



Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)
Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)

Street Outreach Program

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-YO-0044



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up to date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 17, 2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

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Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)

A notice of funding opportunity from the Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth to provide street-based services for youth under the age of 22 who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to: abuse, sexual or labor exploitation, and human trafficking.

Summary

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) announces the FY 2026 Street Outreach Program (SOP). The SOP establishes street-based services for youth and young adults under the age of 22 who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to:

- Abuse, such as sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.
- Human trafficking, sexual or labor exploitation.

The SOP targets areas where youth living on the street, otherwise experiencing homelessness, or housing instability gather. The program connects them to shelter and basic needs such as food, hygiene packages, and information on available services.



Have questions?

See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

Street Outreach Program

Opportunity number:

HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-
YO-0044

Federal assistance listing:

93.557

NOFO version:

Simpler NOFO

Key dates

Application submission

deadline: August 17, 2026

Expected project start

date: September 30, 2026

See [intergovernmental](#)

[review](#) for other

submission processes that
may apply to this NOFO.

Funding details

Type: Grant

Expected total program funding: \$4,000,000

Total expected awards: 20

Minimum award amount for the first budget period (award floor): \$100,000

Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): \$200,000

We plan to fund a three-year project period. The project period has three one-year budget periods.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are public and nonprofit private agencies ([34 U.S.C. 11261](#)).

Other eligibility criteria

- Individuals, (including sole proprietorships), federal entities, and foreign entities are not eligible to apply.
- Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for awards under this funding opportunity.
- Public and nonprofit entities that are part of the juvenile justice system are not eligible.

Disqualifying factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the award ceiling.
- Is submitted after the deadline.
- Is from an individual (including a sole proprietorship), a federal entity, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last, on-time submission.

Organizations currently receiving FY 2025 Basic Center Program funding for Intensive Outreach and Access to Services should not apply for this NOFO to provide the same services in the same area. Applicants must propose services for a different youth population or in a new geographic/service location. FYSB will review applications to ensure duplicate funding is not awarded for the same purpose.

Cost sharing

This program requires you to contribute 10% of the project's total cost per section 383 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Act ([34 U.S.C. 11274](#)).

You can calculate this cost-sharing requirement in one of two ways:

Method 1: Start with the federal share

Calculation: Divide the amount of federal funds by 9 to get the minimum match required.

For example: Divide \$200,000 by 9. This equals a match of \$22,222.

Method 2: Start with the total project cost

Calculation: Divide the total project cost by 10 to get the minimum match required.

For example: Divide \$222,222 by 10. This equals a match of \$22,222, assuming federal funds of \$200,000.

Types of cost sharing

You can meet your match requirement through any combination of:

- Cash contributed by your organization, partners, or other third parties.
- In-kind (non-cash) contributions from partners or other third parties.

Cost-sharing commitments

If awarded, you must provide the amount of cost-sharing funds you promised, even if you promised more than the required minimum. We put these commitments in the Notice of Award.

If you don't provide your promised amount, we may decrease the amount of funding we give you or use other enforcement actions.

You'll have to include your cost-sharing funds when you fill out your [federal financial reports](#).

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Statutory authority

This program is authorized by Title III, part E, section 351 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act ([34 U.S.C. 11261](#)).

Agency Priorities

Required alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles

The recipient of this award must implement any funds awarded under this NOFO to effectuate program goals or agency priorities in accordance with [ACF's vision, mission, values, priorities, & guiding principles](#) when authorized. Funded activities must advance ACF's vision of resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure children, youth, families, and communities, and support ACF's mission to foster health and well-being through effective, accountable, and compassionate human services when awarded in any programs that authorize these priorities.

Consistent with ACF's values, in carrying out any project that is funded under this NOFO, the recipient is required to adhere to the following principle:

1. **Program Integrity and Fiscal Stewardship:** Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions; maintain strong internal controls; and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

The recipient is also required to adhere to the following principles when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

2. **Evidence-Based and Outcome-Focused Practices:** Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
3. **Partnership and Local Leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

In addition, in keeping with ACF's priorities, the recipient must administer any project that is awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives when consistent with the scope of the award and its activities in programs that are authorized to advance them:

4. **Family Stability and Child Well-Being:** Strengthen families, promote safe and stable home environments, and improve outcomes for children and youth through prevention-focused and developmentally appropriate services.
5. **Work, Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Mobility:** Support pathways to employment, job retention, and economic independence for individuals and

families, including through workforce development, education, and supportive services.

6. **High-Quality Early Care and Learning:** Where applicable, invest in high-quality early childhood programs that support school readiness, healthy development, and long-term success.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these values and priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other enforcement actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at 2 CFR Part 200 and the terms and conditions of this award.

A Home for Every Child

ACF's A Home for Every Child initiative advances the goal that every young person has a safe, stable, and nurturing home. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Street Outreach Program engages youth where they are, providing essential services, safety planning, and connections to shelter and supports. Without these interventions, youth face heightened risks of exploitation, trafficking, and violence, reinforcing the need to link outreach with pathways to stable housing.

Program description

Project Overview

The primary purpose of the SOP is to provide outreach, education, services, and referrals to help youth under the age of 22 who have left home due to family conflict or other crisis, are experiencing homelessness, and are living on the street, to leave the streets by identifying safe and appropriate shelter.

