

# **Youth Referral and Information Resources Directory**

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## **Runaway Services**

**National Runaway Switchboard**      **1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)**  
**[www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org)**

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) provides confidential crisis intervention, referrals and information to youth, families, concerned adults, and youth workers and also participates in advocacy and educational services. If you are thinking about running away or have runaway, please call the hotline above for help.

**Covenant House Nineline**      **1-800-999-9999**  
**[www.covenanthouse.org](http://www.covenanthouse.org)**

Nineline counselors offer support, assistance and referrals to youth dealing with problems ranging from general health concerns or fights with parents to homelessness, abuse, or drugs.

## **General Youth Services**

**Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)**  
**[www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb)**

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is a Federal agency dedicated to supporting young people and strengthening families. The Bureau does so by providing runaway and homeless youth service grants to local communities; the Bureau also funds research and demonstration projects.

To contact the office headquarters, you can call this number: 202-690-8110

**National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth (NCYF)**  
**[ncfy.acf.hhs.gov](http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov)**

The National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth (NCYF) is a free information service for those interested in developing new and effective strategies for supporting young people and their families. NCYF is the US Dept. of Health and Human Service's Family and Youth Services Bureau's (FYSB's) central resource to link those interested in youth issues with the resources they need to better serve young people, families, and communities.

To contact the office headquarters, you can call this number: 301-608-8098

**National Resource Center for Youth Services**  
**[www.nrcys.ou.edu](http://www.nrcys.ou.edu)**

This web site provides a vast array of internet links to agencies and clearinghouses addressing countless issues related to youth services including runaway and homeless youth, youth development, transitional living programs, substance abuse, foster care, abuse, juvenile justice and mental health issues as well as links to databases, statistics and census information, and funding resources.

### **National Youth Development Information Center**

**[www.nydic.org](http://www.nydic.org)**

NYDIC is a one-stop website for youth workers with interest in funding, programming, research, policy, job and training opportunities. NYDIC also provides current news to the youth development field and has one of the largest online libraries, providing practice-related information at low-cost or no cost. NYDIC provides constant opportunities for practitioners to share knowledge and experience, enabling them to build the best practice in the field of youth development.

To contact the office headquarters, you can call this number: (202) 347-2080

### **DHHS Administration for Children and Families**

**[www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)**

A service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, they provide access to print and electronic publications, websites, and online databases covering a wide range of topics from prevention to permanency, including child welfare, child abuse and neglect, adoption, search and reunion, and much more.

### **TeenHelp**

**[www.vpp.com/teenhelp/](http://www.vpp.com/teenhelp/)**

A resource organization for teens and their parents on critical teen issues, such as suicide and teen pregnancy. They also provide referrals to a teen maternity program, treatment facilities, among others.

To receive resources, please contact TeenHelp at 1-800-355-8336.

### **Center for Assessment and Policy Development**

**[www.capd.org/issue-iofa.htm](http://www.capd.org/issue-iofa.htm)**

CAPD aims to ensure that youth, often youth at-risk due to poverty or minority status, have access to safe environments, opportunities to build self-esteem and decision-making skills, higher education and job opportunities. This involves supporting the development of community-wide plans to address issues of youth violence as well as specific strategies to facilitate school success and progression among young adults. On the CAPD website are numerous publications that are free and projects they are working on to improve the lives of youth.

If you would like to contact the CAPD office for more information, please call (609)334-6904.

### **Child Trends**

**[www.childtrends.org/index.cfm](http://www.childtrends.org/index.cfm)**

Child Trends has research briefs, presentations, fact sheets, practitioner insights, and other publications on the following topics: youth development, education, teen sex & pregnancy, marriage & family, parenting, health, and poverty.

If you would like to contact the Child Trends office for more information, please call (202) 572-6136.

### **Youth Activism Project**

**[www.youthactivism.com](http://www.youthactivism.com)**

The Youth Activism Project provides information and resources to youth workers, policy makers, parents and organizations that want to support youth advocates. There are free publications available on the

website as well as a toolkit for adults.

