



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, national studies suggest that 2.5 million youth experience homelessness every year; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey, at least 13,000 youth, under 18 years of age, are without stable housing for one or more days each year; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of runaway and unsheltered youth have been forced from their homes by their families and/or physically, sexually and emotionally abused at home; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that LGBTQIA+ youth comprise up to 40 percent of the total unaccompanied, homeless youth population, even though they make up just five to 10 percent of the overall youth population; and

WHEREAS, youth experiencing homelessness also may have been separated from their parents by death, divorce displacement or for safety reasons, with no biological family or kin willing or able to house and support them; and

WHEREAS, young adults that have been discharged from foster care or other state custodial systems and lack the financial or emotional means to transition to independence successfully also may become homeless; and

WHEREAS, youth of color, particularly Black and Latino, are more severely impacted by homelessness due to structural racism and disparities; and

WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth that are between 12 and 24 years of age have very little or limited access to essential support; and

WHEREAS, youth that run away are at considerable risk of homelessness and victimization, including through sex and labor trafficking; and

WHEREAS, providing safe, stable, and permanent housing for runaway and unsheltered youth is a family, community, state and national priority; and

WHEREAS, the future well-being of our state depends on the value we place providing at-risk youth with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and support they need to find and maintain stable housing and develop into healthy, thriving adults;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

NOVEMBER 2022

AS

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-seventh day of October in the year two thousand twenty-two, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR