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

December 18th, 2013







#### Today's Agenda:

Barbara Langford, Youth Transitions Funders Group, Foster Care Workgroup

Wayne Sims, President and CEO, KVC Health Systems, Inc.

Mary Lee, National Transitional Living Coordinator, Youth Villages



## 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



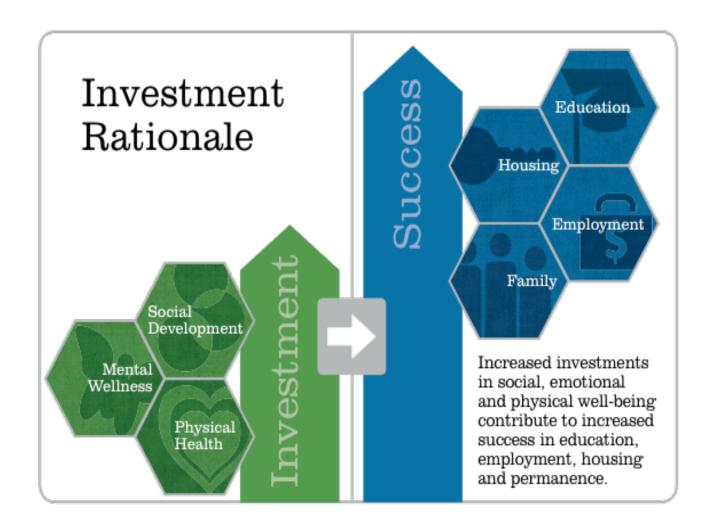


# Why a focus on well-being for the FCWG?

- 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.











## 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 Social Development Mental Intellectual Wellness Potential Successful Adult Safety and Physical Health Permanency **Economic** Success



