

# Advancing Pathways to Education and Workforce Opportunities for Systems- Involved Youth

Monday, September 25, 2017



American Youth  
Policy Forum

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

AYPF Brief  
September 2017

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

This resource intends to inform researchers, policymakers, and practitioners of the federal legislation that govern systems-involved youth, and highlights grant opportunities. This resource does not include all legislation impacting systems-involved youth, but rather highlights legislation and grants specifically focused on supporting secondary, postsecondary, and workforce success among these youth. The term 'systems-involved youth' is used to describe youth involved in the juvenile justice system, foster care system, or both systems (i.e., crossover youth).

#### Legislation/Grants with Attention to Systems-Involved Youth

##### Every Student Succeeds Act

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 and replacing the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001. As education legislation law governing all K-12 education, ESSA underscores the commitment to uphold 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 solely for prevention and intervention programs for neglected, delinquent, or "at-risk" youth. Title I, Part D provides funding to states to establish and improve programs targeted to these youth. Specifically, some [changes to ESSA](#) aim to improve educational services in juvenile justice facilities in order help youth meet academic standards; promote the transition of youth from facilities to further education or employment; dropping and pushing out of youth in school; and provide reentry support to young people returning to school and/or community. Additional [key provisions](#) under ESSA include requiring state and local education agencies to coordinate with other federal, state, and local programs, such as career and technical education programs.

ESSA also includes [special protections](#) for youth in foster care in order to promote their educational success. These protections require states to disaggregate data on student achievement and graduation rates for foster care, ensure students remain in their school of origin (unless it is not within their best interest), allow enrollment and record transfer to a new school if necessary, and ensure access to necessary transportation to school. State and local education agencies must also designate state and local points of contact for child welfare agencies to ensure effective collaboration and implementation of foster care provisions.

#### Crossover Youth Callout: Who are they? How are they affected by ESSA?

Youth who come in contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are known as crossover youth. Crossover youth may occupy these systems at different points or at the same time, and their status may or may not be known to either the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

ESSA specifies in Title I, Part D Subpart 1 that state agencies, to the extent feasible, must note when a youth has come in contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and use funds for targeted evidence-based services and interventions to keep these youth in school. Additionally, the definition of "at-risk" was amended to include those at risk of "dependency adjudication, or delinquency adjudication" and those that come in contact with the child welfare system.

For more resources related to ESSA, please reference AYPF's [resource page](#).



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## Understanding Foster, Juvenile Justice, and Crossover Youth

American Youth Policy Forum  
May 2017

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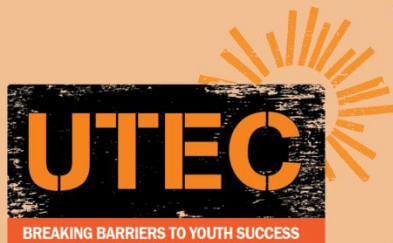
[www.utec-lowell.org](http://www.utec-lowell.org)



**UTEC** is a **FAMILY.** We  
**ASSUME GOODNESS** behind  
everyone's actions. We show  
**MAD LOVE**, unconditionally  
accepting each person. We offer  
everyone a **CLEAN SLATE**,  
never giving up. We carry out  
**RESPECTFUL CURIOSITY**,  
always seeking out moments to  
connect. We are **SPONGES**,  
actively seeking feedback.  
We embody **CONTAGIOUS**  
**PASSION** in all we do.

**UTEC** is a **CATALYST.** We  
**THINK BIG** about what we can  
achieve. We continually **CHIP AWAY**,  
demonstrating relentlessness in our  
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 •

### RECIDIVISM — EMPLOYMENT — EDUCATION

#### 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 HiSET classes obtained a high school credential within the last year.

Learn more at [www.utec-lowell.org](http://www.utec-lowell.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%** Former inmates earn, on average, 40% less than they would, had they not been incarcerated. In Massachusetts this totals \$760 million annually in lost wages.\*\* UTEC works to help our young adults avoid this potential wage loss.

**<20%** 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 Streetworker engagement, enrichment activities, and other events.

\*Statistic from CSG Justice Center, shared with UTEC via email, September 2016. \*\*Forman, B. and Larivee, J. (2013). Crime, cost, and consequences: Is it time to get smart on crime. Boston: MassINC. \*\*\*Schiraldi, V., Western, B., and Bradner, K. (2015). Community-based responses to justice-involved young adults. New Thinking in Community Corrections. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Kennedy School.





# Streetworker Program





## Social Enterprises



SATURDAY, MAY 23

THE BOSTON GLOBE

# Opinion

BOSTONGLOBE.COM/OPINION

EDITORIAL

## Allow young offenders a clean slate

S follow offenders for life. n be particularly unfair nfiles. For many, it cre- wing produc-

offense, 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

The stigma of a criminal record — a nonviolent offense — can adulthood.

both electronic and physical forms — to age 21, after they complete their se nies, expungement would be decide

"We just want to make sure they trip wires for youth after they've d Susan Le, 20, who is involved with Way. Le and others believe that a fresh start might keep them r criminals. "Roughly 74 perce volved with the Department achusetts end up in an adv is six years," she said. the financial





**Xavier Hardin**

January 26 · 🌐

"Tough times dont 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 definitely changed my life as my TC ill never forget my friend

Unlike · Comment · Share · 👍 16 💬 2

👍 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...





