

Submitted

**Submitted Testimony
Of
Jacqueline A. Negri, Executive Director
Association of New York State Youth Bureaus**

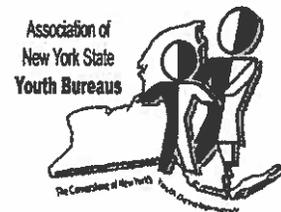
February 13, 2012

**Before
The Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Human Services
NYS Legislative Office Building**

**John A. DeFrancisco, Chairman, Senate Finance
Committee**

and

**Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Chairman, Assembly Ways and
Means Committee**



Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Association of NYS Youth Bureaus (ANYSYB). ANSYB represents New York's Youth Bureau Systems which is comprised of 109 county and municipal youth bureaus providing quality youth development, prevention, intervention services to over 1.5 million youth, from rural towns and villages, to small cities and urban centers since 1945. The youth bureau system embodies the definition of youth development and prevention as an ongoing process in which children and adolescents seek ways to build life skills and competencies that allow them to be successful, achieve career and college readiness, and learn how to function effectively in their daily lives in the community. Positive youth development and prevention services include, but are not limited to programs that build skills to prepare New York's youth for graduation, career and job readiness, civic responsibilities and to prevent them from entering or re-entering the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Youth Bureaus and the non-profit agencies that receive funding from them (such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Boys & Girls Clubs; YMCAs, etc.) offer school-out prevention programs, worker readiness and summer jobs, healthy eating and obesity prevention, mentors, supports for runaway and homeless youth, pregnant and parenting teens programs and programs to prevent youth involvement with drugs and gangs.

Youth Development Delinquency Program, Special Delinquency Prevention Program and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

RECOMMENDATION: PROPOSE \$6 MILLION IN RE-APPROPRIATIONS FOR YDDP, SDPP & RHYA; THESE FUNDING STREAMS WILL RECEIVE 33% LESS OVER LAST YEAR'S ACTUAL 2011 ANNUAL ALLOCATION

YDDP, SDPP and RHYA are proposed in the Executive's 2012-13 budget to maintain last year's level; however the appropriation dollar amount is different than the actual allocated dollar amount received by these funding streams. Therefore, if the intent is to maintain the actual allocation to the 2011 levels, \$6 million must be re-appropriated to these funding streams for calendar year 2012 allocations. These funding streams have been disproportionately hit over the past few years to a point where community based organizations and youth bureaus are eliminating needed programs and services for our high-risk youth.

Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention Program (YDDP)	Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDPP)	Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)
64% decrease over 4 Years 2008 - \$29.5 Million 	63% decrease over 4 Years 2008 - \$9.38 Million 	65% decrease over 4 Years 2008 - \$6.8 Million 
2012 - \$10.6 Million	2012 - \$3.49 Million	2012 - \$2.35 Million

According to OCFS, the actual allocations in calendar year 2011 were:

Youth Development Delinquency Program - \$15.9 million
Special Delinquency Prevention Program - \$4.7 million
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act - \$3.5 million

The 2012-13 proposed appropriation dollar amounts are:

Youth Development Delinquency Program - \$10.6 million
Special Delinquency Prevention Program - \$3.49 million
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act - \$2.35 million

ANYSYB needs the Legislature's assistance and leadership in keeping youth development and prevention services a viable alternative for all of New York's youth, including hundreds of thousands of high-risk youth. ANYSYB urges the State to assist over 1.5 million kids in maintaining last year's actual level of allocations for youth prevention and development funding through a \$6 million reappropriation.

RECOMMENDATION: RESTORE \$5 MILLION FOR ADVANTAGE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Executive Budget funded Advantage After school programs at \$17.5M, a reduction from the 2011-12 funding of \$22.5M. Advantage After school programs are supported by school, community, public and private partners, and offer a broad range of educational, recreational, and culturally age-appropriate activities that are integrated with—and complement—school day learning. Programs operate five days a week during the regular school year and may elect to operate during school breaks. Programs may also extend hours into the evening hours, particularly when serving older adolescents. These programs are designed to improve the social, emotional, academic, and vocational competencies of school-age children; prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock adolescent pregnancies; reduce negative behaviors such as violence and crime, tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse, disengagement from school, school suspension, truancy, and health-compromising behaviors; and provide parents with a safe after school environment for their children. ANYSYB *urges the State to restore funding for these much-needed services.*

On behalf of the 1.5 million youth being served by positive youth development, prevention and intervention services I thank you for this opportunity and offer my assistance and that of the Association of NYS Youth Bureaus on issues, data or questions of concern regarding New York's Positive Youth Development and Prevention System.

For Further Information Contact:

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