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Supporting Pathways to Long-Term Success for Systems-Involved Youth: Lessons Learned

FACT SHEET: Education and Workforce Related Policies Affecting Systems-Involved Youth

Legislation/Grants with Focus on Systems-Involved Youth

Every Student Succeeds Act

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 20, 2015, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and replacing the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001. ESSA emphasizes the importance of achieving high standards for all students, but aims to fix the one-size-fits-all approach to education associated with NCLB. In an effort to ensure quality education for all students, ESSA includes provisions in Title I, Part D to support prevention and intervention programs for at-risk students, including those identified as “at-risk” in Title 1, Part D. These programs are designed to help students meet academic standards, promote the transition of youth from facilities to further education or employment, and prevent social and emotional problems for youth in or exiting the juvenile justice system. The law also promotes coordination with other federal, state, and local programs, such as career and technical education programs, and encourages the development of partnerships with community organizations.

Cross-Harness Education and Workforce Related Policies

Understanding Foster, Juvenile Justice, and Crossover Youth

American Youth Policy Forum
May 2017

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American Youth Policy Forum
We think big about what we can achieve. We continually chip away, demonstrating relentless pursuit of positive change. We plant seeds of peace and cultivate trust. We see beyond the mask, knowing there’s always more beneath the surface. We ignite social justice. And we spark sustainability for our young people, our enterprises, and our physical environment.
OUTCOMES & IMPACT
SNAPSHOT | FY2017

UTEC OUTCOMES

90% of young adults served were not arrested during the year.

99% were not convicted.

78% of young adults who left UTEC programming were employed two years later.

32% of young adults engaged in our HSET classes obtained a high school credential within the last year.

Learn more at www.uteclowell.org

MA and U.S. OUTCOMES

49% of 18-24 year-olds incarcerated to county facilities in Massachusetts are not re-arraigned within 1 year.*

40% of incarcerated males ages 18-24 nationally have attained at least a high school diploma or GED.***

136 young adults ages 17-25 participated in our intensive programming in FY17.

93% HAD A CRIMINAL RECORD

72% WERE GANG INVOLVED

69% HAD NO HIGH SCHOOL CREDENTIAL

36% WERE PREGNANT OR PARENTING

96% met multiple risk criteria, including 11% who had all four.

750+ additional young adults were served through Street worker engagement, enrichment activities, and other events.

Streetworker Program
Allow young offenders a clean slate

The stigma of a criminal record — even for a nonviolent offense — can last a lifetime, and often may lead someone to think the worst. That’s usually not true. The Juvenile Law Center has found that 95 percent of youth in juvenile justice follow offenders for life. For many, it creates insurmountable barriers. For some, it creates a sense of hopelessness.

We just want to make sure they trip wires for youth after they’ve served their time, expungement would be decided.

Both electronic and physical forms — to age 21, after they complete their senior year, would that. Le and others believe that a fresh start might keep them from being labeled as criminals. “Roughly 74 percent of young people involved with the Department of Youth Services end up in an adult jail six years,” she said.

The financial burden of youth justice is both systemic and systemic. It’s a system that needs to be reimagined.
"Tough times don't last, but tough people do"

Someone telling me this changed my whole life and the way I think and react to things, I was in the darkest of times I ever been in at that time and thanks to that saying I fought my way threw that and anything and everything else that has tried to stop me. Thank you Eric Ponn you definitelly changed my life as my TC ill never forget my friend.

You, Dawn Grenier, Tom Southerton-uteC, Eric Ponn and 12 others like this.

Edon Hartford Beautiful.
January 26 at 1:06am · Like

Eric Ponn All love, keep doing your thing Xavier Hardin.
January 26 at 8:10am · Like · 2

Write a comment...
Founded in 2006, exalt is modeled on an award-winning best-practice designated program. exalt’s mission is to elevate the expectations of personal success for youth ages 15-19 who have been involved in the criminal justice system.

