

# Runaway & Homeless Youth Spending

(FY2020 Appropriation Act - Public Act 67 of 2019)

**March 1, 2020**

**Sec. 596.** (1) *From the funds appropriated in part 1 for youth in transition, the department shall maintain the recent \$500,000.00 state general fund/general purpose revenue increase to funding to support the runaway and homeless youth services program. The purpose of the additional funding is to support current programs for contracted providers that provide emergency shelter and services to homeless and runaway youth.*

(2) *From the funds appropriated in part 1 for runaway and homeless youth services program, the department shall allocate \$300,000.00 state general fund/general purpose revenue and \$500,000.00 TANF revenue to increase funding to support runaway and homeless youth services programs. The purpose of the additional funding is to support current programs for contracted providers that provide emergency shelter and services to homeless and runaway youth.*

**(3) *By March 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall submit to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the house and senate fiscal agencies, the house and senate policy offices, and the state budget office a report on the total amount expended for runaway and homeless youth services programs in the previous year, as well as the total number of shelter nights for youth provided.***



## **Homeless Youth & Runaway Expenses and Bed Nights for FY19**

The MDHHS Homeless Youth and Runaway program provides funding for two separate and distinct program types.

The **Outreach and Basic Care** program is voluntary and serves youth ages 12-17 who have runaway from home, have been made to leave their home, or who are at risk of either of these situations. The primary goals of the program are to reunify the youth with their family as quickly as possible and to prevent the youth entering either the child welfare system or the juvenile justice system. Services provided by the Outreach and Basic Care program include:

- Outreach to youth and entities that have contact with youth (e.g. schools, law enforcement, community groups, other service agencies)
- Crisis intervention
- Case management
- Counseling (individual and family focus; group counseling if appropriate)
- Emergency shelter for up to 21 days (congregate care setting or host-home model)

Not all youth access emergency shelter. If a youth is able to stay in their home or with a relative/other supportive situation, they may do so, with the provider offering supportive services to stabilize the family (e.g. counseling and case management) for up to 90 days.

**In FY 2019, 755 youth were provided with 9,417 emergency shelter nights. (an average of 12.5 nights of shelter/youth).**

**Total contractual costs to service providers for all Outreach and Basic Care services provided during FY 2019 was \$4,323,006.17.**

The **Transitional Living Program** is voluntary and serves youth ages 17-21 who are unable to return home and who are not currently a part of either the child welfare system or the juvenile justice system. The primary goal of the program is to provide youth with the necessary supports to be able to transition successfully to adulthood. Services provided by the Transitional Living Program include:

- Outreach to youth and entities that have contact with youth (e.g. schools, law enforcement, community groups, other service agencies)
- Crisis intervention
- Case management with a focus on linking youth to:
  - Educational opportunities

- Employment opportunities
- Life-skills education (e.g. tenant/landlord, budgeting, health relationships)
- Counseling (focus on individual with group and family available, if appropriate)
- Housing continuum based on provider capacity and youth needs

Housing options within the Transitional Living Program may include host-homes, agency staffed congregate care, and agency supported scattered site apartments. In some circumstances, youth may receive supportive services (e.g. case management, counseling, life-skills education) while living in their own apartment. The maximum amount of time youth may access services is 21 months, or until the youth reaches 21 years of age.

**In FY 2019, 282 youth were provided with 31,453 housing nights. (an average of 112 nights per youth).**

**Total contractual costs to service providers for all Transitional Living Program services provided during FY 2019 was \$2,046,723.24.**