Our goal is to build relationships between street outreach workers and eligible youth to help them move them into safe, stable housing or emergency shelter, refer them to appropriate treatment and resources, work towards permanency including family reunification where possible, and/or prepare them for independence.

Our programs provide street-based services to youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to:

- Sexual abuse.
- Prostitution.
- Human trafficking, sexual or labor exploitation.

This project addresses the following ACF priority: Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency because it assists with moving individuals from dependency to independence.

Project requirements

SOP projects receiving funding under this opportunity must meet the following requirements.

Street outreach and access to shelter

You must conduct outreach and engage with youth who have left home due to family conflict or other crisis, youth who are experiencing homelessness, and youth living on the street. The goal of this engagement is to help them stay safe and leave the streets.

You must provide access to emergency shelter or safe, stable housing 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. The shelters your agency operates or refers youth to must meet the following requirements:

- Have availability to house youth.
- Agree to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or letter of commitment from referral partners to ensure they will accept referrals.
- Meet state or local licensing requirements.
- Be supervised and age-appropriate.

- Provide a youth-friendly environment fostering trust and providing safe spaces for all youth.
- Consider the safety and needs of victims of human trafficking and victims of domestic violence.
- Provide available and easily accessible transportation to shelter.

Optional drop-in center

Your project may support a drop-in center as an optional service. If you choose to establish a drop-in center using our funding, it must be accessible to youth and young adults and provide services including, but not limited to, the following:

- Resource materials about available services.
- Showers.
- Hot meals.
- Laundry facilities.
- Email.
- Phone case management.
- Outreach.

A drop-in center does not replace required street-based and engagement efforts. Drop-in centers should enhance street outreach and engagement.

Comprehensive youth-centered services model

Positive Youth Development

You must also use a [positive youth development \(PYD\) framework](#), an approach to service that ensures a young person develops a sense of—

- (A) Safety and structure.
- (B) Belonging and membership.
- (C) Self-worth and social contribution.
- (D) Independence and control over one's life.
- (E) Closeness in interpersonal relationships.

PYD approach must not be used in a way that conflicts with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, or Guiding Principles.

Trauma-informed care

SOP programs should consider the trauma and mental health needs of young people who have experienced physical or sexual maltreatment, abuse, or violence.

Projects should include trauma-informed approaches. Project staff should be trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma in youth, including survival mechanisms or coping behaviors stemming from past experience with childhood sexual abuse or current trauma (from abusive or predatory relationships). Projects should build organizational and staff capacity to fully include knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices to be able to refer to appropriate treatment or services and to avoid re-traumatizing youth. Effective service models should support mental health, develop coping strategies, and increase protective factors in a youth's life to minimize negative risk-taking behaviors and decrease their time on the streets.

Outreach implementation strategy

You must develop an outreach implementation strategy that includes the following required elements:

- Street outreach plan.
- Education and awareness.
- Coordination with the RHY National Communication System (National Runaway Safeline).
- Youth engagement and collaboration.

Street outreach plan

You must develop a street outreach strategy with the following required elements:

- Identification of the locations where youth and young adults gather.
- Implementing strategies for conducting face-to-face outreach with youth during scheduled hours at the identified locations.
- Utilizing youth-focused outreach strategies that address individual youth needs.
- Number of full-time equivalent outreach workers needed.
- Frequency and schedule of outreach visits.
- Techniques for branding the organization.
- Services you will provide to youth.
- Details about basic need packs, which may include hygiene supplies, snack items, socks, and items branded with your project's logo or contact information.
- Your explanation of how you will use street outreach workers to meet program goals.
- Street-based safety plans, including a safety plan for staff.
- Protocols and strategies for responding to youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex or labor trafficking and exploitation.
- Working with local law enforcement.

Education and awareness plan

You must educate the community and youth about your street outreach project. Please note that education and awareness strategies must foster collaborative engagement between staff and youth. Education and awareness methods may include:

- Social media.
- Public service announcements.
- Postings and QR codes in public spaces.
- Partnerships and collaborations with organizations. For example, other youth-serving organizations.
- School or public community events.
- Sexual violence prevention and response organizations.
- Organizations that provide support or services to those who have experienced trafficking or are at risk of experiencing trafficking.
- Law enforcement.
- Health care providers.
- Legal services.
- Public benefits agencies.

Coordination with RHY National Communication System

You must coordinate with the National Communication System for Runaway and Homeless Youth ([National Runaway Safeline](#)), to provide information on available resources.

Youth engagement and collaboration

You must engage with youth who have experienced homelessness to help you locate, identify, and connect with other youth and design individualized approaches to meet their needs. Your education and awareness strategies are grounded in youth voices and collaboration.

Gateway services

You must provide gateway services including food, drink, clothing, transportation, and hygiene products to prevent malnutrition and ill health, as well as referrals to emergency shelter.

Project outreach staff will build trust and rapport with youth, to identify those who are at risk of or who are experiencing sexual trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, labor trafficking, and other forms of victimization and abuse. Staff will

provide resources and safety information, such as the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, the national communication system (National Runaway Safeline), National Human Trafficking Hotline, and National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Screening and assessment

You must have a standardized way of assessing each youth during street engagement, intake, or program entry at optional drop-in centers. Assessment tools must evaluate, at a minimum, the following factors for each youth:

- Strengths.
- Goals.
- Immediate needs, including but not limited to:
 - Physical health.
 - Potential victimization.
 - Behavioral health.
 - Connection to family.
 - Family conflict.
 - Safety.
 - Substance use.
 - Trauma.
 - Access to resources.
 - Issues of neglect or abuse.
 - Other risk and protective factors impacting youth well-being and potential for sustainable living.