SUMMARY OF THE SPECTRUM

- An arrest in NYC in the juvenile or adult system.
- Exiting Juvenile Detention & involved in After Care (record sealed).
- Has an open case in Criminal or Supreme Court. exalt can possibly play role in sentence.
- Exiting adult jail or prison with stigma of criminal record.
- Sentenced to Family Court Probation.
- Sentenced to adult (age 16+) Probation.
- Exiting adult jail or prison but has Youthful Offender Status (record sealed).

40% of inmates in New York State recidivate within 3-years of their release.

67% of prison inmates nationwide are high school dropouts.
OUR MODEL

OUR APPROACH

Change is a process not an event

4-Week Interview + Engagement Phase
6-Week Pre-Internship Training Phase
1-Week Placement + 8-Week Paid Internship Phase
2-Week Career Prep Phase
Alumni Network Phase

OVER 1500
Youth served to date, but over 15,000 young people in New York City need our services.

We believe in culturally relevant curriculum.

FOUR CORE SKILLS
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Creative Problem Solving
- Resource Management

JOIN OUR MISSION
exaltyouth.org
IMPACT

“The class ended up being a lot different from what I expected. I thought it was just going to be another program, but it was much more than that. The teachers want us to be smart, so that we can change our lives and our communities, not just pass a test.”

- Ebony, Cycle 12

- **83%** of participants with eligible and closed cases receive sentence reductions.
- **More than 80%** of our high school seniors receive their diploma or GED.
- **Ongoing education and criminal justice support** for ALL alumni.

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**95%** of our participants do not recidivate 2-years post program, compared to the 60% state average.

**99%** of our participants are enrolled and progressing in school 2-years post-program.
THE VISION
CREATING AN EQUITABLE FUTURE FOR COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH

• National Replication
• Partnership with New York State Department of Education
• Quadruple our youth served by 2020
• Implement sustained policy reform
First Place for Youth

- **FOUNDED:** 1998

- **VISION:** We believe that all foster kids in the United States can achieve self-sufficiency and make a successful transition to adulthood so that the disparities between them and their non-foster care peers are eliminated. First Place is a national leader in building the evidence to support this drive and in increasing awareness, changing perceptions and building a movement to make it happen.

- **YOUTH SERVED:** 556 in My First Place™, total of 1,460 (FY17)

- **LOCATIONS:** Headquartered in Oakland, providing direct services in 6 counties in California; First My First Place affiliate site set to launch programming in Fall 2017 in Boston, MA
Demographics + Risk Factors of Participants

**Mental Health & Education Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth with mental health issues/illnesses</th>
<th>60%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average youth CASAS score in reading at program entry</td>
<td>232 (equivalent to grade 8 reading level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average youth CASAS score in math at program entry</td>
<td>215 (equivalent to grade 4 math level)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Risk Factors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experienced Homelessness</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No HSD / GED</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has at least one child</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Arrested</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Foster Care Experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg. # of foster care placements</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. age when entered foster care</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. years in foster care</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All data on slide is based on youth served in FY16. Mental health indicator includes additional data through 9/1/16 and reflects youth who have received at-risk or vulnerable rating on at least 1 mental health indicator (of three) on monthly outcomes scales at any point in program.*
# My First Place Outcomes

## Area | Outcomes at Program Exit*
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**Housing** | While 40% of the nation’s former foster youth experienced homelessness by age 24, **73% of MFP youth exit to stable housing.**

**Education and Employment**
- 96% of eligible MFP youth earn their HSD/GED or were actively pursuing their HSD or equivalent
- 77% of MFP youth are employed and/or realized wage increase.
- 82% of MFP youth are enrolled in school or employed at exit.
While less than 5% of foster youth will graduate from a 4-year college,
- 83% of eligible MFP youth enrolled in PSE

**Healthy Living**
- Over 70% of female and 50% of male foster youth will be parents, compared to 41% and 28% of their peers.
- 97% of MFP youth retain custody of their children
- 94% of MFP youth do not have new pregnancy
Nearly 43% of female and 74% of male foster youth will have been incarcerated, compared to 6% and 23% of their peers.
- 92% of MFP youth did not experience an arrest while in program

*MFP data from youth who exited program in FY17. Comparison data from The Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes
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