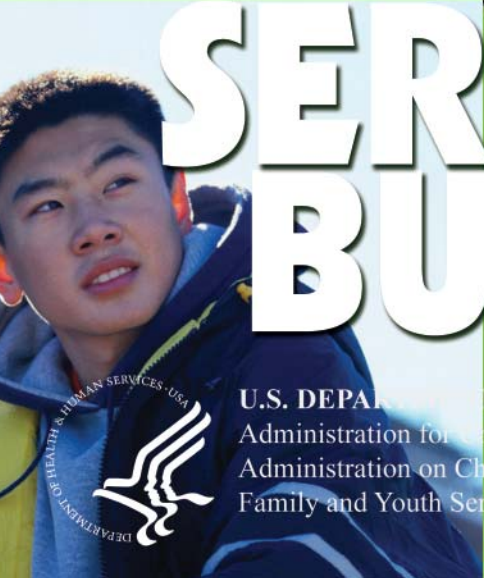


Family and Youth  
Services Bureau

# THE FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Family and Youth Services Bureau





**For more than 30 years,** the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) has provided national leadership on youth and family issues. FYSB promotes positive outcomes for children, youth, and families by supporting a wide range of comprehensive services and collaborations at the local, Tribal, State, and national levels.

FYSB is a bureau within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Administration for Children and Families; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The core of FYSB's mission is Positive Youth Development. This approach suggests that giving young people positive opportunities and helping them reach their full potential is the best way to prevent them from engaging in risky behaviors. When young people have the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and get involved, they gain self-confidence, trust, and practical knowledge—qualities that help them grow into healthy, happy, self-sufficient adults.

FYSB collaborates with other Federal partners to convene conferences, meetings, and forums for youth and youth-serving professionals and to coordinate Federal policies and programs related to the Nation's young people. The Bureau involves youth in reviewing grant proposals from community- and faith-based organizations, believing that young people know best what makes a good youth program. Several crisis hotlines supported by FYSB also give young people opportunities to volunteer assistance to their peers and communities.

## division of youth services

FYSB's **Division of Youth Services** supports local community- and faith-based organizations in their efforts to help two groups of young people in great need: runaway and homeless youth and children of prisoners. The division also sponsors special initiatives that promote Positive Youth Development for all young people.

### Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Each year, thousands of U.S. youth run away from home, are asked to leave their homes, or become homeless. FYSB funds organizations and shelters that serve and protect these young people.

### Grant Programs

Through the **Basic Center Program**, community-based organizations provide short-term shelter and address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Youth receive emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. Basic Centers seek to reunite young people with their families whenever possible or to arrange appropriate alternative placements.

The **Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth** promotes the independence of youth between 16 and 21 years old who are unable to return to their homes. Over a period of up to 18 months (with an additional 180 days for youth younger than 18), grantees provide housing and a range of services, including life skills training, financial literacy instruction, and education and employment services. Youth might live in group homes or in their own apartments, depending on the program and each young person's independent living skills.

The **Street Outreach Program** reaches youth at their most vulnerable. Grantees conduct street-based education and outreach and offer emergency shelter and related services to young people who have been, or who are at risk of being, sexually abused or exploited.



*youth services*

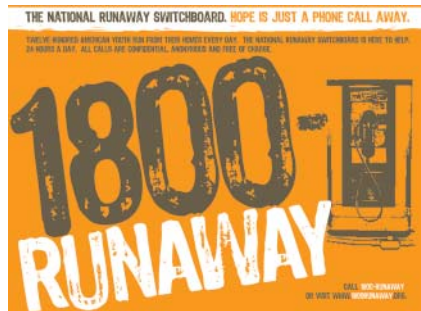
## A Network of Support

FYSB's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program grantees and other adults who want to help youth in need get assistance from FYSB's "Network of Support," which includes:

### National Runaway Switchboard

Since 1974, the National Runaway Switchboard has been the official "national communications system" authorized by Congress to help runaway and homeless youth make contact with their families and with service providers. The 24-hour hotline handles more than 115,000 calls a year.

