

Grant area	Noncompetitive continuation funds	Number of grants
D. SLCDP	\$ -0-	0

Part I. Competitive Grant Areas and Summaries of Evaluation Criteria

A. Basic Center Program (Competitive Grant Area A, CFDA# 93.623)

Program Purpose, Goals and Objectives: The purpose of part A of the RHY Act is to establish or strengthen locally-controlled, community-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Services must be delivered outside of the law enforcement, child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems. The program goals and objectives of the Basic Center Program of part A of the RHY Act are to:

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

Background: The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act of 1974 was a response to widespread concern regarding the alarming number of youth who were leaving home without parental permission, crossing State lines and who, while away from home, were exposed to exploitation and other dangers of street life.

Each Basic Center program is required to provide outreach to runaway and homeless youth; temporary shelter for up to fifteen (15) days; food; clothing; individual, group and family counseling; aftercare and referrals, as appropriate. Basic Center programs are required to provide their services in residential settings for at least four (4) youth and no more than twenty (20) youth. Some programs also provide some or all of their shelter services through host homes (usually private homes under contract to the centers), with counseling and referrals being provided from a central location. Basic Center programs shelter youth at risk of separation from the family who are less than 18 years of age, and who have a history of running away from the family. Basic Centers must provide age appropriate services or referrals for homeless youth ages 18–21.

The primary presenting problems of youth who receive shelter and non-shelter services through FYSB-funded

Basic Centers include: (1) Family conflicts; (2) physical, sexual and emotional abuse; (3) divorce, death, or sudden loss of income; and (4) personal problems such as drug use, problems with peers, school attendance and truancy, bad grades, inability to get along with teachers and learning disabilities.

Eligible Applicants

- Public agencies—any State, unit of local government, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and/or combinations of such units;
- Private nonprofit agencies; and
- Community-based and faith-based organizations.

Current Basic Center grantees with project periods ending on or before September 29, 2003, and all other eligible applicants not currently receiving Basic Center funds may apply for a new competitive Basic Center grant under this announcement.

Current Basic Center Program grantees (including subgrantees) with one or two years remaining on their current grant and the expectation of continuation funding in FY 2003 may not apply for a new Basic Center grant for the community they currently serve. These grantees will receive instructions from their respective ACF Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Regional Office contacts on the procedures for applying for noncompetitive continuation grants. Current grantees that have questions regarding their eligibility to apply for new funds, should consult with the appropriate Regional Office Youth Contact, listed in part V, Appendix B, of the full official Program Announcement to determine if they are eligible to apply for a new grant award.

Funding: Depending on the availability of funds, the Family and Youth Services Bureau expects to award up to \$12,300,000 for up to 100 new competitive Basic Center Program grants. In accordance with the RHY Act, the funds will be divided among the States in proportion to their respective populations under the age of 18, according to the latest census data. A minimum of \$100,000 will be awarded to each State, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. A minimum of \$45,000 will be awarded to each of the four insular areas: Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and the Virgin Islands.

The funds available for continuations and new starts in each State and insular

area are listed in the Table of Allocations by State (part V, Appendix D) located in the full official program announcement. In this Table, the amounts shown in the column labeled “New Starts” are the amounts available for competition under this announcement. The number of new awards made within each State depends upon the amount of the State’s total allotment less the amount required for non-competing continuations, as well as on the number of acceptable applications. Therefore, where the amount required for noncompeting continuations in any State equals or exceeds the State’s total allotment, it is possible that no new awards will be made. However, agencies in the States where zero funding is reflected on the BCP Table of Allocation are highly encouraged to apply for grant funding in the event that additional funding becomes available.

All applicants under this competitive grant area will compete with other eligible applicants in the State in which they propose to deliver services. In the event that there are insufficient numbers of applications approved for funding in any State or jurisdiction, the Commissioner of ACYF will reallocate the unused funds to other Basic Center Program applicants.

Federal Share of Project Costs:

Applicants may apply for up to \$200,000 per year which equals a maximum of \$600,000 for a 3-year project period.

Applicant Share of Project Costs: The applicant must provide a non-Federal share or match of at least ten percent (10%) of the Federal funds awarded. (There may be certain exceptions for Tribes with “638” funding pursuant to Public Law 93–638, under which certain Federal grants may qualify as matching funds for other Federal grant programs, e.g., those which contribute to the purposes for which grants under section 638 were made.) The non-Federal share may be met by cash or in-kind contributions, although applicants are encouraged to meet their match requirements through cash contributions. Therefore, a three-year project costing \$600,000 in Federal funds (based on an award of \$200,000 per 12-month budget period) must provide a match of at least \$60,000 (\$20,000 per budget period). Grantees will be held accountable for commitments of required non-Federal