

# Preserve Adolescent Services

## Vision

*The safety net must be protected for adolescents impacted by the child welfare system. At-risk youth need to have the support necessary not only to survive, but to thrive. Street involved youth must have adequate resources in order to prevent the costly transition into the juvenile justice system or the adult homeless population.*

## 2012 Goal

*Preserve and protect critical adolescent services including the Responsible Living Skills Program (RLSP), Street Youth Programs and Family Reconciliation Services (FRS).*

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## Programs at Risk

### Responsible Living Skills Program:

**Governor's Budget: 34% Cut**

Contracted service providers offer 32 beds for youth seeking permanent residential placement for dependant youth ages 16 to 18 who would otherwise be street dependant. Youth are also provided with educational support and life skills development.

### Street Youth Programs:

**Governor's Budget: Funding Eliminated (\$956k)**

Contracted service providers offer direct outreach to street dependant youth in order to connect them with resources and services, including stable housing for runaway foster youth.

### Family Reconciliation Services:

**Governor's Budget: Funding Eliminated (\$4.5 million)**

Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) provide support for runaway youth ages 13 to 17 in conflict with their families. FRS helps prevent unnecessary out of home placement by providing services aimed at resolving crises and preventing future conflicts that may lead to the removal of the youth.

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## The Youth Perspective

*"Washington state homeless youth numbers are on the rise. At The Mockingbird Society we support these programs because at any point in time, one in four youth who are on the streets, have been in foster care. We support these programs because there are also youth on the streets who should be in care. These programs can provide the safe place to get youth who are homeless the help they deserve and need. And, they are better and more cost effective alternative to juvenile justice programs."*

**-David Buck**

**Senior Network Representative & Former Street Youth**

For Questions or Comments,  
please contact Jim Theofelis or Jon Brumbach:

2100 24th Ave S, Suite 210  
Seattle, WA 98144  
p (206) 323-5437 f (206) 323-1003



**The Mockingbird Society**  
Building a world-class foster care system