

CONRAD N.



FOUNDATION

Foster Youth Strategic Initiative

2016 Evaluation Report



Prepared for: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Prepared by: Westat and University of California Los Angeles Luskin School of Public Health with input from Action Research Partners, New York, New York

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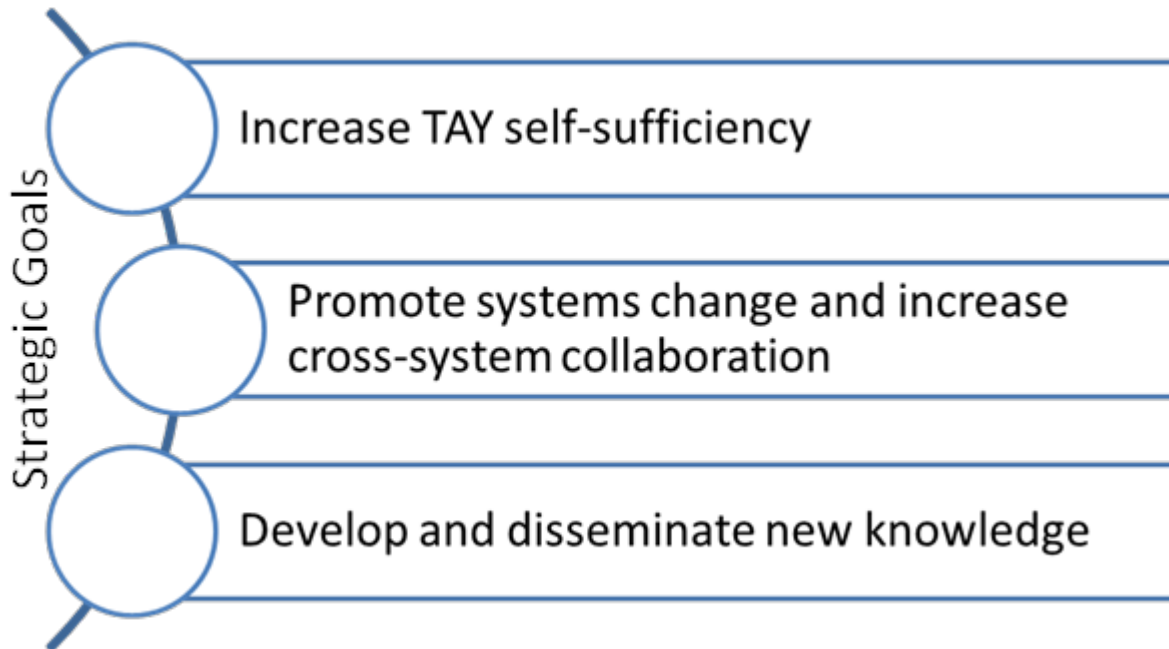
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The Conrad N. Hilton Foster Youth Strategic Initiative (FYSI) grew out of an extensive research and synthesis process that included the perspectives of a wide variety of stakeholders. Ultimately, the process helped the Foundation better understand the challenges facing transition age youth (TAY) and identify successful models for change; this work became the foundation for FYSI. In February 2012, the Board of Directors approved FYSI and it launched in March 2012. The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) component (or evaluation) began in March 2013.

The FYSI is focused on TAY 16–24 years old from two regions with large child welfare (and foster care) populations: Los Angeles County (LAC) and New York City (NYC). The Foundation chose to focus its efforts in LAC and NYC due to the strong commitment of the public child welfare and supporting agencies to issues affecting TAY and their readiness for policy and system reform and opportunities to leverage funding.

To address the myriad issues facing TAY, those in care and transitioning out of care, the Foundation provides grants to organizations and entities with the potential to meet the three overarching goals of FYSI, to: (1) increase **TAY self-sufficiency**, (2) strengthen and increase **cross-system collaboration** and promote **systems change**, and (3) develop and disseminate **new knowledge** about the needs of TAY and effective strategies for meeting those needs.



As of June 2016, the Foundation has awarded \$46,532,500 to 44 grantees as part of FYSI. Overall, there were 38 Foundation grantees¹ active during this reporting period: 23 grantees are working in LAC, 10 grantees are working in NYC, and 5 grantees are considered “dual geography,” as they are conducting work in both LAC and NYC.

The Evaluation

Westat, in partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles Luskin School of Public Affairs, and Action Research Partners, is conducting the MEL component of the FYSI in LAC and NYC. The primary goal of the MEL is to inform the Foundation, its grantees, and other stakeholders about salient learnings and accomplishments throughout implementation of the initiative.

The FYSI is built on a theory of change that proposes that funding a strategic, three-component initiative (self-sufficiency services, systems change, and new knowledge development) will increase the likelihood of improving outcomes for TAY in LAC and NYC. The evaluation is not a program evaluation; that is, it is not designed to measure program outcomes at the grantee level. Instead, it is focused on the overall strategy and its ability to influence change in key youth, systems change, and knowledge sharing and leveraged funding goals.

The MEL team continues to implement a multi-method approach to answer these four research questions:

¹ Some grantees are funded to work in more than one area.

1. Are TAY in LAC/NYC on a better path to success?
2. What impact did the Hilton Foster Youth Initiative have on the grantees' programs?
3. What changes have occurred in LAC/NYC in collaboration and alignment of systems serving TAY? How did the Initiative contribute to these changes?
4. What impacts did the knowledge grantees have on policy, practice, and research innovations?

This report covers evaluation activities from June 2015 – August 2016.² Specifically, it covers evaluation findings from grantee interviews, progress reports, and data collection forms. It further summarizes recent policy and systems reform efforts and presents outcome data (administrative in nature) that are aligned with FYSI goals.

Transition Age Youth Goals

First and foremost, grantees are making progress toward TAY self-sufficiency goals. Based in part on policy changes and systems reform efforts in both LAC and NYC, we are seeing TAY remaining in care for longer periods.

In LAC, the number of youth **age 18–20** increased from **2009** to **2015** while the number of youth under 18 declined. In NYC, the number of youth **age 18 and older** decreased somewhat, but the **proportion of TAY** age 18 and older increased during this same time period (2009 to 2015).

There has been significant movement around improving educational outcomes for TAY. Since FYSI began, grantees have provided almost 3,500 TAY with education-focused services, over 3,000 TAY with career readiness or employment services, and almost 4,000 TAY with connections to material resources necessary for school success. Most foster youth in LAC and NYC are enrolled in school, and ever-increasing numbers of TAY are attending college, whether at a 2- or 4-year institution or vocational training program.



² Grantees have different timelines for reporting on their progress, and their activities cover a wider time period.

With regard to employment, several grantees provided critical opportunities for TAY, including the Aspen Institute, which launched the 100,000 Opportunities Initiative, creating “more pathways to economic prosperity for youth.” Catalyzed with assistance from the Foundation, the initiative is quickly becoming one of the largest employer-led youth employment coalitions in the country. Meanwhile, iFoster’s Jobs Program saw its first 150 TAY participants gain employment under the program.

On the topic of pregnant and parenting and crossover youth, grantees are also making progress. FYSI grantees reported providing direct services to 218 pregnant or parenting TAY, including parenting classes, skill-building workshops, and connecting youth with other services and resources. Dr. Emily Putnam Hornstein’s groundbreaking research on pregnant and parenting youth continues to shape the national agenda around serving this subpopulation of TAY.

Crossover youth continue to pose a challenge to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In LAC, 42 percent of foster youth surveyed reported they have been arrested, 26 percent have been convicted of a crime, and 26 percent have been confined in a facility such as jail or juvenile detention as a result of allegedly committing a crime; whereas in NYC, the number of foster youth with at least one incidence of absence to detention has remained relatively stable from 2009 to 2015. But grantees are making progress here too. One of the four grantees funded specifically to work with this vulnerable youth population served 315 crossover youth in the last 2 years, but more importantly, is creating systems reform through advocacy and education to increase awareness of the particular needs and challenges crossover youth face, and the services designed to assist them.

Trends for Transition-Age Youth in LAC and NYC since 2010

Youth staying in care longer (age 18+)	↑
Youth attending college or vocational school	↑
Employment opportunities for youth	↑
Services for pregnant and parenting youth	↑
Number of crossover youth	—
Awareness of crossover youth needs and issues	↑
Training and support for caregivers	↑

Finally, grantees continue to promote activities focused on supporting caregivers, reaching over 5,756 caregivers and service providers and staff who work with

caregivers, with much of this activity focused on trainings and other supports to improve educational outcomes for TAY.

Systems Change Goals

Cross-sector coordination and collaboration is a persistent strength of FYSI grantees. Each year the MEL has assessed cross-sector coordination and collaboration, and each year it has gotten stronger. The second stage of the social network analysis confirms clear evidence of network growth over time: the network now includes new and more connections among grantees, more connections between grantees and partner agencies, and has shown a significant increase in partner agencies.



Advocacy remains one of the strongest areas of progress for the grantees. Grantees continue to give voice to foster youth by representing their interests in national and state legislative activities, and advocating for efforts to improve educational outcomes, coordinate and expand employment opportunities, improve data available to track youth outcomes, and ensure caregivers have the resources they need to effectively parent and support the youth in their care.

Grantees' advocacy work also continues to inform TAY progress. As foster youth have limited ability to influence political, social, or economic change themselves, they need trusted advocates, like the grantees, to represent their views where they matter most—around policies that significantly impact their well-being. This report contains numerous examples of grantees' advocacy work and the

influence it is having in shaping child welfare policy and practice at both the national and local level.

Grantees also continue to make enormous strides to disseminate knowledge about their work with the larger child welfare policy and research and practice communities, and leverage funding to support this work. Over the past 3 years, grantees have made thousands of presentations, authored hundreds of publications, and been cited extensively in the media—advancing the reach of their efforts enormously. Research grantees are producing and disseminating findings via less traditional avenues like public events and “issue briefs” that are changing the landscape for TAY by helping child welfare and juvenile justice policymakers, practitioners, and other researchers understand their status and the factors that contribute to it, and recommend areas for further study.

Finally, grantees have far surpassed leveraged funding expectations of \$20 million by reporting more than \$45 million in total leveraged funds, with \$31 million in leveraged funding from private sources and almost \$12 million from public sources. This information alone demonstrates the pronounced impact FYSI has had on grantees and TAY alike, but when coupled with the other progress highlighted in this report, it becomes more obvious that FYSI has had a profound and lasting impact on the child welfare community, not just in LAC and NYC, but across the nation.

Recommendations

As FYSI moves into its fourth year, and efforts are underway to prepare for the future of it, it is an appropriate time for the Foundation to take stock of its achievements and determine how best to focus its future FYSI efforts. Throughout this report, we highlight the successes that grantees have achieved both in the past year and across the 3-year FYSI period—and they are substantial. However, we also highlight areas where work still needs to be done; these provide a starting point for the Foundation as it considers how best to focus FYSI targets moving forward.

Based on our experience and the information we have collected and reported on over the past 3 years, we make recommendations for taking FYSI further and increasing its impact. These recommendations are made in four areas:

- Build the evidence base for *what works* to improve educational outcomes for TAY;

- Create more inroads into understanding the status of pregnant and parenting and crossover youth, the factors that contribute to their status, and how best to serve them;
- Improve the availability and accessibility of cross-system data to track outcomes for TAY; and
- Continue to support dissemination and information-sharing activities to promote FYSI's reach beyond the child welfare community and promote “translational knowledge” among grantees.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Conrad N. Hilton Foster Youth Strategic Initiative

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Foster Youth Strategic Initiative (FYSI) grew out of an extensive research and synthesis process that included the perspectives of a wide variety of stakeholders. Ultimately, the process helped the Foundation better understand the challenges facing transition age youth (TAY) and identify successful models for change; this work became the foundation for FYSI. In February 2012, the Board of Directors approved FYSI and it launched in March 2012; The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) component (or evaluation) began in March 2013.

THE FYSI VISION

Youth who are transitioning out of foster care are on the path to success, are able to live self-sufficiently, and have the interpersonal connections they need to thrive.

The FYSI is focused on TAY, 16-24 years old, from two regions with large child welfare (and foster care) populations: Los Angeles County (LAC) and New York City (NYC). The Foundation chose to focus its efforts in LAC and NYC due to the strong commitment of the public child welfare and supporting agencies to issues affecting TAY and their readiness for policy and system reform and opportunities to leverage funding.

Within the general TAY population, the Foundation chose to focus further on two special-needs subgroups: pregnant and parenting teens, and crossover youth (those with concurrent child welfare and juvenile justice involvement). The FYSI also aims to increase the pool of available TAY caregivers through education and outreach, and increase the capacity of those caregivers to effectively parent via targeted resources.

1.2 Evaluation of the Foster Youth Strategic Initiative

Westat, in partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles Luskin School of Public Affairs, and Action Research Partners, is conducting the MEL component of the FYSI in LAC and NYC. The primary goal of the MEL is to inform the Foundation, its grantees, and other stakeholders about salient learnings and accomplishments throughout implementation of the initiative.

The FYSI is built on a theory of change that proposes that funding a strategic, three-component initiative (self-sufficiency services, systems change, and new knowledge development) increases the likelihood of improving outcomes for TAY in LAC and NYC. The evaluation is not a program evaluation; that is, it is not designed to measure individual grantee outcomes. Instead, it is focused on the overall strategy and its ability to influence change in youth, systems change, and knowledge and funding sharing goals. FYSI goals, which were developed by Foundation leaders and program staff during the FYSI planning phase, are presented in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Initiative Goals	
YOUTH: To increase TAY self-sufficiency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: Postsecondary outcomes improved for TAY • Vulnerable Youth: Improved long-term outcomes for parenting foster youth • Vulnerable Youth: Improved long-term outcomes for crossover youth • Caregivers: Capacity improved for caregivers of TAY 	
SYSTEMS CHANGE: To strengthen and increase cross-system collaboration and promote systems change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create/strengthen cross-sector coordinated efforts³ • Annual convenings of organizations and agencies supporting TAY • Advocacy resulting in positive and enforced policy for improving outcomes for TAY in target geographies 	
KNOWLEDGE SHARING & FUNDING: To develop and disseminate new knowledge about the needs of TAY and effective strategies for meeting those needs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research base around programs to improve TAY outcomes is expanded and shared at local and national levels • Conrad N. Hilton Foundation funding leverages \$20M in private funding in alignment with our goals 	

³ This goal is also addressed in the Systems Change through Cross-Sector Collaboration: FYSI Social Network Analysis II report (insert hyperlink when available).

The MEL team continues to implement a multi-method approach to answer these four research questions:

1. Are TAY in LAC/NYC on a better path to success?
2. What impact did the Hilton Foster Youth Initiative have on the grantees' programs?
3. What changes have occurred in LAC/NYC in collaboration and alignment of systems serving TAY? How did the Initiative contribute to these changes?
4. What impacts did the knowledge grantees have on policy, practice, and research innovations?

1.3 FYSI Grantee Profiles

To address the myriad issues facing TAY, those in care and transitioning out of care, the Foundation provides grants to organizations and entities with the potential to meet the three overarching FYSI goals: (1) increase **TAY self-sufficiency**, (2) strengthen and increase cross-system collaboration and promote **systems change**, and (3) develop and disseminate **new knowledge** about the needs of TAY and effective strategies for meeting those needs. Grantees are allowed to apply for and receive funds to work in one or more of these areas.

As of June 2016, the Foundation has awarded \$46,532,500 to 44 grantees as part of FYSI. Overall, there were 38 Foundation grantees⁴ active during this reporting period: 23 grantees are working in LAC, 10 grantees are working in NYC, and 5 grantees are considered “dual geography” as they are conducting work in both LAC and NYC. The following tables (Tables 1-2 – 1-4) list the grantees by location and focus area.

As of June 2016, the Foundation has awarded
\$46,532,500 to **44 grantees** as part of FYSI.

⁴ Some grantees are funded to work in more than one area, as evidenced by the 51 grantees shown in Tables 1.2 – 1.4.

Self-sufficiency grantees. Table 1-2 shows the 30 grantees funded to increase TAY self-sufficiency through the provision of direct services. Grantees in this group are working in a variety of areas, including improving educational, college readiness, and career outcomes for TAY; providing support for and recruiting caregivers; and enhancing services for crossover, pregnant, and parenting youth.

Table 1-2. TAY Self-Sufficiency Grantees

Los Angeles	New York	Dual Geography
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance for Children’s Rights • Anti-Recidivism Coalition • Child Welfare Initiative • Coalition for Responsible Community Development • Community Coalition • Community Initiatives • First Place for Youth • First Star • FosterEd (National Center for Youth Law) • iFoster • KOCE-TV Foundation • Leadersup • Maryvale • Pepperdine University • Public Counsel • Southern California Foster Family Agency • St. Anne’s Maternity House • United Friends of the Children • Youth Policy Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Aid Society • Children’s Village • Fedcap • Good Shepherd Services • Graham-Windham • Inwood House • New York Foundling Hospital • New Yorkers for Children (ACS) • Research Foundation of CUNY • The Door – A Center of Alternatives, Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Foster Youth Institute

Systems change grantees. Table 1-3 shows the 15 grantees funded to strengthen and increase cross-system collaboration and promote systems change. They are doing this by working across systems to: promote collaboration, facilitate the development and implementation of consistent TAY-related policies, initiate and improve data sharing, and develop effective cross-system coordination methods such as shared case management and referral systems.

Table 1-3. Systems Change Grantees		
Los Angeles	New York	Dual Geography
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance for Children’s Rights • Anti-Recidivism Coalition • Children Now • Children’s Action Network • Children’s Law Center • Community Coalition • Community Initiatives • FosterEd (National Center for Youth Law) • Public Counsel • University of Southern California • Youth Policy Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fedcap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspen Institute • International Documentary • National Foster Youth Institute

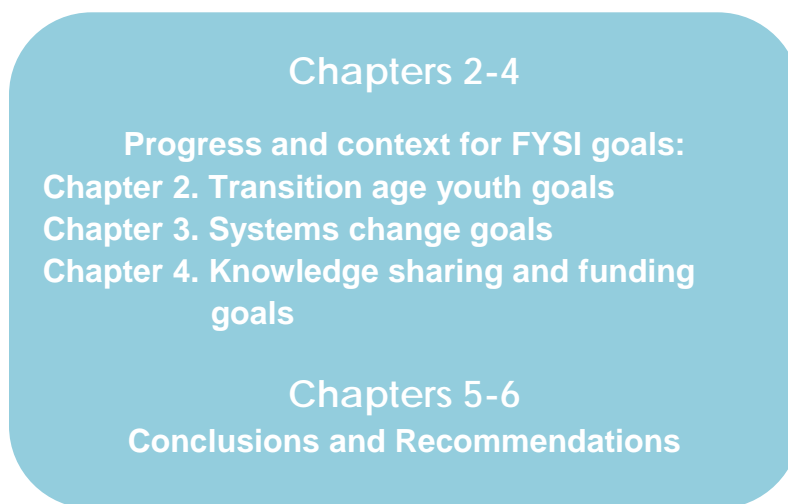
Knowledge grantees. Table 1-4 shows the six grantees funded to develop and disseminate new knowledge to affect changes in TAY policy, practice, and research. Through publication and dissemination of grantees’ practice recommendations and research findings, FYSI expects to see a targeted and informed leveraging of resources for TAY.

Los Angeles	New York	Dual Geography
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regents at UC Berkeley • University of Chicago • University of Southern California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Foundation of CUNY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspen Institute • Center for Sustainable Journalism (Kennesaw State University)

1.4 Organization and Focus of Report

This report covers evaluation activities from June 2015 – August 2016.⁵ Specifically, it covers evaluation findings from grantee interviews, progress reports, and data collection forms. It further summarizes recent policy and systems reform efforts and presents outcome data (administrative in nature) that are aligned with FYSI goals.

The report comprises six chapters, including this one. The remainder of the report is organized as follows:



⁵ Grantees have different timelines for reporting on their progress, and their activities cover a wider time period.



2. TRANSITION AGE YOUTH GOALS

Goals: FYSI is designed to address improving three primary youth goals:⁶ postsecondary outcomes for 50 percent of TAY; long-term outcomes for 50 percent parenting and 50 percent of crossover TAY; and the capacity of 90 percent of TAY caregivers.

Measuring Progress: FYSI youth goals are targeted at the broader foster care population in LAC and NYC rather than any specified subpopulation. Documenting progress on youth goals at the regional level requires the availability of reliable and longitudinal census or population-level data in each of the goal areas, from at least 3 years prior to the implementation of FYSI (i.e., 2009) to each year of the FYSI thereafter. Such data have not been available over the 3-year MEL period, though FYSI grantees and other stakeholders in LAC and NYC are working tirelessly to improve the data landscape and data availability; some of these grantees have worked closely with the MEL team to make data available for this report.