If you would like more information on getting started please call the toll free hotline 1-800-543-76937.

## **Homelessness**

### **National Coalition for the Homeless**

**[www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)**

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers. The website offers information on housing justice, economic justice, health care justice, and civil rights. Also available are ways to get involved, publications, fact sheets, and reports that address youth homelessness.

If you would like to contact the National Coalition for the Homeless, please call (202) 462-4822.

### **National Center for Homeless Education**

**[www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)**

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) provides research, resources, and information enabling communities to address the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness.

If you would like more information, please call (800) 308-2145.

### **National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness**

**[www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov](http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov)**

The National Resource Center provides technical assistance, identifies and synthesizes knowledge and disseminates information regarding homelessness and mental illness (mainly in adults).

If you would like more information, please call 1-800-444-7415.

## **Adolescent Reproductive & Sexual Health**

### **Office of Population Affairs Clearinghouse (OPA)**

**[www.opaclearinghouse.org](http://www.opaclearinghouse.org)**

The OPA Clearinghouse collects, develops, and distributes free information on family planning, adolescent pregnancy, abstinence, adoption, reproductive health care, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS.

To order publications or speak with an OPA Clearinghouse Information Specialist, call 866-640-7827.

### **National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

**[www.thenationalcampaign.org](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org)**

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy web site provides facts, statistics and links to other resources regarding teen pregnancy.

To contact the office headquarters, please call (202)478-8500.

### **Healthy Teen Network**

**[www.healthyteennetwork.org](http://www.healthyteennetwork.org)**

Healthy Teen Network is devoted to making a difference in the lives of teens and young families. They are a national organization focused on adolescent health and well-being with an emphasis on teen pregnancy prevention, teen pregnancy, and teen parenting. Healthy Teen Network prides itself on supplying the adolescent health community with relevant and timely resources, research and support to help professionals effectively reach our vulnerable young populations.

If you would like more information, contact the Healthy Teen Network at 410-685-0410.

### **Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (ReCAPP)**

**[www.etr.org/recapp](http://www.etr.org/recapp)**

ReCAPP provides practical tools and information to effectively reduce adolescent sexual risk-taking behaviors. You will find up-to-date material, including: current research and statistics, learning activities, educator and youth skills, and much more.

### **Advocates for Youth**

**[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)**

Advocates for Youth is dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates provides information, training, and strategic assistance to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, youth activists, and the media in the United States and the developing world.

If you would like more information on Advocates for Youth please call (202)419-1448.

### **Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)**

**[www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org)**

SIECUS educates, advocates, and informs schools, policymakers, and others about the right of all people to accurate information, comprehensive education about sexuality, and sexual health services. Through the website you can find information on policy/ways you can advocate as well as publications, fact sheets, and toolkits covering all topics of sexual health. There are also links to other websites that SIECUS has such as the SexEd Library and Community Action Kit.

If you would like to contact SIECUS for more information please call (212)819-9770.

## **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth**

### **National Gay & Lesbian Taskforce**

**<http://www.thetaskforce.org/>**

The mission of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is to build the grassroots power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The NGLTF does this by training activists, equipping state and local organizations with the skills needed to organize broad-based campaigns to defeat anti-LGBT referenda and advance pro-LGBT legislation, and building the organizational capacity of the movement. The NGLTF has a Youth Section on the website that offers news updates and press releases as well as training information.

If you would like more information, please contact the NGLTF at (202)393-2241.

### **The Trevor Project**

**<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/home1.aspx>**

The Trevor Project operates the only nationwide, around-the-clock suicide prevention helpline for gay and questioning youth. The website offers suicide resources as well as local resources information for every community.

The Trevor helpline number is (866)488-7386. If you would like more information on The Trevor Project, please call (310)271-8845.