1-800-RUNAWAY  
[www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org)  
[info@nrscrisisline.org](mailto:info@nrscrisisline.org)



### Training and Technical Assistance

FYSB's training and technical assistance providers answer grantees' day-to-day program management questions and assist organizations applying for FYSB grants. Providers offer trainings, forums, networking events, newsletters, and technical assistance publications.

To find a training and technical assistance provider, go to [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/resources/ttafactsheet.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/resources/ttafactsheet.htm).

### Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS)

RHYMIS is an automated management information tool that captures data on the runaway and homeless youth served by FYSB grantee programs, including demographics and services provided to them. These statistics are accessible via the Web.

1-800-RHYMIS4  
[extranet.acf.hhs.gov/rhymis](http://extranet.acf.hhs.gov/rhymis)  
[rhymis\\_help@csc.com](mailto:rhymis_help@csc.com)



## National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth (NCFY)

NCFY provides grantees and the public with information about effective strategies for supporting young people and families. A searchable online literature database contains abstracts of thousands of youth-related publications. NCFY publications about youth development issues are requested for conferences, trainings, and community outreach efforts.

(301) 608-8098

[www.ncfy.com](http://www.ncfy.com)



## Special Initiatives

FYSB's research and demonstration projects and other special initiatives advance Positive Youth Development and create opportunities for young people to contribute to their communities. Past projects have expanded access to shelters for minority youth, improved services in rural areas, tested home-based services, and worked to prevent exploitation of young people.

Currently, nine States participate in the **Positive Youth Development State and Local Collaboration Demonstration Projects**, a 5-year FYSB initiative to promote Positive Youth Development by encouraging communication and collaboration between State and local agencies and community members.



## Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program

Approximately 2 million children and youth in the United States have at least one parent in a Federal or State correctional facility. These young people need adult and community support. Data indicate that young people who have adult mentors are more likely to develop trusting relationships with supportive, caring adults and less likely to get in trouble.

Congress established the **Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program** to provide 100,000 new mentors to children and youth of incarcerated parents. More than 200 community- and faith-based organizations and State and local governments across the country receive grants from FYSB to match adult mentors with children and youth of prisoners.

The program works to strengthen bonds between children and their parents whenever possible and appropriate, to preserve families, and to cultivate mentors from within the child's family and community.

## division of abstinence

To help youth make smart choices about their health and future, FYSB's **Abstinence Education Programs** promote abstinence from sexual activity. The division also has collaborated with other Federal offices to create print and online abstinence resources for youth and parents, available at [www.4parents.gov](http://www.4parents.gov).



### **Community-Based Abstinence Education Program**

FYSB's **Community-Based Abstinence Education Program** provides funding to public and private entities to develop and implement abstinence education programs for young people ages 12 to 18. Programs give adolescents information, skills, and encouragement to postpone sexual activity until marriage. Through these efforts, the programs seek to reduce the number of youth who engage in premarital sexual activity, as well as the incidence of out-of-wedlock births, sexually transmitted diseases, and other risks associated with premarital sex. FYSB charges grantees with developing culturally sensitive and age-appropriate abstinence education approaches, consistent with the needs of a diverse population of adolescents.

### **State Abstinence Education Program**

FYSB's **State Abstinence Education Program** grants enable States to create abstinence education programs or augment existing ones and, if the States chooses, provide mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision to promote abstinence from sexual activity. The program helps States teach their young people the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity. FYSB awards abstinence education funds to States proportionally, based on the number of low-income children in each State.

*abstinence education*

## division of family violence

FYSB's **Division of Family Violence** funds programs that provide shelter and related services, such as emergency transportation and child care, to victims of family violence. The division also supports organizations offering a range of resources related to family violence, from training and technical assistance for service providers to crisis counseling and legal and health services for victims.



### Formula Programs

FYSB awards **formula grants** to State agencies, Territories, and Indian Tribes operating battered women's shelters and offering crisis counseling, information and referral, legal and service advocacy, transportation, emergency child care, and health care referrals. FYSB also provides funding to State domestic violence coalitions that provide technical assistance and training to local domestic violence programs.

### Discretionary Programs

Each year, FYSB funds a range of **discretionary programs** in family violence prevention and services. The programs aim to improve family violence prevention, victim protection, service delivery and design, data collection on the incidence of family violence, and understanding of issues related to family violence.