However, we do have data that support a number of goals and issues that are of central importance to FYSI. First, we have administrative data that allows us to understand such important issues as the number and characteristics of TAY in foster care, over time, which allows us to understand how policies and services are changing both how many TAY are in care and who they are. We also have data about TAY's educational experiences, outcomes for pregnant and parenting and crossover TAY, and the caregivers who are caring for TAY and in what types of placements. Some of these data are reported over time and some are available for only one time point; regardless, the data facilitates both an understanding of the progress grantees have made toward youth goals and the challenges inherent in making such progress in just 3 short years. The

⁶ In addition to youth goals, FYSI is also focused on three systems change and two funding and knowledge-sharing goals, as outlined in Table 1-1 of this report.

data also show that there is a continued need for FYSI investments in TAY and the individuals who care for them and the organizations and agencies that serve them.

We also have grantee self-report data that show the progress they are making toward meeting their own youth goals for the TAY they serve. In general, FYSI grantees represent influential organizations in two of the largest child welfare (and juvenile justice systems) in the nation. As such, grantees' achievements in one area create ripple effects in others, broadening the reach of FYSI with regard to TAY services and outcomes.

Finally, we have grantee data to answer the question "Are TAY in LAC and NYC on a better path to success?" And, as noted, the answer is unequivocally "yes." TAY are on a better path to success, especially with regard to educational success. However, as we present in this chapter, data from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH),⁷ conducted by FYSI grantee Dr. Mark Courtney with data collected as part of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF),⁸ also show the continued need for services, policies, and system collaboration to continue to support these educational gains.

Progress: Getting Closer! There are more self-sufficiency grantees than any other type of grantee. For those TAY served by grantees, educational and employment outcomes have improved in each of the 3 years since FYSI began. Youth served by FYSI grantees are staying in care longer and are on a better path to success, especially in regard to educational outcomes. Foster youth report caregivers are most helpful to them in six key areas, and 95 percent of youth exiting foster care report having a permanent connection to an adult.

In the sections that follow, we first present data about the number of youth in care and the characteristics of those youth. Next, we provide data about how grantees are

⁷ The CalYOUTH Study provides education and other well-being data on foster youth based on a representative survey of foster youth in California; this multiyear project is designed to evaluate "the impact of the California Fostering Connections to Success Act on outcomes during transition to adulthood for foster youth" (Courtney et al., 2014a). CalYOUTH data were made available by the study team (Courtney et al., 2014b) with permission from the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services: <http://www.chapinhall.org/research/report/findings-california-youth-transitions-adulthood-study-calyouth>.

⁸ "California's LCFF is a groundbreaking law passed in 2013 that changed the way education is funded in the state. LCFF increases local flexibility in spending education dollars while increasing accountability, particularly for improving the educational outcomes of designated student sub-groups. LCFF included the designation of foster youth as student sub-group for the first time anywhere in the United States. Districts are responsible to develop Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP), which identify goals for each sub-group and plans to achieve these goals." (Source: National Center for Youth Law, Policies, Local Control Funding Formula <http://youthlaw.org/policy/local-control-funding-formula/>).

achieving youth goals on the ground around education and employment. Then we present information regarding progress made toward educational and employment goals using administrative and secondary data. Finally, we present information on outcomes for parenting and crossover TAY and changes in caregiver capacity. In combination, this information demonstrates the impact FYSI has had in supporting TAY progress in several key areas.

2.1 Number of Transition Age Youth in Foster Care

What We're Learning, Where We're Going	
Number of TAY in Foster Care in LAC and NYC, 2015⁹	
LAC (TAY 16-20)	NYC (TAY 16+)
4,578	2,583
Learnings	
<p>The information presented in this section is mostly good news!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It tells us that both LAC and NYC are seeing more TAY stay in care longer: We are seeing TAY in both LAC and NYC remaining in care for longer periods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In LAC, the number of youth age 18–20 increased from 1,527 in 2009 to 2,440 in 2015 while the number of youth under 18 declined. In NYC, the number of youth age 18 and older decreased somewhat, while the proportion of TAY age 18 and older <i>increased</i> from 49 percent in 2009 (1,921 of 3,891 TAY) to 55 percent in 2015 (1,414 of 2,583). With regard to placements, however, the news is mixed. In LAC, TAY are more likely to be in Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs) or with kin; both of which are thought to be appropriate and contribute to positive outcomes for TAY. In NYC, however, where there are fewer placement options for TAY than in LAC, we're seeing more TAY in residential care (about 25%) and fewer TAY with kin (20%). Currently, child welfare stakeholders in NYC are looking carefully at kinship care, with the goal to increase the number of youth in kinship care over time (with subsequent reductions in the number of youth in residential care). 	
What's next?	
<p>Overall, encourage grantees in LAC and NYC to continue to assess TAY placement needs and place them in the most appropriate placement available; in NYC, encourage grantees to target efforts toward reducing the number of youth in residential care.</p>	

TAY in LAC. California is home to the largest child welfare system in the United States, LAC Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS is a state-supervised county administered system. The LAC County Board of Supervisors has direct authority

⁹ In LAC, the number of youth age 16-20 as of October 1, 2015; in NYC, the number of youth age 16+ as of December 31, 2015.

over DCFS and appoints the DCFS Director. DCFS funds come from Federal, state, county, coordinating departments (e.g., LA County Department of Mental Health), and foundations.

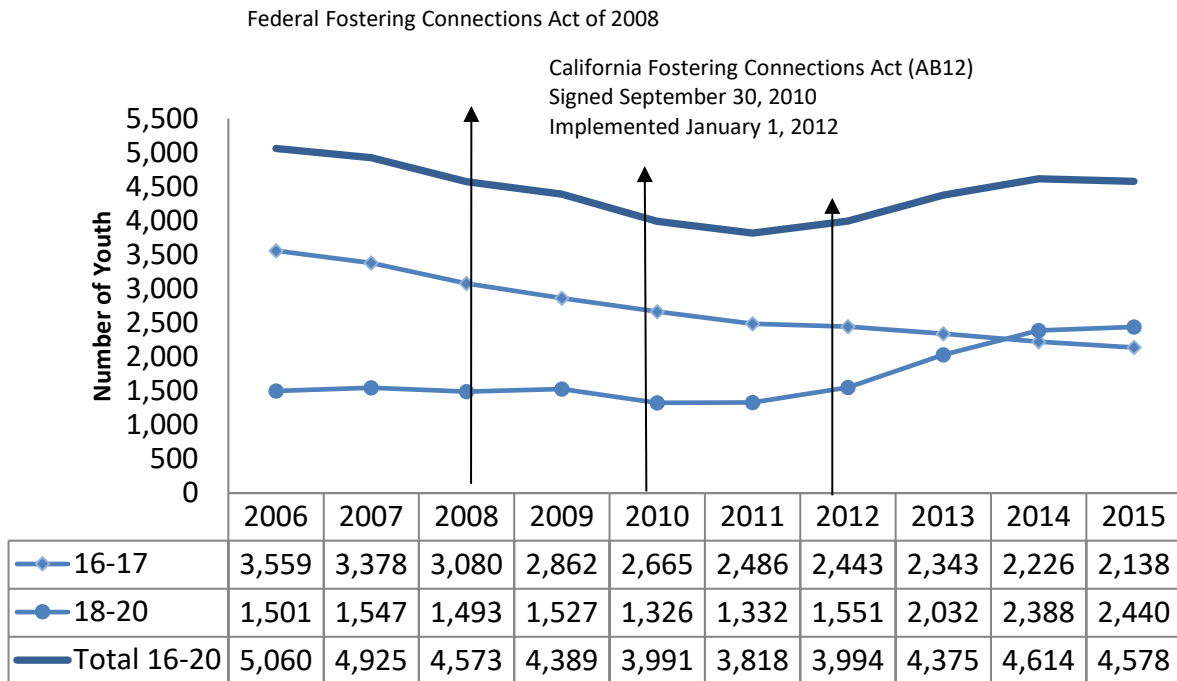
The number of TAY in foster care in LAC has increased over the life of the FYSI; however, these increases have been concurrent with the implementation of Federal and state legislation to support TAY to remain in foster care until the age of 21. Specifically, the number of youth ages 18 and older has increased,¹⁰ as would be expected as many youth opt to stay in foster care or return to foster care for services, after having transitioned out of the system. The FYSI strives to be responsive to the needs of youth and help improve outcomes for this growing population of transition age youth.

The *California Fostering Connections to Success Act* (AB 12) was signed in September 2010, extending foster care provisions to better support foster youth who opt to participate in extended foster care. Following the implementation of AB 12, the number of TAY in LAC increased from 3,818 in 2011 to 4,614 in 2014, reversing a steady decline between 2006 to 2011 (Figure 2-1). In 2015, when the number of 16 to 20 year old TAYs in care appeared to level off (with a slight decline to 4,578), the number of youth age 18 to 20 still increased as more youth opted for voluntary care. By October 2015, 53 percent (n=2,440) of the 4,578 TAY were age 18 or older, as compared to 35 percent 3 years prior to the implementation of FYSI (2009), and 39 percent in 2012 – the year FYSI began.

Declining exits from foster care offer clear evidence that AB 12 is contributing to older youth staying in foster care.

¹⁰ This report provides descriptive data. Statements about increases, decreases, or changes do not imply statistically significant changes, as no statistical tests were performed. Rather, these terms simply describe trends in the data, over time.

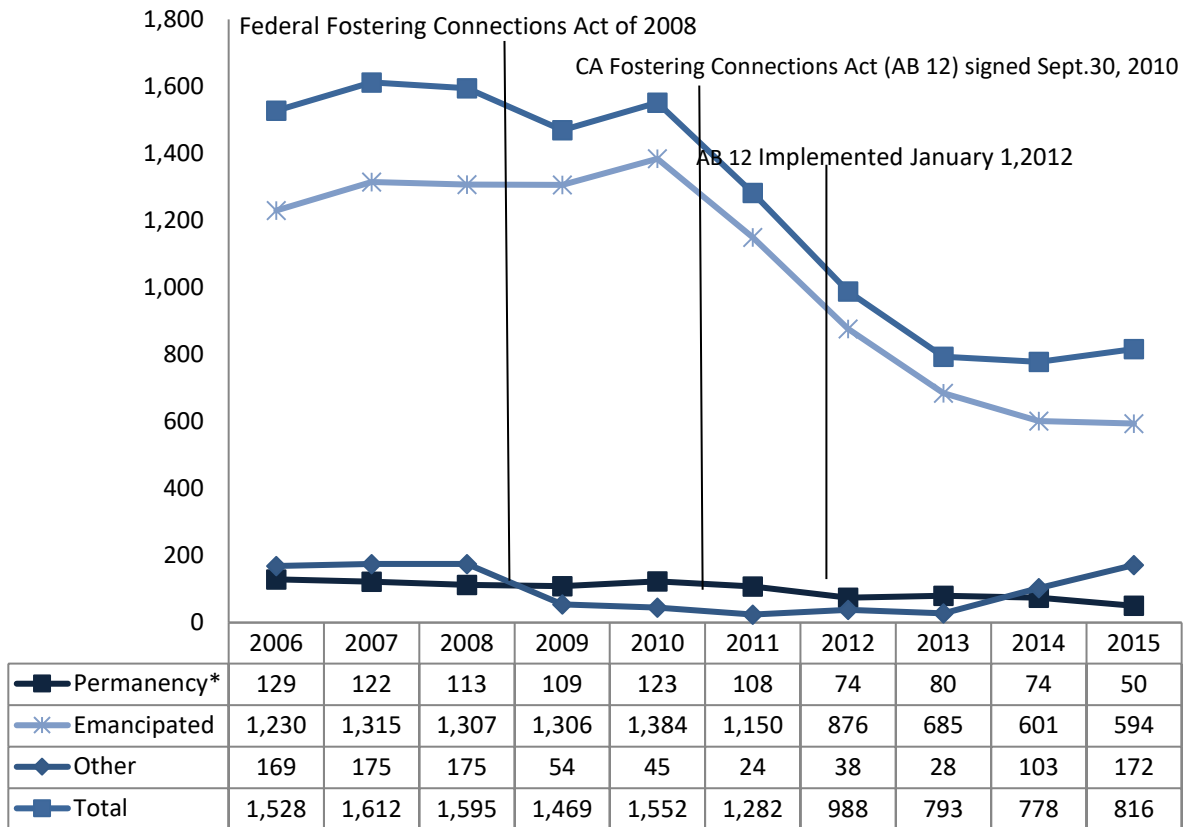
Figure 2-1. Youth Ages 16-20 in Foster Care in Los Angeles County by Age Group 2006 – 2015



Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 3 Extract, Children in Foster Care, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP). University of California at Berkeley (Webster et al., 2016).

The increase noted in Figure 2-1 occurred exclusively within the population of youth age 18 and older, as the number of youth exiting to emancipation declined (Figure 2-2) and some youth age 18 and older began re-entering care voluntarily (Webster et al., 2016). While the number of older TAY (ages 18-20) entering care increased, the number of older TAY exiting care decreased across all categories. Declining exits from foster care offer clear evidence that AB 12 is contributing to older youth staying in foster care. In addition, recent data from the CalYOUTH Study (Courtney et al., 2014a), found that 68 percent of 17-year-olds participating in the study reported wanting to stay in foster care after age 18, with more than half (56%) wanting to stay to get help achieving educational goals. The trend toward older youth in LAC remaining in foster care, and the reasons that they want to stay in care, suggest a need for the FYSI as a source of support for current and future TAY.

Figure 2-2. Exits from Foster Care, 2006-2015, Youth Ages 18-20



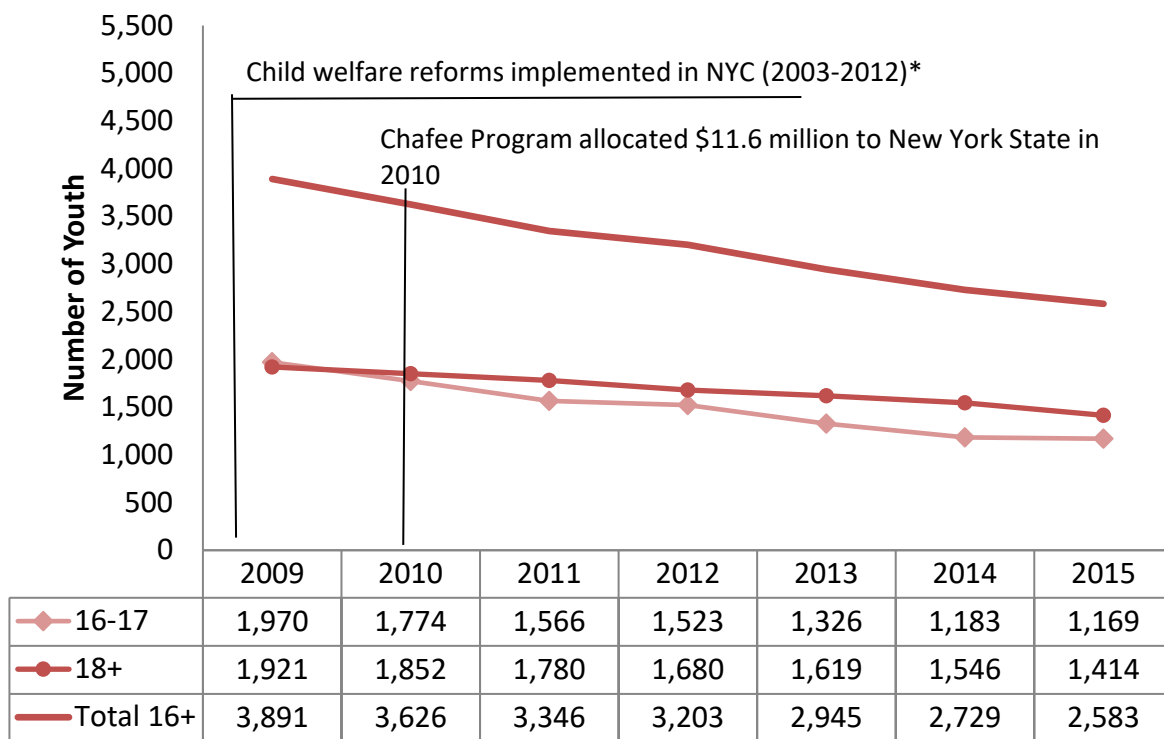
Data Source: CWS/CMS 2016 Quarter 1 Extract, CCWIP Reports (Webster et al., 2016).

*Permanency includes exits to reunification, adoption, other guardianship, and Kin-GAP placements. Other includes any exit reasons other than these permanency reasons or emancipation, including missing. The graph is limited to youth in care 8 days or more.

TAY in NYC. In NYC, the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) is the government agency responsible for juvenile justice services, child care, Head Start, and child welfare, including investigating reports of child abuse and neglect. Approximately 26 contracted agencies provide foster care services. In contrast to LAC, where there has been a steady increase in the number of TAY in foster care, there has been a steady *decline* in the number of TAY in foster care in NYC (Figure 2-3). The decline in the number of TAY occurred in tandem with a decline in the total number of children and youth in foster care in NYC; this is not surprising given the implementation of several important child welfare reforms from 2002 to 2013, including a significant investment in prevention services for high-risk families, practice changes during child abuse and neglect investigations, improved staff training and hiring criteria, expansion of alternative services to foster care, and increased accountability on the part of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (Yaroni, Shanahan, Rosenblum, & Ross, 2014). However, despite these slight declines, from 2013 to 2015, the number of *21-year-old foster youth* in NYC more than doubled, from 64 to 158 young adults.

Amidst the overall decline, the *proportion* of TAY who were age 18+ increased from 49 percent (1,921 of 3,891 TAY) in 2009 to 55 percent (1,414 of 2,583) in 2015, whereas the proportion of TAY age 16–17 declined slightly from 51 percent to 45 percent. The decline in youth age 16–17 is consistent with a decline in the number of foster youth overall, whereas the increase in youth 18+ likely reflects the new laws and policies that support extended foster care, as well as the additional support (\$11.6 million) that became available to NY State youth through the 2010 Chafee Program¹¹ allocation. Despite the reasons, older youth are remaining in foster care in NYC, which, as in LAC, demonstrate the continued need for support for this population.

Figure 2-3. Youth Age 16+ in Foster Care in NYC, December 31, 2009 – 2015



Data Source: New York State’s CCRS database, as of March 23, 2016, provided by NYC ACS.¹² This data includes crossover youth, those youth with at least one incidence of absence to detention during the reported year, and youth participating in the Close to Home program. The data excludes youth on trial discharge and in absence status.

¹¹ The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) offers assistance to help current and former foster care youth achieve self-sufficiency. Grants are offered to States and Tribes that submit a plan to assist youth in a wide variety of areas designed to support a successful transition to adulthood.

¹² These data from Child Care Review Service (CCRS) data exclude youth on trial discharge and youth absent from foster care. CCRS is New York State’s foster care management information system.

TAY Placements

Knowing how many youth reside in foster care is important; but it is equally important to know *where* they reside. Over the years, policies around placements have shifted as we have learned more about the effects of certain types of placements on the youth who reside in them. For example, as discussed in Chapter 3 of this report, CA is implementing the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) that, among other requirements, aims to close most group homes across the state and redirect the children living in them to foster homes or kin placements. This reform is based on years of research documenting the negative effects of group home placements on youth in care. In addition, we are seeing a trend toward placements with relatives (kin) and non-related extended family caregivers and efforts targeted at ensuring appropriate resources and supports for them, as we learn more about the positive effects of these type of placements. In addition, placement stability is extremely important, as research has consistently documented the trauma and associated emotional distress that can occur with multiple placements over time. This section presents findings from administrative data analysis and review regarding TAY placements.