Assessments must evaluate the unique needs of various subpopulations including, but not limited to, the following:

- Pregnant or parenting youth.
- System-involved youth, including juvenile justice and child welfare.
- Labor or sexually trafficked or exploited youth.
- Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services.

Assessments must also:

- Prioritize the reunification of youth who have left home without permission with an adult who has the youth's best interests in mind, and can provide safe, stable housing as defined in [45 CFR 1351.1](#) of the RHY Rule.

Increase safety and reduce the risk of harm

You must establish safety plans with youth who participate in your project and educate them about how to reduce their risk of harm, including ways to reduce risk of violence, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, sexual assault, unplanned pregnancy, substance use, and other risks associated with street life.

You can find more information about supporting youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sexual trafficking, labor trafficking, or domestic violence through the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) and the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#).

Service coordination plan

You must create and sustain a service coordination plan by coordinating activities with other organizations serving the same or similar client populations. Examples include child welfare agencies, juvenile justice systems, schools, and Continuums of Care (CoC), as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Projects.

Service coordination: You must have an appropriate and accessible service referral strategy based on the youth's assessment results. You should coordinate services with entities including:

- Social services.
- Law enforcement.
- Educational services.
- Health care programs.
- Health insurance plans and coverage.
- Vocational and employment training services.
- Public benefits, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Legal services.
- Organizations that provide support to those who have experienced trafficking or are at risk of experiencing trafficking.
- Behavioral health services, including mental health and substance use treatment providers.
- Health care programs including health insurance options.
- Affordable child care and child education programs, including Head Start.

You must take steps to return youth who are missing from the legal jurisdiction or placement of the juvenile justice or child welfare systems.

You must help youth who have exited foster care get any benefits they may be eligible for in their county or state (including, but not limited to, medical assistance, [Foster Youth to Independence vouchers \[PDF\]](#), Family Unification Program vouchers, Chafee Grants, Title IV-E re-entry, among others).

You can learn more about what services may be available to young people who have exited the dependent care of a child welfare agency in your community through [Childwelfare.gov \[PDF\]](#) and the [Foster Youth to Independence webinar series](#).

Crisis stabilization

You must be prepared to provide emergency services and link youth to appropriate crisis resources to deescalate emergencies and assist with urgent care for substance use or mental health conditions.

Appropriate crisis resources include, but are not limited to:

- The 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Hotline.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National 1-800-662-HELP Helpline.
- Local crisis hotlines.

Case management

You may need to provide intensive case management to ensure youth receive assistance with:

- Physical, emotional, and behavioral health challenges.
- Access to resources.
- Active engagement with service providers while developing a plan for permanent housing.

Follow-up services

You must provide follow-up services to youth who have been engaged through street outreach, including client assessment, case planning, and referral to shelter. Follow-up services involve assessing youth progress after they receive safety and resource referrals. Follow-up contacts are separate from the aftercare planning described in [45 CFR 1351.26](#).

Services focused on human trafficking

You must identify and provide services specifically to youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing human trafficking or exploitation.

You must integrate human trafficking prevention and intervention strategies into street outreach plans, screening and assessment tools, staff training and development, and program approaches.

Human Trafficking of Children and Youth

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Per [22 U.S.C. 7102\(11\)](#), the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as amended, human trafficking (severe forms of trafficking in persons) means:

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

OR

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Youth who are missing from foster care, are experiencing homelessness, or have unstable housing are at a higher risk of experiencing human trafficking, particularly at times when they are struggling to access resources to meet basic needs. Individuals who exploit children often fulfill these needs to build trust and create dependency as a precursor to trafficking. These children may be coerced into engaging in sex acts or compelled labor for shelter, food, clothing, and other basic needs.

Screening for Trafficking Concerns

The recipient must adapt from and utilize standardized screening tool(s) that are validated and evidence- and trauma-informed to identify trafficking concerns and evaluate client needs throughout the service relationship. The recipient may elect to use one or multiple tools, but the tools must be able to identify youth who have experienced labor and/or sex trafficking and assess for common indicators and risks for human trafficking.

It is best practice to screen for trafficking concerns (1) during the youth's initial intake into the program, (2) any time a youth returns from a missing episode, and (3) any time trafficking is suspected. Even in situations when a youth may not exhibit obvious indicators for trafficking, the recipient should utilize a validated universal screening approach and incorporating screening protocols at various stages, in addition to

identifying trafficking concerns. This practice will also help mitigate early signs of risk and prevent trafficking before it occurs or re-occurs.

While screening is an initial step in identifying trafficking concerns, it can elicit unintended trauma responses. Therefore, it is imperative for the recipient to first address the youth's basic needs (food, sleep, safety and safety planning, comfort, etc.) before any screening occurs. It is also important for the recipient to consider each individual youth's experience, cognition, mental health, and the effects of trauma when assessing their responses prior to and during screening and intake.

