

## **9. Housing**

**Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers**

**Public Housing**

**Community Development Block Grant**

**HOME Investment Partnership**

**Shelter-Plus-Care**

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Act**

**Projects to Assist in Transition from Homelessness  
(PATH)**

**National Housing Trust Fund**



## Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Housing Act of 1937, 42 U.S.C.A. § 1437f
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>Program Type</b>	Formula grant to local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) who award rental subsidy vouchers to individuals who seek to rent privately owned housing.
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	<p>PHAs authorized under state law to develop or operate housing assistance programs may apply for vouchers. Low-income families use the vouchers to help pay for housing in the private market. Applicants must supply information about household composition, income and assets, and disability status.</p> <p>Because of funding limitations, only about one quarter of low-income eligible households receive any housing assistance. Most areas have long waiting lists.</p>
<b>Eligibility, Financial</b>	To ensure that vouchers are serving families with the lowest income, housing authorities are required to ensure that 75 percent of new voucher recipients each year have incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median. Applicant families (including households of one) must be very low-income (i.e., have household incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income). Virtually all people with disabilities receiving SSI benefits are income-eligible.
<b>Eligibility, Other</b>	<p>PHAs are able to establish preferences to meet the needs of people most at risk of homelessness. Since people with disabilities are at great risk, a local PHA can establish a preference in its Section 8 programs.</p> <p>Periodically since 1998, Congress has set aside allocations of vouchers for low-income families that have a family member with a disability. PHAs may apply for these vouchers on a competitive basis. Households with members who have disabilities may apply for these set-asides but are also eligible for other Section 8 vouchers including tenant-based vouchers, project-based vouchers and homeownership vouchers</p>
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	Not targeted, but may benefit either because they live in a household that qualifies or if they are emancipated, when they may qualify as a household of one. States determine the circumstances under which some minors are considered households of one (such as being a parent themselves or being of a certain age).
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Section 8 provides housing assistance in the form of direct payments to private landlords through local housing authorities or agencies, so that low-income people can rent apartments and homes on the private market. Individuals may lease a qualified apartment that rents for an amount that does not exceed a local payment standard based on HUD's fair market rents for the area. The tenant then pays 30 percent of household income for rent, with the balance paid by the Housing Authority directly to the landlord.</p> <p>Under the voucher program, the unit rent may exceed the payment standard. However, the household will have to pay the excess of the actual rent above the payment standard in addition to paying 30 percent of household income.</p> <p>It is a family's responsibility to find a unit that meets its needs. If the family finds a unit that meets the housing-quality standards, the rent is reasonable and the unit meets</p>

other program requirements, the PHA executes a contract with the property owner. This contract authorizes the PHA to make subsidy payments on behalf of the family. The PHA pays the owner the difference between 30 percent of family income and the PHA-determined payment standard or gross rent, whichever is lower. The family may choose a unit with a higher rent than the payment standard and pay the owner the difference. If the family moves out of the unit, the contract with the owner ends and the family can move with continued assistance to another unit.

PHAs can designate certain housing as elderly only. To ensure that this does not drastically curtail support for non-elderly individuals with disabilities and families, designated mainstream vouchers are available for non-elderly families that include a person with a disability who would be eligible for public housing if occupancy were not restricted to elderly households. These vouchers also assist families affected by a PHA decision to designate their buildings as “mixed elderly and disabled buildings” but demonstrate a need for alternative resources for families with a disabled person.

Certain families need not be listed on the PHAs housing-choice voucher waiting list to be offered and receive a housing-choice voucher. Non-elderly families with a person with a disability that are income-eligible and live in public housing designated for occupancy, or non-elderly families having a person with a disability who are on the PHA’s public housing waiting list, may be admitted to the program as a special admission. These families’ gross income cannot exceed the HUD-established very-low-income limit or low-income limit for the area.

### **Funding**

FY 2007 \$14.479 billion; FY 2008, \$14.705 billion

### **Evaluation**

A 2002 report by the Government Accountability Office found that vouchers were more successful and cost-effective than federal programs that build affordable housing.