Research has consistently documented the trauma and associated emotional distress that can occur with multiple placements over time

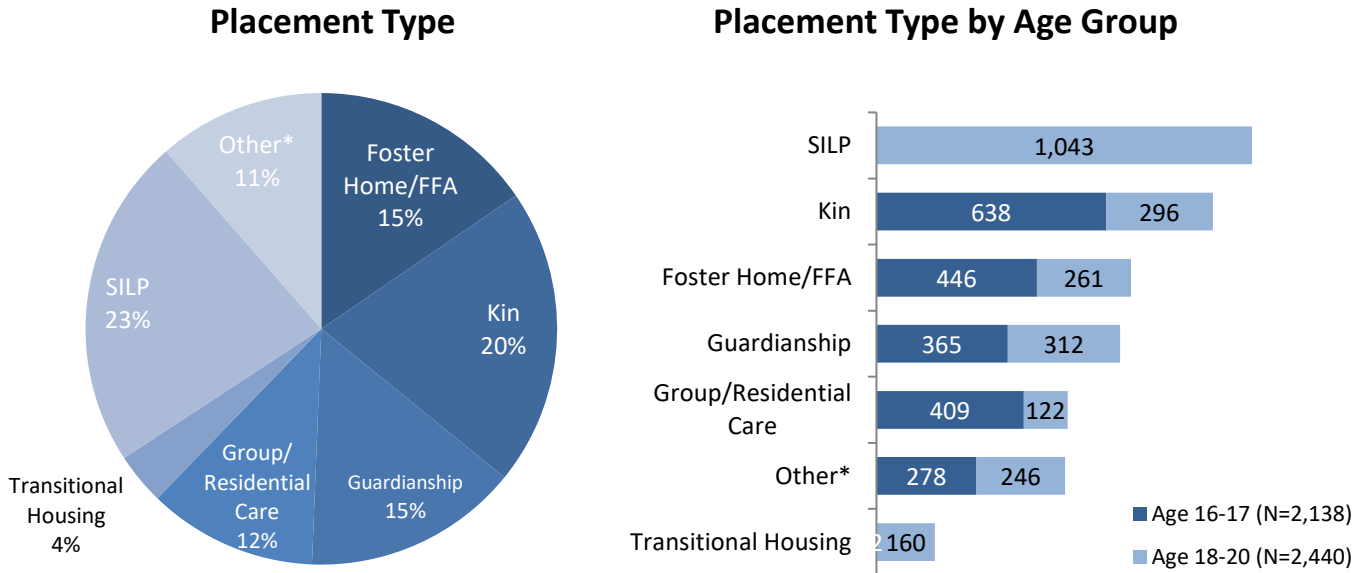
TAY Placement Types:¹³ LAC. In LAC, AB 12 (the extended foster care provision) included a number of housing options for TAY, including staying: (1) with a foster family or relative, (2) in a group home, (3) in transitional housing, or (4) in a SILP (Courtney et al., 2013). As of October 2015, the most common placement types for TAY are SILP and kin homes, although there is considerable variation depending on the age of the TAY (Figure 2-4). Younger TAY (age 16-17) most commonly live with kin (n=638, 30%), but many were in foster homes (n=446, 21%), in group homes or residential care (n=409, 19%), or under guardianship¹⁴ (n=365, 17%). Among youth age 18 and older, the largest group were in SILPs (n=1,043, 43%), while most others were under guardianship (n=312, 13%), placed with kin (n=296, 12%), or living in foster homes (n=261, 11%).

¹³ Definition of placement types vary between LAC and NYC.

¹⁴ Legal guardianship in CA is a court order that says someone who is not the child's parent is in charge of taking care of the child. Legal guardians have a lot of the same rights and responsibilities as parents. They can decide where the child lives and goes to school, and can make decisions about the child's health care (<http://www.courts.ca.gov/1206.htm>).

Figure 2-4. LAC TAY Placements as of October 1, 2015

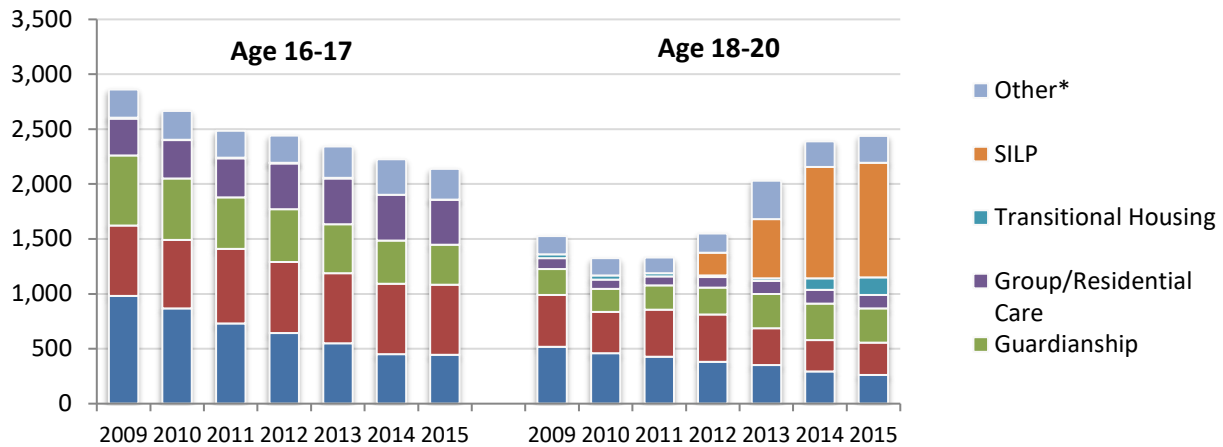
N=4,578



Trends in Placement Types in LAC. Placement type patterns have changed over time, primarily due to policy and subsequent funding changes intended to better serve older TAY. Placement patterns across years differed by age group; however, these changes should be interpreted cautiously given the recent increase in the number of older youth remaining in care and policy changes to provide additional placement options for them.

Placement patterns over time differed for younger and older TAY in LAC between 2009 and 2015, according to point in time data (Figure 2-5). Among younger TAY, **age 16-17**, there has been a downward trend in the number and proportion of youth placed in foster homes, from 981 (34%) in 2009 to 446 (21%) in 2015. There was also a reduction in the use of guardianship, from 637 (22%) in 2009 to 365 (17%) in 2015. There were small increases in the proportion of youth placed with kin (22% to 30%) and in group/residential care (12% to 19%). We expect significant decreases in group/residential care (congregate care) placements in the future as CA begins to implement CCR; in fact, we expect to see more youth placed with kin or in foster care as a result of this new policy.

Figure 2-5. LAC: Number of TAY by Placement Type, 2009-2015



Data Source: CCWIP Reports (Webster et al., 2016) Data are as of October 1 each year.

*Other includes pre-adopt homes, court-specified homes, non-FC, runaway, trial home visit, and other placement types.

Most TAY age 18 and older in LAC are living in supervised independent living placements

Among youth **age 18 and older** in LAC, SILPs have become a common placement type for youth who have opted for extended foster care (Figure 2-5). SILPs became available in 2012 as part of AB 12, and by the end of that year, there were 207 (13%) foster youth living in SILPs. SILPs quickly became the most frequently used placement type in this age group, and by 2015 there were 1,043 (43%) youth age 18 and older living in SILPs.¹⁵ This increase is due both to the availability of

SILPs for youth in this age group per the passage of AB12, but also a preference on youths' part to reside in SILPs. Anecdotal information suggests that youth prefer these placements to other types of placements because they are perceived as allowing youth more independence than, for example, a kin or foster home placement.

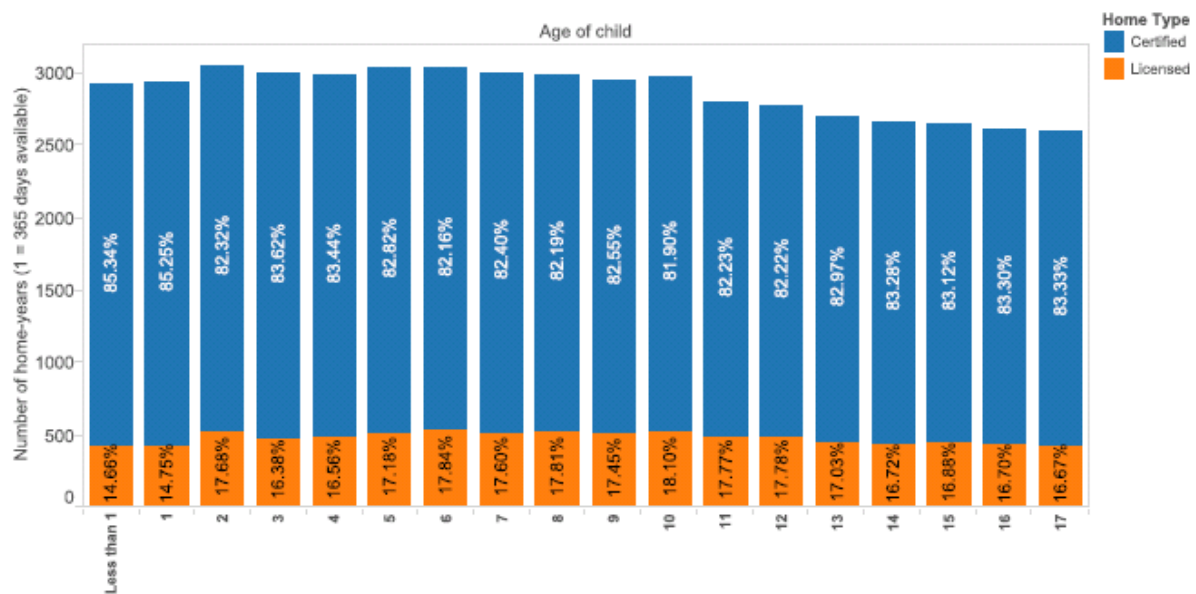
California's implementation of extended foster care also created another placement option, Transitional Housing Placement Program Plus Foster Care (THP+FC). By the end of 2015, there were 160 (7%) older foster youth in transitional housing, compared to fewer than 40 youth served each year prior to 2014. Concurrently, between 2009 and 2015 there was a downward trend in the proportion of youth in foster home placements (34% to 11%, from 517 to 261) and kin placements (31% to 12%, from 474 to 296), most likely because of the availability of SILPs and transitional housing, which may be more appealing to older youth. The proportion of youth in group or residential care has

¹⁵ In this point in time data, we see a cumulative increase, as youth remained in SILPs across years and youth were newly placed in SILPs. The numbers will likely level off over time as the oldest youth age out of extended foster care.

remained stable over time in this age group (5%-6% each year), although the number has increased somewhat (from 97 to 122) as more youth have opted into extended care.

Foster Homes in LAC. According to a recent UCLA report (UCLA, 2015), there has been a substantial increase in the number of new foster homes, although there was “more limited availability of homes for children age 11 and older” (UCLA, 2015, p. 44). Figure 2-6 illustrates the availability of foster homes by age. The figure illustrates availability of foster homes by calculating “home years”; one home-year is calculated as 365 days a home was available to a child (UCLA, 2015). Each bar represents the total home-years, which is lower for teenagers than for children 10 and under.¹⁶

Figure 2-6. Available homes by age in fiscal year 2013-2014



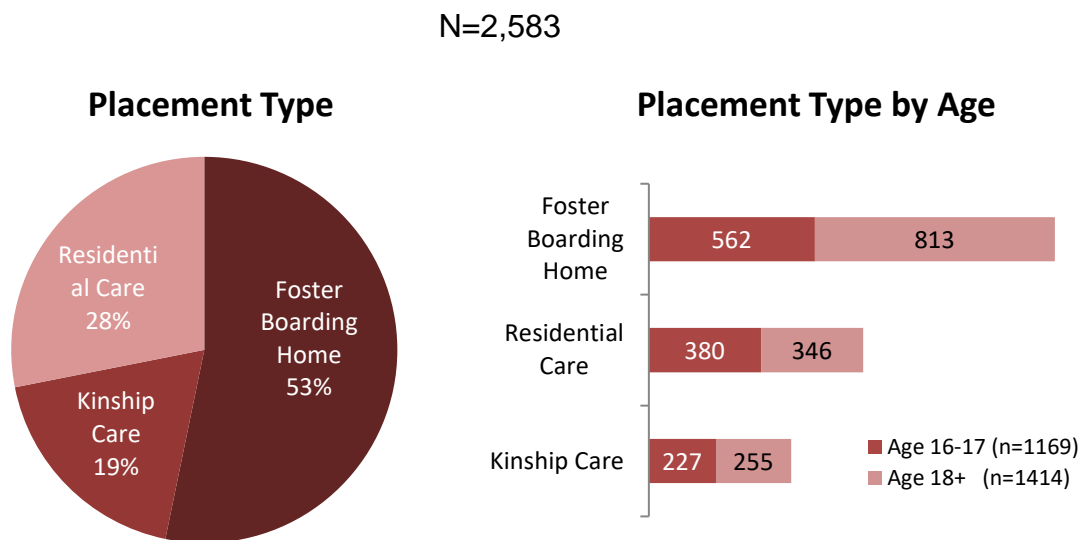
Data Source: UCLA Resource Family Recruitment report (UCLA, 2015, p. 44). Reprinted with permission from Todd Franke, personal communication 3/9/16.

¹⁶ Licensed homes are licensed or approved by the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the CDSS, whereas certified homes are approved by a foster family agency (FFA), which is licensed by CCLD.

TAY Placement Types: New York City. NYC data are available for three categories of placements: foster boarding home,¹⁷ kinship care, and residential care. As of December 2015, just over half of TAY live in foster boarding homes (n=1,375, 53%), less than one third in residential care (n=726, 28%), and 19 percent (n=482) in kinship care (Figure 2-7). Within these placement categories some youth are in the therapeutic program,¹⁸ including 27 percent (n=366) of the youth in foster boarding homes and 10 percent (n=48) in kinship homes.

There was some variation in placement patterns depending on the youth’s age (Figure 2-7). The most common placement type for both age groups was the foster boarding home, but a larger proportion of older TAY lived in this placement type. Among older youth, more than half (n=813, 57%) lived in foster boarding homes, with about one quarter (n=346, 24%) in residential care and almost one-fifth (n=255, 18%) in kinship care. Among younger TAY, less than one half (n=562, 48%) lived in foster boarding homes, with one-third in residential care (n=380, 33%) and about one-fifth in kinship care (19%). Thus a larger proportion of younger youth were in residential care. In both age groups, about one fifth of youth lived in kinship care.

Figure 2-7. NYC TAY Placements as of December 31, 2015



¹⁷ A foster boarding home is a state-licensed household in which a dependent, neglected, or delinquent child is temporarily placed in parental care with someone other than his or her birth parent or adoptive parent until the child is able to safely return home to a parent or become adopted by a permanent family.

¹⁸ Therapeutic foster boarding homes are foster homes approved to provide intensive care to foster children and youth with special behavioral and emotional needs who are eligible for exceptional care. Their foster parents receive enhanced services from a foster care agency and specialized, ongoing training.

Data Source: New York State's CCRS database, as of March 23, 2016, provided by NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS). N=2,583.

Trends in Placement Types in NYC. In NYC, as the number of youth in placement decreased, the proportion of youth in foster boarding homes increased somewhat (Figure 2-8). Among youth **age 16-17** the proportion of youth in foster boarding homes increased between 2009 and 2011 (40-49%), then remained stable from 2011 through 2015 with just under half of the youth in foster homes (48-49%). About one third of youth age 16-17 were in residential care through these years, with 35 percent in 2009 and fluctuating between 30-33 percent thereafter. Among youth **age 18 and older**, the proportion in foster boarding homes increased somewhat between 2009 and 2011 (50-56%), then fluctuated between 56 to 60 percent from 2011 to 2015. About one quarter of youth age 18 and older were in residential care, with 29 percent in 2009 and fluctuating between 20-24 percent thereafter.¹⁹

In both age groups, approximately one fifth of youth were in kinship care. Among age 16–17-year-olds, there was a downward trend from 24 percent in kinship care in 2009 to 19 percent in 2015. Among youth age 18-20, the proportion stayed between 22-23 percent between 2009 and 2012, then declined to 18 percent in kinship care by 2015. Child welfare researchers and stakeholders are currently working to determine why kinship rates are lower in NYC than in other jurisdictions, with the goal to eventually begin redirecting youth from other placements into kinship placements.

Figure 2-8. NYC: Number of TAY by Placement Type, 2009-2015



Data Source: New York State's CCRS database, as of March 23, 2016, provided by NYC ACS.

Data are as of December 31 each year.

¹⁹ These data are different than those cited in the 2015 MEL report, particularly for residential care. ACS narrowed the 18 and over population being captured in the data, excluding youth in trial home visit (THV) placements and runaway youth.

2.2 Improving Postsecondary Outcomes

What We're Learning, Where We're Going

Learnings

The information presented in this section is mixed. Grantees have made significant strides toward improving educational outcomes for TAY, serving 1,791 TAY in direct service programs (including those focused on educational goals (tutoring, college preparation, and assistance with college or scholarship applications)).

In addition, in both LAC and NYC, most foster youth are enrolled in school.

Among 17-year-old foster youth in 2013:

- Eighty-eight percent of LAC foster youth in the CalYOUTH sample were currently enrolled in school²⁰
- Eighty-one percent of NYC another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA) youth (reported in Preparing Youth for Adulthood [PYA] data) were currently attending high school or a GED program or had already graduated from high school.

However, challenges remain:

- In CA, the CalYOUTH Study points to continued problems with school disruptions, including those resulting from placement changes and LCFF data show most foster youth are not ready for college, especially in English and math.
- In NYC, PYA data show that almost 1/3 of 19-year-old TAY were not attending school and had not completed high school. Moreover, the graduation rate among 19-year-old APPLA foster youth is low, at just over 39 percent (as compared to 70.5% for all students in NYC).²¹

What's next?

While significant strides have been made, challenges still remain. Grantees should be encouraged to continue, if not strengthen, their efforts toward improving educational outcomes for youth, advocate for continued resources to do so, and promote efforts to reduce school disruptions.

²⁰ The CalYOUTH Study includes a sample of 106 17-year-olds in LAC and is a critical source of data on educational outcomes for foster youth in Los Angeles. In the future, Local Control Funding Formula data specific to foster youth will also be an important source of data on education outcomes.

²¹ A 3-year average graduation rate was calculated using NYC PYA data for 2013, 2014, and 2015 for this age group. And, unfortunately, at the time of this writing, we do not have parallel data for foster youth in LAC and so cannot make a comparison across the two jurisdictions with regard to graduation rates.

2.2.1 Grantee Activities: Progress Report Data

Education. Grantees provided a number of services, both direct and indirect, to improve educational outcomes for TAY in both LAC and NYC, with the ultimate goal of improving grades, increasing school attendance and stability, increasing the number of TAY who take the SAT, improving graduation rates, and increasing the number of TAY who go on to college or a vocational school. Grantees also advocated for system reforms to improve education access, stability, and outcomes for TAY; these activities are discussed further in Chapter 3.

Since FYSI began, grantees have provided...



3,460 transition-age youth with education services

497 youth received direct educational advocacy

1,808 youth were trained in self-advocacy

603 youth received a high school diploma or equivalency

392 youth entered post-secondary or vocational school

1,006 youth received tutoring

763 youth were helped with SAT/ACT prep



3,053 transition-age youth with career readiness or employment services

754 youth gained employment through FYSI-funded job programs



1,610 transition-age youth with case management, coaching, or mentoring

1,422 transition-age youth with legal advocacy



3,886 transition-age youth with connections to material resources (laptops, cell phones, etc.)

The graphic above highlights direct services provided by grantees. In addition to providing direct services to TAY, three grantees, Alliance for Children's Rights, iFoster, and New York Foundling also conducted informational outreach activities to TAY, caregivers, and staff during the current reporting year. In combination, these grantees reached more than 4,500 TAY, providing information about their educational rights, education resources, and other education-related topics such as college preparation and financial aid. Outreach activities included workshops, presentations, and a web app (TAY Assistant) that connects TAY to high-need resources, including college information, free tutoring services, and information on obtaining free laptops. As described below, many of the youth were reached via the TAY Assistant, which was launched by iFoster, in collaboration with Alliance for Children's Rights in LAC, and in NYC, in collaboration with New York Foundling. In addition to the number of youth

reached through these partnerships, they are also great examples of the kind of cross-jurisdiction collaboration made possible by FYSI.

In the current program year, grantees saw over **227** of their enrolled youth either graduate from high school or achieve a high school equivalency diploma.

Grantees **reported enrolling over 1,791 TAY in direct service programs in this program year** (1,279 in LAC and 512 in NYC). Direct services included outreach to TAY and caregivers about education rights and resources, tutoring, SAT/GRE classes, college preparation, assistance with financial aid and scholarship applications, and educational advocacy, case management, and coaching. In the current reporting period, grantees saw over 227 of their enrolled youth either graduate from high school or achieve a high school equivalency diploma. Grantees also reported that over 293 youth enrolled in a 4-year college, 2-year

college, or vocational training school during the current program year; over 467 juniors and seniors went on at least one college visit.

One example of grantee support is Graham SLAM (Support, Lead, Achieve, and Model), which “provides young people in the foster care system, as well as those at risk for entering foster care, with long-term, consistent, and comprehensive support from high school, through college or vocational school, and all the way to a living-wage career.” The SLAM program offers a commitment to work with young people until age 25, even after they exit the child welfare system. **The results so far have shown increases in high school graduation rates, youth entering college, and retention in college.** Of the 20 Graham SLAM graduates, 19 entered college in either the fall or spring semester after their graduation. The remaining student entered a vocational program. Of the 19 college freshmen, only two students did not remain in college after their first semester; Graham Windham continues working to support both students in their progress.

On a broader scale, iFoster continued implementation and expansion of the TAY Assistant, a phone application designed to connect TAY with a multitude of available resources, including educational supports, college and career prep, mentoring, and material goods. Since its launch in LAC in September 2014, **4,251 TAY have registered**

iFoster partnered with fellow FYSI grantee New York Foundling to pilot a NYC-customized TAY Assistant with 250 NYC TAY, in preparation for full replication of the TAY Assistant in NYC.

for and used the TAY Assistant; 2,553 in the current reporting year. **Over 1,000 TAY**

have used the app for college and career prep (Career Cruising) and almost 600 TAY have accessed free tutoring services through the app. Over 1,000 TAY have also received free laptops, internet devices, or cell phones to help further their educational goals. Over 200 TAY have used the Reading Plus module to improve their reading skills; under a new contract with LAUSD, 1,500 more youth will soon be using Reading Plus in LAC. iFoster partnered with fellow FYSI grantee New York Foundling to pilot a NYC-customized TAY Assistant with 250 NYC TAY, in preparation for full replication of the TAY Assistant in NYC.

