



## **2024 Appropriations Committee Request**

### **Creation of an Annualized Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Youth Service Bureaus:**

CYSA respectfully requests the Appropriations Committee strongly consider creating an annualized 3% COLA increase for the **YSB Main Grant line item** *and* the **Enhancement Grant line item** as is currently provided for the JRB Grant line item.

Youth Services Bureaus were created in 1972 as the community service hubs for youth in their cities and towns throughout Connecticut. Through state Statute, YSBs are charged with and are the coordinating entities of community-based services which includes evaluation, planning, and implementation of programs and services that serve the youth and families of our state.

Requested COLA increases are as follows:

	<b>Current Amount</b>	<b>Proposed COLA</b>	<b>Total</b>
YSB Main Grant	\$2,654,772	\$79,643	\$2,734,415
Enhancement Grant	\$1,093,973	\$32,819	\$1,126,792

We continue to work diligently on behalf of our youth and families during these very challenging times. This very modest increase will help offset the current rate of inflation and align CYSA with other Connecticut nonprofit human service providers. In recent years, YSBs have been tasked with greater demands without additional financial support from the state. In fact, over the last 30 years there has been little to no significant change to YSB funding.

Youth Service Bureau's provide services including (but not limited to):

- Individual and group counseling;
- Prevention and intervention programs for delinquent, predelinquent, and troubled youths;
- Parent training and family therapy;
- Work placement and employment training;
- Alternative and special educational opportunities and support;
- Recreational and youth enrichment programs;
- Outreach programs to insure participation and planning by the entire community for the development of regional and community-based youth services;
- Preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide, violence, alcohol, and drug prevention; and
- Programs that develop positive youth involvement and teach youth the skills they need to be productive members of their communities.

CYSA appreciates your consideration.

1/8/2024

Connecticut Youth Services Association (CYSA) leads, strengthens, supports, and advocates on behalf of a unified network of 103 Youth Service Bureaus representing 137 cities and towns dedicated to the well-being of Connecticut's youth and families.