

Sasha Bruce Youthwork

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**SASHA BRUCE
YOUTHWORK**

STRONGER YOUTH ♥ STRONGER COMMUNITIES

About Us

Founded in 1974, Sasha Bruce Youthwork works to improve the lives of runaway, homeless, abused, neglected, and opportunity youth and their families in the DC region. Through the holistic integration of its Pillars of Opportunity, SBY is able to stabilize, empower, and transform the lives of over 3,000 youth and their families in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County, MD per year.



Our Vision

At Sasha Bruce Youthwork, our vision is a community in which young people and families have access to opportunities and services they need to succeed.

We believe that when youth and families do well, we all do well.



Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the lives of runaway, homeless, abused, and neglected youth along with their families in the Washington, DC area.



Structural Determinants of Health

The factors that contribute to youth homelessness are multi-faceted and vary between youth. However, multiple studies have found that the following indicators predict a higher risk for youth homelessness.



**Family
Conflict**

Poverty

**Housing
Insecurity**

**Behavioral
Health Issues**

**Foster Care
Involvement**

**Juvenile Justice
Involvement**

**Sexual
Trafficking and
Exploitation**

Race

**LGBTQ
Identity**

**Teen
Pregnancy**

CORE PROGRAMS



Community and Prevention Programs

District of Columbia:

Credible Messenger
Kaempfer
Transformation Project
Out of School Time
Program
Resilient Scholars
Ward 5&6 Prevention
Center

Prince George's County

Resilience Project

Gateway Services

District of Columbia:

Barracks Row Drop-In
Center
Downtown Drop-In
Center
Project Safe Place
Street Outreach

Prince George's County:

Bruce Empowerment
Zone
Street Outreach

Children's Services

District of Columbia:

Allen House
Chloe House
Reid House
Sasha Bruce House
REACH
GRACE House

Prince George's County:

Promise Place (12-24)

Family Services

Family Support Program
Family Success Center
CARES Project

Transitional Housing

District of Columbia:

Independent Living
Re*Generation House
Transitional Housing
PASSAGES
Phillip Reid House
Olaiya's Cradle
Thrive House

Four Pillars of Opportunity



Outcomes

Stable Housing

All youth will:

- exit our program to safe and permanent living situations.
- maintain safe and permanent living situations
- not experience housing instability
- not return to homelessness

Permanent Connections:

All youth will:

- feel connected to people and society
- have meaningful relationships with others
- accept referrals to services, as needed
- access community resources, as needed

Education

All youth will:

- be enrolled in and attending school or
- have completed high school or GED

Employment

All youth will:

- have increased their income from program entry
- be employed or looking for employment

Well-being

All youth will:

- report improved mental health
- report improved resilience
- participate in life skills training
- report increased life skills
- meet short-term case plan goals
- obtain public benefits, as needed

Translating Data Into Actionable Strategies

Data is continuously monitored for quality and tailored changes are made to each program through the following:

Data:

- Individualized case management plans
- Quantitative data on HMIS on demographics, income, education, benefits, health insurance, disabilities, exit destinations, among others
- Quarterly data dashboards on program quality measures (data completeness, length of stays, change in income, exit destinations)
- Outcomes survey

Community Feedback Via:

- Youth Advisory Board
- Yearly client satisfaction surveys
- Program implementation evaluations (4 programs evaluated per year)

Data: Exit destinations (FY24)

Exit Type	FY 2024 (Number)	FY 2024 (Percent)
Permanent Exits	100	36.6%
Transitional Housing Exits	29	11.2%
Foster Care	46	35.4%
Other*	33	25.4%
Temporarily moved in with friends or family	27	20.8%
Emergency shelter or Safe Haven	12	9.2%
Prison or jail	8	6.2%
Institutional Setting (Hospital)	3	2.3%
Homeless Situation	1	0.8%
Deaths	0	0%
Total	259	100

*Other includes self-discharge where the SBY staff does not know where the client went or terminations.

— Youth Needs: Client Satisfaction (2024)

At our yearly residential client satisfaction survey in the summer of 2024, 96% of our young people said they were satisfied with the services we provided, but above all 98% felt supported by our staff.

Client satisfaction surveys have shown that youth in our residential programs want:

- Job opportunities and workshops (resume building, connections to employers)
- Activities, field trips, more organized group time, transportation gift cards
- Case management, strengthened relationships with staff, follow-ups and more consistency from staff
- Mental health services: therapeutic activities, meditation room, cultural sensitivity when dealing with mental/emotional health and experiences of trauma
- Childcare
- Security and mediation for conflict within programs

■ Data: October 2024-March 2025 (FY25)

SBY served **152** individuals at our DC residential programs.