Employment. In regards to supporting TAY employment efforts, several grantees are providing critical opportunities. For instance, the Aspen Institute launched the 100,000 Opportunities Initiative in July 2015, which is quickly becoming one of the largest employer-led youth focused coalitions in the country. The initiative works with national leaders, companies, innovators, and foundations to create more “pathways to economic prosperity” for opportunity youth (Aspen Institute, 2016). The Aspen Institute reports that Hilton catalyzed this effort helping Aspen to look nationally at a coalition of organizations, and then connecting them to the team in Los Angeles to help support Aspen’s 100,000 Opportunities Initiative (Grantee Interview with Aspen Institute).

The Foundation catalyzed the launch of the **100,000 Opportunities Initiative** – quickly becoming one of the largest employer-led youth employment coalitions in the country.

In the first year of a new grant cycle, the Alliance for Children’s Rights continued providing direct support to TAY seeking employment through the efforts both of staff and peer advocates, who are themselves former foster youth. Staff and peer advocates connected youth to workforce development programs, assisted with job applications, reviewed resumes, and helped youth prepare for interviews. Alliance staff and pro bono attorneys provided free legal services to help youth remove barriers to employment, such as sealing juvenile records, obtaining vital records, and resolving credit and identity theft issues. Alliance, along with fellow Hilton grantee iFoster, led a planning team of 10 Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) partners to research opportunities for the iFoster Jobs Program and recruit TAY who had completed a comprehensive workforce curriculum and passed the Chamber of Commerce Workforce Readiness Certificate test. All 150 of the first cohort of Jobs Program participants gained employment under the program.

All 150 of the first cohort of iFoster’s Jobs Program participants gained employment under the program.

2.2.2 Administrative and Secondary Data on Education Status

Education Status of LAC TAY

FYSI has a goal of improving postsecondary outcomes for TAY, and as previously stated, grantees are progressing toward this goal. Data from CalYOUTH provide a picture of the current educational status of TAY in foster care in LAC,²² and help to contextualize what is happening for all TAY. More importantly, CalYOUTH and LCFF data show the continued need for the kinds of educational services and

CalYOUTH and LCFF data show the continued need for the kinds of educational services and advocacy that are funded through FYSI.

advocacy that are funded through FYSI. For instance, in the CalYOUTH Study's sample of 17-year-olds in LAC (n=106), while most of the sample were currently enrolled in school

(n = 93, 88%),²³ many experienced educational disruptions (Table 2-1) related to out-of-school suspensions, including more than one-third (36.8%) who had stopped attending either high school or junior high school for at least 1 month at some point due to a foster care placement change, 30 percent who had repeated or been held back a grade, 30 percent who had been expelled, 62 percent who had received an out of school suspension, and 43 percent who had an unexcused absence.²⁴

Table 2-1. LAC TAY Educational Disruptions

	n	%
Educational Disruptions		
Ever stopped attending high school/junior high school for at least 1 month due to foster care placement change	39	36.8
Ever repeated or been held back a grade	32	30.2
Ever expelled ^a	32	30.2
Ever received an out-of-school suspension	65	61.3
Ever skipped a full day without an excuse ^a	45	42.5
Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b)		
^a Item is dichotomous (yes/no), but the response for n=1 (0.9%) was Don't know/refused; the % "yes" is provided.		

²² The FYSI MEL report features data from the Los Angeles Unified School District, the largest district in Los Angeles County.

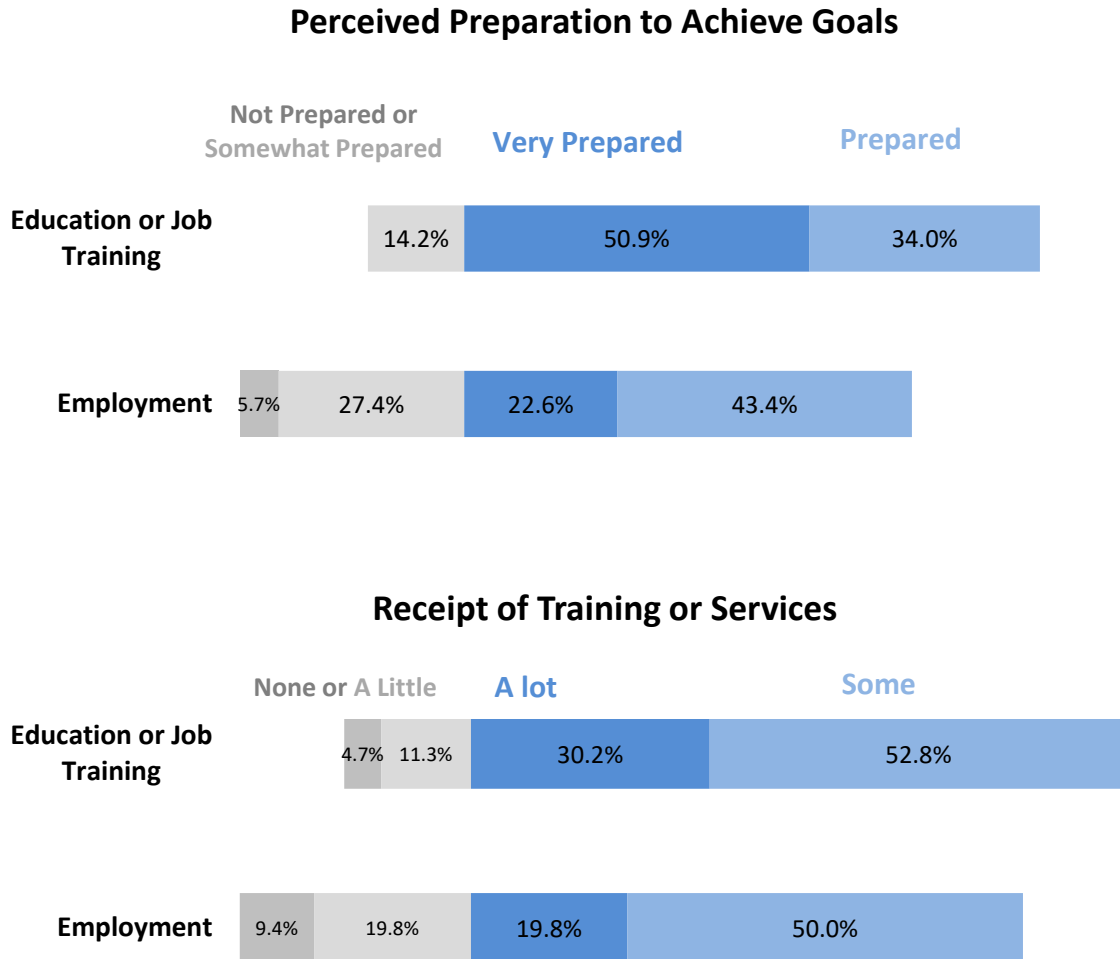
²³ See Appendix for detailed data on enrollment.

²⁴ Additional CalYOUTH findings are in the Appendix.

In terms of educational achievement and preparedness for postsecondary opportunities, almost half (47.2%) of the CalYOUTH participants reported earning A's and B's in school, though 41 percent earned mostly C's (see Table 2-2). Sixty-six percent (two-thirds) of youth providing data about their perceived level of preparedness to achieve educational or employment goals stated they felt prepared or very prepared to get and keep employment, and 85 percent felt prepared or very prepared to meet their education or job training goals (see Figure 2-9).

Table 2-2. LAC TAY Grades Earned in High School: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106)		
	n	%
Grades earned in high school		
Mostly A's	12	11.3
Mostly B's	38	35.8
Mostly C's	43	40.6
Mostly D's or lower	12	11.3
Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).		

Figure 2-9. LAC TAY Preparation to Achieve Educational and Employment Goals: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013



Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).
 See Appendix for additional information about perception of preparation to achieve goals, and receipt of training or services.

Despite these promising findings from CalYOUTH, LCFF data from Los Angeles Unified School District indicates that TAY may not be ready for higher education (Table 2-3).

LCFF data focusing on the Early Assessment Program provides information on readiness for college-level English and math coursework. Assessment criteria includes ready for entry-level work at a California State University, conditionally ready and in need of further preparation in grade 12, and not ready according to level of skills

required for college courses.²⁵ Of those foster youth who took the English assessment (n=156), only 27 percent were ready (6%) or conditionally ready (21%) in English. Of the foster youth who took the Math assessment (n=143), only 5 percent were ready (1%) or conditionally ready (4%) in math (Table 2-3). Clearly, there is still work to be done.

Table 2-3. Eleventh Grade Student Outcomes for the College Readiness Early Assessment Program, English and Math

	All Students (n=26,984)	Foster Youth (n=156)
Assessment Outcomes – English		
% Ready	13	6
% Conditionally Ready	32	21
% Not Ready	55	73
Assessment Outcomes – Math		
% Ready	5	1
% Conditionally Ready	14	4
% Not Ready	81	94

Data Source: LCFF State Priorities Snapshot State Downloadable Data File <http://ias.cde.ca.gov/lcffreports/>

Education Status of NYC TAY. In New York City, the ACS PYA database provides education and other wellbeing information on youth preparing to transition from care through the PYA initiative. A PYA checklist is completed every 6 months for youth in foster care (age 17-21) with a goal of APPLA (n=2,414).²⁶ Just over 70 percent of youth in foster care age 17-21 have a goal of APPLA during the years the PYA checklist is available.²⁷ Based on the most recent checklist completed, in 2015 almost three quarters of this foster youth population (72%) were either attending high school or a GED program (42%) or had graduated (30%), whereas 28 percent were not (Figure 2-10). These outcomes are similar to those observed in 2013 and 2014 PYA data,²⁸ and like CalYOUTH Study participants, these TAY are largely enrolled in school. The data includes older youth who have moved beyond high school. Almost one-third (27%) were

²⁵ For further details on the definitions and assessment program see <http://ias.cde.ca.gov/lcffstatepri/lcffsp-glossary.pdf>.

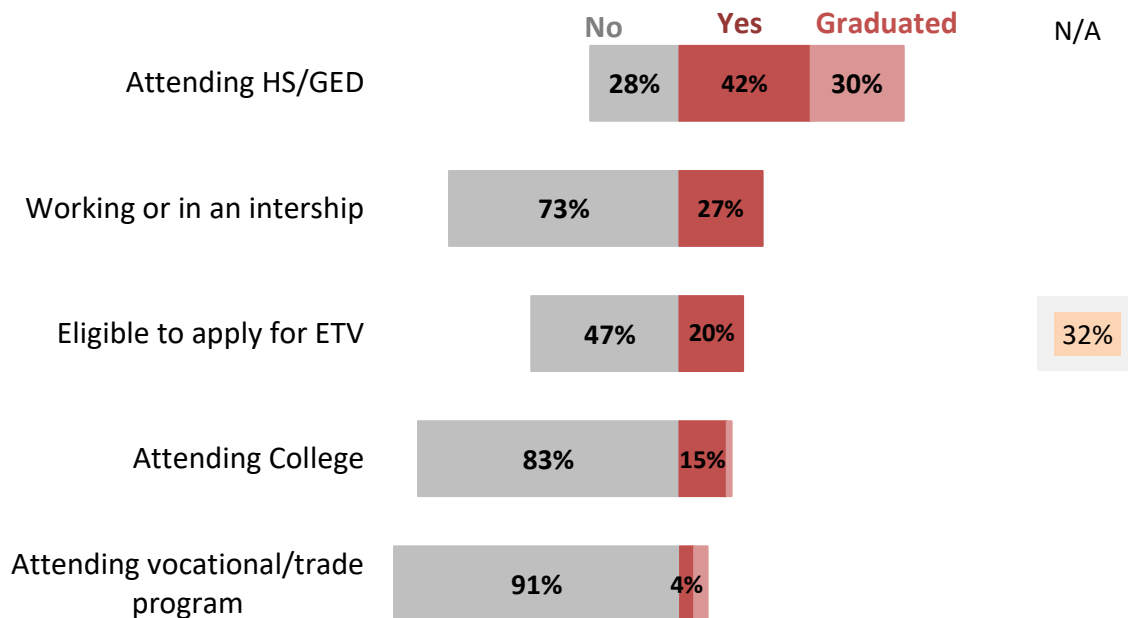
²⁶ Five choices for permanency planning goals are specified in the Adoption and Safe Families Act: (1) return to parent, (2) adoption, (3) custody or guardianship, (4) placement with a fit and willing relative, and (5) another planned permanent living arrangement with connection to a significant adult in the community, also known as “APPLA.”

²⁷ According to CCRS and CNNX data provided by NYC ACS, just over 70 percent of youth in foster care on 12/31 each year 2013 to 2015, excluding those absent or on trial discharge, had a permanency planning goal of APPLA (70.3% in 2013, 72.7% in 2014, and 70.9% in 2015).

²⁸ See Appendix for data from 2013-2015 (PYA Outcomes for APPLA Youth Ages 17-21 in Out-of Home Placement in NYC, 2013-2015).

working or in an internship, and a small proportion were attending college (15%) or a vocational or trade program (4%).

Figure 2-10. Education and Employment Outcomes for NYC Foster Youth Age 17-21 with a Goal of APPLA, 2015



Data Source: ACS PYA database. Prepared by the Management Analysis & Reporting Unit, ACS, Feb 22, 2016. PYA data are collected twice a year for youth in foster care with APPLA. Answers are based on the last PYA form completed for the youth in a year. N=2,414.

PYA education data, taken together with data on the number of youth in foster care in NYC, suggests that more of the older TAY are opting to stay in care, or return to care, while working toward educational goals. This is similar to the findings for TAY in LAC. When examining the PYA high school education data by age (Table 2-4), there is consistency across data years (2013-2015) among 17 and 19-year-olds; specifically, among 17-year-old youth, more than three-quarters (77% on average) were attending high school; among 19-year-old youth, 29 percent were still attending, and almost 40 percent had graduated or obtained a GED; yet almost one-third (32%) of the 19-year-old youth were *not attending* and *had not* completed high school/GED.

During a 3-year period (2013 to 2015) the number of 21-year-old foster youth in NYC more than doubled, from 64 to 158 young adults. At the same time, the proportion of 21-year-old youth who completed high school or a GED increased substantially (from 48% to 61%) and the proportion attending increased from 13 percent to 30 percent; the

proportion not attending decreased from 39 percent to 10 percent. The proportion of youth age 21 attending college (or graduated) increased from 23 percent to 30 percent.

Table 2-4. NYC TAY High School Education Status, By Age: Foster Youth Age 17, 19, and 21 with a Goal of APPLA, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015	Average 2013-2015
Age 17 N	670	682	598	
% Graduated/GED	4.2	2.5	3.8	3.5
% Attending	77.0	80.2	75.1	77.4
% Not attending	18.8	17.3	21.1	19.1
Age 19 N	570	586	557	
% Graduated/GED	40.2	37.5	40.2	39.3
% Attending	30.2	30.4	26.6	29.0
% Not attending	29.6	32.1	33.2	31.6
Age 21 N	64	134	158	
% Graduated/GED	48.4	57.5	60.8	55.6
% Attending	12.5	32.1	29.7	24.8
% Not attending	39.1	10.4	9.5	19.7

Data Source: ACS PYA database. Prepared by the Management Analysis & Reporting Unit, ACS, Feb 22, 2016.

Note: PYA data are collected twice a year for youth in foster care with APPLA. Data provided are based on the last PYA completed for the youth in a year.

As shown in this section, grantees have made substantial progress in meeting the educational needs of TAY; however, the information presented also suggests that there is still more work to be done. FYSI is positioned to continue to play a unique role in making sure that the educational needs of TAY are being met as they increasingly stay in care or return to foster care to meet their educational goals.

2.3 Improving Outcomes for Parenting and Crossover TAY

What We're Learning, Where We're Going

Learnings

The information presented in this section is mixed. Currently, seven grantees—all in LAC—are funded to work specifically with one or both of these populations; there are four grantees funded to work specifically with crossover youth, and progress has been made:

- FYSI grantees reported providing **direct services to 218 pregnant or parenting TAY**, including parenting classes, skill-building workshops, and connecting youth with other services and resources.
- One grantee provided **practice strategy training for 56 child welfare staff from 14 California counties** on developing Pregnant and Parenting Teen (PPT) conferences to better serve pregnant and parenting youth in foster care, while another engaged advocates for 72 pregnant and parenting teens in conferences designed specifically around the needs of this population.
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition's 2 years of grant activities have served 315 crossover youth; but more importantly, their work is focused on systems reform through education and advocacy. To date, their work includes **nine community forums, eight policy advocacy workshops to train 60 individuals to advocate on crossover youth issues, three policy briefs, 13 op-eds, and direct advocacy with the LAC Probation Department.**

In addition to research, self-sufficiency and systems change grantees focused primarily in LAC are also providing invaluable services and advocacy for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care and crossover youth. Progress has also been made in research focused on this vulnerable population. Examples include:

- Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein's **groundbreaking research on pregnant and parenting youth** in foster care, which is shaping the national agenda on this subpopulation. LAC and NYC grantees have cited Dr. Putnam Hornstein's work as a catalyst for policy change, and noted that the research will help garner more attention for pregnant and parenting youth.
- Dr. Maryanne Schretzman's **research on NYC crossover youth** built upon the pioneering research on crossover youth in LAC conducted by Dr. Dennis Culhane and shows the unique characteristics and circumstances of this subpopulation of youth.

What We're Learning, Where We're Going

Learnings

In addition, while this work is important and is increasing awareness of this vulnerable population, challenges remain.

- A recent study of foster youth in LAC found that more than 25 percent of female foster youth gave birth to one or more children by age 20.
- PYA data show pregnant and parenting youth **do not fare as well on educational outcomes** as those not parenting.
- CalYOUTH data show that **42 percent of foster youth reported having been arrested, 26 percent have been convicted of a crime, and 26 percent have been confined in a facility** such as jail or juvenile detention because they had committed a crime.

What's next?

While significant strides have been made, challenges still remain. Pregnant and parenting and crossover youth represent particularly challenging populations for child welfare and juvenile justice policymakers, advocates, and service providers, and they still have less positive outcomes than their non-parenting and non-crossover peers. Encouraging Hilton grantees to focus increasingly on this population—and funding more grantees to do so—could help make inroads into understanding and better serving them. In particular, understanding how youth “crossover” from child welfare into juvenile justice and how best to serve them once they do, and what factors contribute to the high rates of pregnancy and low levels of educational attainment in parenting youth would go a long way in helping us understand how to promote better outcomes in this population.

2.3.1 Grantee Activities: Progress Report Data on Pregnant and Parenting Youth

The FYSI has brought a focus to these two subpopulations of TAY (pregnant and

Grantee services for pregnant and parenting youth



Parenting classes and skill-building workshops



Direct advocacy for education and employment



Training child welfare staff on conducting Pregnant and Parenting Teen (PPT) conferences with youth

parenting and crossover) who are particularly vulnerable to poor outcomes when transitioning to adulthood. Four grantees, all in LAC, conducted activities during this program year to specifically improve outcomes for either parenting or crossover TAY.

During this program year, FYSI grantees reported providing **direct services to 218 pregnant or parenting TAY**. Services included parenting classes, skill-building workshops, and connecting youth with other services and resources. One grantee reported that 17 pregnant or parenting youth either re-entered school or found employment as a direct result of advocacy by grantee staff. Another grantee provided practice strategy training for 56 child welfare staff from 14 California counties on developing PPT conferences to better serve this population in foster care. A third grantee reported that advocates for 72 pregnant and parenting foster youth participated in a PPT conference, where grantee staff acted as resource specialists. In this role, they helped youth connect to home visiting programs, get such concrete supports as cribs and childcare services, and, above all else, get access to legal services and resources that can help them stay in school (e.g., information about educational rights) and keep their babies while in foster care (e.g., information about family law guidance and public health benefits). Similar to the previous section on post-secondary outcomes, putting the grantee activity in the context of data on pregnant and parenting youth in LAC and NYC helps to understand the scope of the issues affecting this TAY population.

2.3.2 Administrative and Secondary Data on Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Pregnancy and Parenting among TAY LAC.

A recent study of foster youth in LAC between 2006 and 2010 found that, on average, females age 15-17 in foster care gave birth at a higher rate than females in the general population (with the former at 3.5 per 100 and the latter at 2.2 per 100) (Putnam-Hornstein, Cedarbaum,

King, & Needell, 2013). Researchers also found that approximately 28 percent of females in care in LAC at age 17 gave birth to one or more children by age 20 (Putnam-Hornstein & King, 2014), a number approximately three percentage points higher than that reported in a similar study published in 2013. More recently in the CalYOUTH Study, self-report data showed that one-third (n=22, 33.8%) of the 65 female participants reported that they had been pregnant, and five (7.7%) reported they had given birth to a child. With regard to parenting, six TAY reported that they had one living child. This information is summarized in Table 2-5.

