II. Proposed Priorities for Fiscal Year 1995

The proposed priorities are similar to those of earlier years in that the Department proposes to award 90 percent or more of the funds appropriated under the BCP and approximately 90 percent of the funds appropriated under the DAPP and the TLP to grantees providing direct services to runaway and homeless youth.

The proposed priorities are further similar to those of earlier years in that the Department proposes to award continuation funding to the National Communications System and to a number of program support activities.

The proposed priorities differ from those of earlier years in two major ways:

- The Family and Youth Services Bureau is proposing an approach to youth services that emphasizes comprehensive youth development over attempts to correct the dysfunctional behaviors of youth and their families, and
- The FYSB is proposing administrative changes designed for more efficient delivery of services and more stability among service providers.

A. Priorities for Basic Centers

Approximately 340 Basic Center grants, of which about one-third will be competitive new starts and two-thirds will be non-competitive continuations, will be funded in FY 1995. It is expected that an equal number and distribution will be funded in FY 1996.

It is anticipated that applications for BCP new starts will be solicited in the second or third quarters of FY 1995 (January–June 1995). Eligible applicants for these new starts will be current grantees with project periods ending in FY 1995 and otherwise eligible applicants not holding current grants. The applications will be reviewed by State, and awards will be made during the last quarter of FY 1995 (July–September 1995).

Section 385(a)(2) of the Act requires that 90 percent of the funds appropriated under Part A (The Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program) be used to establish and strengthen runaway and homeless youth Basic Centers. Total funding under Part A of the Act for FY 1995 is expected to be approximately \$40.5 million. This sum, which is an increase over the FY 1994 level, will trigger the provision in the Act calling for a minimum award of \$100,000 to each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and a minimum award of \$45,000 to each of the five offshore territories: the Virgin

Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

An announcement of the availability of funds for the Basic Centers, along with the instructions and forms needed to prepare and submit applications, will be published in the **Federal Register**.

B. Priorities for Transitional Living Grants

Part B, Section 321 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended, authorizes grants to establish and operate transitional living projects for homeless youth. This program is structured to help older, homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependency on social services. Transitional living projects provide shelter, skills training, and support services to homeless youth ages 16 through 21 for a continuous period not exceeding 18 months.

In FY 1995, approximately \$12.3 million will be available for TLP direct service grants. Approximately \$6.0 million has already been awarded as new start FY 1995 funding to applicants that were successful in the competition conducted at the end of FY 1994 and the remaining \$6.3 million will be awarded as continuation funding to TLP grants awarded in FY 1994. Further, it is projected that all potential FY 1996 TLP funds will be awarded in the form of continuation grants. In consequence, it is anticipated that no applications for new start Transitional Living Program grants will be solicited for FY 1995 or FY 1996.

C. The National Communications System

Part C, Section 331 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended, mandates support for a National Communications System to assist runaway and homeless youth in communicating with their families and with service providers. In FY 1994, a five-year grant was awarded to the National Runaway Switchboard, Inc., in Chicago, Illinois, to operate the system. It is anticipated that continuation funding will be awarded to the grantee in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

D. Support Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

1. Training and Technical Assistance

Part D, Section 342 of the Act authorizes the Department to make grants to statewide and regional nonprofit organizations to provide training and technical assistance (T&TA) to organizations that are eligible to receive service grants under the Act.

Eligible organizations include the Basic Centers authorized under Part A of the Act (The Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program) and the service grantees authorized under Part B of the Act (The Transitional Living Grant Program). Section 3511 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, which authorizes the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth (DAPP), also authorizes support for T&TA to runaway and homeless youth service providers. The purpose of this T&TA is to strengthen the programs and to enhance the knowledge and skills of youth service workers.

In FY 1994, the Family and Youth Services Bureau made ten Cooperative Agreement Awards, one in each of the ten Federal Regions, to provide T&TA to agencies funded under the three Federal programs for runaway and homeless youth (the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP). Each Cooperative Agreement is unique, being based on the characteristics and different T&TA needs in the respective Regions. Each has a five-year project period that will expire in FY 1999.

It is anticipated that continuation funding will be awarded to the ten T&TA grantees in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

2. National Clearinghouse on Runaway and Homeless Youth

In June 1992, a five-year contract was awarded by the Department to establish and operate the National Clearinghouse on Runaway and Homeless Youth. The purpose of the Clearinghouse is to serve as a central information point for professionals and agencies involved in the development and implementation of services to runaway and homeless youth. To this end, the Clearinghouse:

- Collects, evaluates and maintains reports, materials and other products regarding service provision to runaway and homeless youth;
- Develops and disseminates reports and bibliographies useful to the field;
- Identifies areas in which new or additional reports, materials and products are needed; and
- Carries out other activities designed to provide the field with the information needed to improve services to runaway and homeless youth.
- It is anticipated that noncompetitive continuation funding will be awarded to sustain the Clearinghouse in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

3. Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) Implementation

In FY 1992, a three-year contract was awarded to implement the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management