

# Funding Supports and Services for Young People Transitioning from Foster Care

Lynn Tiede and Kristina Rosinsky

- Policymakers and child welfare practitioners increasingly recognize that **youth who experience foster care need continued support past age 18.**
- As a result, policymakers have increased funding to support young people ages 18 and older who are in and/or transitioning from foster care (the focal population).
- However, **little is known about how existing funding streams come together to provide supports for this population, or about what funding challenges remain.**

The authors conducted interviews with 19 child welfare leaders in eight jurisdictions (see below) to examine how these jurisdictions are using existing funding sources to serve the focal population, as well as the funding challenges they continue to face. Here, we highlight the funding challenges and policy issues the child welfare field should consider as it seeks to improve services and supports for young people transitioning from care.

## Jurisdictions Selected for Interviews

We interviewed representatives from eight jurisdictions. Jurisdictions were selected because they 1) represent diversity in geography and child welfare administrative structures (county- vs. state-administered); 2) use diverse funding streams to fund services and supports for older youth in or transitioning from care, and/or dedicate significant funding for this population; and 3) are implementing programs and services to address the needs of this population.

📍 Alameda County, CA

📍 Allegheny County, PA

📍 Colorado

📍 Illinois

📍 Indiana

📍 North Carolina

📍 North Dakota

📍 Tennessee



## Funding Challenges for Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care

- >> Existing funding sources do not adequately cover the types of intensive supports and skill development that many young people transitioning from foster care need.
- >> There are insufficient resources to help transitioning young people connect to supportive adults.
- >> Problems with funding streams contribute to service “cliffs,” making youth ineligible for needed supports.
- >> Jurisdictions struggle to coordinate funding streams and services.



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## Policy Questions

### John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood



- Should Chafee funding be increased and structured to provide or incentivize more individualized and intensive transitional services to young people who need them?
- How could increased Chafee funding better promote building evidence about the services and supports that lead to improved outcomes, and for whom?

### Title IV-E Foster Care Program

- How can existing Title IV-E Foster Care Program funding be used to support specialized permanency (legal and relational) efforts and more intensive case management for young adults in extended foster care?
- Should the Title IV-E Foster Care Program be changed to allow for reimbursement of expenses for services, such as counseling and coaching, that are critical for young people in this developmental stage?

### Family First Prevention Program

- Can states use the Title IV-E Prevention Program to ensure that young people who are transitioning from foster care but not enrolled in extended foster care are considered candidates for care to receive the supports that they need?

### State and local coordination across funding sources

- How can jurisdictions better demonstrate the value of coordination and its impact on young people's ability to access and benefit from services?
- Are there ways to encourage federal non-child welfare programs to collaborate with child welfare programs to better meet the needs of young adults transitioning from foster care?
- How could an increase in federal Chafee funding incentivize and support jurisdictions to better coordinate and align existing resources?

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