homeless youth means a person under 18 years of age who is in need of services and without a place of shelter where he or she receives supervision and care. This definition applies to all Basic Center projects and can be found in 45 CFR 1351.1(f).

- 2. The term *public agency* means any State, unit of local government, combination of such States or units, or any agency, department, or instrumentality of any of the foregoing. This definition applies to all runaway and homeless youth programs and can be found in section 3601(8) of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, incorporating by reference section 103(11) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended.
- 3. The term *runaway youth* means a person under 18 years of age who absents himself or herself from home or place of legal residence without the permission of parents or legal guardian. This definition applies to all Basic Center programs and can be found in 45 CFR 1351.1(k).
- 4. The term *shelter* includes host homes, group homes and supervised apartments. This definition applies to all BCP programs and is referenced in section 322(1) of the RHY Act. As currently understood in the field:

Host homes are facilities providing shelter, usually in the home of a family, under contract to accept runaway and/ or homeless youth assigned by the BCP service provider, and are licensed according to State or local laws.

Group homes are single-site residential facilities designed to house BCP clients who may be new to the program or may require a higher level of supervision. These dwellings operate in accordance with State or local housing codes and licensure.

- 5. The term *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. This definition applies to all runaway and homeless youth programs and can be found in section 3601(10) of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, incorporating by reference section 103(7) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended.
- 6. The term *temporary shelter* means the provision of short-term (maximum of 15 days) room and board and core crisis intervention services on a 24 hour basis. This definition applies to all Basic Center Program grantees and can be found in 45 CFR 1351.1(o).

E. Final Priorities

Section 364 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHY Act) requires the Department to publish annually for public comment a proposed plan specifying priorities the Department will follow in awarding grants and contracts under the RHY Act. The proposed plan for FY 1995 was published in the **Federal Register** on Thursday, January 5, 1995, and requested comments and recommendations from the field.

1. Public Comments in Response to the Proposed Priorities

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) received 14 written responses from a number of sources, principally Runaway and Homeless Youth Program grantees, in nine different States. The responses were generally supportive and the following summarizes the major issues raised:

a. A number of respondents suggested that the change in the proposal due date from the "mailing receipt date" of FY 1994 to the "actual receipt date" of FY 1995 would be unfair to potential grantees from distant or insular areas. The FYSB appreciates these concerns.

The "mailing receipt date" of FY 1994 was the date by which proposals had to be delivered to the U.S. Postal Service and given a date stamp. In FY 1994, agencies had only 34 days in which to prepare and submit their proposals. That is, only 34 days intervened between the publication date of the Federal Register solicitation and the "mailing receipt date" for the proposals. The FYSB considered this a minimal time for proposal preparation and submission. Those proposals that were delivered to the U.S. Postal Service on the mailing receipt date itself typically arrived in Washington, DC., for review only several days and in some cases several weeks later. These late arrivals occasioned some disruptions in the review process.

In FY 1995, approximately 60 days will intervene between the publication date of the solicitation and the actual receipt date of the proposals by HHS in Washington, DC. The FYSB considers 60 days to be fully adequate for proposal preparation, mailing, and delivery.

b. A number of respondents supported the proposal to establish a minimum grant level of \$75,000 per year, while a somewhat larger number suggested that runaway and homeless youth in rural States, such as in Region VIII, miGht be deprived of services if all or almost all of a State's allocation went to just one site, leaving youth in distant sections of the State completely

unserved. The FYSB will adopt the goal of increasing funding to individual sites now receiving very small awards when possible, but will not establish a minimum at this time.

c. Most respondents agreed with the proposal to establish consolidated youth services demonstration programs that combined the services of the three traditional programs: the BCP, the DAPP, and the TLP. However, the proposal in the Administration's FY 1996 budget to consolidate all of the RHY programs into a single program, along with a variety of different proposals by the Congress, suggests to FYSB that it would be preferable to postpone implementation of this demonstration effort.

To the extent feasible, ACYF addressed these and all other public comments in preparing the final priorities. The final program priorities below reflect the changes made in the proposed priorities in light of the comments received.

2. Final Program Priorities for Fiscal Year 1995

The final priorities are similar to those of earlier years in that the Department will 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 final priorities are further similar to those of earlier years in that the Department will award continuation funding to the National Communications System, to the ten Regional Training and Technical Assistance providers, and to a number of related program support activities.

The Final Program Priorities differ from those of earlier years in two major ways:

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

a. Basic Center Program Grants

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.

Eligible applicants for the new starts are current grantees with project periods