations; the National Runaway Safeline; etc.

BCP Outreach Plan: Describes outreach activities to actively find youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness, providing information to them about services and benefits, and encouraging the use of appropriate services.

Gateway Services: Offered when necessary and appropriate to facilitate the delivery of required BCP shelter services.

- The provision of food, drink, clothing, personal safety information (e.g., national youth hotlines, local hotlines), transportation, and hygiene products.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Harm Reduction

Projects educate and engage runaway, homeless, street youth with regards to safety plans and ways to reduce risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, sexual assault, or any other harm associated with street.



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Screening & Assessment

Projects should use standardized methods as well as evidence-based tools to assess eligibility and the services required to meet the immediate needs of the youth.

Assessment of the following needs:

- Physical health
- Potential victimization sex and labor trafficking, sexual assault, etc.,
- Behavioral health
- Connection to family, safety, and resources
- Issues of neglect or abuse and other risk and protective factors impacting the well-being and sustainable living

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Case Management

Individualized Service or Treatment Plan: Every youth has a written service or treatment plan based on assessed needs and the youth's input.

- Plans includes:
 - short and long-term goals
 - periodic assessments
 - health care referrals
 - discharge planning
 - plans for **aftercare**, and follow-up

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Case Management

Service Coordination Plan: Projects coordinate with Continuums of Care (CoC), and other systems of care to ensure youth have access to all available resources.

Education Plan: Projects have an adequate plan for ensuring coordination with McKinney-Vento school district liaisons to assure that youth are provided information about educational services



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Aftercare

Aftercare Planning: Projects must provide additional services beyond the period of residential stay.

- Additional services include:
 - Establish an aftercare and exit plan with youth within 3 days of receiving BCP shelter and services. This should be part of a youth's Individual Service Plan
 - Continuous and supportive follow-up for at least 3 months
 - Exit plans include permanent placement planning
 - Each aftercare interaction and type should be documented in RHY-HMIS



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Reporting

Data Collection & Reporting Requirements

RHY-HMIS & PPR

RHY grant recipients are legislatively required to keep adequate statistical records profiling the youth and families assisted. **RHY-HMIS** serves as the designated data collection system, enabling grantees to collect and transmit youth-level data to FYSB on a quarterly basis. Performance information not reported through RHY-HMIS must be submitted **semi-annual Performance Progress Reports (PPR)**.

Grantees are required to work with other homeless service providers on data collection efforts, technical assistance provision, and to participate in service delivery coordination. RHY grantees may use FYSB grant funds to cover charges associated with CoC training and access to the RHY-HMIS software.



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BCP Performance Standards

Performance Standards

The RHY Rule establishes RHY Program Performance Standards as measures of successful outcomes for youth. The Performance Standards are used to monitor project performance in achieving the purposes of the RHY Act.

Projects collect and report on data via the Runaway and Homeless Youth - **Homeless Management Information System** (RHY-HMIS) and the **Performance Progress Report** (PPR).

Performance Standards

- 1. Social and Emotional Well-being:** Youth will be connected to a trauma-informed system of care providers to assist and promote positive physical health, substance abuse treatment, mental health, personal safety (e.g., identify potential trafficking situations), and reduce sexual risk behaviors they may face.
- 2. Permanent connections:** Youth will experience positive ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other social networks.
- 3. Education or Employment:** Youth will connect to school or vocational training programs, improve interviewing and job attainment skills, and obtain and maintain employment.
- 4. Stable housing:** Youth will transition to safe and stable housing that appropriately matches their level of need after leaving a BCP to include the following: moving in with family, when appropriate, or other permanent supportive housing; rapid re-housing; or residential treatment center or substance abuse treatment facility.

Performance Standards

Social-Emotional Well-being

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of social and emotional well-being.

Measure: The average composite score of general health, mental health, and dental health status will be lower at exit from a BCP than at entry.

Performance Standards

Permanent Connections

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of permanent connections.

Measure: Grantees will report the percentage of youth upon exiting the BCP who report that there at least one adult in their life, other than RHY program staff, to whom they can go for advice or emotional support.



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Performance Standards

Education or Employment

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of education or employment.

Measure: 60 percent of youth leaving BCP shelter will be attending school or have graduated from high school or obtained a General Education Development certificate.

Measure: 20% of youth leaving a BCP shelter will be employed or looking for work.

Performance Standards

Stable Housing

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of stable housing.

Measure: 90% of youth leaving a BCP shelter will exit to a safe and stable destination.