More than 25% of female foster youth in care in LAC gave birth to one or more children by age 20.

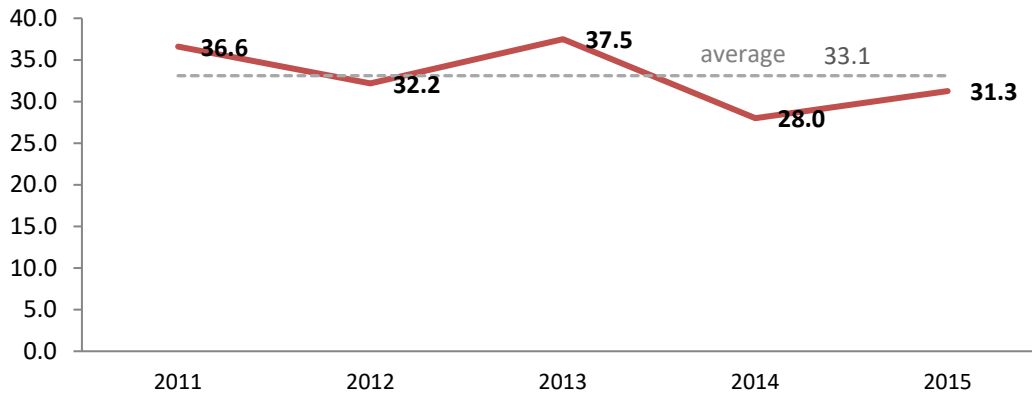
Table 2-5. Los Angeles County TAY Pregnancy and Parenting Status: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013

	n	%
Pregnancy among female youth^a		
Ever been pregnant (n=65 female) ^b	22	33.8
Number of times been pregnant (n=22) ^b		
1 time	14	63.6
2 or 3 times	6	27.3
Given birth to any children (n=22)	5	22.7
Married to child's other parent at time child was born (n=5)	0	0.0
Parenting (male and female)		
Has living children (n=106) ^b	6	5.7
Number of living children (n=6) ^b		
1 child	6	100.0
2 children	0	0.0
<p>Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b). ^a All 6 youth reporting that they had living children were female. ^b Don't know/Refused not reported in table. Ever been pregnant n=1 Don't know/Refused (and n=42 no). Number of times been pregnant n=2, youth wanted to marry partner n=2, month of pregnancy n=5 Don't know/Refused. The CalYOUTH Study also included questions about the male youth's history of impregnating females, but LA specific findings are not reported due to small sample sizes, as "fewer than 5 males reported ever getting a female pregnant" (Courtney et al., 2014b).</p>		

Pregnancy and Parenting Among TAY in NYC. Birth rates among NYC foster youth age 11+ have fluctuated over the past 5 years, averaging 33.1 per 1,000 female teens in care (Figure 2-11). When examining 3-year averages, there appears that there may be a slight decline in the birth rate, from an average 35.4 per 1,000 in 2011-2013 to an average 32.3 per 1,000 in 2013-2015. Continuing declines in birth rates would be a positive outcome for TAY.

Figure 2-11. NYC TAY Childbearing

Birth Rate Per 1,000 Female Teens in Foster Care (Age 11+),
2011-2015



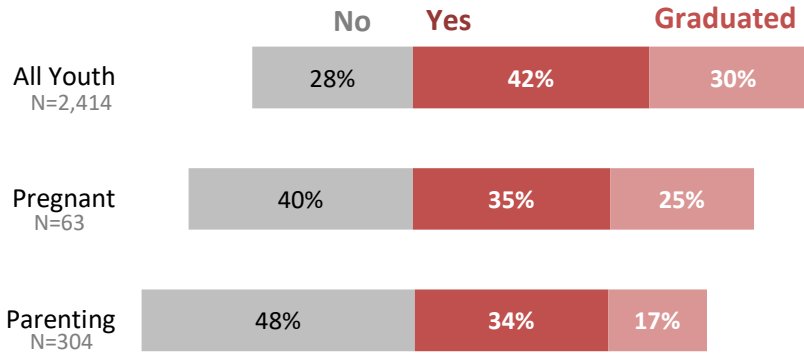
Based on the PYA data, which captures outcomes for foster youth age 17-21 with a goal of APPLA, pregnant and parenting youth do not fare as well on education outcomes as their APPLA peers who are not parenting. In 2015, a smaller proportion of pregnant and parenting youth were attending or completed high school or a GED (Figure 2-12). However, pregnant or parenting youth are similar to their non-parenting APPLA peers on another important metric, permanent connection with adults. Almost all youth have an adult identified as a permanent connection (Figure 2-13).

Fewer pregnant or parenting youth in NYC completed or were attending high school or an equivalency program compared to non-parenting peers.

However, almost all NYC pregnant or parenting youth can identify an adult as a permanent connection.

Figure 2-12. NYC High School Outcomes for Pregnant and Parenting TAY

Youth (Age 17-21) is Currently Attending High school/GED or Graduated, 2015

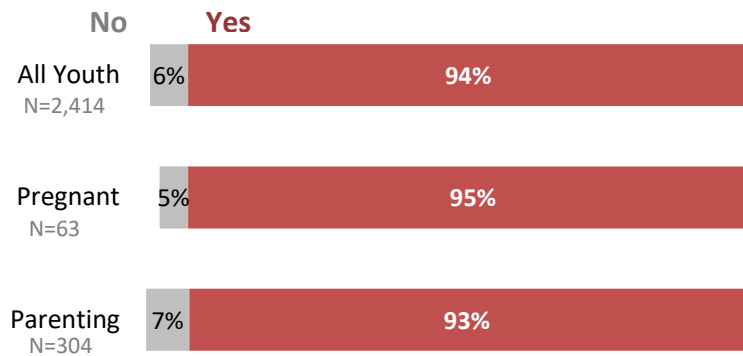


Data Source: ACS PYA database. Prepared by the Management Analysis & Reporting Unit, ACS, February 22, 2016.

Note: “Youth” refers to foster youth with a goal of APPLA who were in care during the year.

Figure 2-13. NYC Permanent Connection for Pregnant and Parenting TAY

Youth (Age 17-21) has an Adult Identified as a Permanent Connection, 2015



Data Source: ACS PYA database. Prepared by the Management Analysis & Reporting Unit, ACS, February 22, 2016.

Note: “Youth” refers to foster youth with a goal of APPLA who were in care during the year.

2.3.3 Crossover Youth

Crossover youth are a relatively small population of TAY in foster care; for example in NYC in 2015, crossover youth were approximately 15 percent (n = 395) of the population of TAY in foster care (n = 2,583).²⁹ Yet, they remain a very vulnerable subpopulation of foster youth, demonstrating poorer outcomes than non-crossover youth in almost every category (e.g., mental health, educational status).

To address the special needs of this group, the Foundation funds four grantees to provide advocacy and legal services for, and informational sessions about this population. They are: Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Children’s Law Center, Children Now, and Public Counsel. These grantees also support policy reform directed at improving outcomes for crossover youth.

Grantee Activities: Progress Report Data on Crossover Youth. Grantees reported that **23 LAC crossover youth received education advocacy services** and **292 TAY received legal services**, which included sealing juvenile records. However, system reform remains the primary area of activity for FYSI grantees focusing on crossover youth. For example, Anti-Recidivism Coalition’s 2 years of grant activities included **nine community forums, eight policy advocacy workshops to train 60 individuals to advocate on crossover youth issues, three policy briefs, 13 op-eds,** and **direct advocacy with the LAC Probation Department** for greater support for LAC crossover youth. Their work was featured in national news articles, television, and radio pieces in multiple media outlets such as the New York Times Magazine, ABC Nightline, and VICE News.



²⁹ Unfortunately, we do not have parallel information about the percent of crossover youth in LAC, so we cannot report this information here.

Public Counsel provided 25 crossover youth with legal assistance, including how to access critical documents like birth certificates and court records so they could receive public benefits. They also trained 45 court, DCFS, probation, and direct service staff about issues related to working with crossover youth.

Administrative and Secondary Data on Crossover Youth

Justice Involvement for LAC Youth. The CalYOUTH Study asked youth to report whether they had ever been arrested, convicted of a crime, or detained in a criminal justice facility. The data do not tell us specifically about crossover from one system to the other, but the data do speak more broadly to the proportion of youth with prior involvement in the criminal justice system. In LAC, 42 percent of foster youth respondents reported they have been arrested, 26 percent have been convicted of a crime, and 26 percent had been confined in a facility such as jail or juvenile detention as a result of allegedly committing a crime (Table 2-6).

Table 2-6. Los Angeles County TAY Criminal Justice Involvement: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106)

	n	%
Ever been arrested ^a	44	42.3
Ever been convicted of a crime	27	26.0
Ever been confined in jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility, in connection with allegedly committing a crime ^a	27	26.0

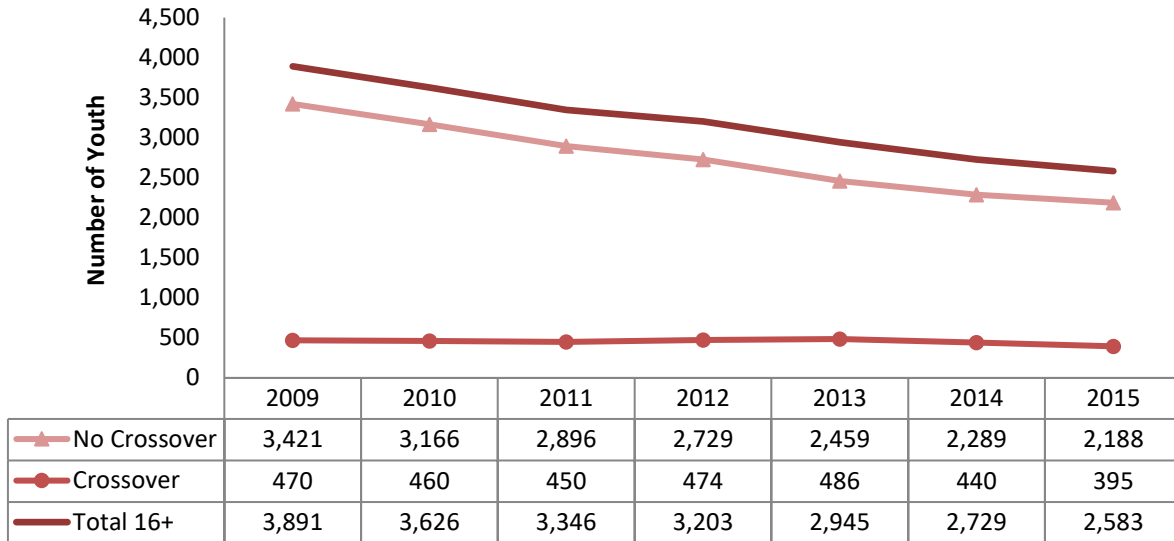
Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).

^a Item is dichotomous (yes/no), but the response was Don't know/Refused for n=1 (0.96%, Ever arrested) or n=2 (Ever confined...). The % "yes" is given; the remainder are mostly no, except 1 or 2 Don't know/Refused.

Crossover Youth in NYC. In New York City the number of crossover youth—foster youth with at least one incidence of absence to detention—has remained relatively stable from 2009-2015, while the number of non-crossover youth has steadily declined (Figure 2-14).

Figure 2-14. NYC TAY by Crossover Status, 2009-2015

Youth Age 16+ in Foster Care in New York City by Crossover Status, December 31 , 2009-2015



Data Source: New York State’s CCRS database, as of March 23, 2016, provided by NYC ACS (excludes youth on trial, discharge, or absent from care).

Definition of Crossover Youth: Youth who had at least one incidence of absence to detention on or before each year’s data; for example: on or before 12/31/2009 for the 2009 number.

2.4 Caregiver Capacity

What We're Learning, Where We're Going
Learnings
<p>There's good news here! Most grantees, especially those focused on TAY self-sufficiency, promote activities focused on supporting caregivers—and those activities have paid off! During this program year, grantees reported reaching over 5,756 caregivers, providers, and staff, with much of this activity focused on trainings on how to provide educational support to TAY. Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When asked to identify the person who is most helpful to them in achieving their goals, foster youth most often identified foster caregivers.• PYA data show that 95 percent of foster youth report having a permanent connection to an adult.
What's next?
<p>These are promising findings. Grantees should be encouraged to continue, if not strengthen, their caregiver-focused work to promote sustained progress in this area. In addition, caregiver capacity is multi-faceted; grantees might also consider broadening their work around caregivers to focus on features other than educational support.</p>

It is well known that providing stable placements with quality caregivers continues to be a challenge facing those who work with TAY. TAY continue to reside in (and move among) any number of placement settings, but are most often placed with kin or in foster homes. FYSI grantees continue to work in this area to recruit and provide training for current and prospective caregivers for TAY, learn how best to support caregivers to parent TAY, and determine what makes an effective TAY caregiver.

Grantee Activities. During this program year, grantees reported reaching over 5,355 caregivers, providers, and staff in LAC and 401 in NYC. Most caregiver trainings focused on helping caregivers better support the education and employment goals of TAY in their care, but grantees also held regular orientation and training sessions for families interested in fostering TAY. Grantees conducted outreach to caregivers, and those that support them, child welfare staff, service providers, and school

Caregiver trainings focused on helping caregivers better support the education and employment goals of the youth in their care.

Foster youth report their caregivers as most helpful to them around education, employment, living skills, physical health, family planning, and relationship skills.

staff, mainly through trainings on how to provide educational support to TAY.

Foster caregivers are an important source of support to youth as they work toward achieving their goals. Table 2-7 lists the top two responses provided when foster youth in the CalYOUTH Study were asked to identify the person who provided them with the most help to achieve their goals. Responses varied, but foster youth most often identified foster caregivers (foster parents, adoptive parents, or group home staff) as the most helpful in six of the goal areas (education, employment, independent living skills, physical health, family planning, relationship skills), and second most helpful in five others. Independent Living Program (ILP) staff and county child welfare agency staff were the most common answers given when youth were asked about help with housing, and second most common for financial literacy, independent living skills, and family planning (tied with other adult relative). Other common responses included other adult relatives (physical health, family planning, relationship skills) and other professionals (education, mental health, sexual health).

Table 2-7. LAC: Person Who Provided Most Help to TAY to Achieve Goals: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106)			
Skill Area	Two most common responses in LA^a	n	%
Education	FC caregivers	35	33.0
	Other professionals	16	15.1
Employment	FC caregivers	25	23.6
	ILP staff and County CW agency	21	19.8
Housing	ILP staff and County CW agency	26	24.5
	FC caregivers	21	19.8
Financial Literacy	FC caregivers	27	25.5
	ILP staff and County CW agency	25	23.6
Independent Living Skills	FC caregivers	30	28.3
	ILP staff and County CW agency	25	23.6
Physical Health	FC caregivers	32	30.2
	Other adult relatives	15	14.2
Mental/Behavioral Health	Other professionals	29	27.4
	FC caregivers	17	16.0
Substance Abuse	Other ^a	23	21.7
	FC caregivers	16	15.1
Sexual Health	Other professionals	28	26.4
	FC caregivers	23	21.7

Table 2-7. LAC: Person Who Provided Most Help to TAY to Achieve Goals: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106) (continued)

Family Planning	FC caregivers	20	18.9
	Other adult relative	17	16.0
	ILP staff and County CW agency	17	16.0
Relationship skills	FC caregivers	26	24.5
	Other adult relative	18	17.0
	Other ^a	18	17.0

Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b)

^a There were 20+ relationship categories to identify the person who provided the most help to achieve their goals in each area. For the Los Angeles County analysis, these categories were combined into the following seven categories due to small sample sizes in some categories (original categories provided in parentheses). This table provides the top two responses in LA County of those seven response categories; for several (Family Planning, Relationship skills) three are provided as two had the same percentage.

- Biological parents or siblings (Biological parents/Siblings)
- Other adult relatives (Other adult relatives)
- FC caregivers (Foster parents, Adoptive parents, Group home staff)
- ILP staff and County CW agency (Independent Living Program staff/County CW agency)
- Other service agencies (Other social service agencies/Wraparound staff/School program/Probation Officer)
- Other professionals (School staff/Public health nurse/Medical staff, Therapist, CASA worker, Mentor)
- Other (Myself/No one/Other FC youth/Social Media/Other Adults)

Caregivers in NYC. The PYA database also provides information on the connections that transitioning youth have with adults. As reported in Table 2-8, from 2013-2015 almost all participating youth indicated that they were exiting with a permanent connection to an adult.

Table 2-8. PYA Outcomes for APPLA Youth Ages 17-21 in Out-of Home Placement in NYC, 2013-2015

Outcome	Answer	2013 (N=2,506)	2014 (N=2,591)	2015 (N=2,414)	Average 2013-2015
Youth has permanent connection to adult	Yes	95.2%	94.9%	93.7%	94.6%
	No	4.8%	5.1%	6.3%	5.4%

Data Source: ACS PYA database. Prepared by the Management Analysis & Reporting Unit, ACS, February 22, 2016.

Notes: PYA data are collected twice a year for youth in foster care with APPLA. Answers are based on the last PYA form completed for the youth in a year.



3. SYSTEMS CHANGE GOALS

Goals: The FYSI seeks to increase collaboration among the systems and stakeholders presented in Figure 3-1, and promote advocacy resulting in new and enhanced child welfare policies and services to improve outcomes for TAY.

Measuring Progress: Each year, the MEL has conducted policy tracking and assessed cross-sector coordination and collaboration to document changes across time. In Year 1, grantees participated in interviews focused on these issues; in them, they noted the importance of collaboration to improving TAY outcomes. In the spring of 2015, the evaluation team again examined changes in collaboration, but in a more quantitative way, through social network analysis (SNA I). SNA I found significant increases in the connections among FYSI grantees both within and across jurisdictions. This year, the second step in the SNA was conducted (SNA II), which further assessed the relationships grantees have created or strengthened through their involvement with FYSI; SNA II confirmed SNA I findings, but also uncovered several additional characteristics about the FYSI network.

Progress: Yes! Cross-sector coordination is a persistent strength of the FYSI grantees and advocacy remains one of the strongest areas of FYSI.

This chapter provides information to answer the following MEL questions:

- What changes have occurred in collaboration among grantees both within and across LAC and NYC?
- What changes have we seen in advocacy efforts across grantees and what has been the result of these efforts?
- How did the FYSI contribute to these changes?

The first section focuses on grantees and the changes, over time, in their collaborative networks both within and across jurisdictions by describing the findings from the second round of the social network analysis. The second provides updates on key changes in each jurisdiction with regard to advocacy efforts and resulting policies and the implications for each on FYSI goals and outcomes. Throughout this chapter, we address the relationship between these changes and the role of the FYSI in helping to create and support them.

3.1 Creating and Strengthening Cross-Sector Coordination

What We're Learning, Where We're Going

Learnings

There's good news here! Each year, the evaluation has assessed cross-sector coordination and collaboration, and each year it has gotten stronger! SNA has confirmed:

- Clear evidence of network growth over time
 - The network now includes new and more connections among grantees.
 - The network now includes more connections between grantees and partner organizations.
 - The network has had a significant increase in partner agencies.
- Overall, the combined effects of network characteristics have improved the sustainability of the network. This is an important detail; essentially, it means that FYSI has strengthened the infrastructure by which child welfare serving agencies and organizations in LAC and NYC collaborate around shared interests.

This kind of collaboration is an indicator of shared knowledge and practice, more seamless referrals, a collective voice on advocacy, and a more unified vision across grantees about how to improve outcomes for TAY.

What's next?

Grantees should be encouraged to continue to build on this collaboration to facilitate stronger and more coordinated networks to meet the multiple and changing needs of child welfare involved children and their families, including TAY.

Across these activities, the data indicate that grantees have consistently developed new connections with other grantees and partner agencies and bridged gaps in the network, making it stronger and more sustainable. This kind of collaboration serves to eliminate “silos” that occur when separate systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health) that serve TAY don’t talk to each other and compete for funding and other resources instead of figuring out how to integrate and leverage resources for a more comprehensive response to youth and families.