### **Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network**

**<http://www.glsen.org>**

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. The website has information on the issues surrounding LGBTQ, policy & law, curriculum, training, and additional tools for all who would like to get involved.

If you would like to contact the GLSEN for more information, please contact (202)347-7780.

### **The National Youth Advocacy Coalition**

**<http://www.nyacyouth.org/>**

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC) is a national social justice organization working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people to build the capacity of the LGBTQ youth movement. NYAC is committed to representing the voices of young people--a generation twice the size of any other living generation--within the broader LGBTQ and social justice movements. The website offers ways to get involved in policy, advocacy, information for youth, and numerous programs provided for all who are interested.

If you would like more information, please call the NYAC at (202)319-7365.

## **Health**

### **CDC National Prevention Information Network**

**[www.cdcnpin.org](http://www.cdcnpin.org)**

The CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) provides information about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and tuberculosis (TB) to people and organizations working in prevention, health care, research, and support services. Health Information Specialists are at the NPIN answer questions, provide referrals, and offer technical assistance. To speak with a health information specialist, (English and Spanish), Monday-Friday, 9 am to 6 pm, (ET) call the network at 1-800-458-5231 or send an e-mail to [info@cdcnpin.org](mailto:info@cdcnpin.org).

### **CDC National AIDS Hotline 1-800-342-2437**

Information Specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and can answer questions, provide

referrals, and send free publications through the mail regarding prevention, risk, testing, treatment and other HIV/AIDS-related concerns.

### **CDC Division of Adolescent School Health (DASH)**

**[www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/about/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/about/index.htm)**

CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) seeks to prevent the most serious health risk behaviors among children, adolescents and young adults. On the website there are various information topics and toolkits that you can order for training. Data and statistics are available as well as research done on adolescent health.

If you would like more information, you can contact the CDC by calling (800)232-4636.

### **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**

**[www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)**

On the NIMH website you can read about all mental health issues that affect people as well as the disorders that specifically affect adolescents more. The website offers information on what to do in the case of a specific traumatic event, information on behaviors and disorders, as well as treatment options.

If you would like more information, you can call toll free to 1-866-615-6464.

## **Foster Care**

### **Foster Club**

**[www.fosterclub.org](http://www.fosterclub.org)**

The Foster Club is dedicated to supporting youth in foster care, foster parents, and foster care supporters through advocacy and publications. The specific websites for each target audience provide a vast amount of free resources and publications, training opportunities, and outreach tools for those that would like to get involved.

If you would like more information, please call (323) 857-1717.

### **Jim Casey Youth Operations Initiative**

**[www.jimcaseyyouth.org](http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org)**

The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative brings together the people, systems and resources necessary to assist youth leaving foster care make successful transitions to adulthood through: making grants, providing technical assistance, and advocating for improved policies and practices.

If you would like more information, please call (314)863-7000.

### **Child Welfare League of America**

**[www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)**

The CWLA site has programs that cover a broad number of issues that adolescents may be facing. Along with the programs there are publications available as well as training and toolkits for youth, parents, and policy makers.

If you would like to contact the CWLA, please call (703) 412-2400.

### **Black Administrators in Child Welfare**

**[www.blackadministrators.org](http://www.blackadministrators.org)**

As an advocate for the employment of Black executives in key administrative positions, BACW serves as a resource, support network and voice in an effort to alter and positively influence these conditions. On the BACW website you can find information on training, conferences & meetings, news briefs, how you can help, and statistics.

If you would like to contact the BACW, please call (202) 783-3714.

## **Abuse**

### **National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information**

**1-800-394-3366**

**[www.calib.com/nccanch](http://www.calib.com/nccanch)**

The Clearinghouse is a national resource for professionals and others seeking information on child abuse and neglect and child welfare.

### **Childhelp**

**[www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)**

**1-800-422-4453**

Childhelp exists to meet the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children. The website offers information on locating advocacy centers, treatment, professional training, prevention, community outreach, state programs, and general information on the care of children. The Hotline number above offers crisis intervention, information, literature, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are anonymous and confidential.