Out of those, **47** clients have exited the programs. **35** clients (**74.5%**) went to positive destinations (permanent AND transitional housing placements).

It is a huge success that in the first 6 months of FY25 we have placed **75%** of our clients in safe and positive destinations!

■ Youth Needs: Oct 2024-Mar 2025 (FY25)

In our residential programs in DC, we served 49 people that had a self-identified disability (developmental, physical, or mental). 32 people had a mental health disability specifically.

SBY served 428 unique individuals at our DC & Prince George's County drop-in centers. Those individuals have been provided 4,244 meals, taken 269 showers, given 269 personal grooming supplies, and ran 147 loads of laundry.

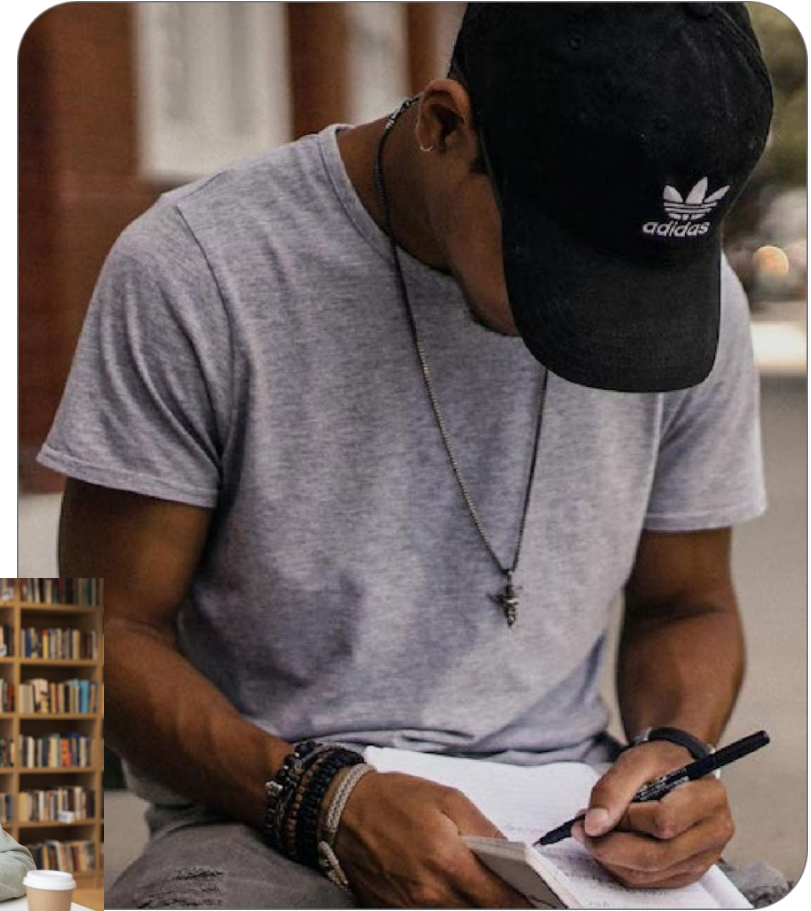
Emerging Strategies and Models

We have had great success with our in-house behavioral health clinician who comes to meet people in their environment.

Especially for people who are not trusting of health care providers, don't feel comfortable going to a health clinic, or don't want to admit that they need mental health services. Our clinician is able to slowly build relationships and have clients reach out to receive services.

Workforce Education, Training, and Professional Development

A big issue is the shortage of licensed mental health providers. In DC, there was a Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act in 2023 that established a scholarship fund at UDC; tuition is covered and they give you a stipend. We're hopeful that this will help increase the number of providers available serve our clients.



Policies, Financing Mechanisms, and Accountability Structures

Historically, clinician positions haven't been funded via federal or state housing grants. Our initial grant to hire a behavioral health clinician was funded by a private foundation. Now, some federal and state housing grants are funding mental health support services.

But, we are also seeing that housing services are still flat funded.

SBY would like for Medicaid to be funding these clinical positions. Medicaid could help manage these services. In doing so, they can coordinate, monitor, and put supports in place.

But, we've encountered many barriers in being approved as a Medicaid provider.

THANK YOU!



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