



CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION

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Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) Fact Sheet Series

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT

BACKGROUND: The week of December 10, 2018, Congress passed [H.R. 6964](#), the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (the Act) with overwhelming bipartisan support. The President signed the bill into law on December 21, 2018, amending the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) after years of collaborative efforts among juvenile justice organizations and advocates across the United States.

Below, please find a summary and impact of the provisions related to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) reauthorization in the bill:

WHAT'S NEW: The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) was initially established as Title III of the JJDP A in 1974. RHYA has been reauthorized separately from JJDP A since 1988. RHYA establishes several programs that are administered and funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide vital prevention, shelter, longer-term housing, and services to youth who are disconnected, who are at-risk of running away, and those experiencing homelessness.

After being reauthorized as a standalone bill for 30 years, RHYA was reauthorized for two years (Fiscal Year 2019 and 2020) as a part of the JJDP A for a total of \$152.42 million for each of the two fiscal years, a reduction from the previous reauthorization in 2008, which authorized \$165 million beginning in FY 2009. Specific funding levels included in the reauthorization include:

- \$127.42 million for the Basic Center Program (provides temporary shelter, counseling, family reunification, and aftercare), the Transitional Living Program (provides longer-term housing with supportive services, including Maternity Group Homes), and National Activities (hotline, training and technical assistance, and incidence and prevalence study).
- \$25 million for the Street Outreach Program, which provides emergency shelter and access to education, treatment, counseling, and referrals.

The reauthorization of RHYA within the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 did not include vital programmatic improvements to runaway and homeless youth programs, including strengthening prevention and response efforts for youth and young adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness and/or trafficking, ensuring continued studies on the prevalence of

youth and young adult homelessness, protecting LGBTQ youth from discrimination, and increasing authorized funding levels to meet national need. These programmatic improvements are included in the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: To learn more about youth homelessness, click [here](#). To learn more about how homelessness impacts LGBTQ youth, click [here](#). To find out what else Federal lawmakers and communities can do to prevent and end youth homelessness, click [here](#) and [here](#).

This fact sheet was prepared by:



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