## **Substance Use/Abuse**

### **National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information**

**[www.ncadi.samhsa.gov/about/aboutncadi.aspx](http://www.ncadi.samhsa.gov/about/aboutncadi.aspx)**

SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) is a one-stop resource for information about substance abuse prevention and addiction treatment.

If you would like more information, please call 1-800-729-6686.

### **Safe Schools Healthy Students**

**[www.sshs.samhsa.gov](http://www.sshs.samhsa.gov)**

The SS/HS Initiative is a unique Federal grant-making program designed to prevent violence and substance abuse among our Nation's youth, schools, and communities. On the website you can find information on the initiatives, how to apply the initiatives, and opportunities for people to train and educate themselves.

If you would like more information about SS/HS, you may send an e-mail through the website.

## **Violence, Gangs, Juvenile Justice**

### **Children’s Safety Network**

**[www.childrensafetynetwork.org](http://www.childrensafetynetwork.org)**

Children’s Safety Network (CSN) seeks to prevent injuries and violence among children and adolescents. The CSN offers technical assistance, publications on a variety of topics, training and workshop opportunities, and current research.

If you would like more information, please call (617) 618-2230.

### **National Youth Gang Center**

**[www.iir.com/nygc](http://www.iir.com/nygc)**

The NYGC assists others in their efforts to reduce youth gang involvement and crime by contributing information, resources, practical tools, and expertise towards the development and implementation of effective gang prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies.

If you would like more information, please call (850) 385-0600.

### **National Criminal Justice Reference Services**

**[www.ncjrs.org](http://www.ncjrs.org)**

The NCJRS provides information, statistics, and resources on issues including corrections, courts, drugs, juvenile justice, victims of crimes and other similar issues.

If you would like more information, please call (301)519-5500.

## **In - House Resources Available on our Website**

### **Toolkits for Youth Workers**

*Runaway and Homeless Youth Facts*— Includes definitions, dimensions, demographics, causes and consequences of youth homelessness.

*Being an Effective Youth Advocate*—How to prepare to advocate and instructions for contacting members of Congress via phone, letter or visit.

*Helping Runaway and Homeless Youth*—Includes ways you can help RHY on a national and local level.

*HIV Risks of Runaway and Homeless Youth*- Discusses the high risk of HIV for runaway and homeless youth.

### **Fact Sheets**

#### *Public Awareness*

The public awareness fact sheet describes homeless youth and many of the things they want such as connection to family, a safe place to live, self-sufficiency, help from caring adults, and a future. The fact sheet raises awareness of many of circumstances a homeless youth is going through.

### *Unaccompanied Youth*

This fact sheet gives information and statistics on unaccompanied youth including incidence, demographics, causes, abuse history, mental health, HIV and AIDS, substance abuse, and consequences.

## **Issue Briefs**

### *1: Education*

Includes research on educational barriers for homeless youth and recommendations for how to improve these barriers as well as how each specific audience can help. Information on the McKinney-Vento Act is available and what it specifically covers. Contact information for other organizations and resources are available at the end of the brief.

### *2: Pregnancy and Parenting*

Discusses the needs for assistance for pregnant youth lack the needed assistance and their risk for unhealthy behaviors. Includes changes that need to be made concerning housing, integrated services, and assistance to improve the lives of pregnant women and those parenting unaccompanied youth.

### *3: Unaccompanied Youth*

Issue brief has information on family and community factors, definitions of terms used for unaccompanied youth, and the consequences of homelessness.

### *4. Youth Homelessness*

Gives information on the necessity of harm reduced homes and the consequences and cost to society for homeless youth. The issue brief also includes information on the negative effects of youth homelessness which include mental health issues, substance abuse, criminal activity, unsafe sex practices, and barriers to education and employment.

