








CREATING SOLUTIONS TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: Federal Policy Campaign to House 50,000 Homeless Youth

Based on research, it is conservatively estimated that over 50,000 youth sleep on the streets in the United States for six months or more. Youth are displaced from their homes due to family breakdown and system failure. Survival on the streets exposes youth to acute diseases, addiction, physical assault, unwanted pregnancy, unmitigated mental illness, sexual abuse, HIV, rape and suicide. Neither the market nor existing federal housing programs have solved this problem, but solutions and targeted interventions are available.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness proposes a new federal youth housing campaign to target funding and interventions in youth housing programs to better meet the unique, developmental needs of unaccompanied, homeless youth. **While 50,000 homeless youth is a national crisis and disgrace, it is not so large that decisive action by Congress and the Administration could not end street homelessness among America's youth.** A federal youth housing initiative would build on existing models but require coordination between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to target investments toward youth-focused housing programs. Community-based organizations funded by HHS programs made over 740,000 youth contacts through street outreach in 2008 but served less than 43,000 youth with emergency shelter assistance and less than 4,000 youth through transitional housing. Over 7,400 youth were turned away for lack of available beds. Ending youth homelessness requires services to reconnect youth with their families or access to housing opportunities tied to supportive services.

A NEW FEDERAL POLICY APPROACH TO ENDING STREET HOMELESSNESS FOR YOUTH

Unaccompanied, homeless youth are a distinct, special needs population requiring access to independent, affordable housing to avoid exploitation. This will only come about if HUD and HHS coordinate to establish a spectrum of housing programs for diverse subpopulations of homeless youth. All youth housing programs must provide permanency and positive youth development.

HOMELESS YOUTH SUBCATEGORIES	50,000 TOTAL		TARGETED HOUSING SOLUTIONS
Early Runners – Young Teenagers	10,000		MOBILE OUTREACH AND COUNSELING to address family conflict and support reunification
Homeless Youth Without Family Options (16-21 YEARS)	15,000		TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS and life skills training focused on education and employment
Doubled Up Older Youth (18-21)	10,000		RAPID REHOUSING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE or shallow rental subsidy coupled with short-term case work
Street Dependent Youth (18-24)	10,000		HOUSING FIRST - SEC. 8 VOUCHERS coupled with supportive services
Street Dependent With Serious Disabilities	5,000		PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING to offer long-term residential stability and access to employment support

For more information, please, contact Rich Hooks Wayman, 202-942-8257 or LaKesha Pope, 202-942-8254 at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. <http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/focusareas/youth>

YOUTH HOUSING BASED ON TARGETS TO DISTINCT TYPOLOGIES:

Not all homeless youth share similar circumstances, family background, or need for supportive services. The following is a simple typological list of various subcategories of homeless youth that would be best served with a variety of housing models and different levels of services.

- Young Teenage, Early Runners – displaced from their homes due to severe conflict, abuse, or neglect, and experiencing short-term homelessness
- Doubled-Up Transitioning Age Youth – who cannot return home and require housing with life skills training
- Older, Employed Homeless Youth – highly mobile and homeless youth who have access to part- or full-time employment but lack access to affordable housing opportunities
- Street Dependent Youth – sleeping outside, in public spaces, or in abandoned buildings for six months or more and in need of services to facilitate social inclusion
- Homeless Youth with Long-Term Disabilities – youth experiencing cognitive or mental health disabilities that will require support into their adult years

Other subcategories of homeless youth that may be identified and present in the above groupings include:

- Sexually exploited youth
- Former juvenile justice or foster care youth
- Pregnant and parenting youth
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning (LGBTQ) youth
- Undocumented youth
- Youth of color
- Victims of physical or sexual abuse or chronic neglect
- Youth recruited into sexual exploitation or trafficking
- Youth abusing or addicted to alcohol or drugs

YOUTH HOUSING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW:

HOMELESS YOUTH TYPOLOGY TARGETS	AGE GROUP	TARGETED HOUSING SERVICE, PRODUCTION OR RENTAL ASSISTANCE SOLUTION	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	ESTI-MATED COST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First-time or frequent runners ■ Displaced and doubled-up young teenagers ■ ‘Highly mobile’ high school students with no residential stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12 to 17 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10,000 youth assisted with re-connection to family/kin housing options through family preservation, counseling, and conflict mediation services. ■ Expand Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) – Basic Center Program (BCP) to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Family Style Rapid Rehousing - Housing location assistance for family housing options through mobile case management teams in schools, clinics, and community sites. ■ Family reunification and preservations services can be delivered through family group counseling, clinical therapy, and crises 	<p>\$15 mil.</p>

		include mobile outreach and case management teams focused on family reunification.	intervention methodology.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter Using Youth who cannot return home ▪ Displaced and doubled-up youth ▪ Street Youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16 to 21 years old who cannot return to their families ▪ Need to develop life skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15,000 youth offered Transitional Housing ▪ 21 month length of stay ▪ Increase RHYA – Transitional Living Program (TLP) appropriations to secure additional units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15,000 individual youth requiring rental assistance and case management services focused on education and employment ▪ Case management services include but are not limited to: assistance with achieving education and career development goals and increasing life skills, such as budgeting , cooking, and managing conflicts with roommates 	\$375 mil. (\$165 mil. for federal portion)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doubled-up and Displaced and Transitioning to Adulthood Youth ▪ Street Involved Youth ▪ Youth who are employed either part- or full-time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16 to 24 years old exhibiting strong independent living skills and access to monthly income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10,000 youth assisted with financial assistance and short-term rental assistance ▪ 3 to 6 month limit ▪ Incorporate Rapid Re-housing into RHYA Street Outreach to provide short-term financial assistance through specialized RHYA Street Outreach teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth participants may only require financial assistance or may require a combination of short-term rental assistance with short-term case management services ▪ Financial assistance can pay for costs associated with housing, including first month’s rent, security deposit, utility, moving costs, and/or furnishings. 	\$20 mil.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Street Dependent Youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 18 to 24 years old sleeping on the streets or in public spaces seeking social inclusion and residential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10,000 youth assisted with Housing First approach, supportive services, and long-term rental assistance ▪ 48 month length of stay ▪ Offer Section 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing location and intensive case management services which can decrease over 12 to 48 month period depending on needs of youth ▪ Community case managers enhance access to community services and improve social integration of street-dependent youth into 	\$82 mil.

	stability	vouchers to chronically homeless youth exiting street life.	community life, education, and employment options	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter Users ▪ Street Youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 18 to 24 years old with significant, barriers to housing stability ▪ Youth with cognitive, physical, mental, and/or substance use disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5,000 youth offered Permanent Housing Supportive ▪ No limit on length of stay ▪ Increase McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act - Permanent Supportive Housing Program, protecting housing access for youth ages 18 to 24 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5,000 individual youth requiring intensive case management services ▪ Intensive case management services promote individual development and ensure access to mainstream resources, benefits, treatment, and vocational training to increase self-determination – level of services and interventions provided, are individualized. 	\$70 mil.

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