A HUD-commissioned study of Section 8 vouchers, conducted by Abt Associates, calculated success rates of vouchers in urban areas. The success rate is measured by the percentage of families with vouchers who are able to lease housing units within 60 to 120 days. According to this study, “69 percent of families and individuals who received vouchers from large metropolitan PHAs succeeded in using them to lease units under the Section 8 program.” The authors also noted that the success rates were lower than previous studies, a consequence, they felt, of tighter housing markets. The study also found that success rates do not differ by race, ethnicity, gender of the head of household, or by disability status of household members.

### **Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions**

A PHA may adopt priorities, including a priority for transition-age youth with serious mental health conditions, for allocation of Section 8 vouchers through its administrative plan, which must be developed with public participation and updated annually. However, long wait lists are a significant problem, and emancipated youth who previously lived in a family receiving support will lose that support when they leave home.

In addition, the project assistance under Section 8 provides assistance to fund housing projects for people with disabilities. This support has been valuable to many state mental health agencies, although it has been used predominantly by the adult mental health system to fund housing options for adults.

## Public Housing

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	U.S. Housing Act of 1937, 42 U.S.C. § 1437 et seq.
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>Program Type</b>	Capital and operating subsidies paid to local public housing authorities
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	Since 1937, Congress has provided funding for conventional public housing, owned and operated by local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs). PHAs develop administrative plans detailing how they will use the funds.
<b>Eligibility, Financial</b>	Individuals and family members must have incomes at or below 80 percent of area median income to be eligible for public housing. Because of a concern that previous rules led to the concentration of people in poverty in public housing projects, Congress, as part of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (QHWRA), relaxed the income-targeting rules that had required PHAs to serve the poorest applicants. To bring people with higher incomes into public housing, PHAs are now required to reserve only 40 percent of units for extremely low-income households (those at or below 30 percent of area median income). As a consequence, fewer units may be available to very-low-income transition-age youth with serious mental health conditions and their families.
<b>Eligibility, Other</b>	Traditionally, eligibility for public housing has depended on family composition and income. Families, people with disabilities and seniors enjoyed categorical eligibility status prior to QHWRA, although PHAs were permitted to serve non-disabled, non-elderly singles when units remained available after all categorical applicants had been served.
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	Not targeted. Under QHWRA, PHAs have expanded discretion to serve single people who do not fall within one of the three targeted groups, so long as the PHA incorporates its priorities for admission in its administrative plan. As a practical matter, PHAs can choose, but are not required, to make public housing units available to transition-age youth.
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Since 1998, the nation's 3,300 PHAs have enjoyed substantial discretion in the operation of local affordable housing programs within broad federal income-eligibility standards for residents. Public housing capital and operating funds are paid directly to PHAs, which serve as landlords and program administrators. Funds are not made available directly to individuals or families.</p> <p>Once admitted to public housing, residents typically pay 30 percent of household income as rent, with the balance made up by Public Housing operating funds appropriated by Congress. Unlike the Section 8 Voucher program, the subsidy remains with the public housing unit; tenants may not take the subsidy with them upon departure.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Public Housing Capital Fund: FY 2007, \$2.439 billion; FY 2008, \$2.439 billion</p> <p>Public Housing Operating Fund: FY 2007, \$3.864 billion; FY 2008, \$4.200 billion</p>

**Relevance for Youth  
with Serious Mental  
Health Conditions**

There are approximately 1.2 million occupied public housing units across the country, but because demand among low- and moderate-income applicants exceeds supply, only one in four income-eligible families is actually served in public housing. Waiting lists in some metropolitan areas are nearly 10 years long.

Under the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, PHAs have expanded discretion to serve single people, so long as the PHA incorporates this priority for admission in its administrative plan. Therefore, PHAs can choose (but are not required) to make public housing units available to transition-age youth. As a practical matter, transition-age youth are more likely to be served in public housing if they are members of a low- or moderate-income family, but would lose access to that housing when they leave home and have to reapply as a single person.