Services for Victims of Trafficking

As disclosures may happen during screening and/or at any point during time of service, the recipient must develop protocols for response to disclosures. The protocols must include but not be limited to assessment for trafficking-specific case management, safety planning, clinical and therapeutic support, mentorships, and medical services. Youth who have experienced human trafficking have unique needs that must be considered when screening and assessing for service needs, interventions, and community referrals. All interventions by the recipient must be centered around the youth's voice to ensure the youth is an active participant in their care and decision-making for services, and safety planning must be at the center of all support. Further, if it is determined to be in the youth's best interest, the youth's caregiver and/or relevant family members may be brought in for parts of the service planning efforts; however, this should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Trafficking-Specific Education and Outreach

Recipients are required to integrate human trafficking content throughout program education and outreach activities. All approaches and materials must be trauma-informed, person-centered, developmentally appropriate, and responsive to age, developmental and cognitive abilities, and other relevant factors.

Outreach

Recipients must include information on human trafficking in all outreach activities. Outreach materials must provide audience-appropriate information about human trafficking, including how to identify potential trafficking schemes, how to seek help, and how to access available services and resources. Recipients must ensure that outreach activities include information on referral options, including the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#).

Universal education

Recipients must provide universal education on human trafficking to all clients. Universal education provides information, safety messages, and resource connections to all individuals, regardless of disclosure or identified risk, to mitigate risk across the population served. This approach normalizes access to support, reduces stigma, and

promotes early connection to services. Universal education must be delivered in a private setting, when possible, by staff trained in the approach. Staff must offer resources regardless of whether a client discloses trafficking, and universal education should not be used to require or elicit disclosure. Where a private conversation is not possible or it is not safe to talk, recipients must provide a discrete offer of resources and referral information. This approach may use or adapt existing tools and materials, with emphasis on the quality of the interaction and the provision of resources. Prevention education must support youth in recognizing trafficking risks, identifying potential trafficking schemes, and building skills related to safety, decision-making, help-seeking, and access to resources and support.

Education and outreach resources

- [Look Beneath the Surface Campaign](#): Downloadable and printable outreach materials that help individuals who are at risk of or experiencing human trafficking recognize trafficking schemes and access support.
- [SOAR Online](#): Free, self-paced online training courses that can be completed on demand.
- [Office on Trafficking in Persons Resource Library](#): A searchable collection of anti-trafficking resources and materials, including outreach materials, toolkits, fact sheets, policy and guidance documents, and training tools that support prevention, awareness, identification, and access to services.

Mandatory reporting

Human trafficking of children (labor and sex trafficking) is now defined under “child abuse and neglect” in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Pub. L. 93-247. Therefore, if a recipient identifies potential concerns of human trafficking, the recipient is required to comply with all federal, state, tribal, and local mandated reporting requirements in the same way the recipient reports abuse and neglect within that jurisdiction (child welfare, law enforcement, etc).

Validated Screening Tools for Human Trafficking of Children and Youth

Tool identifier	In-depth	Short/Rapid	Demographic	Environment
Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool		X	Ages 10+, sex trafficking only	Multiple settings, including child welfare and juvenile justice systems, schools, homeless youth shelters, healthcare, and mental health settings
Human Trafficking Screening Tool	X	X	Ages 18–24, sex trafficking only	Runaway and homeless youth system settings
Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking		X	Youth who are homeless, sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Service provider setting
Rapid Appraisal for Trafficking		X	Ages 18+, sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Healthcare setting
Short Screen for Child Sex Trafficking		X	Ages 12–18, sex trafficking only	Healthcare setting

Source: [National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States, Best Practices and Recommendations for States, \(2020\), \[PDF\]](#)

Performance standards

You are required to collect data demonstrating your ability to meet program performance standards, including data on the number of youth and young adults you will contact relative to the size of your project.

You will report performance data through the Runaway and Homeless Youth – Homeless Management Information System (RHY-HMIS) quarterly. To access RHY-HMIS, you will work with a local CoC HMIS lead. More detailed information about performance standards and reporting requirements can be found on [our website](#).

Training and technical assistance

If you accept an award, you must agree to work cooperatively with the technical assistance provider. Training and technical assistance is free from the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center (RHYTTAC). Services include, but are not limited to:

- Regionally based technical assistance clinics.
- Training sessions.
- E-learning.
- Webinars.
- National grantee training.

You must send at least one person to the annual, in-person RHY National Grantee Training and regional training. You will also participate in learning collaboratives and cohort-based peer engagement activities. More information is available from the [RHYTTAC](#).

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted [2 CFR 200](#), with some exceptions included in [2 CFR 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
 - Appropriation of funds.
 - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
 - Funding more applicants.
 - Extending the period of performance.
 - Awarding supplemental funding.
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, you may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
 - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
 - Activities that discriminate or show preference based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.
 - Any efforts that promote a "discriminatory equity ideology."
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, ACF will also not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any services or activities that inculcate or promote gender ideology.

For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [2 CFR part 200](#).

Program-specific limitations and policies

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.

- Major renovation.
- Costs for renovation of existing structures may not normally exceed 15% of the federal award. Costs for acquisition are not allowable by statute.
- Fundraising (including campaigns, endowments, gifts, and similar expenses).
- Pre-award costs.
- Distribution of sterile needles or syringes.
- Abortions. (See [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L. 117-328, div. H, tit. V, 506-507 \[PDF\]](#) for exceptions.)
- Any treatment or referral to treatment that aims to change someone's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are those shared across multiple projects and not easily separated.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1 — Approved rate. If you currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency, you may use that rate.

