Latest Federal Policy Developments: Child, Youth, and Family Homelessness

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NATIONAL NETWORK for YOUTH
What’s Hot on the Hill?
Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Federal Budgets
Build Back Better
Runaway and Homeless Youth Trafficking and Prevention Act
What’s Heating Up for 2022?
Priorities for the Biden Administration
What’s Hot on the Hill?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program</th>
<th>Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>House Proposed</strong></td>
<td>$116.6 Million</td>
<td>$149.7 million</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senate Proposed</strong></td>
<td>$146.5 Million (A 38% Increase!)</td>
<td>$149.9 million</td>
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</table>
On Thursday, December 2nd, the Senate passed a “Continuing Resolution”: this is a stop-gap measure to keep programs at their FY2021 funding levels through the end of the year, averting a government shutdown. Final numbers have not yet been determined due to partisan and intra-party disagreement.
## FY17-FY20 Budget and Targeted Homeless Children and Youth Programs

### Federal Programs Targeted to Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Appropriations Legislation as of December 2020

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The McKinney-Vento Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program</td>
<td>$77 million</td>
<td>$85 million</td>
<td>93.5 million</td>
<td>$101.5 million</td>
<td>$106.5 million</td>
<td>$116.6 million</td>
<td>$146.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs</td>
<td>$119 million</td>
<td>$127.3 million</td>
<td>$127.3 million</td>
<td>$132.4 million</td>
<td>$136.7 million</td>
<td>$149.7 million</td>
<td>$149.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Programs</td>
<td>$43 million</td>
<td>$80 million</td>
<td>$80 million</td>
<td>$80 million</td>
<td>$82 million</td>
<td>$92 million</td>
<td>$107 million*</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Select PreK-12, Early Care, and Higher Education Programs (That include specific requirements and/or provisions for serving children and/or youth experiencing homelessness)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>$9.25 billion</td>
<td>$9.863 billion</td>
<td>$10.1 billion</td>
<td>$10.6 billion</td>
<td>$10.7 billion</td>
<td>$12.1 billion</td>
<td>$11.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care and Development Block Grant</td>
<td>$2.856 billion</td>
<td>$5.226 billion</td>
<td>$5.276 billion</td>
<td>$5.8 billion</td>
<td>$5.9 billion</td>
<td>$7.4 billion</td>
<td>$7.31 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title I Part A (Education for the Disadvantaged)</td>
<td>$15.459 billion</td>
<td>$15.759 billion</td>
<td>$15.9 billion</td>
<td>$16.3 billion</td>
<td>$17.2 billion</td>
<td>$36.7 billion</td>
<td>$33.1 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ASK:

Urge your U.S. Representatives and Senators to fund EHCY at $146.5 million and RHYA at $149.9 million

Fill out this easy online form that you can personalize and send to your Congressional delegation: https://bit.ly/ehcyrhya
Other Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Requests

Other Federal Programs Related to Homeless Children and Youth

$100 Million for HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program

- 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

- Remove additional eligibility criteria for PSH and TH
- Require youth funded projects have separate outcome measures
- Prohibit discrimination
This $800 million investment came as a result of persistent advocacy efforts, in conjunction with the participation of McKinney-Vento liaisons nationwide, in the report, *Lost in the Masked Shuffle and Virtual Void: Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Amidst the Pandemic*. 

- **Eight times** the annual appropriation
- More funding than the **previous ten years** of EHCY funding combined

SHC is advocating for this level of funding to be sustained moving forward, and we need your help.
FY2023 Budget: Making ARP HCY “the New Normal”

SHC is advocating for $800 million with flexible funding to be the annual EHCY appropriations level moving forward.

HOW YOU CAN HELP -->
Keep “hard’ and “soft’ data on the impact of ARP HCY:
- increases in student outcomes
- examples of new relationships and systems that will benefit students
- stories of families and youth who are assisted

How you can help:

Work with partners to get local media coverage of your ARP HCY activities and hires.
- policymakers read these, and we use them too

Let us know if you are interested in being connected to your federal delegation
- more on that in just a few slides!
What’s Hot on the Hill?

The Build Back Better Act

- Democrat-led social spending bill which would invest in child care, housing, early and higher education, Medicare, etc.
- Build Back Better passed the House on November 19th.
- The bill is expected to change in the Senate for both political and procedural reasons.
What Does Build Back Better Mean for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families?
● Establishes a new “Birth Through Five Child Care and Early Learning Entitlement” to provide direct child care services for low and lower-income children who are under age six, and not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

● Children experiencing homelessness (as defined by the McKinney-Vento education definition of homelessness), or in foster care or kinship care, are categorically eligible.
  ○ Their parents would not be subject to work, education, or job training requirements.

● Families with incomes less than 75% of the State median income would not pay any copayments for child care, and families whose income is between 75-100% of state median income would pay no more than 2% of their income as copayment.

● State plans must demonstrate that the State will prioritize increasing access to, and the supply of, child care for underserved populations, specifically children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care.
What Does Build Back Better Mean for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families?

Preschool
● Sets up a six-year universal preschool program for three and four year-old children, to be administered by the HHS, in coordination with ED

● Includes licensed child care programs, local educational agencies, and Head Start programs as eligible grantees.

● Requires local grantees to adopt policies and practices to conduct outreach and provide expedited enrollment and prioritization for children experiencing homelessness (as defined by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act), children in foster care, children with disabilities, dual language learners, and children in families that participate in migrant or seasonal agricultural labor.

