



The **National Campaign for Youth Shelter** is a collaborative effort that will build a grassroots campaign to demand a national response to youth homelessness. This new national campaign will focus on sheltering homeless youth, including LGBT youth.

The National Campaign for Youth Shelter calls for:

1. A federal commitment to provide ALL young people, ages 24 and under, with **immediate access to safe shelter**, affirming the principle that no young person in the United States should be left homeless in the streets.
2. An immediate commitment to **add 22,000 shelter beds**, along with **appropriate services** - a five-fold increase over the current level of resources.
3. A more **accurate and comprehensive effort to count the number of homeless youth** in the nation in order to determine the number of beds that are needed over the next decade.

The campaign will hold a rally in New York City to launch the campaign as a priority within the LGBT movement on June 2, 2014 in Washington Square Park.

LGBT youth are disproportionately over-represented in the homeless youth population, with as many as **40% of the nation's homeless youth being LGBT**, while only 5% of the overall youth population is LGBT.

Currently, there are only approximately **4,000 youth shelter beds in the United States**, yet as many as 500,000 unaccompanied youths experience homelessness each year.

"It's indefensible that our nation would abide hundreds of thousands of young people to be homeless and on their own," says Jerry Jones, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless. "The National Campaign for Youth Shelter will highlight the urgency of basic emergency shelter as we work toward permanent solutions to this crisis."

The National Campaign for Youth Shelter has gained the support and endorsement of over 30 organizations, including: **The Ali Forney Center, Alliance for a Just Society, Campaign for America's Future, Campus Pride, Center for Community Change, Center for Popular Democracy, CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers, Coalition on Human Needs, Covenant House, Empire State Pride Agenda, Family Acceptance Project, Family Equality Council, Garden State Equality, Gay Men's Health Crisis, GLAAD, GLSEN, the Hetrick Martin Institute, Housing Assistance Council, It Gets Better Project, Matthew Shepard Foundation, National AIDS Housing Coalition, National Black Justice Coalition, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Health Care for the Homeless Council, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, The National Coalition for the Homeless, National Low Income Housing Coalition, NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, Partnership for Working Families, Rebuild the Dream, the Ruth Ellis Center, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, Treatment Action Group, USAction, and You Can Play Project.**

"It is unprecedented to have so many LGBT organizations join together with prominent national housing and anti-poverty organizations to fight for the humane treatment of impoverished youths," says Carl Siciliano, executive director of the Ali Forney Center. "With all this support, the National Campaign for Youth Shelter will build a movement to finally prevent youths from being left to suffer homelessness without access to shelter. The wealthiest nation on earth must not allow its youths to be left out in the streets."