



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

OCT 21 2008

To: Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program (TLP) Grantees
State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Coordinators
McKinney-Vento State Coordinators for Homeless Education

Re: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of
Education's Collaboration in Support of the Education of Homeless Youth

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) and the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Student Achievement and School Accountability (SASA) Programs are pleased to announce that our partnership in support of former foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth is solidly in place. We have been working closely together over the past several months to facilitate results-oriented strategies so that more former foster care and homeless youth can obtain access to suitable educational job training and vocational and/or postsecondary college settings through our programs.

Although ACYF and SASA are located within two different Departments, we are equally committed to developing opportunities to promote greater collaboration in support of the education of former foster care and homeless youth.

We write to encourage Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program (TLP) Grantees, State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Coordinators and McKinney-Vento State Coordinators for Homeless Education to collaborate and take every opportunity to support the education of former foster care and homeless youth.

Our offices fully recognize that one of the most common barriers to successfully transitioning to adulthood for millions of homeless youth in America is the lack of education. We believe in the importance of continuous collaboration and dialogue at every level to ensure that America's former foster care and homeless youth are afforded the opportunity to receive timely and appropriate educational service. We urge you to join us and be proactive in working collaboratively to remove any and all barriers to education, including but not limited to those related to school records and transportation, so that former foster care and homeless youth in need of educational services can easily obtain the services they need.

Our partnership is consistent with the goals of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), which recognizes collaborations of Federal offices with state and local governments and the private faith-based community sectors as key components to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

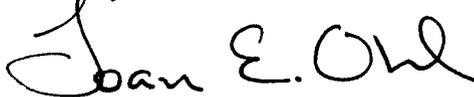
To support this collaboration, we have appointed staff within our offices to serve as resources to you as you further coordinate with each others' programs and fulfill the legislative mandate to collaborate with other youth homeless service programs. Over the next several weeks, Linda Reese-Smith, within ACYF's Office of the Commissioner, and John McLaughlin, within ED's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, SASA Program, will be disseminating valuable information to your attention.

These two members of our respective staffs will also request your participation in a series of informational sessions in conjunction with HHS' Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTEAC), National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development (NCWRCYD) and EDs' National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE). These sessions have been designed to: (1) aid your understanding of each others' programs; (2) identify effective practices to overcome potential educational barriers; and (3) share how your program can access skill-based trainings within our network of expert technical resource providers.

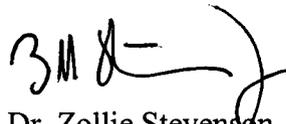
A current list of State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Coordinators and Transitional Living Programs can be found at: <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/programs.html> and a list of State McKinney-Vento Coordinators can be found at: http://www.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php. We encourage you to contact each other as soon as possible.

We appreciate your hard work in support of the education of former foster care and homeless youth and look forward to your continued help to ensure that each of these youth has a chance to succeed in an educational setting.

Sincerely,



Joan E. Ohl
Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and
Families



Dr. Zollie Stevenson, Jr.
Director
Office of Student Achievement and School
Accountability Programs

Enclosures:

Program Fact Descriptions:

Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)

Office of Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

Family and Youth Services Bureau Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth

History

Thousands of young people run away from their homes, are asked to leave their homes, or become homeless in the United States each year. Since 1975, under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDPA), as amended, the Federal Government has funded emergency shelter programs for runaway and homeless youth that provide for the immediate needs of these youth and their families and promote family reunification. Unfortunately, however, many young people who are homeless today cannot return to their families. Some have escaped abusive situations; others are the victims of neglect, abandonment, or severe family conflict.

In response to the growing concern for these youth, Congress determined that many young people need long-term, supportive assistance that emergency shelter programs were not designed to provide. As a result, Congress created the Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth (TLP) as part of the 1988 Amendments to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), Title III of the JJDPA. The TLP was modeled after several successful demonstration projects funded in the early 1980s by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Congress assigned administration of the TLP to the HHS. Within HHS, the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) funded the first TLP projects in 1990.

Today, FYSB continues to fund the Transitional Living Program through the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act of 2003, as amended by P.L. 108-96, which reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and provides funding for the organizations and shelters that serve and protect runaway, homeless, missing, and sexually exploited children. In FY 2007, 190 organizations received funding totaling \$35.2 million. This funding will also support the Presidential initiative that created maternity group homes, transitional living programs for young mothers and their children.

Purpose

The mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is to provide national leadership on youth issues and to assist individuals and organizations in providing effective, comprehensive services for youth in at-risk situations and their families. The goals of FYSB programs are to provide positive alternatives for youth, ensure their safety, and maximize their potential to take advantage of available opportunities.