Measure: For grantees that provide street-based and home-based services, 85 percent of youth receiving services will be diverted from entering an emergency shelter and will exit to another safe and stable destination.

Standard: Grantees shall ensure that youth have safe and appropriate exits when leaving the program.

Measure: Grantees will report the type of destination for each youth who exits a BCP.

Performance Standards

Standard: Grantees will ensure that youth receive counseling services that are trauma informed and match the individual needs of each client.

Measure: Grantees will report the type of counseling each youth received (individual, family, and/or group counseling), the participation rate based on a youth's service plan or treatment plan, and the completion rate based on the youth's service plan or treatment plan.

Standard: Grantees that choose to provide street-based services, home-based services, and/or testing for sexually transmitted diseases will ensure youth receive the appropriate services.

Measure: Grantees will report the completion rate for each service provided based on the youth's service or treatment plan.

Sustainability Plan

Sustainability Plan

Grantees should plan for project sustainability from the beginning of the project design then revisit and revise the plan throughout the life of the project. These plans include the following:

- **Sustainability:** Diversification of funding to continue services in the event of a loss of FYSB funding, as well as plans to address staff retention and staff turnover;
- **Accountability:** Meeting FYSB's BCP performance standards
- **Collaboration:** Building meaningful partnerships with other service agencies including experts on runaway and homeless youth in the community.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Background checks

All RHY grant recipients must conduct background checks on all employees, contractors, volunteers, and consultants who have regular and unsupervised private contact with youth served by the organization, and on all adults who reside in or operate host homes, beginning on October 1, 2017.

Required background checks include state or tribal criminal history records, including fingerprint checks; sex offender registry check; and any other checks required by state law; and to the extent the project is able to, the plan should include Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history records, including fingerprint checks and child abuse and neglect registry checks.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Emergency preparedness plan

All projects must conduct routine preventative maintenance of facilities as well as have preparedness, response, and recovery plans in place in the event of natural disasters.

Licensing requirement

Projects ensure all shelters are licensed and any shelter to which the project regularly refers clients to have evidence of current licensure, in states or localities with licensure requirements.

Failure to adhere to licensing requirements outlined in 45 CFR 1351.23(h) may result in disallowance of federal funds.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Training plan

All paid staff and volunteers must be trained on the ***Core Competencies of Youth Workers*** necessary to carry out the objectives and activities of the project.

Training topics must include, but are not limited to, PYD, trauma-informed care, evidence-informed practices and approaches, street outreach intervention, combatting human trafficking and sexual exploitation, harm reduction, assessment and case management, worker safety, understanding the diversity and culture of life on the street, safe and ethical practices, and community resources for well-being and self-sufficiency.



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Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Technical assistance, monitoring, and short-term training

All RHY grant recipients must participate in technical assistance, monitoring, and short-term training as recommended by federal staff to ensure quality programming and implementation to allow flexibility in which techniques will be used.

Training and technical assistance is free through Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC).

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Confidentiality

No records containing the identity of individual youth, including, but not limited to, lists of names, addresses, photographs, or records of evaluation of individuals served by a RHY project, may be disclosed or transferred to any individual or to any public or private agency, except for the purpose of research, evaluation, and statistical analysis.

These records are allowed to be based on individual data, but only if such data are de-identified in ways that preclude disclosing information on identifiable individuals. Youth served by a RHY project shall have the right to review their records to correct a record or file a statement of disagreement and to be apprised of the individuals who have reviewed their records.

Breakout Groups

You will be randomly assigned to a breakout room.
Please accept when prompted to join the discussion.

Breakout Question

Aftercare is a component of the Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model. Aftercare refers to the additional services provided beyond the period of residential stay that offer continuity and supportive follow-up to youth served by the program. It involves establishing an exit plan with youth within three days of receiving BCP shelter and services and includes permanent placement planning to help ensure the youth have the opportunity to make informed decisions about the support and services they need to receive, to help the youth develop a plan for permanency, and to help the youth identify and achieve their personal goals. Aftercare must be offered for at least three months.

With the youth (and/or families) that you have been able to successfully engage in aftercare, what has worked well? Why do you think this engagement has worked?

Evaluation and Upcoming Events

Please complete the evaluation for this event. Select *Webinar or Virtual Training*, then select "*Basic Center Program: RHY Program Specific Training Series, March 22, 2022*" from the dropdown menu:

- <https://tinyurl.com/sc9dbcjw>

2022 Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Specific Training Series :

- Maternity Group Home: Thursday, March 24 from 1 PM - 4 PM
- [Register Here >>](#)

Closing Remarks

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