

# Association of New York State Youth Bureaus

The Cornerstone of New York's Youth Development!



## Invest in the Youth Development Program

The 2021-22 Executive Budget imposes a 5% reduction for the Youth Development Program, from \$14.12 million to \$13.4 million. This will have a direct impact on afterschool services provided to over 1.3 million youth statewide through county, city, town and village youth bureaus and their contract agencies such as YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brother/Sister, etc. **ANYSYB respectfully requests the Legislature to restore the 5% cut and add an additional \$1.5m as allocated in the 2020-21 budget to ensure that this program is truly level funded, remaining the same amount as calendar year 2020.**

In addition to the above-referenced cut, the FY 2022 Executive Budget:

- Makes changes to the claiming process for the Youth Development Program and the Runaway and Homeless Youth to require claims to be submitted within 3 months of expenditure instead of 12 months. **This causes an undo burden for Youth Bureaus and youth serving community-based organizations; ANYSYB opposes this stringent claiming process.**
  - Youth Bureaus do not receive their allocations in a timely manner, therefore making it impossible to submit claims in such a short time frame.
  - With the onset of COVID-19, youth bureaus and community based organizations are facing staffing shortages, making it difficult for operations.
  - The need now is for flexibility, not more onerous regulations.
  - Nothing is gained by imposing more burden on the counties and community-based organizations.
- Makes permanent the laws governing funding for the Youth Development Program by removing the sunset. These provisions were originally scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2018, but were extended, until December 31, 2021, by part I of chapter 56 of the laws of 2018. **ANYSYB thanks the Legislature for their past support of this sunset, however, believes at this time YDP can be made permanent.**

### EXAMPLE OF CLAIM PROCESS

Youth Bureaus do not receive allocations until the 2nd quarter of the calendar year (in a good year).

- It takes time to get a resolution passed for spending. If it is not in by the first Friday of the month, the work gets pushed back to the next month. So that might be a full 2 months.
- Once a resolution is passed then a contract with insurance certificates and all of the required attachments have to be submitted and returned, often needing signatures by the chairman. This cannot be done ahead since often the allocation is changed at the State level.
- The claim has to come in and again it needs to meet an internal deadline.
- Once a check is issued then the YB can claim as a county to get the funds reimbursed from the state.

Demand for positive youth development services is at an all-time high as the State successfully implements Raise the Age, faces the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, combats the opioid and heroin crisis and continuously reforms the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Youth Development Program directly contributes to support these and other initiatives for New York's youth and families.

The end product of a strong youth development system is to offer skills to combat poverty and that build our state's citizenry including: increasing academic achievement and high school graduation rates, providing job and career readiness training, providing life skills for healthy living and physical activity, offering gang prevention & substance use/ opioid/heroin prevention and assisting juvenile violators from entering or re-entering the delinquency system. The Youth Development Program was established to achieve these goals, allowing counties the opportunity to fund an array of community-based non-profit agencies and local youth bureaus based on comprehensive planning in local communities.

Positive youth development programs have proven success in addressing social divisions, including gender, ethnic, and cultural differences. These programs and services support New York's youth and families, many from marginalized populations, with needed services that address food insecurity, mental health and social justice issues.

Because of this philosophy and because New York State's Youth Development Program funding is distributed statewide to counties based upon youth population, **we urge the restoration of the proposed 5% cut and the \$1.5 million legislative add be included in this year' budget to best continue to support local decision-making that can target and be tailored for specific community needs.**

**Programs and services provided and funded by county youth bureaus from the Youth Development Program funding stream include but are not limited to:**

- Supports for Homeless Youth including Outreach/ Engagement, Case Management to Find Appropriate Housing and Other Supports
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Training Programs and Services
- Mentoring and Student Volunteer Opportunities
- Food Insecurity Programs and Healthy Meals
- Family Engagement and Parenting Education
- Anti-Violence Initiatives to Prevent Youth Involvement in Gangs and Domestic Violence
- Substance Use/Opioid/Heroin Prevention Strategies
- Afterschool Prevention Programs
- Career Readiness and Summer Jobs