### Focus of Investment Agenda: Social, Emotional, and Physical Well-Being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive Functioning</th>
<th>Social Support and Emotional Wellness</th>
<th>Mental Health and Wellness</th>
<th>Physical Health</th>
<th>Safety and Permanency</th>
<th>Economic Success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... to maximize their Intellectual ability and functioning</td>
<td>... to cultivate a strong and resilient self-identity and cultivate supportive and nurturing relationships and to feel hopeful about life and the future.</td>
<td>... to manage their mental health and wellness</td>
<td>... to maximize physical health, strength, and functioning</td>
<td>SAFETY</td>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are exposed to stimulating learning environments</td>
<td>Have a strong sense of self-efficacy and self-esteem</td>
<td>Are able to manage mental distress in a healthy way</td>
<td>Have access to a spectrum of healthy activities that reflect their interests and capabilities</td>
<td>... to ensure they are physically and psychologically safe and free from abuse and neglect</td>
<td>... to achieve educational success to their fullest potential, including secondary and post-secondary completion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have the opportunity to participate in activities that spark their interests</td>
<td>Have a positive experience of living in, connecting with, and belonging to a family</td>
<td>Are able to access resources to manage mental health diagnoses in a healthy way</td>
<td>Have access to information to make informed health-related decisions</td>
<td>Have tools to cope when they feel unsafe</td>
<td>Access to education that matches interests and abilities, ignites passions, and inspires lifelong learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have appropriate critical-thinking, problem-solving, planning, and decision-making skills</td>
<td>Have the capacity to make good decisions about and engage in physically and emotionally healthy relationships</td>
<td>Are full participants in treatment decisions</td>
<td>Engage in healthy behaviors</td>
<td>Make informed choices related to risky behavior</td>
<td>Acquire education and training that enable them to attain marketable skills that can lead to steady employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are able to set and commit to realistic and productive goals</td>
<td>Cultivate healthy and supportive social networks that help them achieve their goals</td>
<td>Have health insurance for mental health</td>
<td>Have health insurance for physical health</td>
<td>Take reasonable precautions to avoid becoming victims of crime and/or violence</td>
<td>EMPLOYMENT</td>
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<td>Have access to mental health services to meet needs, including access to non-pharmaceutical treatments</td>
<td>Have access to health services to effectively meet needs</td>
<td>... to belong to a family for a lifetime</td>
<td>... to obtain and retain steady employment that provides both a living wage and a career path</td>
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<td>Are provided trauma-specific education</td>
<td>Have information about and access to reproductive health</td>
<td>Have a connection to a primary care physician and a medical home</td>
<td>Gain work experience that matches interests and abilities and contributes to their needs</td>
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<td>Have a sense of belonging to a supportive family network</td>
<td>Are able to and have support for living with a physical challenge or limitation</td>
<td>MILITARY</td>
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<td>Are able to and have support for their spiritual journeys</td>
<td>HOUSING</td>
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<td>... to obtain safe, stable, and affordable housing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Community Context
Investment Strategies

1. **Invest in improving, expanding, and sustaining practice, including:**
   - Functional assessment tools
   - Practice model development
   - Focus on vulnerable subpopulations
   - Professional development

2. **Invest in policy and advocacy, including**
   - Require the most “family-like” placement setting
   - Extension of IV-E eligibility
   - Effective transition planning
   - Ensuring access to Medicaid to 26; mental and physical health supports
Investment Strategies

3. Invest in community supports and opportunities
   ◦ Ensure access to healthy opportunities to build passions and build physical health
   ◦ Remove system barriers to participation
   ◦ Support for care givers in ensuring and support participation
   ◦ Support for spirituality

4. Invest in cross-systems collaboration
   ◦ Ensure well-being issues are included in broader youth initiatives.
   ◦ Support leadership, planning structures, and data systems at the state and local level
   ◦ Develop strategic partnerships with specific youth-serving systems: courts, workforce and education, mental health and wellness, physical health, transportation and housing
5. **Invest in research, demonstration, and evaluation**

- Expand capacity to measure well-being
- Clarify what we need to know more about including:
  - assessing the longer-term effects of psychotropic medication,
  - exploring what types of therapies work best for older youth
  - assessing characteristics of placement settings and care givers that work well with older youth and young adults
  - exploring circumstances that create the “later front door”
- Design new interventions that focus on social, emotional, and physical well-being.
- Expand the evidence base of promising programs
Our Members

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- BNY Mellon
- California Youth Connection
- Casey Family Programs
- DC Child & Family Services Agency
- Foster Care Alumni of America
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
- Hilton Foundation

- Melville Charitable Trust
- Redlich Horwitz Foundation
- Sauer Children’s Renew Foundation
- The Sherwood Foundation
- Stoneleigh Foundation
- Stuart Foundation
- Walter S. Johnson Foundation
- Youth Villages
To Learn More...

www.ytfg.org or
www.fostercareworkgroup.org

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