Past funding priorities have included services for disabled and immigrant victims of domestic violence, prevention of adolescent dating violence, and minority training grants in domestic violence for historically Black, Hispanic-serving, and Tribal colleges and universities.

*family violence prevention*



## Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence and Service Providers

To augment the services provided by its family violence prevention and services grant programs and to continually improve the systems that address family violence, FYSB funds a national hotline for victims and their families, as well as a network of resource centers specializing in issues related to domestic violence.

### National Domestic Violence Hotline

The National Domestic Violence Hotline aids victims of domestic violence 24 hours a day. Hotline advocates assist victims, and anyone calling on their behalf, by providing crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to local service providers. The hotline receives more than 16,000 calls a month.  
800-799-SAFE (7233)  
[www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)

**Hotlines**  
A publication of the National Domestic Violence Hotline® (NDVH)

**A Decade of Saving Lives**

"You see what they're worth," said Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., when he came to visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) on February 23. He came to talk with a special commissioner of the Hotline's 10th anniversary and to personally send the new caller capabilities made possible by the Commission Campaign.

NDVH was created by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2001. Biden, who is a strong supporter of the movement to end domestic violence, was an original proponent and co-author of VAWA. The Hotline took its current call at February 21, 1996, from President Clinton, after hearing from a concerned father in North Carolina. Since then, it has helped almost 1.2 million women, men and children who have suffered badly for help.

Today, the Hotline serves as the only center in the nation with access to more than 3,000 shelters and domestic violence programs across the United States. Every day, 500 calls a year, or more than 140 different languages, with a 24/7 live available for the deaf. Chad, Blue and Fred of Hearing: Call volume has jumped from 8,000 per month in 1996 to 16,000 in 2006.

An call volume has increased significantly over the years. Hotline call results have reached 100% to ensure that each and every call is answered. Callers are equipped with trained advocates, and are being held from on their requests for help.

"Looking back over a decade of providing empowerment-based crisis intervention services, the Hotline has become a vital part of its own success," said Bruce Campbell, NDVH executive director. "The public and private sector continue to provide the resources of skills to the Hotline has increased to an average of 200 percent."

The Hotline's goal that every abuse call should be answered by a live person, and it's working, led to the creation of the Commission Campaign. The campaign was an initiative led by Sen. Biden that mobilized the federal government and technology giant to work together to make the Hotline more efficient, effective and capable of answering more calls.

"This public-private partnership ensures that NDVH is equipped with updated technology systems, software and training so that callers can effectively answer the calls they received," said Carter, in the launch of the campaign in March 2006.

"The Commission Campaign works to ensure that no one gets a busy signal and no one's life is ever put in jeopardy," said Biden at the same event. (Continued on page 4)

"This great hotline is someone I'd believe they can make it... someone I'd be empowered to get through these times. They seem to believe that they have someone to help them."

"They're not alone!"  
— Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del.

Photo: Jeff Janssen. Sen. Biden gives address and remarks, March 2006. Photo: David Janssen. Sen. Biden, NDVH Executive Director Chad Campbell and NDVH staff at the National Day of Callers in March 2006.

### National Domestic Violence Resource Network

Comprised of five centers, FYSB's National Domestic Violence Resource Network works to strengthen the existing support systems serving battered women, their children, and other victims of domestic violence.

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence 800-537-2238  
Resource Center on Civil and Criminal Law (Battered Women's Justice Project) 800-903-0111

Resource Center on Child Custody Protection 800-527-3223  
Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence 888-792-2873  
800-313-1310

Sacred Circle (National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women) 877-733-7623

For more information about the resource network, go to [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/familyviolence/index.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/familyviolence/index.htm).

*family violence prevention*





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## **for more information**

For up-to-date information about FYSB and its programs, go to [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb), or contact

National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth  
P.O. Box 13505  
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505  
301-608-8098  
[info@ncfy.com](mailto:info@ncfy.com)  
[www.ncfy.com](http://www.ncfy.com)

For information about open funding opportunities, go to the Federal Government's central funding database, [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov), or visit the Administration for Children and Families Grant Opportunities Web site, [www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/index.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/index.html).