



Response to Peer Connections Recently Asked Questions from Hawaii

Runaway and Unaccompanied Youth

Question: A representative from Hawaii would like to know if there any other State TANF programs that offer services or have partnerships that assist/support Runaway Youth or Unaccompanied Youth. If yes, what are the allowable ways to fund these efforts and how have the States met TANF requirements and what types of services are they providing these youth?

Based on research conducted by the PeerTA team, TANF agencies can use funds to address the housing-related needs of individuals who are homeless or precariously housed. Youth must live with a parent or legal guardian, or in an approved living situation. Barriers exist in the approval process of living situations for Runaway or Unaccompanied Youth. Many states provide warm hand-offs and referrals to home programs for unaccompanied youth that will result in an approval of TANF benefits. By increasing partnerships and cultivating housing referral sources, TANF agencies can quickly address barriers encountered by Runaway or Unaccompanied Youth.

Refer to **Appendix A** for a Case Study outlining a partnership between a California-based TANF agency and a community based organization to provide TANF funds to support homeless prevention resource centers.

Runaway and Unaccompanied Youth Resources:

Resource	Description
Administration for Children & Families Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs	This resource outlines the various ACF programs to provide referrals for Runaway Youth.
Center for Law and Social Policy Brief	This brief details TANF Rules and Program Implementation and the effects on Homeless Young Parents.
Allowable Uses of TANF	Outlines the allowable costs of TANF funds.
Meeting the Needs of Youth Under TANF	This outlines various ways to advocate and support youth receiving TANF.
A Guide for Assessing Housing Status and Coordinating with Local Homelessness Programs for TANF Agencies	A descriptive guide on connecting TANF recipients to the local homeless services system.
Alone Without A Home: A State-By-State Review of Laws Affecting Unaccompanied Youth	This report reviews the state of current law in 12 key issue areas that affect the lives and future prospects of unaccompanied homeless youth in all 50 U.S. states and 6 territories.
Illinois	
Homeless Youth Services – Illinois DHS	Description of the Homeless Youth program in the state of Illinois
Unaccompanied Minors – Illinois DHS	Description of the Unaccompanied Minors policies in the state of Illinois



Appendix A:

Agency	Description
<p>TANF Agency: Alameda County Social Services Agency, Alameda County, CA</p> <p>Community Based Organization: EveryOne Home</p>	<p>This initiative combined the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund and the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) program. It was a successful partnership between TANF and the homeless service system. Alameda County Social Services agreed to provide \$1 million of TANF Emergency Contingency Funds to 7 housing resource centers be disbursed alongside the \$7.5 million the county received from HPRP to provide homeless prevention and rapid re-housing assistance. Alameda County Social Services entered into separate contracts with each Housing Resource Center and provided training to staff on how to administer the TANF benefit.</p>