



BASIC CENTER PROGRAM

PROGRAM HISTORY

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, passed in 1974, authorized the Basic Center Program (BCP), which enables community-based organizations to operate short-term, emergency shelters to provide crisis care to youth contemplating running away and experiencing homelessness (RHY) not already receiving services from the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

Today, FYSB funds the BCP under provisions of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law No: 115-385).

FYSB's Basic Center Program (BCP) works to establish or strengthen community-based programs that meet the immediate needs of youth contemplating running away or experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The programs provide youth under age 18 with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. BCPs can provide up to 21 days of shelter for up to 20 youth and help reunite young people with their families, whenever possible. They also help locate alternative placements, when appropriate.



In addition to emergency shelter, many BCPs provide out-of-shelter services, including street-based services and home-based services for families with youth at risk of separation. There are exceptions for jurisdictions that have different licensing standards. In 2021, BCPs provided emergency shelter for more than 1,551 young people.

SERVICES

While services among BCPs can vary to support the needs of each community, all BCPs must offer the following types of assistance to young people and their families:

- Food, clothing, medical care, and other services that youth need (offered either directly or by referral)
- Individual, group, and family counseling
- Recreation programs
- Education and employment assistance
- Outreach to youth who may need assistance, as well as to public and private agencies that work with youth and families
- Aftercare services for youth following their stay at a shelter



FYSB MISSION

FYSB supports organizations that work to promote youth well-being, prevent & end youth homelessness, & support a holistic adolescent approach by fostering collaborative partnerships across communities; leading in partnership with youth & young adults; & supporting data-driven practices.

FYSB VISION

A future in which all our nation's youth & young adults can thrive & achieve safety, stability, & well-being.



In addition, FYSB requires projects to develop an adequate emergency preparedness and management plan and to use a Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) approach that 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.

Projects are also required to incorporate elements of the Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach into their programs. PYD

suggests that the best way to reduce risk and trauma is to help young people achieve their full potential. These strategies focus on giving young people the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and become involved in their communities.

GRANT AWARD PROCESS

FYSB funds the Basic Center Program under the provisions of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-415), most recently reauthorized by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law No: 115-385).

FYSB solicits applications for the Basic Center Program by posting funding announcements on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and the [FYSB Funding Opportunities](#) page. Applications are competitively reviewed, and successful applicants receive three-year grants.

In Fiscal Year 2023, FYSB awarded \$25,786,579 to BCP grant recipients.

FYSB Family & Youth
Services Bureau

Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth

Click [here](#) for a full list of
Basic Center Program grant
recipients funded by FYSB.

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