

Association of New York State Youth Bureaus

1974: A Giant Step Forward

The original Youth Bureau Comprehensive Planning Legislation (NYS Executive Law Article 19A) passes both the Senate and Assembly unanimously and is signed into the law by the Governor.

1975-1991 Modest Gains

Modest gains for our children and youth with the creation of the Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDPP) local assistance funds and the passage of the Youth Initiatives Act.

1991: A Giant Leap Backward

The Per Capita Matching Funds Category for Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention (YDDP) is cut by more than one third, 35%, in the NYS Budget.

1991-2001: Small Steps Forward, But Mostly Back

A few small steps forward were made but when cost of living is factored in, there were more steps backward. The bottom line is there have been no sustained restorations of funds for our state's locally planned and delivered youth services system. The most recent step backward is the proposed reduction of \$1,450,000 in the YDDP category in the 2005-06 OCFS budget. YDDP will be at its' lowest level in history.

Since 1974 the New York State system that supports local, public and private program with a focus on Youth Development and Delinquency, has become a national model.

2005 is the time to take a Giant Step Forward!

Revitalize and invest in the Locally Driven Comprehensive Youth Bureau Service System. This Bold Step requires the State Legislature to do the following in the Local Assistance Categories in the NYS 2005-06 OCFS Budget:

YDDP (Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention)

Add \$13,910,000 to this category that is shared by all villages, towns, cities, counties and over 2,000 not for profit organizations throughout New York State. This long overdue increase to YDDP will bring it to \$40,912,000, which was the funding level for 1990!

SDPP (Special Delinquency Prevention Program)

Add \$4,531,000 to this category that adds those most in need in all counties throughout the State of New York. This increase will bring SDPP to \$13,910,000, the same as in 1990.

RHYA (Runaway and Homeless Youth Act)

Add \$3 million to this very specific category that will allow a long overdue expansion of services to many communities in the State. (RHYA funding has been relatively unchanged for many years.) This will bring the RHYA funding to \$8,314,000

Prevention is cost-effective. The local community programs supported through your Youth Bureaus makes a positive difference in the lives of young people and their families. The wide array of services offered complement and supplement the efforts of our schools and parents. The investment of seven cents a week will be leveraged locally by public and/or private funds to help thousands of New York youth develop healthy behaviors and avoid costly services like foster care, institutions, and jail.

Youth Development IS Delinquency Prevention!