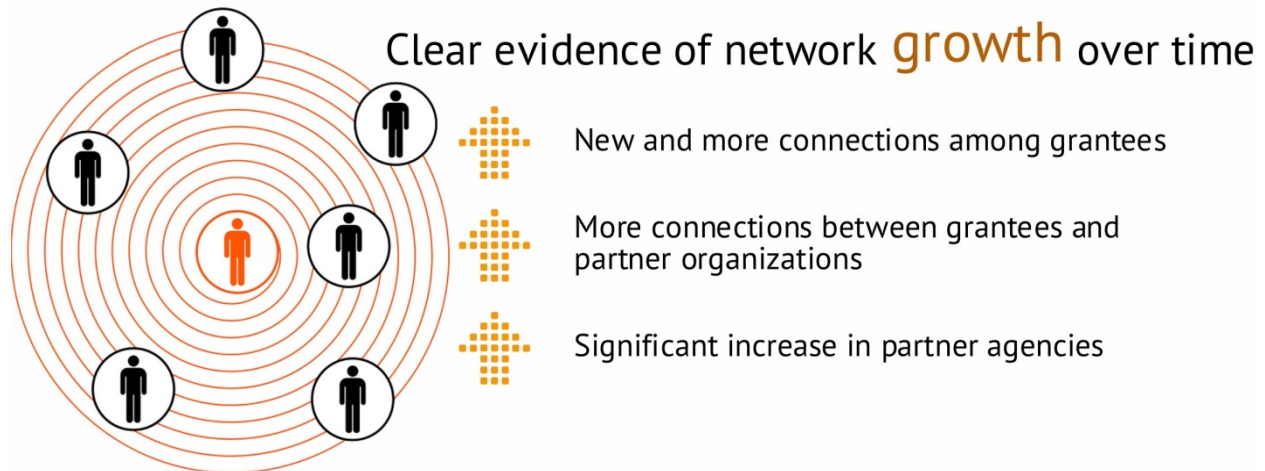
Collectively, these findings indicate that FYSI is meeting its goal to strengthen and increase cross-sector collaboration among grantees and partner organizations in LAC and NYC.

3.1.1 Social Network Analysis Findings

Social network analysis is used to analyze networks of relationships of any type (e.g., friendships, collaborations) and at any level (e.g., individual, organizational). It has two main purposes: (1) to create meaningful, data-based graphic representations of networks; and (2) to quantitatively describe and assess those networks. As noted, the first step (SNA I) was undertaken in spring 2015; the findings are presented in the 2015 FYSI Evaluation Report. The second step (SNA II) was conducted in winter 2015; the methods and findings are summarized in detail in a separate report.

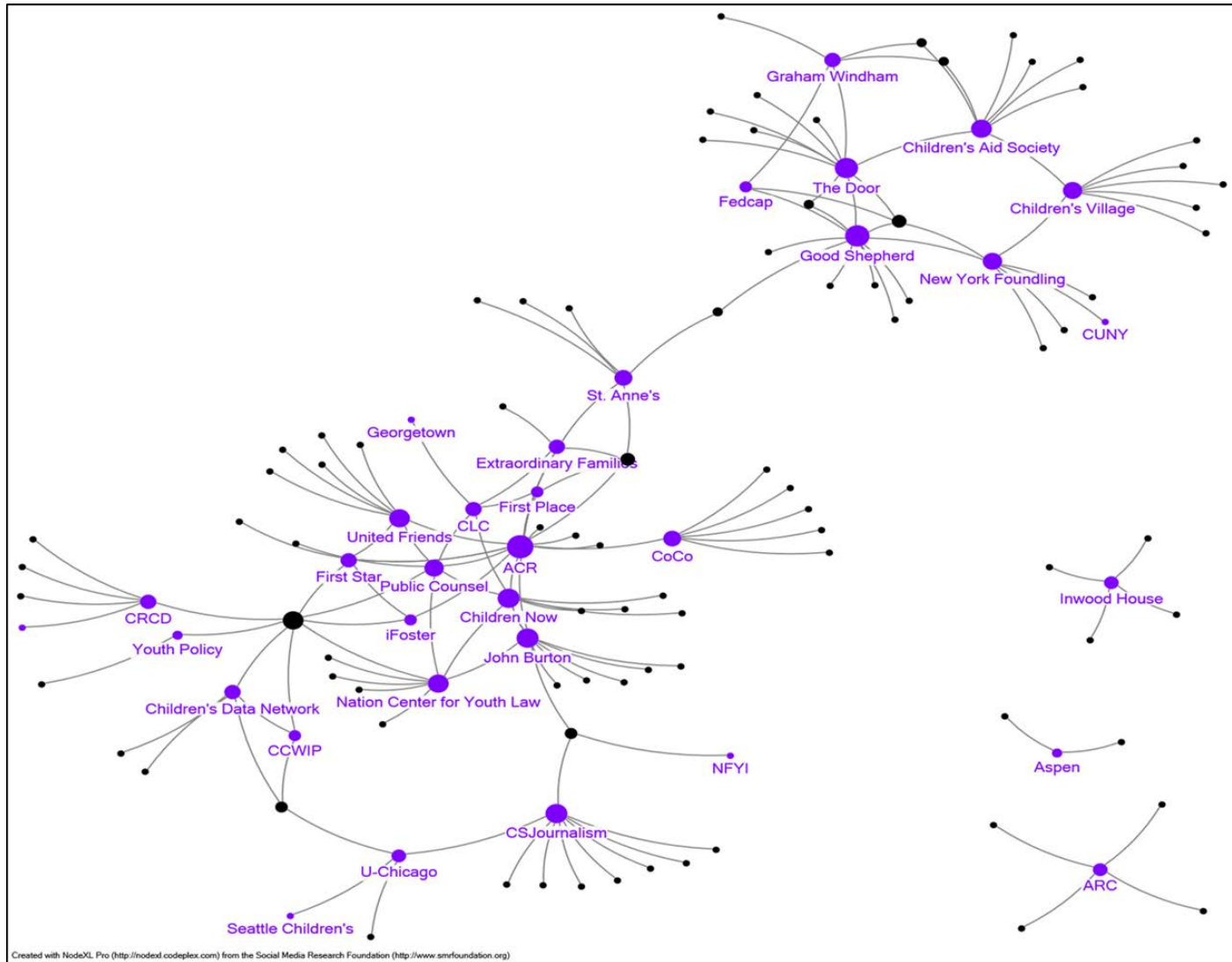
Summary of Findings. SNA II included network metrics that allowed for observations about the network based on statistical findings, and examined the change in the FYSI network at three time points: (1) before implementation (Figure 3-1), (2) at the end of Year 2 (Figure 3-2), and (3) midway through Year 3 (Figure 3-3). Overall, SNA II found clear evidence of network growth over time, including new and more connections among grantees; more connections between grantees and partner organizations; and a significant increase in partner agencies.

There also appears to be an ongoing geographical influence on the overall network structure. Though the grantees themselves are increasingly connecting and collaborating with each other and have effectively established a “core” structure of collaborations, geography still poses a slight barrier to collaboration between LAC and NYC organizations (Figure 3-4). Such a barrier is not wholly unexpected, given the distance between the two jurisdictions.



Finally, overall, the combined effects of network characteristics (increases in number of organizations and connections, overall centralization, and clustering) have improved the sustainability of the network. This is an important detail; essentially, it means that FYSI has strengthened the infrastructure by which child welfare serving agencies and organizations in LAC and NYC collaborate around shared interests, which can lead to actions, investments, and program and policy initiatives that are better aligned and informed by these shared interests. By encouraging – and successfully initiating and sustaining – collaboration among its grantees and their partner agencies, including the public child welfare agencies in NYC and LAC, FYSI is facilitating the development of a coordinated network that can better meet the multiple and changing needs of children and their families involved in child welfare, including TAY.

Figure 3-1. FYSI Network: Before FYSI Implementation



Created with NodeXL Pro (<http://nodexl.codeplex.com>) from the Social Media Research Foundation (<http://www.smrfoundation.org>)

Figure 3-2. FYSI Network, Time 1 (2015)

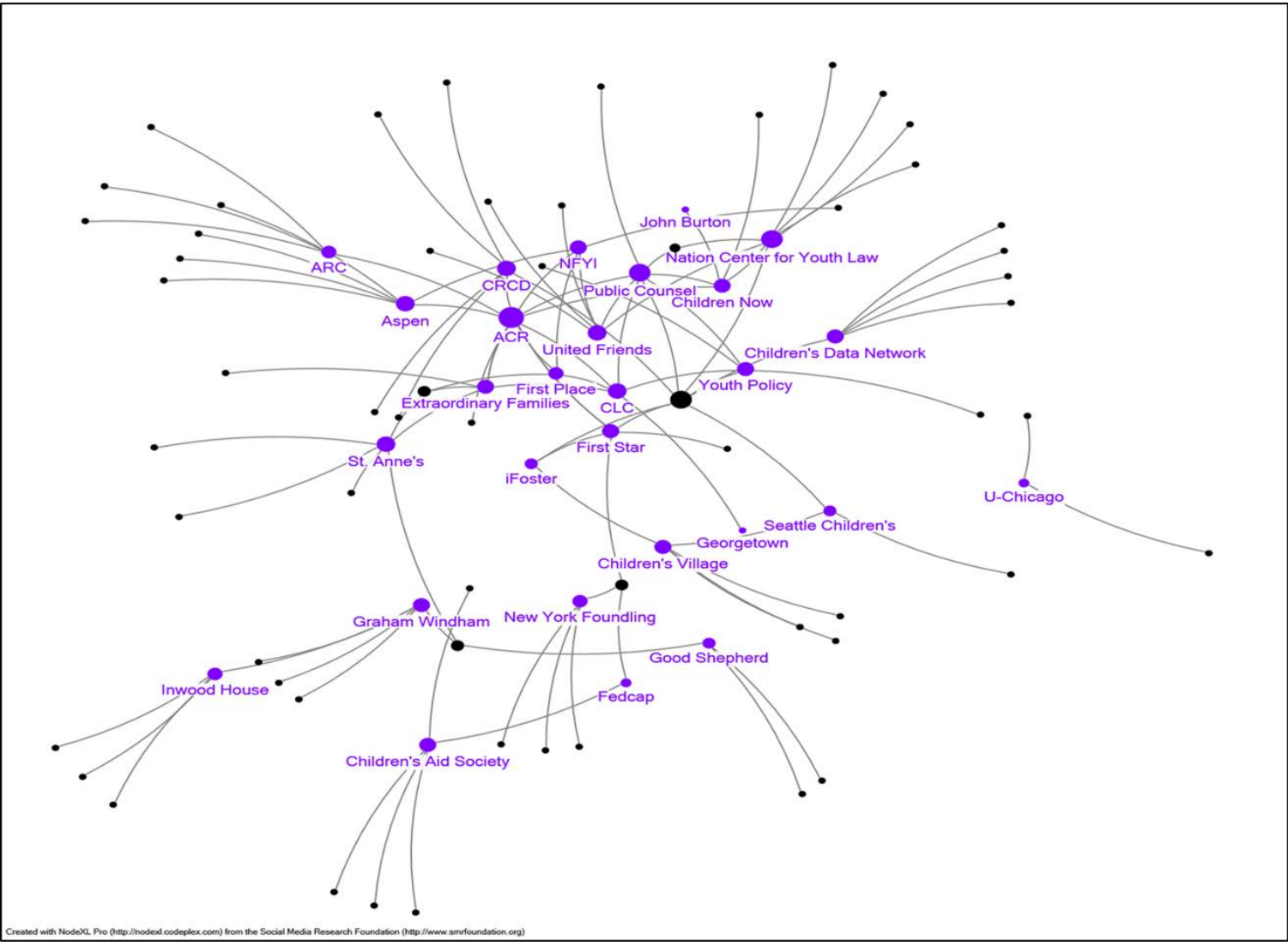


Figure 3-3. FYSI Network, Time 2 (2016)

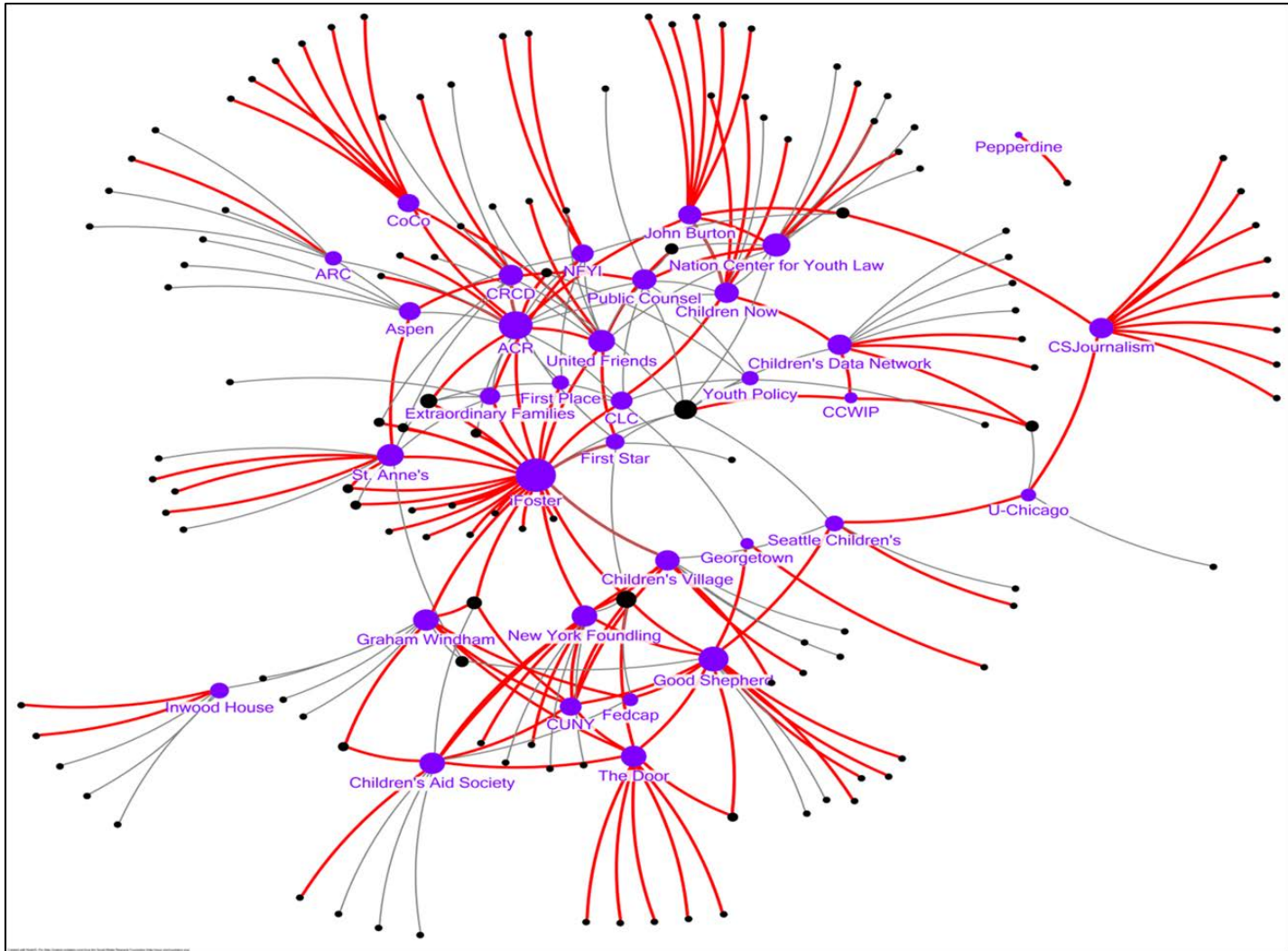
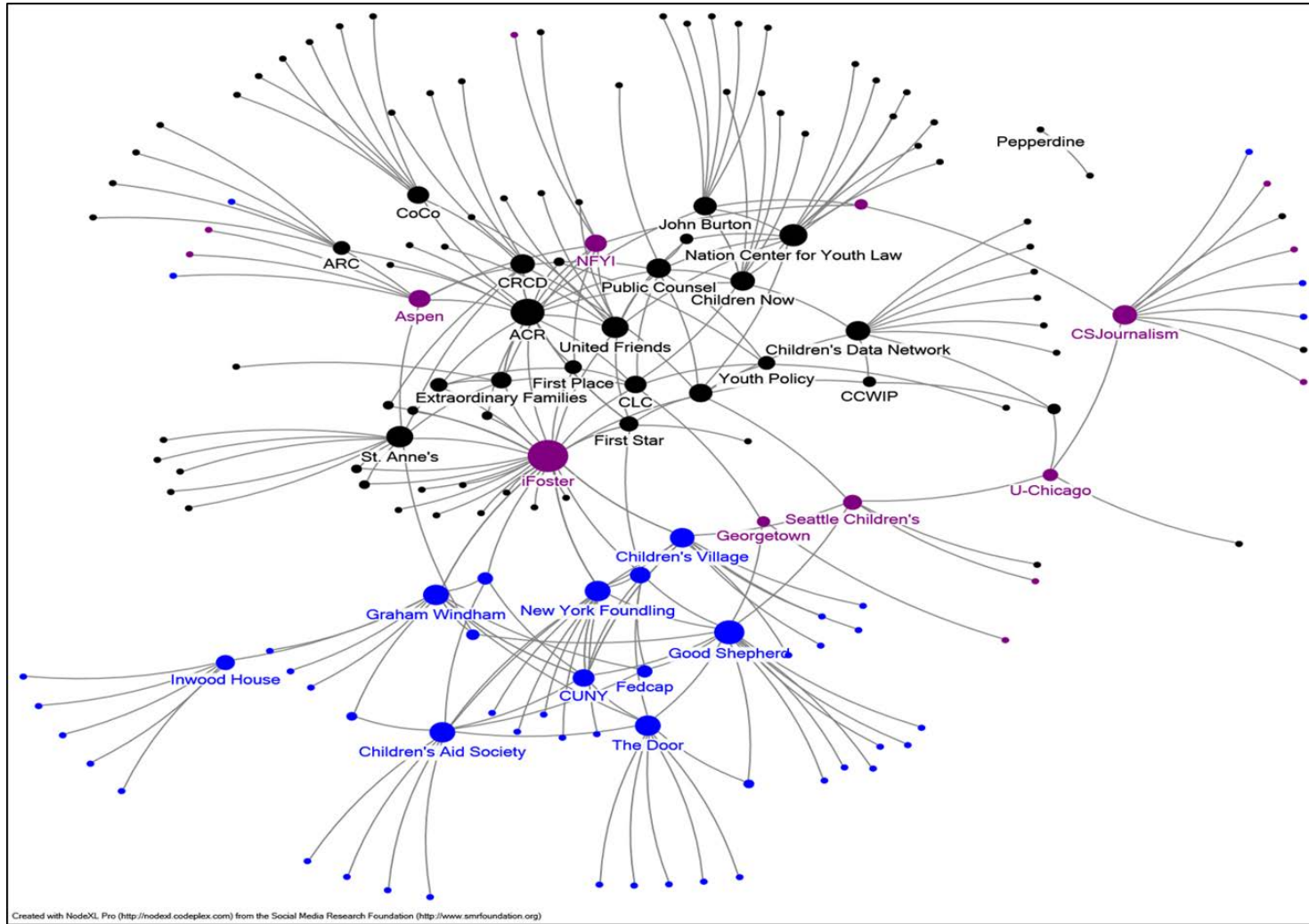


Figure 3-4. FYSI Network by Geography Time 2 (2016)



3.2 Progress on Advocacy on Behalf of TAY

What We're Learning, Where We're Going

Learnings

There is good news here! Advocacy remains one of the strongest areas of FYSI. Grantees are giving voice to foster youth by representing their interests in national health, education, and child welfare legislation – both planned and passed. And are getting results. Because of grantees' actions:

- Educational needs of foster and juvenile justice involved youth are represented in Every Student Succeeds Act.
- There was a threefold increase in Medi-Cal enrollment among foster youth.
- Congress is informed about the implications of pending legislation – Family First Act – on foster youth.

At the local level, grantees continue advocacy and reform efforts:

- In education: to improve educational outcomes and protect the educational rights of foster youth.
- Around employment: to coordinate and expand employment opportunities for foster and homeless youth.
- For pregnant and parenting and crossover youth: to improve the data available to track outcomes for this vulnerable population; and ease the transition back into the community for justice involved youth.
- For caregivers: to change how foster parents are recruited, retained, and reimbursed, and ensure kinship providers receive needed benefits and services, just as they would if they were a foster family.

What's next?

In this context, advocacy is important for many reasons, only one of which is that children and youth involved in the child welfare system, and in particular, in foster care, are vulnerable. They do not have the ability to influence political, social, or economic change themselves; this lack of power renders them vulnerable when their rights are not protected. Foster youth, therefore, need trusted advocates who are willing and able to represent their views where they matter most: *around decisions that significantly impact their well-being*. And that is the role grantees have taken on and they are making a difference!

Grantees should be encouraged and supported to continue their advocacy efforts and even expand them to include older youth who can be empowered to voice their concerns about the care they receive in the child welfare system. The LAC convening this year included two TAY, both of whom shared their experiences in congregate care as a means to show their support for Continuum of Care Reform, which aims to close most group homes across the state. Their stories were powerful. By involving youth, we not only strengthen grantees' already powerful advocacy efforts, but can offer youth an opportunity to learn to be responsible decisionmakers themselves.

