

Youth in Transition

The Adolescent Brain: New Research and its Implications for Young People Transitioning from Foster Care

In the last decade, scientists have identified a period of prolonged — and vital — brain development in adolescence. Learn what the experts now know, and what child welfare professionals need to know, about applying these findings to youths in foster care.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). *The Adolescent Brain: New Research and its Implications for Young People Transitioning from Foster Care*. Baltimore, MD: Jim Casey, Youth Opportunities Initiative.

<http://www.aecf.org/resources/the-adolescent-brain-foster-care/>

Casey Life Skills

Casey Life Skills is a free tool that assesses the behaviors and competencies youth need to achieve their long-term goals. It aims to set youth on their way toward developing healthy, productive lives. Examples of the life skills CLS helps youth self-evaluate include: maintaining healthy relationships, work and study habits, planning and goal-setting, using community resources, daily living activities, budgeting and paying bills, computer literacy, their permanent connections to caring adults.

Casey Family Programs (2017)

<https://www.casey.org/casey-life-skills-resources/>

Community Centered Boards

Case Management Services assist a person in accessing necessary services and supports to meet his or her needs. Services include intake, eligibility determination, service plan development, arrangement for services, delivery of services, service and support coordination, monitoring, any safeguards necessary to prevent conflict of interest between case management and direct service provision, and termination and discharge from services.

Colorado Department of Health Care, Policy & Finance

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/community-centered-boards>

Foster Care Transition Toolkit

This toolkit serves to inspire and support youth currently in foster care and young adults who have aged out of care to pursue college and career opportunities. As students prepare to transition to adult life in today's economy, it's important to be prepared to independently make decisions, advocate for personal needs, manage financial or health concerns as well as secure housing and transportation. These systems are difficult to navigate alone. this toolkit includes tips and resources to help youth and young adults tackle social, emotional, educational, skills and resource barriers.

U.S. Department of Education

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/foster-care/youth-transition-toolkit.pdf>

Fostering Youth Transitions: Using Data to Drive Policy and Practice Decisions.

This Data Brief is a state-by-state data compilation designed to assist policymakers and stakeholders in decision making.

Annie E. Casey Foundation (2018)

<https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-fosteringyouthtransitions-2018.pdf>

Funding Supports and Services for Young People Transitioning from Foster Care

This report draws on interviews the authors conducted with 19 child welfare leaders in eight jurisdictions to highlight how jurisdictions are using existing funding sources to serve this population and examine the funding challenges they continue to face. We identify policy issues for the child welfare field to consider as they seek to improve services and supports for young people transitioning from care.

ChildTrends.org

https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/YV-Report_ChildTrends_Sept2019.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Helping Youth Transition to Adulthood: Guidance for Foster Parents

This factsheet provides guidance on how foster parents can help youth build a foundation for a successful transition to adult life outside of foster care. It describes the challenges youth face, how the adolescent brain affects them during this time, and Federal laws and programs. It also provides concrete ways they can partner with youth.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2018). *Helping youth transition to adulthood: Guidance for foster parents*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/youth-transition/>

Inform Your Advocacy for Transition-Aged Clients Using State-Specific Data

Recently, the Annie E. Casey Foundation released a [comprehensive report](#) regarding transition-aged youth (ages 14–21), including detailed data profiles of all 50 states and Washington, D.C. As practitioners serving these clients know, youth transitioning out of care have an incredibly difficult experience that is more complicated than that of similarly-aged youth who have not been in foster care. This report uses national and state data to give stakeholders, including attorneys, a better idea of how these youth are impacted by the process of aging out in their specific state.

American Bar Association

<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/childrens-rights/practice/2018/inform-your-advocacy-for-transition-aged-clients-using-state-specific-data/>

Promising Practices in Transition to Adulthood and Independent Living Programs

The resources on this page present information on effective programs and promising strategies for working with youth transitioning to adulthood.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/independent/practices/>

Promoting Permanency for Older Youth in Out-of-Home Care

Involving youth in their own permanency planning can help them develop decision-making skills, gain a sense of control for their future, and enhance their self-esteem. Learn more about the importance of focusing on permanency planning for youth. This bulletin provides information for child welfare professionals about the importance of permanency—both legal and relational—for youth and strategies for achieving it.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2019). *Promoting permanency for older youth in out-of-home care*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/focus/bulletins-permanency/>

Promoting Permanency for Teens: A 50 State Review of Law and Policy

This publication explores the diversity of state policies and practices for teens in foster care in two potentially competing areas: teens' need for a permanent connection to a family (either their birth family, or an adoptive or guardian family), and teens' developmental and practical needs in transitioning to legal adulthood, independence, and self-sufficiency. In the context of these concurrent goals, policies, practices, and programs can serve as incentives or disincentives to pursuing permanency for teens. Child welfare agencies can use a variety of strategies to achieve permanency for teens and to assist in meeting teens' developmental needs. In this report, we consider policies and practices that help achieve both goals.

National Center for Youth Law (February 2018)

<https://youthlaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Promoting-Permanency-for-Teens.pdf>

Support Services for Youth in Transition: Community Connections and Supportive Relationships

The resources on this page address ways to help youth in transition develop connections in their communities and sustain relationships with caring adults and peers.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/independent/support/connections/>

What Young People Need to Thrive: Leveraging the Strengthening Families Act to Promote Normalcy

This brief addresses the importance of normalcy to the overall healthy development of young people in foster care and barriers youth face and their recommendations. Strategies from the field and suggestions for how to create a more supportive and normal environment are provided. A normalcy activity checklist for youth and normalcy guidelines are included.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (2015)

<http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-whatyoungpeopleneedtothrive-2015.pdf>

Working with Youth to Develop a Transition Plan

This bulletin is intended to help child welfare professionals and others who work with transitioning youth to understand the Federal legislative requirements for transition plans and partner with youth to develop a plan over time and through close youth engagement that builds on their strengths while supporting their needs.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2018). *Working with youth to develop a transition plan*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/transitional-plan/>

Credit

Consumer Reporting Bill – Information Memo

The purpose of this operational memo is to share information and provide guidance about a bill passed by the legislature in 2018, Concerning a Consumer Reporting Agency's Placement of a Security Freeze on the Consumer Report of a Consumer who is Under the Charge of a Representative at the Request of the Consumer's Representative.

Colorado Office of Children, Youth & Families (December 2018)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/cd781c9bc8f90270567729e9e/files/63523539-3c6e-4e6c-ac7d-e2cfc4ecdd0d/OM_CW_2018_0030.pdf

Youth and Credit: Protecting the Credit of Youth in Foster Care

This guide provides a step by step process for adults working with young people in foster care to implement the credit check requirement authorized through federal legislation in 2011. This provision requires that child welfare agencies check the credit reports of young people in foster care who are 16 and older to identify and fix any inaccuracies in their credit history. Includes sample dispute letter.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2013).

Prepared by: Jennifer Miller and Rebecca Robuck of Child Focus

<http://www.aecf.org/resources/youth-and-credit/>