



ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE YOUTH BUREAUS

The Cornerstone of New York's Youth Development!

Invest in the Youth Development Program

ANYSYB respectfully recommends that the Legislature add an additional \$1.5 million as allocated in the SFY 2021-22 enacted budget, which will keep the funding level as in calendar year 2021 and add an additional \$6 million in SFY 2022-23 budget to bring funding back to 2011 levels.

The 2022-23 Executive Budget appropriated \$14.12 million for the Youth Development Program. ANYSYB respectfully recommends the Legislature add an additional \$1.5 million as allocated in the SFY 2021-22 enacted budget, which will keep the funding level as in calendar year 2021. In addition, ANYSYB recommends an additional \$6 million be added in SFY 2022-23 to bring funding back to the 2011 levels.

In 2011, YDP funding was at \$20.6 million, then slashed again to \$14.12 and has remained stagnant for a decade. The cost of inflation coupled with the increased need in youth development services has skyrocketed. On December 9th, the US Surgeon General issues an Urgent Public Health Advisory entitled, "Protecting Youth Mental Health" offering recommendations on systemic change as well as immediate changes to improve access to services. During COVID-19 youth and family services provided by YDP funding increased even more so with not only mental health needs, but food securities, assistance with schooling, substance use prevention and a safe place to be once in-person started to open up.

Demand for positive youth development is at an all-time high, especially since the onset of COVID-19. The opioid and substance use epidemic, increased need for mental health services and continuous reforms in the child welfare and juvenile justice system support the need for increased positive youth development services. Youth bureaus, both municipal and local, as well as their contracted community based youth serving organizations offer many services and supports to assist youth and families in underserved counties and communities across the state.

In 2020, youth bureaus served over 1.3 million youth (0-20), many who are BIPOC, LBGQT+, runaway and homeless youth as well as those who are in the child welfare or juvenile justice system. 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.

Without the ongoing supports offered through the Youth Development Program funding, many of these youth will find themselves in harm's way.

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. Youth Bureaus and the community based organizations that receive YDP funding (such as Big Brother/Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, child welfare and behavioral health providers, etc.) offer after school prevention programs with proven measurements and outcomes. Investing on the front end allows for long term saving – in dollars and cents, common sense.

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
- Sports, Exercise, Health Habits and Obesity Prevention
- Mentoring and Student Volunteer Opportunities
- Food Insecurity Programs and Healthy Meals
- Gun Prevention Programs
- 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

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