● For local educational agency grantees, policies and procedures must include immediate enrollment for children experiencing homelessness.

● Requires States to assure that age-appropriate transportation services are provided, at a minimum for children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care.
What Does Build Back Better Mean for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families?
• Provides $25 billion in rental assistance. Of this funding:
  ○ $7.2 billion is provided for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking
  ○ $300 million is provided for competitive grants for mobility-related services
  ○ $230 million is provided for landlord incentives to participate in the program

• Public Housing
  ○ $65 billion to preserve public affordable housing infrastructure.

• National Housing Trust Fund
  ○ $15 billion for activities to support the preservation and creation of new rental homes affordable to the lowest income households.

• Invests $1 billion in Native American communities
What Does Build Back Better Mean for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families?

Earned Income Tax Credit
ARP’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Foster Youth

- For one year, lowers the age that youth from foster care and youth who are homeless can claim the EITC to age 18, and for all young adults, to age 19.
- Allows foster and homeless youth to claim the EITC even if they are full-time students and working (currently law prohibits full-time students from claiming EITC).
- For one year, increases the maximum credit for a childless claimant in 2021 to $1,502.

The Build Back Better would extend this provision for one additional year.
What Does Build Back Better Mean for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families?

Child Tax Credit
ARP's Child Tax Credit (CTC) for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Foster Youth

- Advance payments will continue
- The CTC amounts are:
  a. $3,600 for children under the age of 6
  b. $3,000 for children between 6 and 17 years of age

The Build Back Better also extends this provision for one additional year.
What Does Build Back Better Mean for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families?
$1.5 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Employment and Training Activities

$1 billion for registered apprenticeship programs, youth apprenticeship programs, and pre-apprenticeship programs

$465 million for the YouthBuild program

$450 million to Job Corps

$350 million for Paid Youth Employment Opportunities
What’s Heating Up In 2022?
Additional Top Federal Legislative Priorities for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families

- Removing Barriers to Higher Education for Homeless and Foster Youth
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)
Last year, the FAFSA Simplification Act passed, which removes barriers to financial aid for homeless and foster youth. It goes into effect in 2023-2024.

FAFSA Simplification Act: A Decade of Advocacy Crosses the Finish Line

- Removes the requirement for unaccompanied homeless youth to have their status redetermined annually
- Allows additional entities could make determinations of UHY status (not just liaisons, RHYA programs, HUD programs)
- Requires financial aid administrators to make determinations for UHY who cannot obtain documentation from third parties (same as current guidance).
- Requires the Secretary of Education to ensure that the simplified FAFSA has a single question on homeless status
- To read more about these and other changes, see SHC's FAFSA Fix Summary
The “New” Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth

Bipartisan bill to remove barriers to higher education access and success.

- Require the designation of a higher education liaisons for homeless and foster youth (similar to K-12 liaison)
- Require a plan for housing during breaks and during semester, and priority for on-campus housing
- Require that admissions applications provide youth the opportunity to identify as homeless or foster youth for the purposes of being provided information about financial aid and student support services.
- Require that TRIO and GEAR-UP programs identify, conduct outreach to, and recruit homeless children and youth, and children and youth in foster care
- Provide homeless and foster youth in-state tuition.
- Prioritize homeless and foster youth for the Federal Work-Study Program.
The ASK:

When HEASHFY is re-introduced, please ask your U.S. Representative and your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the bill.

The more co-sponsors, the more likely the bill is to be incorporated into other legislation that is moving. [SIGN UP](#) for our newsletter to stay in the loop!
Helping Foster and Homeless Youth Achieve Act

Bipartisan bill to waive college application fees for homeless and foster youth

- By waiving college application fees, the Helping Foster and Homeless Youth Achieve Act helps level the playing field and open the door to opportunity.
- Expected to be introduced tomorrow!
- Movement expected in 2022
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
Other Federal Priorities for Homeless Children, Youth, And Families

- Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act
  - Allows homeless youth to live in LIHTC funded housing and still attend college or university full time.
  - Read more [here](#)

- Connecting Youth to Jobs Act
  - Creates living-wage employment opportunities for young people, with an emphasis on youth facing barriers to employment and historically disadvantaged youth.
  - Read more [here](#)

- Homeless Children and Youth Act
  - Removes barriers to HUD Homeless Assistance for children, youth, and families.
  - Read more [here](#)

- Flexible Funding for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families
  - Creates new program at the Administration for Children and Families, providing $2 billion in flexible funding for homeless children, youth, and families.
Questions?
IN-PERSON + ONLINE | MARCH 2 + 3, 2022

National Summit on Youth Homelessness + Hill Day
Become a National Network for Youth Member and help end youth homelessness in America
EDUCATION LEADS HOME 2022

A NATIONAL CONVENING ON STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

MARCH 7-8, 2022 | AUSTIN, TEXAS

WWW.SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/ELH2022
How to Stay Connected with Us and Up-to-Date on the Issues

- **Website:**
  - [http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
  - [https://nn4youth.org/](https://nn4youth.org/)

- **Newsletter**
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- **Federal Policy Advocacy**
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  - [https://nn4youth.org/policy-advocacy/](https://nn4youth.org/policy-advocacy/)

- **State Policy Advocacy**
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