

CALL TO Take Action Guide

TAKE A NEXT STEP

Here are some possible steps as you take what you have learned and put it into action. Please contact us if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Teen Matters - Meeting the Needs of Adolescent Youth

1 CREATE A CULTURE AND EXPAND MISSION

- Create a culture and expand your mission to include meeting the needs of adolescents and their families
- Commit to listening to parents and youth with lived experience and acting on knowledge and information they offer
- Consider including parents, former foster youth, or youth advocates in your governance structure or operational team
- Commit to collecting and monitoring key outcome data
- Develop policies and budgets that reflect mission and values and achieve desired outcomes
- Provide training and supervision that supports mission, values, and desired outcomes

2 CONDUCT COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING

Resource: *Guide to Mapping Community Assets for Transitioning Youth* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Fostering Connections Resource Center, Connected by 25, The Finance Project. April 2010.

Conduct community mapping to identify existing assets and service gaps for adolescents. These may include:

- Evidence-based programming, including parent education and therapy modalities that focus on needs of youth and their families
- Housing options- including Foster Youth to Independence Voucher Program
- Education, employment and life skill services
- Funding provisions under Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
- Youth mentor programs
- Juvenile diversion programs for youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement
- Support networks to address equity and inclusion, including race, sexual orientation

Develop an action plan based on mapping results to strengthen partnerships and connect youth with needed services and supports.

3 LEVERAGE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT FOR OLDER YOUTH THROUGH QUALITY LEGAL ADVOCACY

Pokempner, Jenny (2019). American Bar Association. Three-Part Series on Leveraging the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) for Older Youth:

Part 1: Leveraging the FFPSA for Older Youth: Prevention Provisions

Part 2: Leveraging the FFPSA for Older Youth: Reduction of Group Care Provisions

Part 3: Older Youth: Improving Transitions

- Leverage reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan requirement to get youth the placement and services they need and deserve
- Enforce laws around disposition for youth in care who are pregnant and parenting to ensure appropriate placements and services and to ensure respect for the parental rights of young parents
- Use state case law on disposition and any state law requirements related to placement to increase and enhance the placement options for older youth
- Enforce the transition planning requirements in court and at case planning meetings
- Ensure that youth clients know about Chafee Education and Training Vouchers Program

4 COLLECT KEY OUTCOME DATA

Identify next steps to collect and examine key baseline data which may include:

- Number of youth placed in out-of-home care
- Number of youth in congregate care
- Disproportionate representation of youth of color, particularly in the crossover population
- Number of youth crossing over and becoming dually-involved

Create a data dashboard to monitor progress in improving identified outcomes.

5 CONTACT US

- Contact us about FTCs and court teams that our serving adolescent and cross-over youth
- Contact us about training and technical assistance resources
- Contact us at fdc@cffutures.org
- Visit: www.cffutures.org



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