While significant progress has been made around this goal, there continues to be more focus on advocacy and policy changes in LAC than in NYC; this is due, in part, to the larger number of systems change grantees in LAC (11 versus one in NYC and three dual geography).³⁰ However, there are other factors that help explain this discrepancy.³¹

First, NYC's foster care providers face several challenges in engaging in advocacy for TAY. As city contractors, providers are not eager to invest in advocacy that might be perceived as criticizing a major public funder.

Next, while the decline in the foster care census (presented in Section 2.1) has been an enormous achievement for NYC, it has also created some fiscal challenges for agencies that serve foster youth. Specifically, several agencies have had to lay off front-line staff and trim management positions, and others have merged with existing organizations to remain viable.

Third, NY State and NYC have many rules and regulations that regulate services for TAY. Many feel, however, that TAY do not receive all of the services that they are entitled. Advocacy in other jurisdictions often focus on these service weaknesses and attempt to ensure that providers have the funds they need to meet their obligations. NYC providers cannot use this strategy, however, as it relies on highlighting their own shortcomings and potentially jeopardizing their current funding sources.

Finally, while there are a few independent child welfare advocacy organizations in NYC, most focus on parents' rights or experiences, not those of the children and youth. Recognizing the dearth of advocacy voices in NYC, the Foundation plans to fund youth advocacy groups in the future through FYSI.

Despite the challenges in NYC, and the fact that it purportedly takes 3 or more years to implement and then measure the effects of policy change (which is just about the lifetime of most FYSI grants), it is already apparent from the information presented in this section that FYSI grantees are playing important roles in setting both national and regional policy agendas around TAY.

³⁰ See page 5 with table of Systems Change grantees.

³¹ This information comes from personal correspondence with an individual who is knowledgeable about child welfare in NYC.

3.2.1 Advocacy at the National Level

FYSI grantees work with child welfare and related systems (juvenile justice, education, courts) that regularly shape the national dialogue around TAY. Figure 3-5 provides a summary of the information presented here. FYSI grantees join these conversations as individuals working in the field (and on the ground); as such, they frequently offer solutions that can be replicated elsewhere. For example, California and New York led the nation in their implementation of the Affordable Care Act legislation to extend Medicaid coverage to former foster youth until the age of 26. California automatically enrolls foster youth in Medi-Cal, and **Children Now** (a LAC systems change grantee) spearheaded the “Coveredtil26” Campaign, a statewide outreach campaign contributing to a threefold increase in Medi-Cal enrollment of former foster youth (ChildrenNow.org, 2016).

Children Now spearheads “Coveredtil26,” a statewide outreach campaign to increase Medi-Cal enrollment of former foster youth.

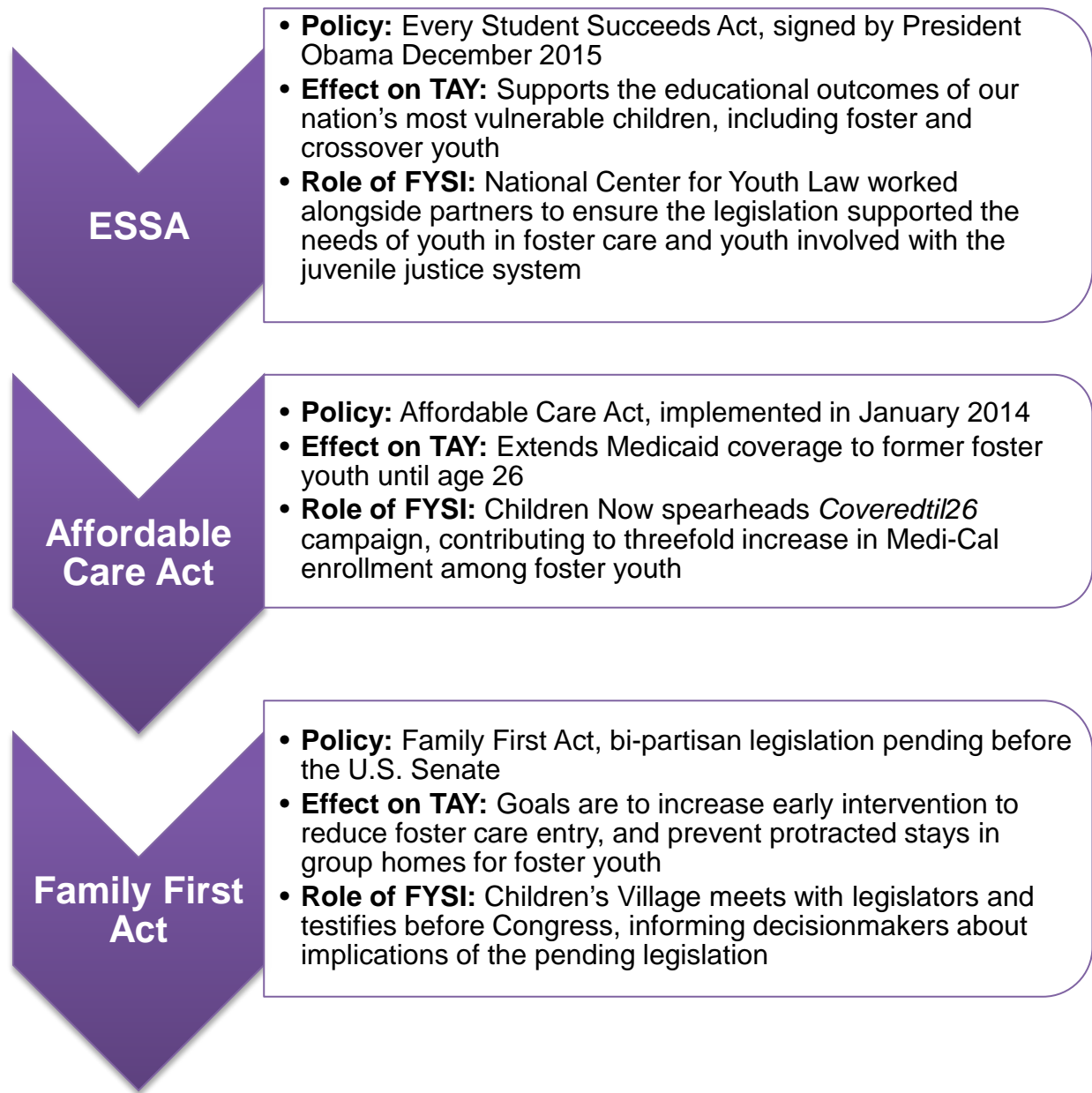
One of the major goals of the FYSI is improving TAY educational attainment. **National Center for Youth Law**, along with its partner agencies, successfully advocated for the inclusion of foster and juvenile justice youth provisions in the Every Student Succeeds

The National Center for Youth Law successfully advocated to include foster and juvenile justice youth provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Obama in December 2015.

Act (ESSA). ESSA, signed by President Obama in December 2015, replaces the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, and requires states to improve their educational services for children and youth who are at risk or involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Historically child welfare, juvenile justice, and education systems have struggled to provide consistent and quality services to TAY, a highly mobile population. Under ESSA, states must improve the planning and coordination of a youth’s education that is required as they transition between residential placements and local school districts; help youth

returning from juvenile justice placements re-enroll in appropriate educational placements in a timely manner; transfer credits to the school of attendance upon re-entry; create opportunities for earning missed credits; and prioritize attainment of a regular high school diploma (Administration for Children and Families, 2016).

Figure 3-5. Summary of FYSI Grantees Federal Policy Advocacy



FYSI grantees continue to be actively involved in the early stages of advocacy efforts. The newly introduced—and very controversial—Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA, 2016) represents the largest proposed Federal child welfare legislation package since 1980 (Hartman, 2016). It seeks to reduce the number of children and youth entering foster care and reduce placements and lengths of stay in group or congregate care, but also promotes stricter training requirements and accountability measures on foster parents and kinship caregivers. Jeremy Kohomban, President and CEO of [Children’s Village](#) (a NYC self-sufficiency grantee) and an author, advocate,

and expert in child welfare and juvenile justice, was invited to speak before Congress and the state legislature about the possible implications of this bill on service-providing agencies (Grantee Interview). This is one more example of how grantees are helping to shape legislation to make sure it best serves the unique needs of child welfare involved youth and families.

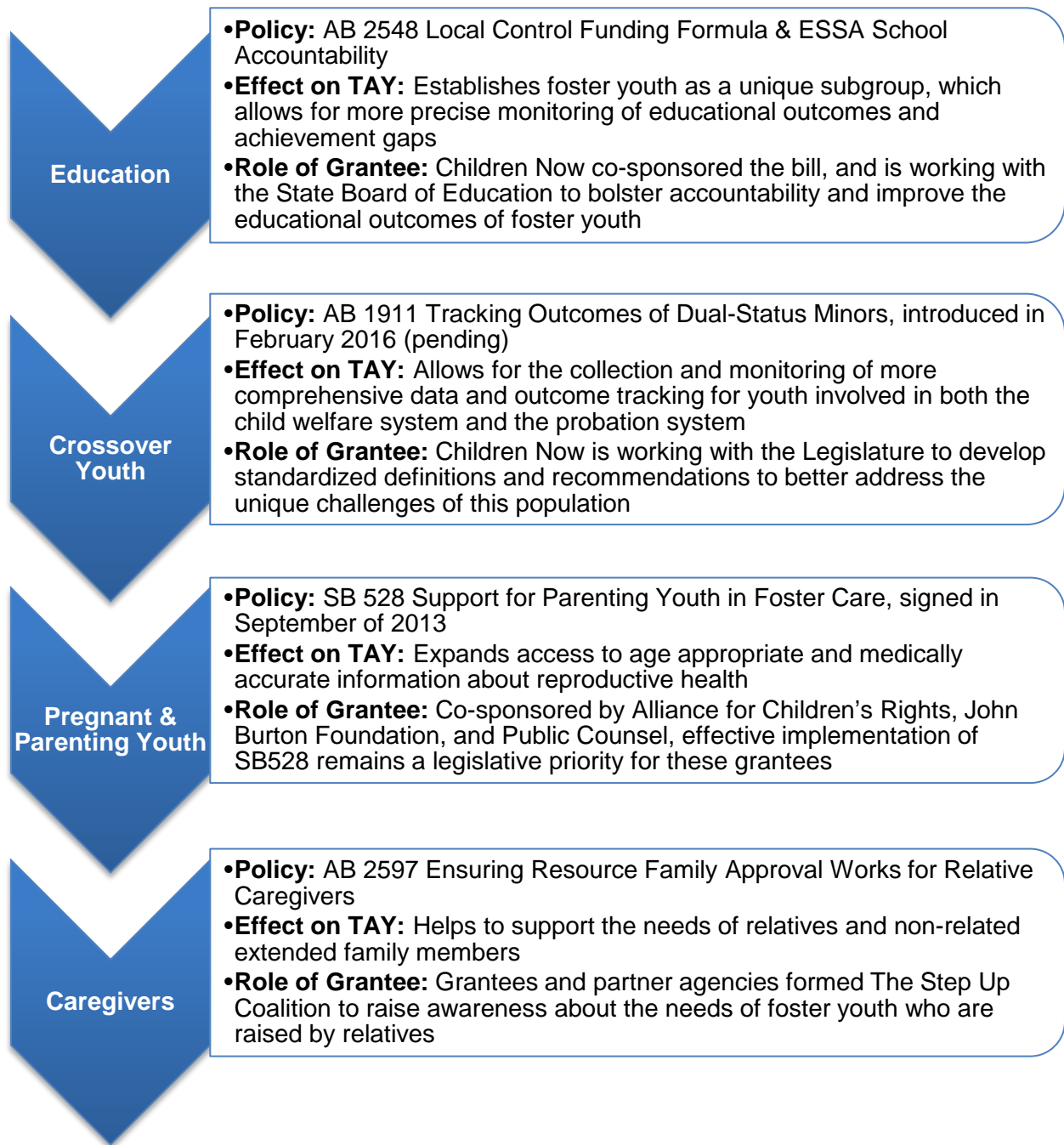
3.2.2 Advocacy in LAC

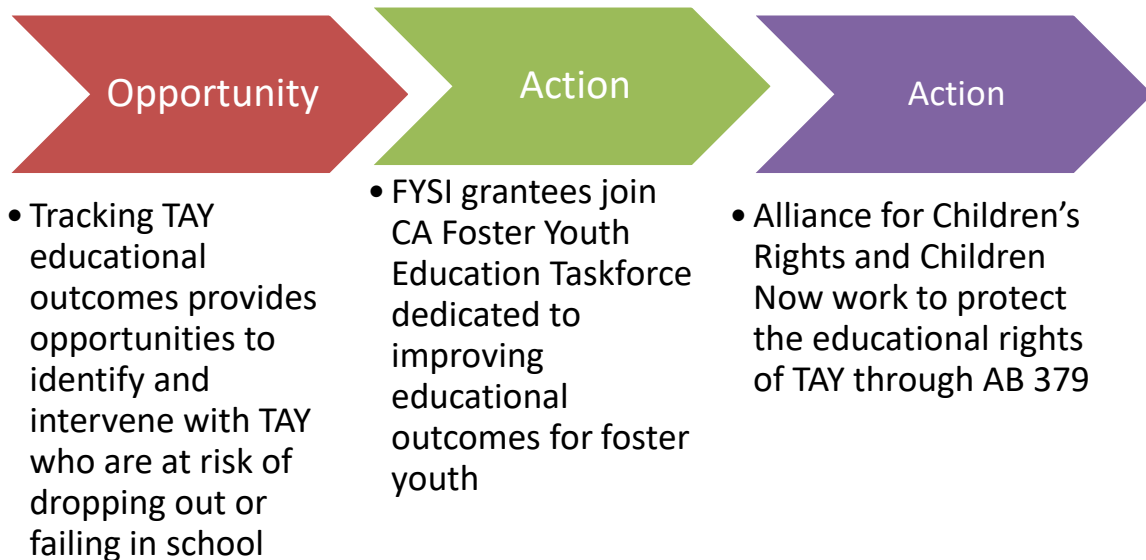
California continues to be a fertile environment for TAY policy and systems change. Figure 3-6 summarizes the LAC policy and systems change work presented in this section. In June 2016, the California legislature passed the 2016-17 State Budget, which allocates **more than \$150 million in new state funding for the child welfare system**. LAC grantees continue to capitalize on the momentum in California, as evidenced by their recent advocacy work, all of which is aligned with FYSI priorities around TAY education, improving outcomes for pregnant and parenting and crossover youth, and supporting caregivers. Highlights of these efforts are presented in the following section.

Education Advocacy and Reform. **Children Now** played a major role in advocating for the passage of **Assembly Bill (AB) 2548, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Every Student Succeeds School Accountability Act**. This legislation, currently being reviewed by the Appropriations Committee, requires the State Board of Education to monitor educational outcomes for foster youth and children, something that was not previously required. Tracking educational outcomes for foster youth represents a major step toward improving educational outcomes for them (a priority of FYSI), by identifying and intervening with those youth who are at risk of dropping out or failure. These data can also be used to support further advocacy work and systems change efforts around education for TAY.

AB 854, Expanding Support for Foster Education, approved by Governor Brown in November 2015, represents another major advance toward improving educational outcomes for TAY, as it maintains that all foster youth are eligible for educational supports. Sponsored by the **National Center for Youth Law's Foster-Ed Initiative**, AB 854 aligns the definitions of foster youth used in LCFF with California's Foster Youth Services Program (FYS). In the past, inconsistent definitions of "foster youth" across policies meant that approximately 60,000 foster youth were unable to access FYS-sponsored educational supports and services (McKinney, 2015). AB 854 remedies this oversight and calls for better systems coordination through greater use of FYS staff in serving the educational needs of foster youth.

Figure 3-6. Summary of FYSI Grantees California and Los Angeles County Policy Advocacy

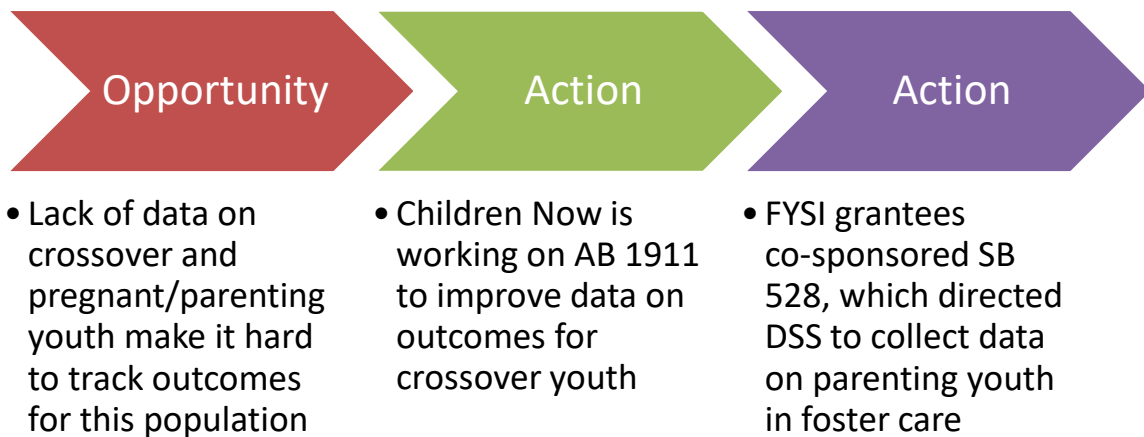




Several grantees—**Children Now, National Center for Youth Law, Public Counsel, and The Alliance for Children’s Rights**—are ensuring that TAY benefit from LCFF through their work with [The California Foster Youth Education Taskforce](#) (Taskforce). The Taskforce is composed of a large and diverse group of stakeholders dedicated to improving educational outcomes for foster youth in CA. A current and pertinent focus of the Taskforce is the Local Control and Accountability Plans school districts created to address the educational needs of foster youth and other disadvantaged students. The Taskforce recently issued a report (http://cfyef.org/publications_17_223313565.pdf) that presents findings from a comprehensive review of these plans and includes such recommendations for improving them as: improving the data infrastructure required to track foster youth and share those data across systems (e.g., juvenile justice and child welfare); disaggregating and tracking foster youth educational outcome data; and developing targeted policies and interventions to address educational challenges specific to foster youth.

In addition to policies to support their education and improve educational outcomes, TAY also need policies that protect their educational rights. The **Alliance for Children’s Rights and Children Now**, two FYSI grantees, co-sponsored **AB 379: Foster Youth Educational Rights**. Under this law, if foster or homeless youth experience a violation of their educational rights they can file a complaint through the California Department of Education’s Uniform Complaint Procedure. The law also requires that the state annually inform foster and homeless youth of complaint procedures and provide them with contact information for the individual in their school district who handles complaints. Governor Brown signed AB 379 on October 2015; access to complaint procedures and information went into effect January 1, 2016.

Crossover Youth Advocacy and Reform. **Children Now** is working on **AB 1911**, a bill sponsored by the Children’s Advocacy Institute. Similar to AB 2548 and AB 854, if enacted, AB 1911 would improve the data available to track outcomes for crossover youth (those who are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems). AB 1911 was created in response to recommendations from a February 2016 report³² highlighting the challenge of effectively monitoring the outcomes of crossover youth in California. The report recommended creating a data system to track the dates and results of hearings that determine whether or not youth are classified as dual status (i.e., crossover, Joint Legislative Audit Committee, 2016). LAC already records the dates and results of the hearings, but data are often incomplete or inaccurate. The bill would require the creation of a committee to further develop recommendations on how to accurately track outcomes on this population using standardized definitions (email correspondence with Children Now). The bill has been passed on to the Appropriations Committee.



Pregnant and Parenting Youth Advocacy and Reform. Historically, high quality data about foster youth have been particularly difficult to collect and access, but data about pregnant and parenting TAY are even more problematic. However, as with all child-welfare involved youth, data are necessary to learn about youth needs, and paramount to inform decisions about how best to serve this youth group. Several FYSI grantees continue their work around pregnant and parenting TAY through the implementation of **SB 528, Support for Parenting Youth in Foster Care**. SB 528, co-sponsored by the **Alliance for Children’s Rights, Children’s Law Center Los Angeles, John Burton Foundation** and **Public Counsel**, and signed by the Governor in September 2013, supports pregnant and parenting youth by directing DSS to collect data on parenting youth in foster care. SB 528 also authorizes child welfare agencies statewide to provide

³² [Dually Involved Youth: The State Cannot Determine the Effectiveness of Efforts to Serve Youth Who are Involved in both the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems.](#)

age appropriate, medically accurate information about reproductive health to TAY, and urges child welfare representatives to comprehensively plan with them around their own physical, socio-emotional, and educational needs and the needs of their children (John Burton Foundation, 2013).

Caregiver Advocacy and Reform. The majority of California’s new child welfare funding, \$127.3 out of \$150 million, will be used to implement the **Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) or AB 403**. Signed by the Governor in January 2016, AB 403 impacts all facets of the child welfare system but has particular implications for those tending to TAY in foster care. CCR includes extensive policy changes for group homes and changes in foster parent recruitment, retention, and reimbursement (Children Now email, June 10, 2016). In particular, CCR aims to close most group homes across the state and redirect those children to foster or kin placements. However, CCR also changes the standards for kinship care, making them more stringent for kinship care providers. These circumstances create continued and potentially more difficult challenges for advocates and child welfare agencies as they work to implement CCR in an environment that already includes a statewide shortage of foster homes, in particular, those for older youth.

