

Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being for Youth in Transition from the Foster Care System

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American Youth
Policy Forum



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Today's Agenda:

Barbara Langford, Youth Transitions Funders Group, Foster Care Workgroup

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Improving the Social, Emotional, and Physical Well- Being of Youth Transitioning from Foster Care

Barbara Langford, Youth Transitions Funders Group



Objectives

- The Youth Transition Funders Group (YTFG) is network of funders seeking to ensure all young people are connected by 25 to relationships and supports they need to transition to adulthood
- Share YTFG's Foster Care Work Group's efforts to create investment agenda focused on social, emotional and physical well-being for young people who have experienced foster care
 - Definition and Framework
 - Recommended Investment Strategies



Why a focus on well-being for the FCWGW?

- Significant gap in the field of child welfare. While three pillars of federal child welfare policy are (1) safety, (2) permanency, and (3) well-being – few agencies see assuring well-being as a primary responsibility.
- Youth in foster care have lower levels of well-being than their peers. This stems from their experiences before entry into care as well as their experiences while in care.
- Emotional and behavioral challenges are a strong predictor of placement stability – which in turn affects a myriad of other outcomes.
- If a young person is not able to effectively manage social and emotional challenges, it makes it very hard to develop and sustain relationships, succeed in school, and find and keep a job.



Investment Rationale



Success



Increased investments in social, emotional and physical well-being contribute to increased success in education, employment, housing and permanence.



Vision of Well-Being

- *Youth and young adults who have experienced foster care have lifelong personal, family and community connections that help them to navigate life's ups and downs in a healthy and effective way, to deal with problems, to meet their needs, to see opportunity in the future and to realize success*



Well-Being Framework for Older Youth in Foster Care