Method 2 — *De minimis* rate. If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in [2 CFR 200.332](#) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role is primarily a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the [eligibility requirements](#) of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see [the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay](#).

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).

Use of E-Verify

All funded grantees and subgrantees are encouraged to use the national E-Verify system operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Social Security Administration, to ensure their employees are American citizens or are eligible to work in the United States.



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

In this step

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Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it at this NOFO's Grants.gov opportunity page. Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe button** from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, [contact Grants.gov](#) for assistance.

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Need help? See [Contacts and Support](#).

Learn more

Visit [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#) on the ACF Grants page.



Step 3:

Build Your Application

In this step

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Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply. You will find the forms in Grants.gov.

File one: Narratives

Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Table of contents	Yes
☐ Project summary	Yes
☐ Project narrative	Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative	Yes

File two: Attachments

Insert each in a single Other Attachments form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ ACF priorities alignment attestation	No
☐ Indirect cost agreement	Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status	Yes
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	Yes
☐ Letters of support	Yes

Standard forms

Use each required form in Grants.gov.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Project Abstract Summary	No
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	No
☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	No
☐ Key Contacts	No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying form	No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	No

Application contents and format

You will submit two files plus the [standard forms](#) in the application package.

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

See [intergovernmental review](#) to find out if you need to make any other submissions.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 75 pages

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches

Margins: 1 inch all around

Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman

Color: Black

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced

Project summary: Must be single-spaced

Project narrative: Must be double-spaced

Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See [disqualifying factors](#) to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

File one: Narratives

To submit file one, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

Table of contents

At the beginning of file one, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content in file one.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, your proposed services or research questions.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using [merit review criteria](#) and rank based on application scores.

Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in [the program description section](#).
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your [attachments](#).
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Purpose and need

Geographic location

Provide the precise physical location of your project and boundaries of the area you will serve. If you will include any subrecipients in your project that will serve specific geographic areas include their locations as well.

Need for assistance

Identify the problems you plan to solve. These problems could be physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, etc. To do so:

- Demonstrate the need, including the nature and scope of the problem.
- Provide, as appropriate, supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials, in your attachments.
- Include any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments. You may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes of your application.
- Use demographic data and participant or beneficiary information where you can.

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

Street outreach and access to shelter

You must explain how your program will conduct outreach and engage with youth who have left home due to family conflict or other crisis or are experiencing homelessness, as well as youth living on the street. The description must include, at a minimum:

- How youth will access emergency shelter or safe, stable housing 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.
- How you will ensure shelter vacancies.
- How you will establish MOUs or letters of commitment with shelters to ensure these partners will assist with referrals.
- Please refer to the project requirements section for full details regarding requirements related to shelter, placement, and transportation.
- If you choose to establish a drop-in center, explain how it will be accessible to youth, and include information regarding service requirements discussed in the program description section.

Comprehensive youth-centered services model

You must explain how your project will use a youth-centered services model when providing services. The description must include, at a minimum:

- How you will consider the impact of trauma and traumatic experiences when providing services to youth.
- How you will utilize a PYD approach when consulting with and engaging youth experiencing homelessness in program implementation and provide them with opportunities.

Outreach implementation strategy

You must explain how your project will implement an outreach strategy to engage youth and educate them on services available through your program. The description must include the following elements:

- Street outreach plan.
- Education and awareness.
- Coordination with the National Communication System (National Runaway Safeline).
- Youth engagement and collaboration.

Please refer to the [project description](#) for additional requirements. At a minimum, describe the following:

- The street outreach plan activities you will conduct to identify youth from the target population and provide information about services available and their benefits.

- How you plan to educate and inform the community about your program, including the development and distribution of materials about your services.
- How you will coordinate with the national communication system (National Runaway Safeline) to provide resources to youth at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- How you will work with youth with lived experience to ensure your program includes individualized outreach, engagement, and awareness approaches that meet their needs and are grounded in youth voices.

Gateway services

You must explain how your project will provide gateway services related to basic needs.

At a minimum, describe the following:

- How you will provide youth with food, drink, clothing, transportation, personal safety information, such as national youth hotlines and local hotlines, resource guides, and hygiene products.
- How you will identify youth who are at risk of or are victims of trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, sex abuse, and other forms of victimization and provide those youth with resources such as national hotline numbers.

Screening and assessment

You must explain how your project will determine a youth's eligibility for services through the use of screenings and assessment tools. At a minimum, describe how your agency will:

- Assess and evaluate youth's immediate needs, goals, and strengths during street engagement or intake, or during program entry at optional drop-in centers.
- Assess for foster care and reunification needs.
- The assessment will evaluate the unique needs of subpopulations.

Increase safety and reduce the risk of harm

You must explain your program's approach to increasing safety and reducing risk of harm. At a minimum, you must describe how you will establish safety plans. See project requirements for more detailed guidance.

Service coordination plan

You must describe your plan for service coordination with other organizations serving the same or similar client populations. See [project requirements](#) for full list. At a minimum, describe:

- Required systems of care.
- Any optional systems services.

- How you will work to return youth who are missing from the legal jurisdiction or placement of the juvenile justice or child welfare systems.
- Your plan for assisting youth who have exited foster care.

Crisis stabilization

You must describe your plan for providing emergency services and connecting youth with appropriate crisis resources in the event of an emergency, substance use issue, or mental health issue.

