Points of Contact for Unaccompanied* Minors Experiencing Homelessness/Housing Instability

For crisis intervention for unaccompanied minors who have nowhere to stay, contact the nearest Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) provider 24/7 (or 211 can connect you). RHY providers are trained to provide crucial support and services to minors without judgment. There are currently two federally-funded RHY Basic Center Programs in CT that provide services and crisis beds for unaccompanied homeless minors:

- *Kids in Crisis* (Cos Cob; 24/7 hotline, homeless prevention & crisis intervention services, crisis beds): 203-661-1911
- *GBAPP* (Bridgeport; 24/7 hotline, homeless prevention & crisis intervention services, crisis beds for males): 475-400-0868

Safety Contacts:
If abuse, neglect, abandonment or trafficking is suspected, contact the DCF Careline 1-800-842-2288
- *For more resources on trafficking, call the National Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 (or text 233733)*

Additional **local** resources – We know young people often prefer resources in their community. There are several organizations who assist, during normal business hours, unaccompanied minors who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of experiencing homelessness:

- *City of Hartford Youth Service Bureau* (homeless prevention, case management & case conferencing for connection to resources): Ashley Orozco, ashley.orozco@hartford.gov, 860-757-9886; Melissa Miller, melissa.miller@hartford.gov, 860-757-9529
- *Manchester Youth Service Bureau* (homeless prevention, case management & case conferencing for connection to resources): 860-647-5213 or Sheriden Douglass, 860-647-5216
- *Waterbury Youth Services* (case management, supplies (including clothing, access to computers, etc.) & connection to resources): 203-573-0264
- *Torrington Youth Services* (case management, supplies): Catharina Ohm 860-601-1873
- *Thames River Community Service* (homeless prevention, case management & case conferencing for connection to resources): Shanda Easley, 860-887-3288
- *Norwich Youth, Family, & Recreation* (mentoring, clinical, pro-social activities): 860-823-3782x3484

Additional **resource** - The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) offers a crisis hotline and online services 24/7 to youth at risk of running away, those who have run away or are experiencing homelessness, and their families. Unaccompanied minors can communicate with a trusted, compassionate person who will listen and help create a plan to address their concerns.
1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929) (live chat, call, text, email, forum).**

For 17 yo's imminently turning 18 yo, all resources for minors should be utilized. Also note, these resources can provide a warm handoff to the young adult homeless system if homelessness cannot be prevented.

For **school** contacts, look for the local McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison here or contact the CT State Department of Education, Homeless Education.

For **legal rights information** about minors & students experiencing homelessness, go to speakupteens.org or cca-ct.org.

Youth Service Bureaus are designed for planning, evaluation, coordination, and implementation of a network of resources and opportunities for children, youth, and their families. YSBs may be able to connect youth to additional local resources. (Find a YSB)

**An Unaccompanied Homeless Minor is a youth, age 13-17, who is not in the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian & is experiencing homelessness.*
Families (with or without children) or adult individuals, age 18+, experiencing homelessness should contact 211 to speak with a contact specialist, who is trained to assess individual and family needs and to help identify any resources that might be able to resolve their housing crisis. 211 is the front-entry point to the statewide homeless response system for families and adult individuals.

*** NRS helps in the following ways:*

- *Crisis Intervention: Front line staff and volunteers are trained to use a solution-based crisis intervention model.*
- *Information and Referrals: NRS locates local resources and makes appropriate referrals to meet each caller's needs.*
- *Three-Way Conference Calls: NRS initiates calls between youth and their parents or guardians, staying on the line to mediate the discussion. NRS also initiates calls between youth and social service protection agencies, and between adults and organizations that can help resolve their problems.*
- *Message Relay: When youth and their parents or guardians are not yet ready for one-on-one interactions, they may take the first step toward reconnecting with each other by leaving messages with NRS.*
- *Free Trip Home: NRS has a partnership with Greyhound Bus Lines to be able to offer runaway and homeless youth a free bus ticket home.*
- *Advocacy: The NRS front line team advocates for youth and ensures they get support and guidance from authorities, school administrators, social service agencies, and medical and legal professionals.*

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Center for Children's Advocacy