

# **A New Congress and Administration: Opportunities for Policy Change**

NAEHYC 2021

# Agenda

**1**

**NN4Y Policy Agenda**

**2**

**New Congress + Administration**

**3**

**Federal Policy Updates + Actions  
You Can Take**



# Our Mission

National Network for Youth is on a mission to transform systems so that no young person in America experiences homelessness.



**Public Education and  
Policy Advocacy**



**National Youth  
Advisory Council  
(NYAC)**



**Training and  
Technical Assistance**

**One in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.**



That's approximately 3.5 million young adults

**One in 30 youth ages 13-17 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.**



That's approximately 700,000 youth



According to a study from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, **LGBTQ young people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ youth.**



The SPARC study, found that **black youth were disproportionately represented among homeless youth ages 18 to 24: 78% were black and 89% were people of color.**



Evidence suggests that **many youth experiencing homelessness having encountered juvenile and criminal justice system**, and nearly one-third of youth experiencing homelessness had experiences with foster care.



**Substantial and bold investments** in preventing and responding to homelessness experienced by youth, young adults and families is the only path forward.

# A comprehensive approach to youth and young adult homelessness will only be successful with



**Commitment to racial equity**

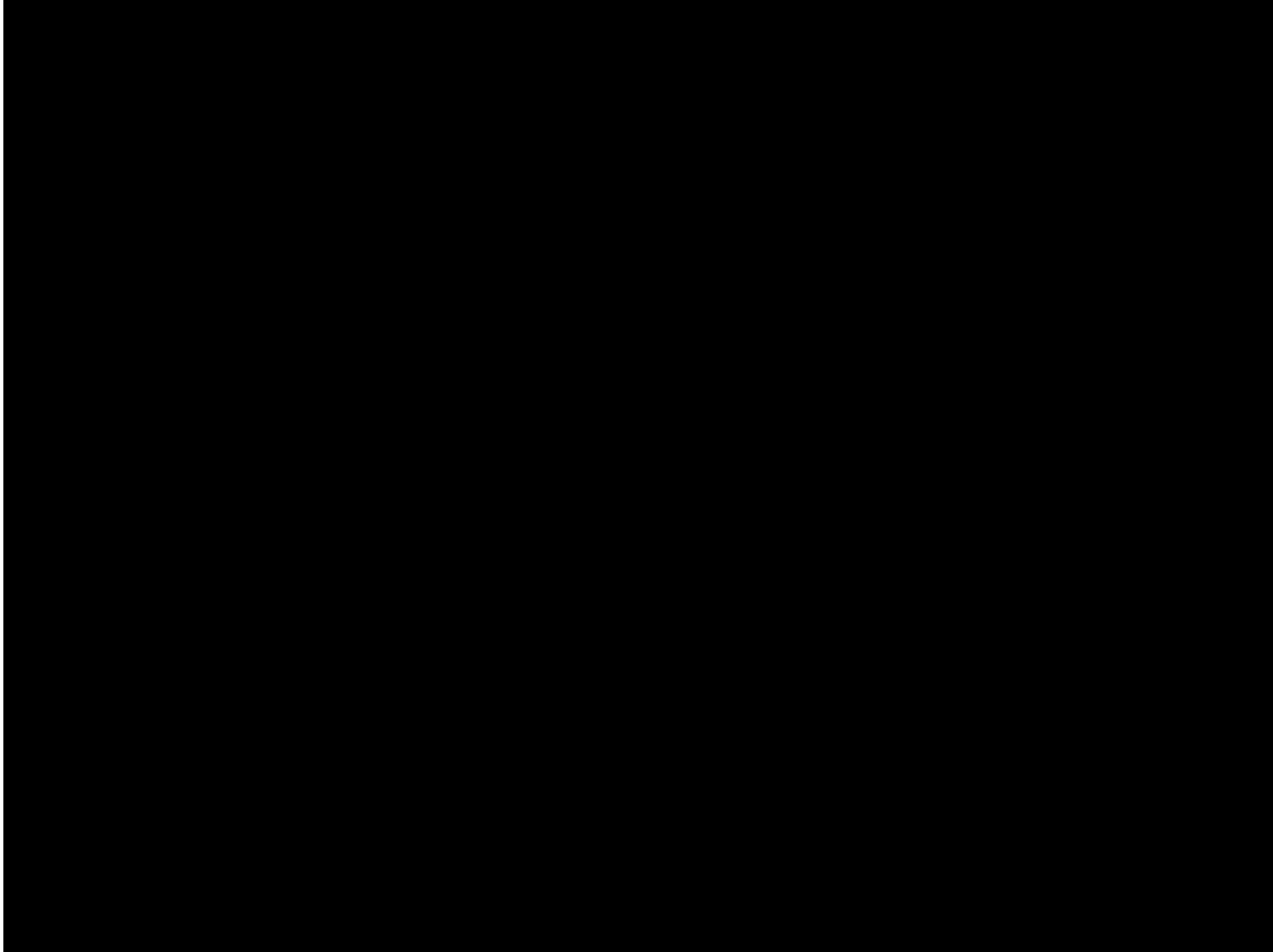


**Youth leadership at the forefront**





**Centering youth voice means engaging youth as equal partners with adults in the decision-making process.** Programs and activities are developed with youth, rather than for youth.

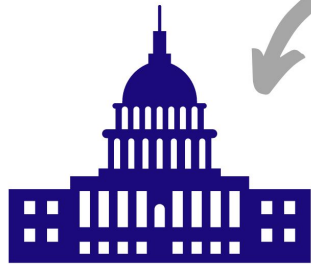
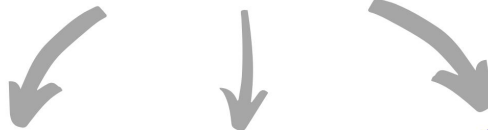


# Priorities for the Administration

## The Three Branches of Government

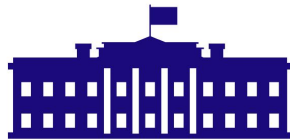


US CONSTITUTION



### LEGISLATIVE

- Makes laws
- Approves presidential appointments
- Two Senators from each state
- The number of congresspersons is based on population



### EXECUTIVE

- Signs laws
- Vetoes laws
- Pardons people
- Appoints federal judges
- Elected every four years

NATIONAL NETWORK  
for YOUTH



### JUDICIAL

- Decides if laws are constitutional
- Are appointed by the president
- There are 9 justices
- Can overturn rulings by other judges

1

Issue an Executive Order to address systemic barriers youth encounter across multiple federal programs

2

The President's budget should include significantly increased funding targeted to prevent and respond to youth, young adult, and young family homelessness

