

Update on the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Operating Status during the COVID-19 Emergency



This document will focus on questions related to programming for youth involved with the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). For personnel-related questions, please [click here](#) to consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) guide from the DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR). If there are additional personnel questions after reviewing DCHR's FAQs, then email those questions to dyrs.hrops@dc.gov.

What is our operating status?

Along with the rest of the District Government, DYRS remains open. However, we have made changes to how services are being provided.

How does this impact what we do?

Community programming for youth – modified service. Education programming and group meetings for DYRS committed and previously committed youth in the community will be suspended during March 17 – April 27, 2020. Some support services will be offered during this time and DYRS youth-serving staff will also be accessible via email and/or phone outside of the times listed below.

How does this impact our physical locations?

- **450 Achievement Center** (at 450 H Street NW) – modified hours: Monday-Friday, March 16 – 31 from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm; April 1 – April 27, 2020 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm.
- **MLK Achievement Center** (at 2101 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave SE) – modified hours: Monday-Friday, March 16 – 31 from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm; April 1 – April 27, 2020 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm.
- **Youth Services Center** – will remain open but in-person visitation and vendors visits will be suspended until further notice.
- **New Beginnings Youth Development Center** – will remain open but in-person visitation and vendors will be suspended until further notice.

What else are we offering to meet your needs?

- **Services for Youth in the Community** – Staff from the Achievement Center, Care Coordination team and Credible Messengers will staff the Achievement Centers for drop-in services for committed and previously committed youth, including information about local clinics and COVID-19 testing locations.
- **Mental Health Support** – The Community Mental Health Team will be available during the

scheduled times in the Achievement Centers to offer mental health support for committed and previously committed youth.

- **Meals for Youth** – Meals will be provided for committed and previously committed youth at the Achievement Centers from 2:00 pm-4:30 pm.

What precautions are we taking to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Our employees are taking precautions to keep themselves healthy and limit the spread of infections like regularly washing their hands, cleaning facilities more frequently, and reducing close contact with each other and residents. Employees have been asked to let their supervisor know immediately if they feel sick.

I'm an attorney, and my client is at one of your secure facilities. How can I speak to my client?

Attorneys have the option they can come in person or request video conferencing. Video-conferencing is available at both secure facilities.

The point of contacts at the **New Beginnings Youth Development Center** are:

Stephanie Evering
stephanie.evering@dc.gov

and

Marjorie Turner
marjorie.turner@dc.gov

We ask that you email both staff at least 24 hours before the video-call is scheduled to take place. If communication needs to occur on a more urgent basis, then add Deputy Superintendent of Treatment, Kenneth Persons, with the email at Kenneth.Person2@dc.gov. Mr. Persons can also be reached at (202) 702-2132.

The point of contact at the **Youth Services Center** is:

Latonya Coard
latonya.coard@dc.gov

We ask that you email Ms. Coard at least 24 hours before the video call will take place. If communication needs to occur on a more urgent basis, then add Assistant Program Manager Darrell Foster with the email at Darrell.foster@dc.gov. Mr. Foster can also be reached at (202) 746-1955.

Will I use the same point of contact if my client is in a quarantined unit?

Yes.

My family member is at one of your secure facilities. How can I speak to them?

If your family member is at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center, call (202) 299-3200 and ask to speak with the Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselor on duty. If there is no Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselor on duty, then ask to speak to the Shift Commander.

If your family member is at the Youth Services Center, call (202) 576-8460 and ask to speak with the Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselor on duty. If there is no Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselor on duty, then ask to speak to the Shift Commander.

How can I drop off an item for a young person at a secure facility?

Call the facility in advance and ask to speak to the shift commander, who will then provide instructions on how to drop off the items.

- New Beginnings Youth Development Center – (202) 299-3200
- Youth Services Center – (202) 576-8460

Is the agency placing any youth outside of the District during this pandemic?

Any placement outside of the District will be highly scrutinized, requiring approval from Case Management, Medical, and Secure Programs.

Will youth be removed from the community and placed in a DYRS secure facility?

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, a youth will only be placed at a DYRS secure facility if they are deemed a threat to public safety or themselves.

What is the agency doing to decrease the number of residents at the secure facilities?

- For residents at the Youth Services Center, the agency is working closely with the DC Superior Court to identify the detained youth who can be safely placed back in the community. For the committed population, the agency will place a resident back in the community if they are awaiting placement for a non-secure setting.
- For youth at the New Beginning Youth Development Center, the agency will discharge a resident back to the community if it is determined that they are not a threat to public safety or themselves, and there is an appropriate community placement for the youth. Youth charged as adults will not be placed in the community.

Are the youth at the secure facilities receiving an education?

Yes, youth at New Beginnings Youth Development Center are in their regularly scheduled classes, receiving instruction through E-Learning. The residents at the Youth Services Center are receiving educational packets, which are completed on their unit.

Where should you go if you have questions?

For questions about any of the services we provide and information on any future changes, please contact us at (202) 299-5362 or email dyrs@dc.gov. For more information, please visit

www.coronavirus.dc.gov.