## Community Development Block Grant

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, P. L. 93-383, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 5301 et seq.
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>Program Type</b>	Formula grant to state and local governments for construction, rehabilitation and other capital costs of low- and moderate-income housing
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	<p>Annual grants are made to principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), other cities with populations of at least 50,000 and qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities). The amount of each grant is based on measures of community need, including poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing and population growth lag in relation to other metropolitan areas.</p> <p>Grantees must certify each year that they will use Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) and other federal funds to affirmatively further fair housing opportunities, which means funds must be used to overcome both public and private barriers to fair housing based on race, disability and five other protected classes.</p> <p>Beginning in FY 1995, HUD required states and local communities to prepare a consolidated plan in order to receive federal housing and community development funding. The plan consolidates into a single document the planning and application requirements for several federal housing programs, including the CDBG, HOME Investment Partnerships, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and Emergency Shelter Grants. Consolidated plans must be prepared every five years, and updated annually.</p> <p>The consolidated plan must identify the jurisdiction's goals for housing and for these specific federal programs. The goals then serve as criteria against which HUD will evaluate a jurisdiction's plan and its performance under the plan. HUD will approve a consolidated plan submission unless the plan (or a portion of it) is inconsistent with the purposes of the National Affordable Housing Act or is substantially incomplete.</p>
<b>Eligibility, Financial</b>	Not less than 70 percent of the CDBG funds received over a one-, two- or three-year period specified by the grantee must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people.
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	Not targeted
<b>Activities</b>	<p>CDBGs provide funding for construction, rehabilitation and other capital costs for housing that particularly benefits low- and moderate-income persons. Specifically, funds under the CDBG can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ acquisition of real property;</li> <li>◆ relocation and demolition;</li> <li>◆ rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures; and</li> <li>◆ construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes.</li> </ul>

Funds cannot be used for:

- ◆ construction of new housing by units of general local government;
- ◆ provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities;
- ◆ acquisition, construction or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government;
- ◆ political activities;
- ◆ certain income payments;
- ◆ public services, within certain limits; and
- ◆ activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources.

### **Funding**

FY 2007, \$3.772 billion; FY 2008, \$3.886 billion

Funding for the CDBG has been falling for many years and 2005 funding (\$4.077 billion), when adjusted for inflation, was less than half of the FY 1978 level.

### **Evaluation**

The goals in the consolidated plan serve as criteria against which HUD will evaluate a jurisdiction's plan and its performance under the plan.

### **Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions**

The CDBG is one of the largest federal programs supporting housing for low-income people, giving units of state and local government broad discretion in the allocation of funds. However, because of the high cost of housing in many areas and the pressing needs of other groups, it is not always easy to mobilize these resources for transition-age youth with serious mental health conditions.

