



March 16, 2023

To: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Grantees
Family Violence Prevention and Services Program Grantees
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Grantees
Child Welfare Directors and State Independent Living and Education Training
Voucher Coordinators
Federal TRIO Programs Grantees
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs Grantees
Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program Grantees

Re: Supporting the Educational Aspirations of Disconnected Youth through a Collaboration
Between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of
Education

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) are pleased to offer this letter which shares our ongoing, joint commitment and enthusiasm toward collaboration and advancing equity through our work at the federal level. We want you to know we support your state, territory, tribal, and grantee efforts to uplift youth from underserved communities by increasing awareness of and access to educational support at every level.

We recognize that youth who are disconnected from educational, employment, and training opportunities face incredible challenges. For example, according to a recent report, youth experiencing homelessness are less likely to enroll in postsecondary education, and nearly three quarters of youth in foster care who begin college do not complete a degree or certificate within six years.¹ Like many youth advocates, we know if we strengthen educational connections and support retention, we can help eliminate missed educational opportunities and help youth across the country succeed in many aspects of their lives.

Since **2015**, ED and HHS have proudly collaborated on resources and learning opportunities that support educational outcomes for underserved and underrepresented populations, including youth experiencing homelessness and youth in foster care. We recognize a lack of education

¹ M. A. Kull, M. H. Morton, S. Patel, S. Curry, and E. Carreon. "Missed Opportunities: Education among Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America." *Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago*, November 2019, <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED603015>; GAO, "Actions Needed to Improve Access to Federal Financial Assistance for Homeless and Foster Youth," May 19, 2016, <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-343>

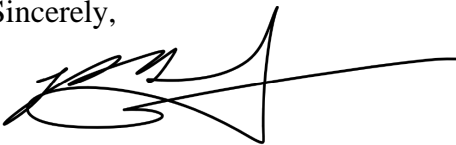
(such as obtaining a postsecondary degree or completing a career technical program) is one of the most common barriers for disconnected youth when successfully transitioning to adulthood. We believe programs administered by HHS' Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, **Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)** and **Children's Bureau (CB)**; as well as the programs administered by ED's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Higher Education Programs (HEP), **Student Service (SS)**, can provide coordinated support to connect youth to critical educational services, as well as other resources, such as emergency and long-term shelter, adolescent pregnancy prevention, violence prevention², and actions to improve the overall health and well-being of youth.

We stand behind your efforts to instill hope and opportunity, while recognizing that the FYSB, CB and SS administered programs play a pivotal role in building pathways toward educational success for underserved and underrepresented youth populations.

To continue to support opportunities for collaboration and highlight ways our programs can promote positive educational outcomes for vulnerable youth, we are pleased to announce we are embarking on new activities under this partnership. We look forward to sharing more information in early 2023 about our specific calendar of events. Whether you have participated in past activities, or are new to the initiative, we hope you will join the forthcoming learning opportunities we have planned.

Should you have questions, or wish to share your dynamic partnership success story, please contact our Partnership Coordinators: Linda Reese-Smith at Linda.ReeseSmith@acf.hhs.gov, Curtis Porter at CurtisPorter@acf.hhs.gov, Jasmine McCoy-Hadnot at Jasmine.McCoy-Hadnot@ed.gov, and Catherine St. Clair at Catherine.StClair@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW, Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Nasser H. Paydar
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary
U.S. Department of Education

² <https://preventipv.org>

(Program Descriptions)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program:

The Family and Youth Services Bureau, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program provides funding to community-based organizations to support the provision of street outreach, emergency shelter, longer-term transitional living, and maternity group home programs to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth>

Family Violence Prevention and Services Program:

The Family and Youth Services Bureau, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program administers the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), the primary federal funding stream dedicated to the support of emergency shelter and related assistance for victims of domestic violence and their children. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/family-violence-prevention-services>

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program:

The Family and Youth Services Bureau, Adolescent and Pregnancy Prevention Program seeks to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents, FYSB supports state, Tribal and community efforts to teach abstinence and contraceptive education. For more information, please visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/adolescent-pregnancy-prevention>

Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood and Education and Training Vouchers Program:

The Children's Bureau's administers formula grants to support states and tribes in operating their child welfare systems, including child maltreatment prevention, foster care, adoption, and the information systems necessary to support these programs. The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee program) offers assistance to help current and former foster care youth and young adults transition successfully from foster care into adulthood. Grants are offered to States and Tribes who submit a plan to assist youth in a wide variety of areas and typical activities and programs include but are not limited to, help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support and assured connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care.

All states receive an allocation of funds under the Chafee's Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program to provide direct financial assistance for youth/ young adults to attend post-secondary education and training programs. This federal program often operates in tandem with other state programs. For more information, please contact the state's Independent Living and/or ETV program coordinator to find out more about how these programs operate in a specific state: [State Independent Living and Education and Training Voucher \(ETV\) Coordinators - Child Welfare Information Gateway](#).

U.S. Department of Education (Student Service-Administered Programs):

Federal TRIO Programs:

The Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs. TRIO also includes a training program for directors and staff of TRIO projects. For more information, please visit:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs:

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year or seven years grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. For more information, please visit:

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html>

Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program:

The Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care services. For more information, please visit:

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/campisp/index.html>