Through the TLP, FYSB supports projects that provide longer term residential services to homeless youth ages 16-21. Generally, services are provided for up to 18 months, and an additional 180 days is allowed for youth less than 18 years old. These services are designed to help youth who are homeless make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

TLP grantees are required to provide youth with stable, safe living accommodations and services that help them develop the skills necessary to move to independence. Living accommodations may be host family homes, group homes, maternity group homes, or “supervised apartments.” (Supervised apartments are either agency-owned apartment buildings or “scattered site” apartments, which are single-occupancy apartments rented directly by young people with support from the agency.) TLPs also provide pregnant or parenting youth with parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence in order to ensure the well-being of their children.

Services Provided

TLP grantees are required to offer the following services, either directly or by referral:

- Safe, stable living accommodations
- Basic life-skill building, including consumer education and instruction in budgeting, using credit, housekeeping, menu planning, food preparation, and parenting skills
- Interpersonal skill building, including enhancing young people’s abilities to establish positive relationships with peers and adults, make decisions, and manage stress
- Educational opportunities, such as GED preparation, postsecondary training, or vocational education
- Assistance in job preparation and attainment, such as career counseling and job placement
- Education, information, and counseling to prevent, treat, and reduce substance abuse
- Mental health care, including individual and group counseling
- Physical health care, including routine physicals, health assessments, and emergency treatment

FYSB’s Grant Award Process

FYSB solicits applications for the Transitional Living Program through funding announcements on the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications are competitively reviewed by peer panels, and successful applicants receive 5-year grants.

For More Information

For further information about FYSB’s TLP, contact the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, P.O. Box 13505, Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505; (301) 608-8098; fax: (301) 608-8721; e-mail: info@ncfy.com; Web site: ncfy.acf.hhs.gov.

John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) was created in 1999 with passage of the Foster Care Independence Act (Public Law 206-169 Section 477). CFCIP replaced the Title IV-E Independent Living Initiative of 1986. The purpose of CFCIP was spelled out in the legislation and had 5 initial points:

1. To identify children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and to help these children make the transition to self-sufficiency by providing services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention);
2. To help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment;
3. To help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter post secondary training and education institutions;
4. To provide personal and emotional support to children aging out of foster care, through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults; and
5. To provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

An additional purpose was added to CFCIP as part of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001 (Public Law 107-133):

6. To make available vouchers for education and training, including post secondary learning and education, to youths who have aged out of foster care.

The Foster Care Independence Act also required that the Administration for Children and Families develop and implement a data collection system to (1) track the independent living services that states provide to youth, and (2) develop outcome measures that may be used to assess state performance in operating their independent living programs. The data collection system is called the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), and on February 26, 2008, the Children's Bureau published a final rule on NYTD in the Federal Register. The final rule outlines new regulations for requiring States to collect and report youth data. States must begin collecting data by **October 1, 2010**.

For more information on the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program go to:
<http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/programs.html>

For more information on NYTD, go to:
www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/nytd/



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Purpose

Program Office: Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs

CFDA Number: 84.196

Program Type: Formula Grants

Also Known As: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

 [PDF \(87K, 08/2008\)](#)
Source: *Guide to U.S. Department of Education Programs*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Formula grants are made to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico based on each state's share of Title I, Part A, funds. The outlying areas and the Bureau of Indian Affairs also receive funds. Among other things, the program supports an office for coordination of the education of homeless children and youths in each state, which gathers comprehensive information about homeless children and youths and the impediments they must overcome to regularly attend school. These grants also help SEAs ensure that homeless children, including preschoolers and youths, have equal access to free and appropriate public education (FAPE). States must review and revise laws and practices that impede such equal access. States are required to have an approved plan for addressing problems associated with the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children in school. States must make competitive subgrants to LEAs to facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youths. This includes addressing problems due to transportation needs, immunization and residency requirements, lack of birth certificates and school records, and guardianship issues.

TYPES OF PROJECTS

With subgrant funds, LEAs offer such activities as coordination and collaboration with other local agencies to provide comprehensive services to homeless children and youths and their families. LEAs also offer expedited evaluations of the needs of homeless children to help them enroll in school, attend regularly, and achieve success.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

States and school districts across the country are taking steps to address the needs of students who have been left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. We applaud their efforts and encourage them to review, as needed, the Department's previously issued guidance on the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

Each year, over 800,000 children and youth in the United States experience homelessness. Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is intended to ensure that homelessness

does not cause these children to be left behind in school.

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Last Modified: 09/09/2008