## HOME Investment Partnership

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 12741 et seq; 24 C.F.R. Part 92
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>Program Type</b>	Formula grant to state and local governments
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	<p>States are automatically eligible for HOME funds and receive either their formula allocation or \$3 million, whichever is greater. Local jurisdictions can also receive an allocation and are eligible for at least \$500,000 under the formula (or \$335,000 in years when Congress appropriates less than \$1.5 billion). Communities that do not qualify for an individual allocation under the formula can join with one or more neighboring localities in a legally binding consortium whose members' combined allocation would meet the threshold for direct funding. Other localities may participate in HOME by applying for program funds made available by their state.</p> <p>To be eligible for HOME funds, a jurisdiction must have an approved consolidated plan (see Community Development Block Grant fact sheet). Typically, local governments allocate funds to nonprofit and for-profit agencies through a competitive application process.</p> <p>Participating jurisdictions must match every dollar of HOME funds used (except for administrative costs) with 25 cents from non-federal sources, cash or in-kind. The match requirement may be reduced if the participating jurisdiction is distressed or has suffered a Presidentially declared disaster.</p>
<b>Eligibility, Financial</b>	<p>The income eligibility of families and individuals for HOME assistance varies with the nature of the funded activity. The HOME income limits are based on HUD estimates of area median family income, with adjustments based on family size.</p> <p>For rental housing and rental assistance, at least 90 percent of beneficiary families must have incomes that are no more than 60 percent of the HUD-adjusted median family income for the area. In rental projects with five or more assisted units, at least 20 percent of the units must be occupied by families with incomes that do not exceed 50 percent of the HUD-adjusted median. The incomes of households receiving HUD assistance must not exceed 80 percent of the area median.</p> <p>For homeownership, the prospective homeowner must have an annual gross income that does not exceed 80 percent of median for the area and must occupy the property as principal residence. In addition, participating jurisdictions must reserve at least 15 percent of their allocations to fund housing to be owned, developed or sponsored by experienced, community-driven nonprofit groups designated as Community Housing Development Organizations. Participating jurisdictions must ensure that HOME-funded housing units remain affordable in the long term (20 years for new construction of rental housing; 5-15 years for construction of homeownership housing and housing rehabilitation, depending on the amount of HOME subsidy).</p>
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	Not targeted

**Activities**

HOME funds a wide range of activities that build, buy and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people:

- ◆ Rental: Affordable rental housing may be acquired and/or rehabilitated or constructed, and HOME funds can be used to operate programs of tenant-based rental assistance, including funds for security and utility deposits.
- ◆ Homebuyer: Homebuyer programs can be structured in any number of ways to encourage acquisition, rehabilitation or new construction of affordable single- and multiple-family housing. Program design will be guided mainly by the needs of the community and the local housing market. The home must be the owner's principal residence. Resale or recapture provisions apply to homebuyers to assure continued affordability.
- ◆ Homeowner Rehabilitation: HOME funds may be used by program grantees to assist existing homeowners with the repair, rehabilitation or reconstruction of owner-occupied units.

**Funding**

FY 2007, \$1.757 billion; FY 2008, \$1.704 billion

**Evaluation**

Income, rental limits and residency must be monitored by the applicant throughout the affordability period.

**Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions**

HOME assistance to tenants of rental housing might support transition-age youth who are moving into independent living. However, competition for these funds is strong. Unless transition-age youth are included as a priority population in a jurisdiction's consolidated plan, it may be difficult for them (or service providers working on their behalf) to access HOME assistance.

## Shelter-Plus-Care

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act; 42 U.S.C. § 11403 et seq.
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>Program Type</b>	Competitive grants to local programs
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	To qualify for a Shelter-Plus-Care Program, an applicant must be part of the target population the program intends to serve. Programs typically target a specific population that is difficult to engage in services, such as people with serious mental illnesses, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs or AIDS.
<b>Eligibility, Age</b>	Individuals must be 18 or older.
<b>Eligibility, Other</b>	Individuals must be homeless to qualify and cannot receive assistance from Shelter-Plus-Care if they already receive housing benefits from another program.
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	Not targeted. A youth in transition must meet the specific population guidelines for participants in a local Shelter-Plus-Care Program. For example, if the program serves consumers with AIDS then youth seeking services would only qualify if they have AIDS.
<b>Services Covered</b>	Programs receiving a Shelter-Plus-Care grant must offer a range of supportive services, funded by other sources, in response to the needs of the hard-to-reach homeless population with disabilities. These may include mental health services.
<b>Activities Funded</b>	Shelter-Plus-Care Program funds provide rental housing assistance to qualified individuals and families. Funded programs must allow for a variety of housing choices. Rental assistance can be provided through four components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Tenant-Based Rental Assistance;</li> <li>◆ Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance;</li> <li>◆ Project-Based Rental Assistance, with or without rehabilitation; and</li> <li>◆ Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program for Single Room Occupancy Dwellings.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	FY 2007, \$285 million; FY 2008, \$320 million
<b>Evaluation</b>	HUD requires that each Shelter-Plus-Care Program complete an annual progress report. The performance of each project is tracked using increased residential stability, increased skill level and/or income and greater self-sufficiency.
<b>Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions</b>	Youth with serious mental health conditions fall within the target population for this program and could benefit significantly if homeless. Program sponsors are required to secure funding for services as a condition for receipt of the Shelter-Plus-Care funds. Thus, Shelter-Plus-Care may be available to youth with serious mental health conditions if the program sponsor is capable of providing the range of mental health, substance abuse, independent living and other support services these youth require.



## Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, P.L. 93-415, as amended in 2003 by P. L.108-96, 42 U.S.C. § 5701 et seq.
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Family and Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services
<b>Program Type</b>	Discretionary grants
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	The Runaway, Homeless and Missing Children Protection Act authorizes three-year grants to private community groups to provide shelter, outreach and transitional-living services to youth. Any state, local government, public or private nonprofit agency, Indian tribe, organization or institution is eligible to apply (this includes institutions of higher education and hospitals). The applicant must provide a non-federal match of at least 10 percent of the federal funds awarded.
<b>Eligibility, Age</b>	Youth between the ages of 16 and 21
<b>Eligibility, Other</b>	Youth must be runaways and/or homeless and unable to return home.
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	Targeted
<b>Services</b>	<p>The Act authorizes three grant programs: the Basic Center Program, the Transitional Living Program and the Street Outreach Program.</p> <p>The Basic Center Program provides temporary emergency shelter to runaway youth, while working to reunite them with their families when possible. Shelters provide emergency shelter for up to 15 days, as well as food, clothing, outreach services and crisis intervention. The shelters offer services to help reunite youth with their families whenever possible. When this cannot be safely accomplished, shelters help youth to locate alternative secure living arrangements with relatives, friends or in foster homes.</p> <p>The Transitional Living Program provides longer-term residential, educational and vocational services to homeless youth to enable them to make a successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood by giving them the tools they need to live independently. The programs provide a supervised place to live for up to 18 months, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ basic life-skills training, including consumer education and instruction in budgeting, using credit, finding housing, housekeeping, menu planning, food preparation and parenting skills;</li> <li>◆ interpersonal-skill building, including enhancing young peoples' abilities to establish positive relationships with peers and adults, make decisions and manage stress;</li> <li>◆ educational opportunities, such as GED preparation, postsecondary training or vocational education;</li> <li>◆ assistance in job preparation and attainment, such as career counseling and job placement;</li> <li>◆ education, information and counseling to prevent, treat and reduce substance abuse;</li> <li>◆ mental health care, including individual and group counseling;</li> </ul>

- ◆ physical health care, including routine physicals, health assessments and emergency treatment; and
- ◆ for pregnant or parenting youth, parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence in order to ensure the well-being of their children.

The Transitional Living Program allows youth to complete their education, learn practical skills and develop positive relationships with mentors and peers, while living in a safe and supported environment. In this way, the program helps young people become healthy, productive, self-sufficient adults, avoiding the risks of continued homelessness, long-term dependency on government aid or social services, or involvement with the criminal justice system.

The Education and Prevention Grant to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless and Street Youth (previously part of the Violence Against Women Act but now incorporated into Runaway and Homeless Youth Act) funds the Street Outreach program to protect youth on the streets from sexual abuse or exploitation and to help connect them to needed services and community supports.

The program provides street-based outreach and education, including treatment, counseling and provision of information and referral services to runaway, homeless and street youth who have been subjected to sexual abuse or are at risk of such abuse. The goal is to reach youngsters as quickly as possible, before they have spent more than two months on the streets.

Street outreach grantees offer services on the street during the hours young people tend to be out, including late afternoons, evenings, nights and weekends. The programs use staff whose genders, ethnicities and life experiences are similar to those of the young people to be served. Street-outreach grantees provide services from a youth development perspective and they involve youth in the design, operation and evaluation of the program. These grantees are also required to coordinate with state or local sexual assault coalitions or other agencies providing services to youth who have been or are at risk of being sexually assaulted or exploited.

