

# Association of New York State Youth Bureaus

*The Cornerstone of New York's Youth Development!*



## **Youth Development Program Restore Proposed 5% Cut to YDP**

The 2021-22 Executive Budget imposes a 5% reduction for the Youth Development Program, from \$14.12 million to \$13.4 million. This will have a direct impact on afterschool services provided to over 1.3 million youth statewide through county, city, town and village youth bureaus and their contract agencies such as YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brother/Sister, etc. **ANYSYB respectfully requests the Legislature to restore the 5% cut and add an additional \$1.5m as allocated in the 2020-19 budget to ensure that this program is truly level funded, remaining the same amount as calendar year 2020.**

In addition to the above-referenced cut, the FY 2022 Executive Budget:

- Makes changes to the claiming process for the Youth Development Program and the Runaway and Homeless Youth to require claims to be submitted within 3 months of expenditure instead of 12 months. **This causes an undo burden for Youth Bureaus and youth serving community-based organizations; ANYSYB opposes this stringent claiming process.**
  - Youth Bureaus do not receive their allocations in a timely manner, therefore making it impossible to submit claims in such a short time frame.
  - With the onset of COVID-19, youth bureaus and community based organizations are facing staffing shortages, making it difficult for operations.
  - The need now is for flexibility, not more onerous regulations.
  - Nothing is gained by imposing more burden on the counties and community-based organizations.
- Makes permanent the laws governing funding for the Youth Development Program by removing the sunset. **ANYSYB thanks the Legislature for their past support of this sunset, however, believes at this time YDP can be made permanent.**

## **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)**

The 2021-22 Executive Budget imposes a 5% reduction for the RHYA program, from \$4.48 million to \$4.2 million. This program is already struggling for sustainability; sending homeless youth back into the streets during COVID-19 is unconscionable. ANYSYB respectfully requests the Legislature restore the 5% cut and add \$500,000 which will

keep the funding level as in calendar year 2020 and will allow for programs to remain stable.

## **NYS Youth Council**

The FY 2022 Executive Budget includes \$200,000 for the continuation of the New York State Youth Council, pursuant to chapter 53 of the laws of 2019. This represents level funding. ANYSYB receives a grant through OCFS to assist in the administration of this Council which has proven positive for New York's youth serving members.

## **Youth Leadership Network**

Since 2019, ANYSYB has implemented and coordinated a statewide Youth Leadership Network. ANYSYB respectfully requests the Legislature to once again add \$250,000 in SFY 2022 to sustain and continue the Association's efforts.

## **Summer Youth Employment Program**

The Executive Budget appropriates \$45 million for this program, which is level funding. Youth Bureaus across the State support this program.

## **Raise the Age**

The Executive Budget continues the state's commitment to juvenile justice reform by continuing to provide funding for Raise the Age. The Executive Budget appropriates \$250 million for costs associated with raise the age including, but are not limited to, juvenile delinquency prevention services, law enforcement services, transportation services, adolescent offender facilities, detention services, probation services, placement services, housing services, aftercare services, monitoring and oversight. ANYSYB supports the continuation of this policy and funding.

## **Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS)/ Supervision and Treatment Services for Juvenile Program**

The FY 2022 Executive Budget eliminates the COPS program and instead appropriates \$16.4 million for the Supervision and Treatment services for Juveniles Program, consolidating COPS and STSJP with a 20% funding cut. **ANYSYB asks for restoration of this funding cut to last year's level.**

## **Safe Harbor**

ANYSYB supports the Safe Harbor initiative which is a legislative add of \$1.5 million, not included by the Executive.

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## NEW PROPOSALS

### Affordable Internet for Low-Income Families

Association of NYS Youth Bureaus support the proposal that requires internet service providers (ISPs) offer low-income individuals with broadband access at a price of no more than \$15 per month, inclusive of any recurring taxes and fees including recurring rental fees for service provider equipment required to obtain broadband service and usage fees. ISPs are required to allow low-income broadband service subscribers to purchase standalone or bundled cable and/or phone services separately. The monthly cost of this service could only be increased by two percent, or the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less, once every five years. The proposal would also require annual reporting to the Department of Public Service (DPS) related to the provision of such service, authorize periodic reconsideration of download speed benchmarks and provide for fines for violations.

Low-income households are defined as:

- Eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch through the National School Lunch Program; or
- Whose annual gross household income is not in excess of one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Should these programs be legalized, the Association of NYS Youth Bureaus recommends that tax revenue is made available for afterschool drug prevention and intervention programs, similar to those youth serving organizations offer and be put to best use for the children and teens we serve by ensuring such funds are used effectively and efficiently.

### Equitable Adult-use Cannabis Program

As part of the State of the State address, Governor Cuomo announced a proposal to legalize and create a comprehensive system to oversee and regulate cannabis in New York. The proposal reflects national standards and emerging best practices to promote responsible use, limiting the sale of cannabis products to adults 21 and over and establishing stringent quality and safety controls including strict regulation of the packaging, labeling, advertising, and testing of all cannabis products. Cannabis regulation also offers the opportunity to invest in research and direct resources to communities that have been most impacted by cannabis prohibition.

### Online Sports Wagering

As part of the State of the State address, Governor Cuomo announced a proposal to authorize mobile sports wagering. The proposal will also require any entity operating mobile wagering apps include safeguards against abuses and addiction.

## ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE YOUTH BUREAUS

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