



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE, MAJORITY WHIP

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Contact: Emily Brandl

emily.brandl@phila.gov

Councilmember Thomas, School District Announce \$2.3M in Funding For Homeless Youth Service Providers

Ensuring Continuity of Critical Services Amid Expiring COVID Relief Funding

PHILADELPHIA, PA– For years, youth homelessness in Philadelphia has posed a complex challenge, marked by varied definitions, insufficient resources, and the urgent need for comprehensive solutions. Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, Majority Whip and Chair of City Council’s Education Committee, held a [hearing](#) in July to explore the issue of youth homelessness within the School District of Philadelphia.

On October 24, 2024, Councilmember Thomas and the School District of Philadelphia secured \$2.3 million in funding to continue critical services for homeless youth, as sunseting COVID relief money threatened the future of these programs. Originally set to run out on June 30, 2024, this funding will now be extended for an additional year, allowing local providers—including Valley Youth House, HopePHL, and Eddie’s House—to enhance their programs and research surrounding students facing homelessness or housing insecurity in the School District of Philadelphia. The funds come from the FY 2024-25 Operating and Categorical budget.

These challenges are not new, and addressing them involves a commitment from City Council, the administration, and the School District of Philadelphia, to understanding the root causes and ongoing needs of our youth. Recent efforts have revealed the **alarming reality of couch surfing** among students, a situation that often goes unnoticed yet affects countless young lives. By identifying over 1,800 who were previously unaccounted for and eligible for services, we are taking important steps to ensure that every child has access to resources if they are housing insecure.

“As a high school basketball coach, youth homelessness is something I have witnessed firsthand. I recognize that I may work with young people who don’t even realize they are homeless,”

Councilmember Thomas said, adding that “youth homelessness is a real problem we have in Philadelphia, with over an estimated 10,000 students in the School District of Philadelphia fitting the definition of homeless or housing insecure. This is not just a local issue; it’s a challenge we face all across the country. We must ensure we are providing the necessary resources and support to our young people who are struggling.”

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