## **Activities Funded**

Other activities funded under the Act are:

The National Runaway Switchboard: a national communications system designed to assist runaway youth and their families by linking them to crisis counseling, programs and resources and each other, as appropriate. The goal is to ensure that young people in crisis have a central place to turn to for information on the help that is available to them.

The switchboard typically responds to more than 100,000 calls annually. In 2007, NRS handled 176,609 calls. Operators are bilingual in Spanish and English, and have access to AT&T's language line translation services. There is a special line for helping hearing-impaired youth. The switchboard handles a wide range of calls, from counseling youth who are thinking of running away, to assisting youth who have run away from home in finding a safe place to go to get off the streets. The switchboard also assists parents who are worried about their teenage children's behavior. Switchboard operators can help a parent figure out how to talk to their children and where to get more help in resolving family issues.

The National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth serves as a central information source on youth and family policy and practice. The clearinghouse disseminates information to grantees and the public, helps the Family and Youth Services Bureau to organize critical-issue forums that bring together grantees and other experts on issues affecting youth and assists in outreach and networking to other agencies and organizations working with youth.

The Regional Training and Technical Assistance Network is a coordinated group of organizations, one in each of the 10 federal regions, that provides training and technical assistance to local grantees. The training and technical assistance providers organize regional and state-level conferences and workshops for grantees, provide on-site consultation and offer telephone consultation in order to assist grantees to provide well-managed, effective services for runaway, homeless and street youth.

### **Funding**

Basic Center Program: FY 2007, \$48.3 million; FY 2008, \$52.9 million

Transitional Living Program: FY 2007, \$39.5 million; FY 2008, \$43.3 million

Street Outreach Program: FY 2007, \$13.5 million; FY 2008, \$2.0 million

### **Evaluation**

In FY 1998, the appropriation of \$43.6 million for the Basic Center Program supported more than 370 projects across the country, with an average grant of \$104,000 per year for a three-year period. In the same year, an appropriation of \$14.9 million for the Transitional Living Program supported over 75 projects, with an average grant of \$181,000 per year for a three-year period. An appropriation of \$15 million supported 138 street outreach programs.

2005 data show that approximately 60 percent of youth served by the Basic Center Program were able to be reunited with their families or guardians. Each federal dollar then leveraged, on average, more than two dollars for services to this population. Six months after completing the program, 78 percent of program graduates remained free of all direct government aid.

The 2006 PART analysis deemed the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs effective. In 2007, the transitional Living Program was fully able to transition 86 percent of its graduates to “safe and appropriate” settings upon their exit. Safe and appropriate” settings include independent living and housing situations, residential apprenticeships, higher education, and military service, as well as other positive environments.

### **Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions**

For a discretionary program, this initiative has significant resources. It provides essential services to ensure the safety of runaway and homeless youth, while also addressing their need for transition-related services. Youth with serious mental health conditions are at significant risk for becoming runaways or homeless due to their tendency for risk-taking behavior and their difficulties with the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Overall, people with mental illnesses are about one third of all homeless adults, and similar proportions may well apply to youth.

Transition-age youth with serious mental health conditions would be well-served by the range of services that can be funded through this law. The outreach component is especially important in finding youth at risk. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act has the potential to greatly assist a significant group of transition-age youth with serious mental health conditions.