3

Support the creation of a new federal program at the Administration for Children and Families to take a two-generation approach to homelessness using the most appropriate definition of homeless for children, youth, and families.

4

Federal programs should capture similar outcome data, collect data on racial and LGBTQ+ identities, improve data sharing across systems, and analyze data to identify any disparities inequitable access and treatment.

5

HUD launch an "on-demand" voucher program for youth experiencing any form of homelessness

# 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities

1

**RHYTPA:** Pass the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act

2

**NEW PROGRAM:** Pass legislation to create a new federal program at HHS taking a two-gen approach to youth and family homelessness

3

**AHCIA:** Pass the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act to Fix the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) “student Rule”

4

**HCYA:** Pass the Homeless Children and Youth Act

5

**HEASHFY:** Pass the Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act

6

**Increase Federal Funding for Fiscal Year 2022:**

- a. Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs
- b. Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act program
- c. HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program



# Current Context for Federal Policy

A nighttime photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is illuminated, and its white dome and classical architecture are reflected in the dark water of a pond in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue, and some trees and statues are visible in the background.

- Democrats in control of House, Senate, and Executive Branch
- But a 50-50 Senate and very narrow House majority mean a bipartisan approach is especially important
- Current Congressional Priorities:
  - Large Infrastructure Package
  - FY22 Appropriations

# New Federal Program Needed at HHS: 2-gen approach

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- Creates new program at the Administration for Children and Families funded at \$2 billion
- Eligible applicants have expertise in serving homeless children, youth, or families
- Funds used for a wide variety of housing, health, education, and safety-related needs



# New Program Would Give Special Considerations to:

- Pregnant women
- Pregnant and parenting youth
- Children under age 6
- Children with disabilities
- Families experiencing domestic violence
- Survivors of sexual assault or human trafficking
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA) individuals
- Racial and ethnic minority populations

# Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)

