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Part I. General Information**A. Background on Runaway and Homeless Youth**

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), administers programs that support services to an adolescent population of approximately 500,000 runaway and homeless youth. Many of these youth have left home to escape abusive situations, or because their parents could not supply their basic needs of food, shelter and a safe supportive environment. Many live on the streets.

While living on the streets or away from home without parental supervision, these youth are highly vulnerable. They may become victims of street violence, or may be exploited by dealers of illegal drugs. Usually lacking marketable skills, they may be drawn into shoplifting, prostitution, or dealing drugs in order to earn money for food, clothing, and other daily expenses. Without a fixed address or regular place to sleep, they often drop out of school, forfeiting their opportunities to learn and to become independent, self-sufficient, contributing members of society. As street people, they may try to survive with little or no contact with

medical professionals, the result being that their health problems may go untreated and may worsen. Without the support of family, schools, and other community institutions, they may not acquire the personal values and work skills that will enable them to enter or advance in the world of work at other than the most minimal levels. Finally, as street people, they may create substantial law enforcement problems, endangering both themselves and the communities in which they are located. All these problems, real and potential, call for a comprehensive, nationwide, community-based program to address the needs of runaway and homeless youth.

B. Legislative Authority

Grants for the Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth are authorized by Part A of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHY Act), 42 U.S.C. 5701 *et seq.* The RHY Act was enacted as Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-415), and amended by the Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-115), the Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-509), the Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1984 (Pub. L. 98-473), the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690), and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Amendments of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-586). Grants for coordinating, training and technical assistance, research, demonstration, evaluation and service projects are authorized under Part D of the RHY Act.

Grants for the Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth are authorized under section 3511 of Public Law 100-690, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (Anti-Drug Abuse Act), which established the Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth, as amended by Public Law 102-132.

C. Purpose, Goals and Objectives of the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Programs**1. Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth**

The overall purpose of the BCP is to provide financial assistance to establish or strengthen community-based centers that address the immediate needs (outreach, temporary shelter, food, clothing, counseling, aftercare, and related services) of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Services supported by this program are to be outside the law enforcement, the

child welfare, the mental health, and the juvenile justice systems. The program goals and objectives of Part A of the RHY Act are to:

- a. Alleviate problems of runaway and homeless youth,
- b. Reunite youth with their families and encourage the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and other services,
- c. Strengthen family relationships and encourage stable living conditions for youth, and
- d. Help youth decide upon constructive courses of action.

2. Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth

The overall purpose of the DAPP is to help communities address the problem of drug abuse among runaway and homeless youth through the prevention, early intervention, and reduction of drug dependency. The specific goals and objectives of the program, as set forth in Section 3511 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, are to:

- a. Provide individual, family, and group counseling to runaway youth and their families and to homeless youth for the purpose of preventing or reducing the illicit use of drugs by such youth;
- b. Develop and support peer counseling programs related to the illicit use of drugs by runaway and homeless youth;
- c. Develop and support community education activities related to the illicit use of drugs by runaway and homeless youth, including outreach to individual youth;
- d. Provide runaway and homeless youth in rural areas with assistance (including the development of community support groups) related to the illicit use of drugs;
- e. Provide information and training regarding issues related to the illicit use of drugs by runaway and homeless youth to individuals providing services to these youth;
- f. Support research on illicit drug use by runaway and homeless youth, the effects on such youth of drug abuse by family members, and any correlation between such use and attempts at suicide; and
- g. Improve the availability and coordination of local services related to drug abuse for runaway and homeless youth.

Specifics regarding grant awards in each of these two programs are found in Part III, Sections A and B, of this announcement.

D. Definitions

- 1. Under Part A of the RHY Act, which authorizes the BCP, the term