Case management

You must explain how your program will provide case management services if a youth needs assistance with the following issues:

- Physical, emotional, and behavioral health challenges.
- Access to resources.
- Active engagement with service providers.
- You must also explain how your case management services will help youth develop plans for permanent housing.

Follow-up services

You must explain how your program will provide follow-up services to youth who have been engaged through street outreach, including a client assessment, case planning, or referral to shelter. Follow-up services involve an assessment of youth progress after the youth has received safety and resource referrals. Please describe how you will determine that follow-up contacts are separate from the aftercare planning described in [45 CFR 1351.26](#).

Services focused on human trafficking

You must explain how program staff will identify and provide services specifically to youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing human trafficking or exploitation.

You must explain how your program will integrate human trafficking prevention and intervention strategies into street outreach plans, screening and assessment tools, staff training and development, and program approaches.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and evaluating the project. A logic model is a diagram that:

- Presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets the identified objectives and goals of the project.

While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include the connections between:

- Inputs such as additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, and budget.
- Target population, such as the individuals to be served or identified needs.
- Activities, mechanisms, and processes such as evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- Outputs, which include the immediate and direct results of program activities.
- Outcomes, which include the short- and long-term results you expect the project to achieve. These are typically described as changes in people or systems.
- Project goals, such as overarching objectives and reasons for proposing the project.

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to improve your funded activities.
- Any processes that support overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes you will use to track performance outcomes.
- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data integrity.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the project performance evaluation and how you will address them.
- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.

Resources and capabilities

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients:

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
- Describe your plan to work collaboratively with youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness or are at risk of homelessness or housing instability to inform program design, implementation, and improvement.
- If you are not a member of a CoC, explain your plan to contact and work with a CoC-HMIS lead for data collection and reporting.
- Indicate which CoC you will partner with for RHY-HMIS data collection. If your program provides services in more than one CoC, explain how you will coordinate data collection and reporting among multiple CoCs.
- You will provide some supporting information in the Attachments section.

Current and pending funding support

Provide a list of your current and pending funding for ongoing projects and proposals. Include all sources, such as federal, state, and local governments, public or private foundations, and for-profit organizations.

Indicate which projects and proposals require committed time from the project director, principal investigator, or other key personnel of the project you are proposing in this application.

Show the total award amount, awarding entity, and the amount of time each key staff member will devote to each project.

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is [2 CFR part 200](#). It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.

- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record-keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Project sustainability plan

You must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. We expect you to sustain key elements of your project. These elements can include strategies or services and interventions that have improved practices and outcomes.

- Provide an approach to project sustainability that is effective and feasible. Describe:
 - The key people and organizations whose support you will require.
 - The types of alternative support you will require to maintain the project.
 - If the proposed project involves key project partners, describe how you will maintain their cooperation or collaboration after the federal funding ends.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

Describe how you will collect and safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive. Make sure your approach is consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Provide:

- The methods and systems you will use to make sure that you properly handle confidential and sensitive information, including information from any subrecipients or contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

For more information, [2 CFR 200.303\(e\)](#).

- Records containing the identity of individual youths under this award may under no circumstances be disclosed or transferred to any individual or to any public or private agency.

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supplies](#) in [2 CFR 200.1](#). The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the “object class categories” in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the full period of performance. See information on [funding periods](#).

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See the [funding policies and limitations](#).
- You must include the cost for sending at least one person to attend the annual in-person RHY National Grantee Training, in-person regional training, and up to two collaboration events.

Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see [detailed budget instructions on our website](#).

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the [indirect costs](#) section for further information.
- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.
- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:

- How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.
- Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

Clearly identify any salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information within your application. Identification will ensure this information is not shared with reviewers. Note on page 1 of the attachments file (file two) where the information to be redacted is located.

If you have an [exemption for a paper submission](#), you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

File two: Attachments

To submit file two, you will use the Other Attachments form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes all attachments.

ACF priorities alignment attestation

Note: Not included in the page limit. This should be submitted with the application or before award.

You must self-certify that you will align with the ACF priorities that are relevant to this funding opportunity, as identified in both the Program description and *Step 4*, under Merit review process, Scoring criteria, Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles*, elements 2 and 3. You must provide the following on your organization's letterhead.

I hereby attest and certify that:

_____ (Applicant Name) affirms its commitment to supporting and advancing ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), consistent with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and Administration priorities.

Insert Date of Signature:

Print Name and Title of the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR):

Signature of AOR:

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#). If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment.

See the [indirect costs](#) section for more information.

Legal proof of nonprofit status

If your organization is a nonprofit, you need to attach proof. We will accept any of the following:

- A reference to your listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations.
- A copy of a current tax exemption certificate from the IRS.
- A letter from your state's tax department, attorney general, or another appropriate state official saying that your group is a nonprofit and that none of your net earnings go to private shareholders or others.
- A certified copy of your certificate of incorporation or similar document. This document must show that your group is a nonprofit.
- Any of these documents for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your [organizational capacity](#) section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- List of your board of directors.
- Information on compliance with federal, state, and local government standards.

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, and memoranda of agreement. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.

Any such agreement must:

- Describe each party's roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Detail work schedules and estimated compensation with an understanding that the parties will negotiate a final agreement after award.
- Identify the primary applicant and all collaborators responsible for project activities if the agreement is for a collaboration or consortia application.
- Applications must also include at least one signed MOU or formal agreement with local law enforcement agencies (city police, county sheriff, transit police, etc.) that details:
 - Specific roles and responsibilities of each party.
 - Communication protocols and points of contact.
 - Procedures for identifying and referring homeless youth to your program.
 - Strategies for joint outreach in high-concentration areas.
 - Safety protocols for both staff and youth during outreach activities.