- RHYTPA has not yet been reintroduced, but will be soon
- Same champions:
  - Senate: Leahy (D-VT) + Collins (R-ME)
  - House: Yarmuth (D-KY) + Bacon (R-NE)
- Asked for a new optional prevention services program to be added on to those grantees receiving BCP, TLP & MGH
- 5 year grants (staggered every 2-3 years)
- Geographic distribution will be considered when issuing grants
- Programs are to provide training to staff on human trafficking, trauma, sexual abuse, and assault
- Mandatory non-discriminatory practices



# Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)

**If funded at less** than \$200 million, grants awarded will be no more than \$225,000 - \$250,000 per year.

**If funded at more** than \$200 million, grants will be no more than \$250,000 - \$275,000 per year

Increased Authorized Appropriated Amount to \$367.5 million annually

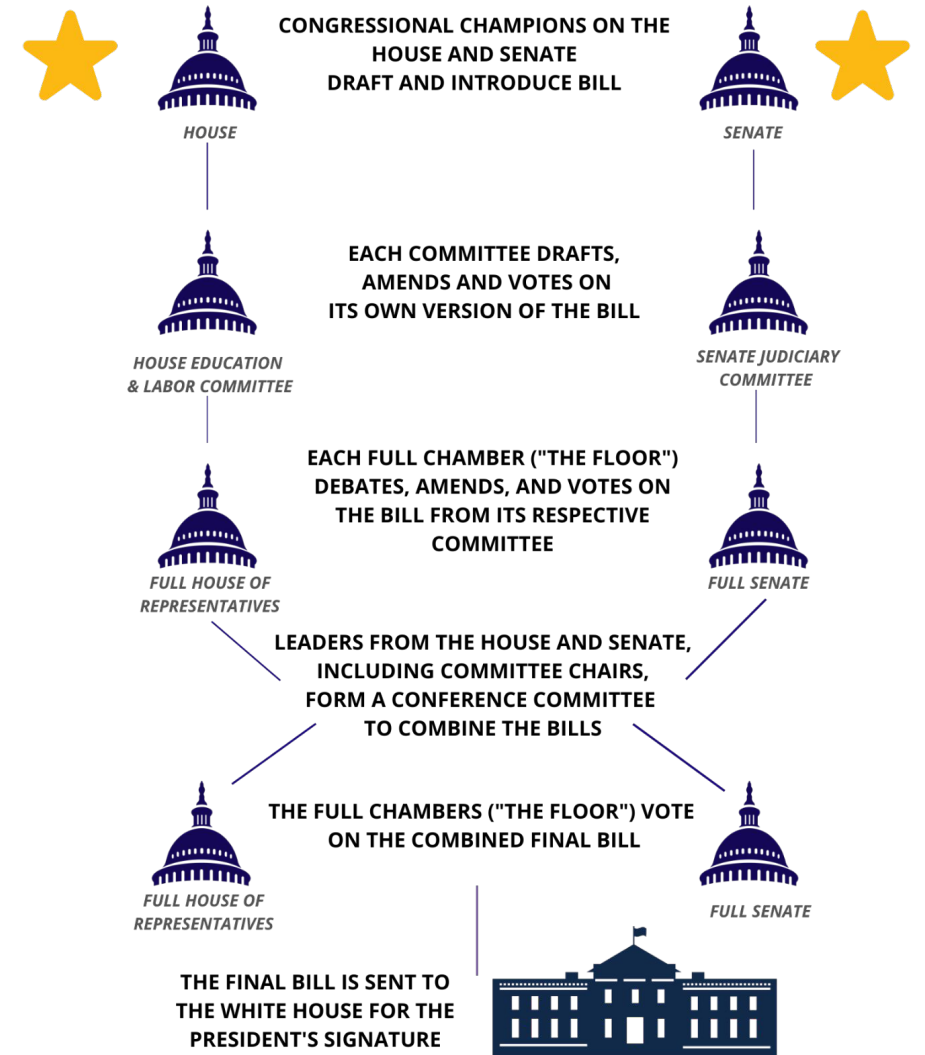
- BCP & TLP: \$225 million
- Street Outreach: \$75 million
- Prevention Program: \$67.5 million  
= \$367.5 million annually

*\*Periodic estimates: \$2 million every three years*

# Current Status and Call to Action

- **Expected Reintroduction**
  - **SENATE:** Senator Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Collins (R-ME)
  - **HOUSE:** US Reps John Yarmuth (D-KY) and Don Bacon (R-NE)
- **Goal**
  - Get cosponsors on the bill after introduction
  - Make it a priority of each committee:
    - **SENATE:** Judiciary Committee
    - **HOUSE:** ED & Labor Committee
  - Have Senator Schumer make it a priority
- **Call to Action**
  - After introduction, ask your House and Senate representatives to cosponsor RHYTPA

## RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT REAUTHORIZATION PROCESS



# Connecting Youth to Jobs Act

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- \$30 billion in state and local formula for subsidized youth employment programs, with an emphasis on historically disadvantaged populations, which includes:
  - youth of color, out-of-school youth, youth experiencing homelessness, low-income youth, youth impacted by the criminal justice system, foster youth, and pregnant or parenting youth.
- \$10 billion in competitive grants for providing wraparound services to youth employment program participants and work-based learning opportunity for youth. These supports may include:
  - housing, health care, transportation, child care, access to technology, and more.



## TAKE ACTION!

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TOWARD ADDRESSING OUR NATION'S SEVERE SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.



# Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA)

- **Current problem:** you can't live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funded housing and be a full time student. This means that young people either have to attend college part-time or not at all- both of which results in youth not attending or completing higher education institutions.
- **Solution:** AHCIA would fix this issue so that youth can live in LIHTC funded housing and still attend college or university full time.

# TAKE ACTION!

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TOWARD ADDRESSING OUR NATION'S SEVERE SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.



- Clarify that formerly homeless youth and victims of human trafficking are eligible for affordable housing even if they are full-time students.
- A new provision would enable states to maximize affordable housing production and preservation by lowering the threshold of Private Activity Bond financing – from 50 to 25 percent – required to trigger the maximum amount of 4 percent Housing Credits, needed for financial feasibility.
- Accelerate implementation of the allocation increase from the previous five years to two years, taking into account the increased and urgent need for affordable housing.

# FY 2022 Funding

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- Dear Colleague Letter final in the House and Senate
- We have 4 funding asks and report language request
- Focus talking points on COVID impacts and increase in number of youth in need



# FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS



## STEP 1

The White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) coordinates with federal agencies to formulate the President's Budget, which covers all federal agencies and reflects the President's priorities. The President submits the budget to Congress, which must pass appropriations legislation that funds federal agencies.



## STEP 2

The Congressional appropriations committees consider the President's Budget as they prepare appropriations legislation for the next fiscal year.



## STEP 3

The appropriations committees finalize their legislative proposals, and the House and Senate consider the proposed legislation. Once passed and reconciled into a unified bill, Congress sends the legislation to the President.



## STEP 4

The President signs the appropriations bill into law, making funds available to executive agencies.

## NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH FY 2022 ASKS:

- \$300 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs
- \$300million for Education for Homeless Children and Youth programs

# Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Requests:

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

### **\$300 Million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Program**

Continue previous report language plus  
include additional report language to:

- Allow RHYA providers to serve systems-involved youth
- Allow RHYA providers to serve youth funded by other sources within the program

### **\$300 Million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act Program**

Talking points:

Public schools identified 1.5 million homeless children and youth in the 2017-2018 school year--an 11% increase over the previous year. Yet, less than 1 in 4 school districts receive direct support through EHCY



# Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Requests

## SUBCOMMITTEE TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

### **\$100 Million for HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program**

Continue previous report language plus include additional report language to:

- Require YHDP YABs and RHYA providers approve of plan
- Require YHDP budgets to allocate 3% to paying for the creation and maintenance of the YAB
- Require all categories of homeless youth to be served

### **\$3.5 Billion for McKinney-Vento HUD Homeless Assistance Grant**

Continue previous report language plus include additional report language to:

- Remove additional eligibility criteria for PSH and TH
- Require youth funded projects have separate outcome measures
- Prohibit discrimination

# Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA)

Bipartisan legislation that would align the different federal definitions of homelessness across agencies and programs

## Problem:

HUD's narrow and arbitrary definition of homelessness excludes some of the most vulnerable children, youth, and families from assistance.

#1

What HCYA  
Would Do

## Solution:

HCYA aligns HUD's definition of homelessness with the definitions used by other federal programs.

# Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA)

## Problem:

Federal mandates and incentives force communities to prioritize programs for certain populations and program models, regardless of local needs and program effectiveness.

#2

What HCYA  
Would Do

## Solution:

HCYA requires HUD to score local applications primarily on whether they are cost-effective in meeting the priorities and goals that communities identify in their local plans.

# Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA)

**Problem:**

HUD's data keeps many children, youth, and families invisible, and limits public and private action to help them.

#3



What HCYA  
Would Do

**Solution:**

Improves HUD homeless data by requiring that communities include children, youth, and families who meet any part of the newly amended definition of homelessness in local counts.

## TAKE ACTION!

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TOWARD ADDRESSING OUR NATION'S SEVERE SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.



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- **Solution:** AHCIA would fix this issue so that youth can live in LIHTC funded housing and still attend college or university full time.



**“You are powerful--your lived experiences and expertise can help shape the policies that are created.”**

# Earmarks are back!

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- In the House and Senate
- Earmarks were banned in 2011



## Resource Center

Explore our centralized resource center, covering everything from practical toolkits and the latest research to policy briefs and fact sheets.




The screenshot displays a grid of resource cards on the National Network for Youth Resource Center homepage. The cards include:

- A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA** (April 26, 2021): A systems approach to addressing youth and young adult (YWA) homelessness in America is critical, we have developed this Proposed System to End Youth and Young Adult...
- LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAUSES OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS** (April 14, 2021): Our animated video depicts our vision for a future where all young people have a safe place to call home with endless opportunities to reach their full potential.
- "COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING" AKA EARMARKS** (April 9, 2021): The House Democratic Appropriations Committee restoring earmarks and rebranding them as "Community Project Funding." In this webinar, you will learn: What are the new earmarks aka "Community Project Funding? What...
- THE POWER OF ADVOCACY + YOUR VOICE** (March 20, 2021): There are several ways you can connect with your policymakers to advocate for our collective policy agenda and ensure positive policies for youth become law. The toolkit will give you...
- Unpacking Frontline Prevention: Eye-Openers and Hard Truths** (March 18, 2021): A webinar card.
- 2021 IN-DISTRICT ADVOCACY TOOLKIT**: A toolkit card.
- FACT SHEET: THE EMERGENCY FAMILY STABILIZATION ACT, S. 320**: Provides \$800 million in direct flexible funding to meet the urgent needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in the wake of the coronavirus.
- FACT SHEET: FOR OVER 45 YEARS, THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT HAS PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION FOR**: A fact sheet card.

1

Visit our [resource center](#)

2

Our [animated video](#) depicts our vision for a future where all young people have a safe place to call home.

3

Our resource center has Fact Sheets on all of the legislative priorities we covered today

4

There are several ways you can connect with your policymakers to advocate for our collective policy agenda and ensure positive policies for youth become law. Our [Virtual Advocacy toolkit](#) will give you the information you need to get started.



## Take Action Center



### CONNECTING YOUTH TO JOBS ACT OF 2021



The Connecting Youth to Jobs Act will create living-wage employment opportunities for young people, with an emphasis on youth facing barriers to employment and historically disadvantaged youth. To prevent and end youth homelessness in America...

TAKE ACTION



### AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021 S.1136/H.R.2573



The bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) of 2021 (S. 1136/H.R. 2573) would make significant strides toward addressing our nation's severe shortage of affordable housing by expanding and strengthening the Low Income Housing Tax...

TAKE ACTION



### HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT, S. 1469



Senators Feinstein (D-CA) + Portman (R-OH) + Baldwin (D-WI) reintroduced the Homeless Children and Youth Act (HYCA) on April 29, 2021. This bill would change how HUD defines homelessness so that more children and youth...

TAKE ACTION

Stay up-to-date and support our policy advocacy agenda via our [Take Action Center](#).

Visit our [Legislature Lookup](#) page.

## Legislature Lookup

Find Your Representatives

Enter your address to find out who represents you.

Street\*  
8715 1st Ave

Zip Code\*  
20910-3556

Submit

# Questions?

IN-PERSON + ONLINE | MARCH 2 + 3, 2022

# National Summit on Youth Homelessness + Hill Day

NATIONAL NETWORK  
 for YOUTH





**Become a National Network for Youth Member  
and help end youth homelessness in America**

NATIONAL NETWORK



for **YOUTH**



## TRAINING + TECHNICAL ASSITANCE

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IS YOUR COMMUNITY READY?  
[VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Our Local Cross-System Collaboratives (LCSC) on Youth Homelessness address the root causes of homelessness among young people and help to build strong collaborative relationships amongst youth-serving agencies, leading to improved youth outcomes and system functioning.

THANK YOU!

NATIONAL NETWORK  
 for YOUTH



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