## Projects to Assist in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Public Health Service Act, Section 521, as amended by Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, P.L. 100-77, 42 U.S.C. § 290cc-21 et seq.
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services
<b>Program Type</b>	Formula grants to states with a minimum allotment of \$300,000. States with larger populations receive more funding. The formula is based on the urban population in the jurisdiction compared to the total US urban population.
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	To receive a grant, states must provide a non-federal match. For every \$3 in federal funds, state or local agencies must put forward \$1, cash or in-kind.  To qualify for services from a program receiving PATH funds an individual must meet specific state guidelines.
<b>Eligibility, Age</b>	There are no age limits for PATH grant services.
<b>Eligibility, Severity of Condition</b>	PATH grants must be used to help homeless individuals who also have a serious mental illness (using the definition in the mental health block grant, see separate fact sheet).
<b>Youth in Transition:</b>	Not targeted. PATH grants are awarded directly to states and through the states to local organizations to serve the needs of persons with mental illness who are homeless. Youth in transition would receive PATH funding only if they were also homeless.
<b>Services</b>	States have significant flexibility in the services provided. Services can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ outreach;</li> <li>◆ screening and diagnosis;</li> <li>◆ habilitation and rehabilitation;</li> <li>◆ community mental health services;</li> <li>◆ alcohol or drug treatment;</li> <li>◆ case management;</li> <li>◆ supervisory services in residential settings; and</li> <li>◆ a limited set of housing services and services to help clients access housing resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	FY 2007, \$54.3 million; FY 2008, \$53.3 million
<b>Evaluation</b>	In FY 2005, the path program served over 82,000 people with serious mental illness, fifty-seven percent of whom also had a co-occurring substance use disorder. The most recent PART evaluation of the PATH program gave it a rating of “moderately effective”.
<b>Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions</b>	PATH funds are used to provide mental health and related services to homeless individuals with a serious mental illness. States generally use these funds to address the needs of adults, but nothing in the law or program rules excludes youth in transition (or young adults), provided that they have a serious mental illness, as defined by the state.



## National Housing Trust Fund

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, §1338; 12 U.S.C. § 4568.
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>Program Type</b>	Formula grants to states.
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	States that receive grants under the national housing trust fund may designate a state housing finance agency or other similar entity to receive and manage state funds. After developing state plans for implementation, these funds can then be awarded to both for- and non-profit organizations and agencies that have previously demonstrated an ability to own, construct, or rehabilitate affordable multifamily rental housing units or affordable housing for homeownership. Funds can also be awarded to organizations or financial institutions that provide financial assistance to homebuyers, such as those that provide interest rate buy-down services.
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	Not targeted
<b>Activities</b>	Grantees can use funds to increase the production, preservation, Rehabilitation, and operation of rental housing units, including section 8 subsidized housing and supported housing for seniors and people with disabilities. At least 75 percent of funds allocated towards this end must be used for the benefit of extremely low-income families (those whose income does not exceed 30 percent of the area median), or those families at or below the poverty line, and no more than 25 percent may be used for the exclusive benefit of very-low income families (those whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the area median). Services such as down payment, closing cost, and interest rate buy-down assistance are also available for extremely low- and very low-income families who seek to own their first home, provided that buyers first complete a financial education and counseling program. No more than 10 percent of overall funds may be used for homeownership assistance.
<b>Funding</b>	While the specific needs-based grant formula is still under development, states and the District of Columbia would at minimum receive \$3 million dollars per fiscal year.
<b>Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions</b>	<p>This program is expected to have a significant impact on increasing access to affordable housing. It is the first new program since the Section 8 program was created in 1974 specifically targeted to increase the number of units available to extremely low income households. However, no money will be available for the Housing Trust Fund until FY2010.</p> <p>Also, quite importantly, it is a permanent program with a dedicated revenue source not subject to the annual appropriations process. Funding derives from annual contributions made by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The amount will be based on a percentage of each company's annual new business. Using the formula in the bill, the amount in 2007 would have been \$557 million. Because their new business is increasing, the amount in 2008 is expected to be higher.<sup>1</sup></p>

1 National Housing Trust Fund, President Signs Housing Trust Fund Into Law on July 30, 2008. Accessed at <http://www.nhtf.org/template/page.cfm?id=40>

While this program is not specific to youth with mental health needs, it will be helpful in the future to youth in low income families and to those who transition to independent living. Given the current shortages of affordable housing, programs that increase affordable housing stock are very important to the prevention of homelessness and to the goal of securing safe and stable housing.

## **10. Family Planning and Parenting Assistance**

**Child Care Block Grant**

**Adolescent Family Life Demonstration**