Letters of support

Attach statements from community, public, or commercial leaders that support your project. At minimum, each letter of support must identify the person writing the letter, the organization they represent, the date, and their reasons for supporting the project.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms other than those in files one and two. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission requirement
Project Abstract Summary	With the application.
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Important: Public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends taxpayer money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples \[PDF\]](#).



Step 4:

Learn About Review and Award

In this step

Application review	<u>48</u>
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Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the [disqualification factors section](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review (scoring) phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

If you submit more than two files in addition to your forms, we will remove the extra files. We will let you know if this happens.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review process

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria shown in each section of the project narrative and in the line-item budget and budget narrative section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on [proprietary and personally identifiable information](#).

Criteria summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 110
1. Purpose and need (Need for assistance)	10 points
2. Response (Approach)	45 points
3. Impact (Performance evaluation plan and logic model)	10 points
4. Resources and capabilities (Organizational capacity and third party agreements)	15 points
5. Support Requested (Budget and budget justification and plan for oversight)	15 points
6. Resources and capabilities (Sustainability plan)	5 points
7. ACF Priority Alignment	10 points

Scoring criteria

1. Purpose and Need (Need for Assistance)

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well:

- 1.1 You explain why your program needs assistance and describe the problem of street youth and runaway and homeless youth who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing sexual exploitation, abuse, or human trafficking in the community. **(0 to 5 points)**
- 1.2 You explain who will receive services, including target population demographic information, subgroup characteristics, and provide details on the number of youth you anticipate serving. **(0 to 5 points)**

2. Response (Approach)

Maximum points: 45

The reviewer will assess how well:

- 2.1. Street outreach and access to shelter, and optional drop-in center(s) **(0 to 9 points)**
 - 2.1.1 You explain how you will conduct face-to-face street outreach, including engagement strategies for ensuring both youth and staff safety and methods for helping youth leave the streets.

- 2.1.2 You explain how youth will access shelters or safe and stable housing 24-hours-a-day.
- 2.1.3 You detail how many full-time equivalent outreach workers will perform this work, including MOUs or letters of commitment for shelter, and describe plans for transportation to shelter.
- 2.1.4 If your agency opts to establish a drop-in center, explain how the drop-in center will be accessible to youth and include information regarding service requirements discussed. Please describe a plan for workers to staff the drop-in center and complete the required services. If your agency will not use funds to support a drop-in center, state clearly you will not use funds to do so.
- 2.2. Comprehensive youth-centered services model (0 to 6 points)
 - 2.2.1 You explain how you will effectively integrate PYD and the impact of trauma and traumatic experiences of youth into your program.
- 2.3 Outreach implementation strategy (0 to 6 points)
 - 2.3.1 You describe an outreach implementation strategy that includes education, awareness, and youth engagement.
 - 2.3.2 You include a plan for coordinating with the RHY National Communication System (National Runaway Safeline).
- 2.4. Gateway services, safety planning, and crisis stabilization (0 to 6 points)
 - 2.4.1 You explain how you will provide gateway services, safety planning, and crisis stabilization.
- 2.5 Screening and assessment, service coordination, and case management (0 to 6 points)
 - 2.5.1 You explain how you will conduct assessment of needs, coordinate services with other systems of care, and handle case management.
- 2.6. Follow-up services (0 to 6 points)
 - 2.6.1 You describe a comprehensive plan for providing follow-up services to youth who have been engaged through street outreach, including a client assessment, case planning, or referral to shelter.
- 2.7 Services focused on human trafficking (0 to 6 points)
 - 2.7.1 You describe how you intend to identify and provide services specifically to youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing human trafficking or exploitation.

3. Impact (Performance evaluation plan and logic model)

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well:

- 3.1 You explain how you will evaluate your program, including how you will use RHY-HMIS to assist you in defining success and how you will use RHY-HMIS data to improve program performance, and any challenges you expect to face in implementing your evaluation plan. **(0 to 5 points)**
- 3.2 You present a logic model that explains how the proposed activities, inputs, and outputs link to outcomes that will prevent youth from experiencing homelessness. **(0 to 5 points)**

4. Resources and capabilities (Organizational capacity and third-party agreements)

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well:

- 4.1 You provide extensive detail about your experience and expertise running a runaway and homeless youth program. Evaluation of this specific criterion will focus on your past work, program design, experience working collaboratively with youth and young adults with lived experience, and ability to connect young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness to appropriate services. **(0 to 10 points)**
- 4.2 You describe your plan to ensure data accuracy and the timely upload of all appropriate data into RHY-HMIS. **(0 to 2 points)**
- 4.3 If there are proposed subawards with another organization, you explain how you will ensure that the subaward recipients will complete their work and contribute to the success of the project. If there are no proposed subawards and you do not have any agreements with third parties, you state specifically that these agreements do not exist. **(0 to 3 points)**

5. Support Requested (Budget and budget justification and plan for oversight)

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- 5.1 Describe a clear line-item budget and narrative budget for the federal amount and non-federal amount. Clearly explain how requested funds are necessary for the program, including the cost of sending a staff person to attend required training and meetings. **(0 to 7 points)**

- 5.2 Describe how much will it cost your organization to run the project, including federal and non-federal funds. Please describe the source of these non-federal funds. (0 to 8 points)

6. Resources and capabilities (Sustainability plan)

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- 6.1. Explain how your project will be sustainable. including. Describe what other sources of funding your program will identify if federal funds are not available. Explain how you will maintain staff. Explain how you will provide continued support to the program and deliver services, including maintaining partnerships. (0 to 5 points)

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

7. Alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles (Up to 10 points)

ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles inform programmatic and administrative expectations under this funding opportunity.

