

TOP STORY



Youth Services System in Wheeling receives \$750,000 to serve homeless teens and young adults

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WHEELING, W.Va. (WV News) — Youth Services System (YSS) in Wheeling was awarded \$750,000 to aid its efforts in helping homeless teens and young adults.

U.S. Sens. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, and Shelley Capito, R-West Virginia, announced this week YSS will receive \$250,000 over each of the next three years for its Transitional Living Program. The program works with youth who are experiencing homelessness while in transition to self-sufficient living.

YSS was required to provide matching funds of \$36,000 to receive the first \$250,000. The organization is hosting an upcoming "Wheeling Sleep Out" fundraiser to achieve that financial goal.

The event is set for Nov. 5 at the I-470 Ballfield. This year, participants may sleep out at the field, or opt to do so in their own yards to raise funds, according to Bethel-McFarland.



YSS applies for the grant every three years, according to Betsy Bethel-McFarland, communications director for YSS.

Past grants have allocated to YSS \$170,000 annually, but a grant amount of \$250,000 was requested this time to account for higher numbers being served by the Transitional Living Program, she explained. One additional staff member has been hired.

The program serves about 100 youths each year, Bethel-McFarland said. Those eligible must be between the ages of 16 to 21, and sometimes they themselves have children.

"We are glad we received this grant," she said. "This means we can continue to serve youth who are aging out of foster care, or who are otherwise facing homelessness," said Bethel-McFarland.