



## Overview of My First Place™ Network

First Place for Youth envisions a future where the disparities between foster youth and their peers are eliminated. Since 1998, our My First Place™ program has helped thousands of young people make the transition to adulthood, and we know that with the right support, all young people can succeed. In addition to results-driven direct service delivery, First Place advocates for policies that improve the lives of foster kids. The lessons we learn through our direct service work drive our advocacy efforts, and our advocacy creates a context in which our direct services can succeed.

The challenges facing transition age foster youth nationally are daunting, and too large for any one provider to tackle on its own. We believe **the fastest and most sustainable way to serve more youth is through partnering with organizations that share our mission.** Therefore, as an extension of our commitment to practice and policy, we are building a network of diverse, data-driven providers who deliver the My First Place™ program to youth across the country.

We believe that this network can **become a strong policy voice**, drawing from varied experiences to make significant changes for young people in need across the country.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE NETWORK?

- **Improved outcomes** in education, employment, housing stability, and healthy living for foster care and vulnerable transition-age youth through implementation of My First Place™.
- **A structured, data-informed program model** with a 15-year track record of results and evidence of best practices.
- **My First Place™ proprietary materials** including program manual, training modules, and implementation guide.
- License for **data management software**, Apricot, **forms and reports**, and **coaching** for how to use data to inform and manage program.
- Deep **technical and capacity-building assistance**, including on-site and virtual trainings and data management support, to ensure high-fidelity launch and implementation of My First Place™.
- Access to **innovations from data and evaluation pilots** at First Place headquarters, including current work on prescriptive and predictive analytical models for My First Place™.
- Support in developing **fundraising and policy plans.**
- **Opportunities to engage in a national policy movement** to end disparities between foster youth and their peers.
- **Access to other My First Place network partners** and opportunity to engage in trainings, program improvement initiatives, and policy activities as a network.

### WHAT DOES FIRST PLACE FOR YOUTH GAIN FROM THIS PARTNERSHIP?

Supporting diverse organizations in implementing the My First Place™ model in their communities will allow us to learn about the effectiveness of My First Place™ in areas outside of California and to confirm that the model proves effective in serving transition age youth in those areas. We have identified four main goals of partnering with other providers:

- **Broader reach to improve youth outcomes** than possible through direct expansion.
- **Larger, more varied data set** for evaluating the effectiveness of My First Place™.
- Opportunity to build a **strong coalition** that supports and advocates for transition age foster youth and the My First Place™ model.
- Opportunity to advance the field by supporting organizations' adoption of **performance management systems and data-informed improvement.**

## WHAT ARE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIRST PLACE AND THE PARTNER?

We are looking to partner with organizations interested in offering the My First Place™ model to transition age foster youth or to other vulnerable youth in their communities. The partner organization would remain independent of First Place, keeping its own 501(c)3 status and hiring its own staff, but agree to implement the My First Place™ program with fidelity in its community. We believe that organizations interested in improving their performance management capacity, committed to serving transition age youth more effectively, and interested in learning as a member of a network would be optimal partners.

The First Place team, including the leadership team and supporting staff, will support the launch of My First Place™ at the first partner organization. As the Network expands, First Place will continue to add staff to support its My First Place™ network in the areas of data and evaluation, policy, and development. The diagram below illustrates the proposed division of roles and responsibilities throughout the partnership.