## SUMMARY OF THE SPECTRUM



**40%**

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

**67%**

Sixty-seven percent of prison inmates nationwide are high school dropouts.



# OUR MODEL

## Change is a process

# OUR APPROACH

## not an event



# OVER 1500

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

JOIN OUR MISSION

[exaltyouth.org](http://exaltyouth.org)

We believe in **culturally relevant** curriculum.

### FOUR CORE SKILLS

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Creative Problem Solving
- Resource Management

# 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. exalt 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

## 95%

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

## 99%

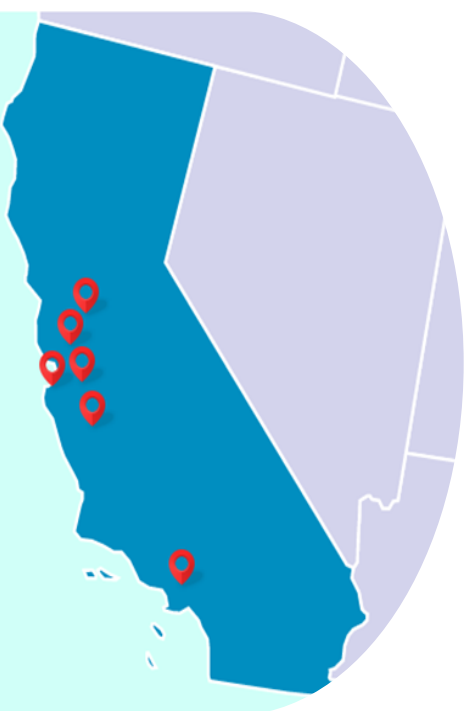
of our participants are enrolled and progressing in school 2-years post-program.

# 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

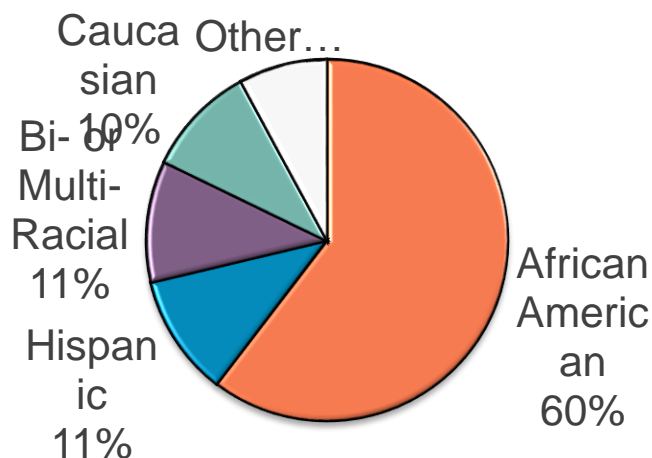
# First Place for Youth



- **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

Youth with mental health issues/illnesses	60%
Average youth CASAS score in reading at program entry	232 (equivalent to grade 8 reading level)
Average youth CASAS score in math at program entry	215 (equivalent to grade 4 math level)

## Risk Factors

Experienced Homelessness	47%
Unemployed	58%
No HSD / GED	32%
Has at least one child	22%
Ever Arrested	49%

## Foster Care Experience

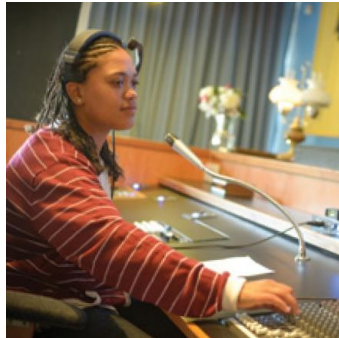
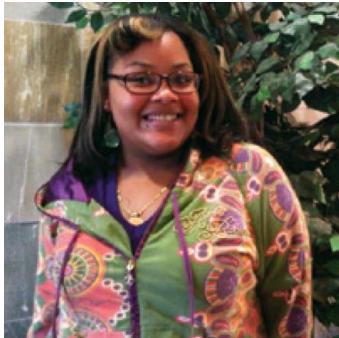
Avg. # of foster care placements	6.2
Avg. age when entered foster care	11.1
Avg. years in foster care	8.2

*\*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*
<b>Housing</b>	While 40% of the nation's former foster youth experienced homelessness by age 24, <b>73% of MFP youth exit to stable housing.</b>
<b>Education and Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>96% of eligible MFP youth earn their HSD/GED or were actively pursuing their HSD or equivalent</b></li> <li>• <b>77% of MFP youth are employed and/or realized wage increase.</b></li> <li>• <b>82% of MFP youth are enrolled in school or employed at exit.</b></li> </ul> <p>While less than 5% of foster youth will graduate from a 4-year college,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>83% of eligible MFP youth enrolled in PSE</b></li> </ul>
<b>Healthy Living</b>	<p>Over 70% of female and 50% of male foster youth will be parents, compared to 41% and 28% of their peers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>97% of MFP youth retain custody of their children</b></li> <li>• <b>94% of MFP youth do not have new pregnancy</b></li> </ul> <p>Nearly 43% of female and 74% of male foster youth will have been incarcerated, compared to 6% and 23% of their peers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>92% of MFP youth did not experience an arrest while in program</b></li> </ul>

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



**FIRST PLACE  
FOR YOUTH**  
MORE IS POSSIBLE

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