**Membership Packets** are available for those interested in becoming NNY members.

## **Public Policy Updates for 2008**

### ***Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Reauthorization***

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) expires 9/30/2008 and is up for reauthorization this year. The issue brief gives descriptive information on the status of the issue, who is working in the Senate and US Representatives to help prepare for reauthorization, the background information and importance of the RHYA, and describes the programs that are provided because of the RHYA.

### ***Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Appropriations***

Information is available on this update about the recommended appropriations for the reauthorization of the RHYA. Also available is a descriptive summary on the status of the issue, the background information and importance of the RHYA, and describes the programs that are provided because of the RHYA.

### ***A Place to Call Home Act Summary of Provisions***

The purpose of the Place to Call Home Act is to create the conditions, structures, and supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth. The bill includes provisions in the homeless assistance, housing, child welfare, juvenile justice, public health, education, workforce investment, teen parenting, and immigration areas. Details including provisions, program information, and a summary are available for all of these areas in the Summary of Provisions.

### ***Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Programs***

Information on the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Programs Act (JJDPA) appropriations and recommendations for reauthorization are available. The issue status and provision recommendations for the JJDPA are described as well as why the JJDPA matters including the importance of it, why there are concerns, and descriptive background information.

### ***Youth Reentry***

Youth Reentry is the process youth go through upon exiting juvenile and criminal justice systems in their reentry to the families and communities to which they are returning. This issue brief discusses the recommendations for addressing youth reentry as well as the status of the issue. The brief also provides the background information and importance of this issue.

### ***Youth Access to Child Welfare Services***

Information on the laws that deal with youth access to child welfare services is available as well as recommendations for improving them. The status of the issue as well as provisions are included in this issue brief.

### ***HUD Homeless Assistance Programs***

The public policy update on Homeless Assistance Programs includes recommendations on what

should be reauthorized to ensure youths' equal access to programs. A detailed description on the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act is available with reasons why it is more beneficial to runaway and homeless youth than the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act.

### ***Postsecondary Education Programs***

The goal is to increase access to postsecondary education for disconnected youth and this can be done by strengthening the Higher Education Act (HEA) and making specific appropriations. Provisions to the HEA that homeless education advocates are working to ensure are available in this issue brief as well as the importance of providing educational programs for runaway and homeless youth.

### ***Elementary and Secondary Education Programs***

Information on education programs for runaway and homeless youth is available including recommendations for the Senate and House to approve for funding to the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program. The status of the issue is available including the recent, current, and proposed budgets for the EHCY. Background information and the importance of assuring homeless youth are successful in school.

## **Publications from National Network for Youth**

*Alone without a Home: A State-by-State Review of Laws affecting Unaccompanied Youth*

*A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide to Gauge Agency Readiness to Work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth*

*Rainbow Pages: A National Resource Guide for Providers Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth*

*Learning Activities: Facilitator's Guide and Workbook*

## **Other Publications**

July 2007. *Street Outreach Programs Reach Out to Youth with Diverse Needs*. Silver Spring, MD. National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth.

July 2006. *Aftercare: Staying in Touch With Youth After They Have Left the System*. Silver Spring, MD. National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth.

2007. *Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics, Programs, and Emerging Issues*. Washington, DC. Congressional Research Service.

July 2006. *Aftercare: Staying in Touch with Youth After They Have Left the System*. Silver Spring, MD. Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

2002. *Preventing homelessness: Discharge planning from corrections facilities*. Columbus, OH: Community Shelter Board.

2007. *Educating Homeless Children and Youth: The Guide to Their Rights*. Washington, DC. National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

2007. *Intervening in the Lives of Runaway and Homeless Youth*. Portland, Oregon. National Institute on Drug Abuse.

**To access further publications by the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth, please visit the website below.**

<http://www.ncfy.com/publications/>

**To access further publications written by various organizations, please visit the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth Literature Database at the website listed below.**

<http://www.ncfy.com/literature/>