

New Beginnings Youth Development Center: Fact Sheet



New Beginnings is a secure residential treatment facility where youth are placed as part of the long-term Model Unit program or while awaiting placement in another secure facility. The Model Unit program is a six-level program that provides behavioral modification and community reintegration planning for the District's most serious and chronic offenders. In FY2011, the average daily population of the Model Unit program was 43 youth and the average length of stay was 275 days. The average daily population for youth awaiting placement was 20 and the average length of stay was eight days.

New Beginnings provides residents with 24-hour supervision and coordinated social services. The services offered at New Beginnings include:

- **Mental and Behavioral Health Care:** New Beginnings applies a comprehensive, trauma-based approach to its mental and behavioral health services. Staff are trained in trauma-informed care, and clinicians or behavioral health staff travel with youth throughout the day to provide monitoring and support. New Beginnings also provides individual psychological counseling, group counseling, and substance abuse programs. To identify youth in crisis, youth receive an initial behavioral health screening within four hours of admission.

Capacity: 60 beds
FY2011 average daily youth population: 62
Number of direct care staff: 155
Serves males committed to DYRS custody

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Further mental health screenings are conducted within 24 hours to determine the type of treatment the youth will receive. Youth identified as a suicide risk are monitored by qualified mental health professionals..

- **Physical Health Care:** provides comprehensive medical and dental care. Youth are also required to engage in structured physical recreation activities that promote physical well-being.
- **Educational Services:** Educational services are provided onsite at the Maya Angelou Academy, which is operated by the See Forever Foundation in partnership with DYRS. Courses are aligned with educational standards set forth by the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education, and youth may take GED and SAT prep courses. Youth receive educational placement assistance upon release.