Applicants must demonstrate alignment by describing how the proposed project advances relevant ACF priorities through program design and evaluation. Applicants should clearly identify which ACF priorities are relevant and explain how those priorities are reflected in the proposed approach. Applicants are encouraged to provide examples of prior experiences that can show alignment efforts that have already been achieved. Examples should describe strategies used, measurable results (if available), and lessons learned.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to organize their response using the three criteria below.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application demonstrates clear, specific, and measurable connections between ACF priorities and the proposed project. Scores will reflect the strength, clarity, and specificity of those connections.

Scoring Considerations for the next three criteria:

- **High-scoring applications** will demonstrate clear understanding, intentional integration, and measurable alignment with ACF priorities across all three criteria.
- **Moderate-scoring applications** may reference ACF priorities but provide limited specificity, uneven integration, or minimal connection to measurable outcomes.
- **Low-scoring applications** will show minimal or unclear understanding of ACF priorities and lack meaningful connection to program design or performance.

1. Demonstrated Review and Understanding (Up to 2 Points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has reviewed ACF's Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles and explains their relevance to the proposed project.

Reviewers will look for:

- Identification of specific ACF priorities (not general or vague references)
- A clear explanation of how those priorities relate to the proposed project

2. Operationalization in Program Design and Implementation (Up to 3 Points)

The degree to which the following one or more ACF priorities are translated into specific elements of the proposed project: Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency.

Reviewers will assess if the applicant:

- Connects identified ACF priorities to program design, service delivery, and implementation
- Demonstrates how priorities influence partnerships, staffing, or key program decisions
- Provides clear, actionable examples of how alignment will be carried out in practice

3. Integration into Performance and Continuous Improvement (Up to 5 Points)

The extent to which the following one or more ACF priorities are reflected in measurable outcomes and ongoing program improvement: Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application:

- Aligns performance measures and expected outcomes with identified priorities
- Includes evaluation methods or performance indicators that reflect those priorities
- Describes how data will be used for continuous quality improvement

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) Responsibility/Qualification and Exclusions to check this history for all awards likely to be over \$250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review and scoring results, including the ten points for Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles* to the extent permitted by law. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant. The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support [DEI and DEIA activities](#) to the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders.
- Funding Preference for Alignment with Agency Priorities. Before final funding decisions are made, division leadership will review awards for consistency with applicable laws and alignment with [agency priorities](#).

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Decide not to fund a project with high start-up costs or unreasonably high operating costs.
- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Designate your application as “approved but unfunded” if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A [disqualified application](#).
- An incomplete application.

Award notices

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to [Notice of Award at ACF's website](#).



Step 5:

Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

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Application submission and deadlines

Application

Deadline

Due on August 17, 2026.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Grants.gov submission

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on [getting registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See [Contacts and Support](#) if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to [ACF's Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues \[PDF\]](#).

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the [ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission \[PDF\]](#).

Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

c/o F2 Solutions

Attn: RHY Street Outreach Program NOFO

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-YO-0044

1401 Mercantile Lane Suite 401

Largo, MD 20744

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number.
- Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Intergovernmental review

[Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) does not apply to this NOFO. You do not need to take any action.



Step 6:

Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration 60

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions](#) and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in [2 CFR 300](#).
- The [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements. This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements and the [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations](#). This appendix explains the obligations of and protections for faith-based organizations applying for grants.
- Applicable program statute and regulations at the [RHY Act, 34 U.S.C. 11201-11281](#), and the [RHY Final Rule, 45 CFR Part 1351](#), to improve performance standards and program requirements for runaway and homeless youth programs.

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Reporting at the ACF website](#).

- Performance report form: **ACF-OGM-PPR**
 - Performance report frequency: Semiannually
- Financial report form: **SF-425 FFR**
 - Financial report frequency: Semiannually

- RHY-HMIS (**OMB #: 0970-0573**; current expiration date: May 31, 2027)
 - Report frequency: Quarterly



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program

Amanda Persad

Amanda.Persad@acf.hhs.gov

(202) 740-6824

Grants management

Sarah Viola

Sarah.Viola@acf.hhs.gov

(202) 401-4832

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Phone: 1-800-518-4726
- Email: support@Grants.gov

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can:

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Reference websites

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
- [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
- [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#)
- [Grants.gov Accessibility Information](#)
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)
- [United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#)
- [Award Terms and Conditions](#) (see also the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions \[PDF\]](#))
- [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#)
- [ACF Property Guidance](#)
- [Family and Youth Services Bureau](#)
- [RHY Program Administrative and Program Requirements](#)
- [Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center](#)
- [National Runaway Safeline](#)

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information.

The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires April 30, 2029. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date
The NOFO was revised to to include the Disqualifying factors section in Step 1: Review the Opportunity .	07/27/2026