

Recommendations For a Youth Prevention System and Funding



The system needs to be kept intact for all of New York's youth, including hundreds of thousands of high-risk youth. ANYSYB respectfully recommends the following to assist over 2 million kids in maintaining a youth prevention and development system that:

1. Delays the January 1, 2009 block grant implementation date until prudent review of the current system and the needs of all youth, including high-risk youth, is examined;
2. Upholds Executive Law 420 Article 19a to maintain the current youth bureau system;
3. Focuses on Youth Prevention Funding and removes any State mandated services (Secure and Non-secure Detention Service) from any proposed funding stream;
4. Offers a prudent review process or taskforce to: examine the current youth development, prevention and intervention system and make recommendations for a system that cost-effectively serves the best interest and needs of the 2 million youth engaged; establishes statewide quality indicators; and formalize a statewide Youth Development Agenda that can be more formidably linked with other systems of care. In doing so, New York will be a national model with the impending advent of a Federal Office on Children and Youth Development;
5. Turns around the repeal of the SFY 2008-09 appropriations, albeit with a proportionate share of cuts that would have funded programs during the calendar year 2009;
6. Consolidates additional state youth development and prevention funding into a core Youth Prevention funding stream to be allocated through Youth Bureaus to enhance coordination of all resources in accordance with the County Comprehensive Plan. In doing so, it will enhance state and local leveraging capacity;
7. Assures that such funding streams reaches youth in all counties and cities, towns and villages in New York State;
8. Upholds the responsibility of the New York State Office of Children and Families Services (OCFS) for system accountability; approval of local plans; guiding cost/benefit methods and calculations; providing technical assistance, training and capacity building; developing statewide indicators and performance measurement outcomes and conducting resource development work to leverage the state's youth development investment;
9. Sets aside funding in the amount of \$200,000 for enhanced youth development, prevention and intervention training and capacity building at the local and statewide level that focuses on: best practices, evidence –based models, program evaluation and monitoring, and positive youth development outcomes; and
10. Offers Community Reinvestment in youth development and prevention services to insure the health and safety for all youth.

