

Association of
New York State
Youth Bureaus



Association of New York State Youth Bureaus

2015-16 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PRIORITIES

Add Funding and Make Restorations to Maintain Prior Year Funding for:

Youth Development Program

Add \$2.4 million to the Youth Development Program, which would include a restoration of last year's legislative add of \$1.285 million to support services in areas such as juvenile justice diversion, delinquency recidivism, homelessness outreach and engagement, case management and family engagement services.

Runaway and Homeless Youth

Add a total of \$2.4 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs, which would include a restoration of \$254,456.00 for a total of \$4.7 million. This funding would allow for an expansion of or to build upon existing beds. In addition, a review of the methodology and data collection is needed to assure positive outcomes for the youth.

Despite significant investments proposed for Homeless Assistance and Services in the proposed 2015-16 Executive Budget, there is no specific support for unaccompanied minors or the runaway and homeless youth population. We urge the Legislature to address the need for expansion or build on existing beds for the youth served by the RHYA programs.

Advantage After-School

Restore \$500,000 for the Advantage After-school program to maintain SFY 2014-2015 levels.

ANYSYB Supports:

Raise the Age

The Executive Budget includes a number of Article VII bills that will redesign the juvenile justice system, including raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 to 18 years of age by 2018, according to recommendations put forth by the Governor's Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice.

An initial \$25 million investment to plan, create and expand services that will support diversion and probation supports for 16 and 17 year old youth who will be involved in the existing juvenile justice system. An additional \$110 million in capital funding will be invested to support placing newly sentenced 16 and 17 year old youth with OCFS instead of in adult correctional facilities beginning on December 1, 2015, if enacted.

Changes to the court system and sentencing guidelines will require legislation, as will the age changes, which are to be phased in as follows: 16 year olds diverted to the juvenile centers on December 1, 2015; the age of juvenile jurisdiction raise to 17 on Jan 1, 2017 and 18 on Jan 1, 2018.

The youth bureaus support expansion of diversion services that promote positive youth development, training and hiring family engagement specialists and urge county-specific allocation of this funding.

ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE YOUTH BUREAUS

194 WASHINGTON AVE., SUITE 415, ALBANY, NY 12210

JACKIE NEGRI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • 518.436.8712 • JACKIE@NYCAPRR.COM • WWW.ANYSYB.NET
ANDREA SMYTH, LOBBYIST, A SMYTH ADVOCACY • 518.795.5270 • ANDREA@ASMYTHADVOCACY.COM