In response, efforts to address the potential negative consequences of AB 403 are underway. The *Step Up Coalition* (stepupforkin.org), which includes several grantees—**Alliance for Children’s Rights, Community Youth Coalition, Children’s Law Center, Children Now, the John Burton Foundation, Public Counsel, and National Center for Youth Law**—developed **AB 2597: Ensuring Resource Family Approval Works for Relative Caregivers**. The campaign is focused on better addressing the unique needs of relative and non-related extended family caregivers by ensuring children and youth placed with kin receive needed services and benefits, just as they would if they were placed with a foster family. The coalition is also working to get stakeholders to realize that *“you can’t increase quality of care and reduce use of group homes without addressing kinship care.”* Grantees are optimistic that the bill will pass and we will find out in August 2016 whether or not it will be adopted into law.

“You can’t increase quality of care and reduce use of group homes without addressing kinship care”
– Step Up Coalition.

3.2.3 The Policy Context in NYC

The majority of NYC grantees (N = 10) are self-sufficiency grantees and therefore do not typically work on policy or advocacy efforts. As noted, this explains some of the differences between LAC and NYC in relation to policy and advocacy reforms. However, there is still policy reform going on in NYC, some of which involves FYSI grantees. There are also ways in which NYC grantees are involved in efforts to help inform policymakers and decisionmakers about the needs of TAY without direct involvement in specific advocacy or policy reforms. These are worth noting and are presented in the following section and in Figure 3-7.

Education and Employment Reform. The **Foster Youth Success Initiative**, a \$1.5 million allocation in the 2015-2016 State of New York budget, provides critical and concrete supports for youth in foster care who are attending college, including housing during school breaks and financial aid counseling. These types of supports are often unfunded and the lack of resources can cause TAY to drop out of school temporarily or permanently. By removing barriers to success, NYC hopes to increase the college graduation rate of foster care youth. The **Fostering Youth Success Alliance**, an organizational coalition that includes FYSI grantees **Children's Aid Society, Good Shepherd Services, Graham Windham, and New Yorkers for Children**, was instrumental in the development and passage of this initiative.

Current NYC public-private partnerships are also changing the employment outlook for youth. These changes will impact TAY employment as well. In May 2015, Mayor de

Fostering Youth Success Alliance, an organizational coalition that includes Children's Aid Society, Good Shepherd Services, Graham Windham, and New Yorkers for Children, was instrumental in the development and passage of the **Foster Youth Success Initiative** to provide concrete supports for foster youth in college.

Blasio announced the creation of the **Center for Youth Employment**, which will coordinate and expand efforts to connect NYC's young people to opportunities for career exposure, summer jobs, enrollment in skill-building programs, and access to supportive mentors. The Center, supported by initial funding of \$3.2 million from the city's business and philanthropic community, aims to connect 100,000 young people ages 14–24 to summer jobs, mentorships, and internships each year by 2020; this includes a goal, set in 2015, to double the number of summer jobs for NYC's most vulnerable youth – those in shelters or foster care – to 2,000. FYSI grantee organizations that are responsible for serving TAY will certainly welcome the creation of

more summer jobs for foster youth.

Juvenile Justice Policy Reform. The second and final phase of the local implementation of New York State’s **Close to Home program** launched in January 2016 with the addition of four new residential sites available for youth. The program aims to ease the transition for juvenile offenders returning to the community, allowing NYC’s Department of Probation to take youth under the age of 15 out of far away and traditional juvenile justice settings, such as upstate detention centers, and return them to their home communities with services at sites located nearby. Phase 1 dealt with youth who did not need secure placements, and Phase 2 focuses on youth who need secure placements. The **Children’s Village** is responsible for running one of the “limited secure placements,” or LSP sites designed for youths who are deemed to pose a somewhat higher risk to the community (Stein, 2016).

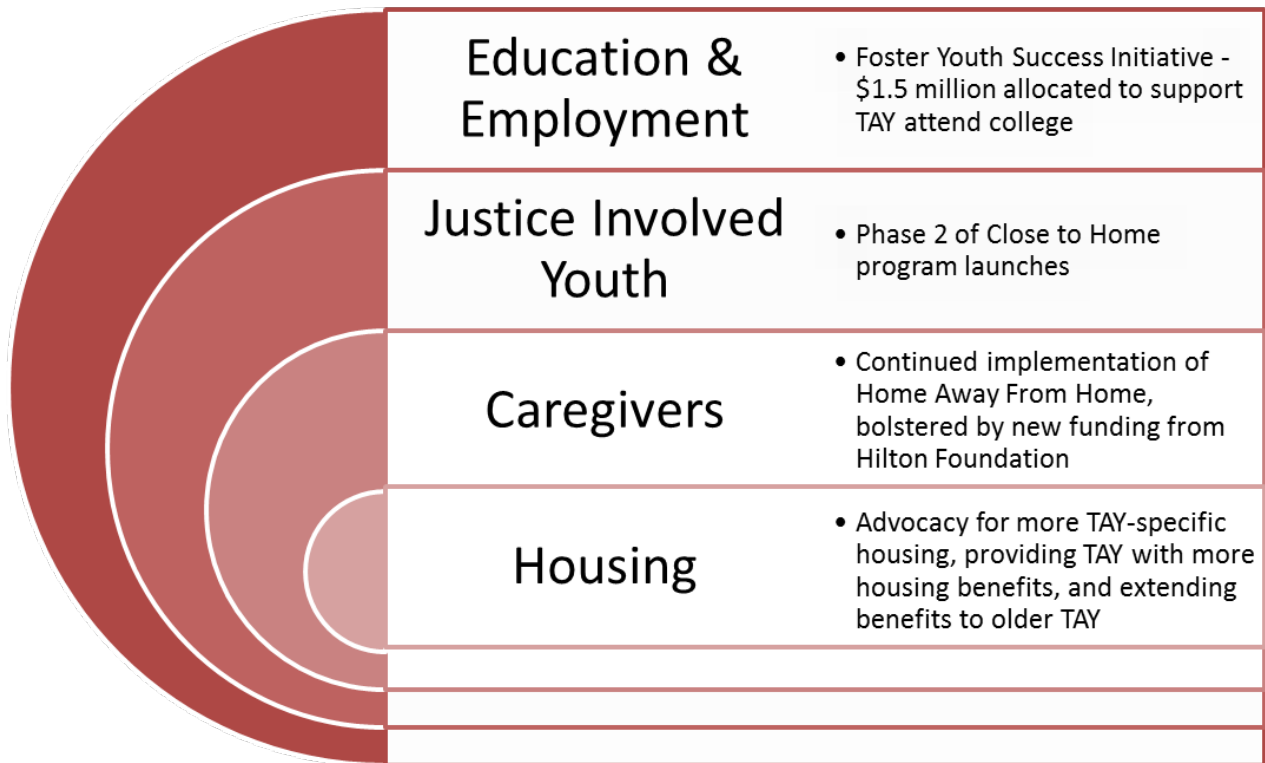
Children’s Village provides housing options for high risk justice-involved foster youth as part of the Close to Home program.

Caregiver Policy Reform. In 2015, New York City’s Administration for Children and Families (ACS) initiated **Home Away from Home**, an approach to re-designing NYC’s recruitment, retention, and support of foster and adoptive parents. Designed to build on the information generated from “No Time to Wait,” Home Away from Home is focused on establishing a competent pool of family caregivers as resources for placement, as opposed to placing youth in group homes. Home Away from Home is designed to help ACS achieve a wide variety of goals related to foster home caregivers. The work is further supported by New Yorkers for Children, a [recent Hilton Foundation grant recipient](#), which plans to create a comprehensive caregiver recruitment system and develop formal caregiver supports.

Advocating for the Housing Needs of TAY. TAY Housing is one issue that continues to be a priority for NYC grantees. Jeremy Kohomban, with Children’s Village, shared that not only is there a constant lack of appropriate public housing for TAY, but this population loses their housing at a faster rate because they are so unprepared to live on their own and lack the support to maintain a residence. Currently, 12 units of supportive housing for youth are being built in Harlem and were slated to open in August 2016, with plans to replicate this effort to build an additional TAY-designated apartments in the future (Grantee Interview with Children’s Village), with the goal being to provide safe affordable housing for TAY.

NYC is estimated to open an additional 15,000 units over the next 15 years, and Graham Windham is working with various legislators to try to shape who gets priority for access to this housing (Grantee Interview with Graham Windham). Jess Dannhauser, President and CEO of Graham Windham, explained that advocates are pushing for expansion of NYC housing benefits for eligible TAY. There are ongoing conversations between key child welfare stakeholders and those in the Mayor’s Office with regard to expanding housing and benefits to youth until age 22, although no policies or legislation have been drafted yet on this issue, they are expected in the coming years.

Figure 3-7. Policy Reform Context in NYC – FYSI Year 3





4. KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND FUNDING GOALS

Goals: The FYSI seeks to contribute knowledge from the incredible work that grantees are doing to impact policy, practice, research innovation, and leverage \$20 million in private funding.

Measuring Progress: This year's Grantee Data Collection Form (GDCF) gathered data on dissemination activities and leveraged funding from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016. As one of several evaluation tools, the GDCF collects data on dissemination activities in six areas: (1) presentations; (2) publications in the press, print, or online; (3) media citations of Foundation-related work; (4) multimedia products developed; (5) curricula, created or revised; and (6) leveraged-funding data. Data collected with this instrument represents an attempt to both quantify and catalog activities and outputs that may be overlooked and not captured elsewhere.

Progress: Yes! Grantees have made remarkable progress in sharing information about TAY practice and research. Grantees met and surpassed the funding goal with a reported \$31,295,378 in leveraged funding from private sources and \$11,984,047 from public sources since the inception of the FYSI.

This chapter provides information to answer the following MEL questions:

- How is knowledge and research around programs to improve TAY outcomes expanded and shared at local and national levels?
- Is FYSI funding leveraging funds from the private sector?

This is an area in which the grantees excel. As presented here, grantees continue to make unbelievable progress in disseminating the knowledge they generate and information they share. Grantees disseminate knowledge and research findings via numerous avenues, including presentations, publications, curricula, products, and social media.

4.1 Progress on Knowledge-Sharing Goal

What We're Learning, Where We're Going
<p style="text-align: center;">Learnings</p> <p>There is good news here! Grantees continue to make remarkable progress in sharing information about TAY practice and research. Over the past 3 years, FYSI grantees have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Made 1,014 presentations,• Authored 246 publications,• Been cited in the media 1,660 times, and• Produced 159 multimedia products and 320 curricula. <p>The four research grantees alone have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Made 106 presentations,• Authored 106 publications (reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, and newspaper articles),• Been cited in the media 881 times, and• Produced 18 multimedia products and created/revised four curricula. <p>More importantly, research grantees are raising awareness of issues facing foster youth by holding public events to discuss research findings, and driving cross-sector learning and informing policy agendas by making data and findings available to other grantees for use in their own work.</p>

What's next?

In some ways, dissemination can be considered another form of advocacy. Grantee dissemination activities are more than just presenting information and distributing reports, articles, and briefs. They are a *tool* whereby grantees engage—and influence—stakeholders and decisionmakers around issues important to the child welfare (and related) practice, policy, and research communities, thus creating opportunities to create far-reaching, positive impacts for TAY. Therefore, grantees should be encouraged to continue to disseminate the information they create via FYSI.

In addition, research, in particular, does not make a difference unless it is disseminated in a timely manner to the audiences that can directly benefit from it. While scientific journals may reach the academic community, this dissemination avenue alone will not reach other important stakeholders such as child welfare policymakers and practitioners. They are the ones who can use the information to make more informed decisions that lead to improved outcomes for children and families. Moving forward, it will be important for research grantees to continue to target their findings to specific audiences using a variety of methods, and help non-researchers, including other grantees, translate research findings into practice.

For the past 3 years, the GDCF has been used as a resource to collect data from FYSI grantees on their dissemination activities. Overall, grantees have continuously increased the number of activities in each dissemination category, with the exception of slight variances in multimedia products and curricula (see Table 4-1).

Table 4-1. FYSI Grantees Dissemination Activities, 2013-2016

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	Total 2013-2016
Presentations	188	258	568	1,014
Publications	45	73	128	246
Citations in media	57	692	911	1,660
Multimedia	21	87	51	159
Curricula	152	78	90	320

Overview. Grantee dissemination activities are important for a number of reasons, but mostly because they further the reach of FYSI. Over the past 3 years, grantees have made 1,014 presentations, authored 246 publications, been cited in the media 1,660 times, produced 159 multimedia products, and 320 curricula. This dissemination is inclusive of research grantees.



1,014 Presentations



246 Publications



1,660 Media Citations



159 Multimedia Products



320 Curricula

Research grantees, in particular, continue to contribute extraordinary knowledge through their study of TAY. In total, research grantees have made 106 presentations, authored 106 publications (the majority include reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, and newspaper articles), been cited in the media 881 times, produced 18 multimedia products, and created/revised four curricula. FYSI research grantees are nationally recognized in the field and are vital to the development and sharing of the most current knowledge regarding TAY outcomes. More information about FYSI research grantees can be found in Section 4.1.2.

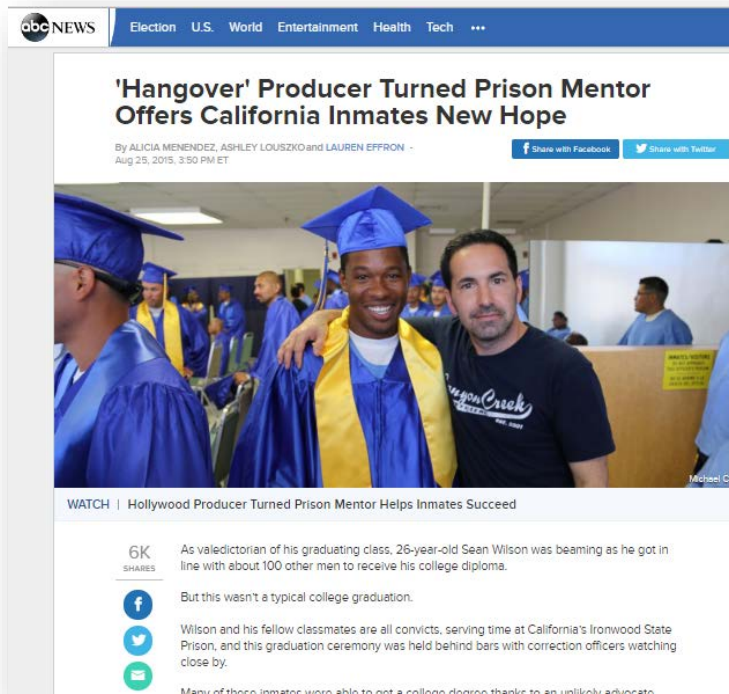
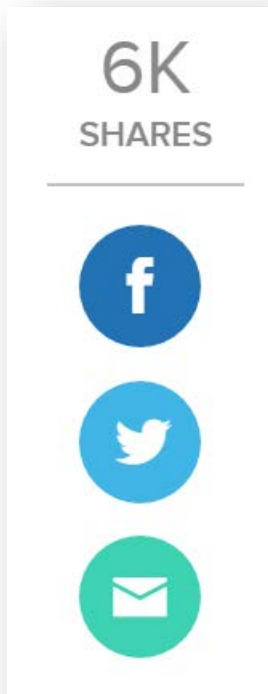
4.1.1 Sharing Knowledge and Strengthening Networks: Dissemination Activities

To influence others, to promote systems collaboration, and encourage alignment requires the generation and sharing of ideas, knowledge, and experience through a variety of forms and avenues. Relationships are the foundation of any collaborative effort, and grantees recognize that an important part of their work is to advocate and engage with others, actively moving within a network of interconnected systems. No one who works with TAY works alone.

All Foundation grantees are actively involved in numerous dissemination activities. These activities can range from publishing in a peer-reviewed journal, to posting videos on a variety of social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. In fact, the types and forms of information disseminated are as numerous and varied as the avenues through which information is passed or exchanged. For the past 3 years, the evaluation team has worked to quantitatively gauge the level of information dissemination among grantees, while focusing on counts and, where appropriate, the audience composition.

As with last year's data collection, the 2016 GDCF asked grantees to report titles of presentations (Q1b), publications (Q2b), multimedia products (Q4b), and curricula (Q5b), as well media citations (Q3b). The hundreds of dissemination activity examples reported have provided a rich catalog of information and display the immense reach grantee materials have across the country and the world. Grantees continue to use creative innovative avenues to communicate their work into new and emerging media.

e-Reach. The internet has completely revolutionized the way the world communicates by making posting, sharing, and viewing virtually instantaneous. This is no less true for grantees' network of systems within which they interact and beyond, the convenience of which a single report, article, video, or other digital material can be posted and viewed online then downloaded, transferred electronically, or shared—all by a simple click of a button. This makes it all but impossible to track and calculate the reach and viewership of a given publication or online post. Few users have attempted that calculus and fewer still have the tools or knowledge to do so. Consequently, we are often left with an incomplete picture of a publication's exposure, though we estimate that the number of readers/viewers reached is much greater than reported.



Presentations. Information about presentations was captured in two questions:

- Q1a. Number of presentations delivered between April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016.
- Q1b. Provide the titles of up to five presentations delivered between April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016, along with estimated attendance and audience composition.

Presentation was defined to “include conferences, teleconferences, webinars or webcasts related to [Foundation] funding.” Grantees further interpreted presentation to include policy roundtable, panel, trainings, discussion group, meeting, workshop, workgroup, site visits, convening, summit, event, forum, listening tour, and congressional dinner.

The majority of grantees reported at least one presentation related to their Foundation funding within the 1-year reporting period. Responses ranged from one presentation to a high of 94, with an average of 19.6 presentations reported. In addition, the 2016 GDCF asks grantees to provide the titles of up to five presentations. A total of 15 grantees, or 51 percent, listed five titles, the maximum requested. The dissemination of grantee presentations varied greatly from a single presentation given to one audience at one time—to a single presentation given numerous times to hundreds of different types of attendees.


One unique grantee example of creative advocacy and dissemination across the country is National Foster Youth Institute’s “Listening Tours,” which took place in Chicago and Los Angeles. The Los Angeles tour focused on sex trafficking and foster youth. The tours consisted of congressional members, local decisionmakers, and community experts who are given the opportunity to share personal stories with community members and voice policy recommendations on ways to improve the child welfare system.



Another unique presentation involved iFoster’s TAY Assistant and Digital Locker, presented at the White House Hack-a-thon for Foster Care in May 2016. One of the biggest issues foster youth encounter throughout their experiences in care is misplacing or losing important documents as they move from placement to placement. The TAY Assistant and Digital Locker represents a major technological advance in the ability of foster youth to be able to access, track, and organize all of their documents in one secure location that is accessible to them from anywhere, at any time. In addition, the Digital Locker provides tools and resources for youth allowing them to apply to programs, manage documents, and find additional resources.




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TAY Tester
California, USA


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- ▶ New Resources
- ▶ My Visited Resources
- ▶ My Resource Interests



My Resources



My Locker












My Contacts


Resource Search

Suggested Resources (1)

iFoster Messages (4)

Search for Resources by Selecting a Resource Category

 K-12 Education 26	 Post High 24	 Technology 10
 Health & Wellness 15	 Recreational Activities 12	 Child Care & Parenting Help 11
 Clothing & Personal Care 4	 Advisors & Support Groups 14	 Daily Living Expenses 12



53

New Publications. Grantees completed two questions about publications.

- Q2a. Number of publications produced in press, print, or posted online from April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016.
- Q2b. Provide the titles of up to five publications produced between April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016, and how they were disseminated. Please include any feedback you received on the publications.

Publications were defined to “include white papers, bulletins, issue briefs, pamphlets, and peer-to-peer reviewed articles that reference activities related to your [Foundation] funding.” Grantees further interpreted publications to include reports, manuals, flyers, toolkits, Op-Eds, policy briefs, booklets, handouts, informational mailings, and other documents such as technical assistance and visual overview. A total of 18 grantees, or 56.3 percent, reported one or more new publications in press, print, or posted online for the reporting period. Among those reporting at least one new publication, 11 grantees reported between 1-4 publications produced, and seven reported 5 or more, with one grantee reporting 60 publications.

Additionally, the 2016 GDCF asked grantees to also provide the titles of up to five publications. A total of four grantees, or 12.5 percent, listed five titles, the maximum requested.

Examples of publications cited by grantees can be found below. In almost every publication cited, social media icons are available for readers to quickly and instantly share with their personal or public networks. This continuously expands the range and audience of online content.

FROM THE PRINT

March 1, 2016

Giving Foster Youth a Chance at College

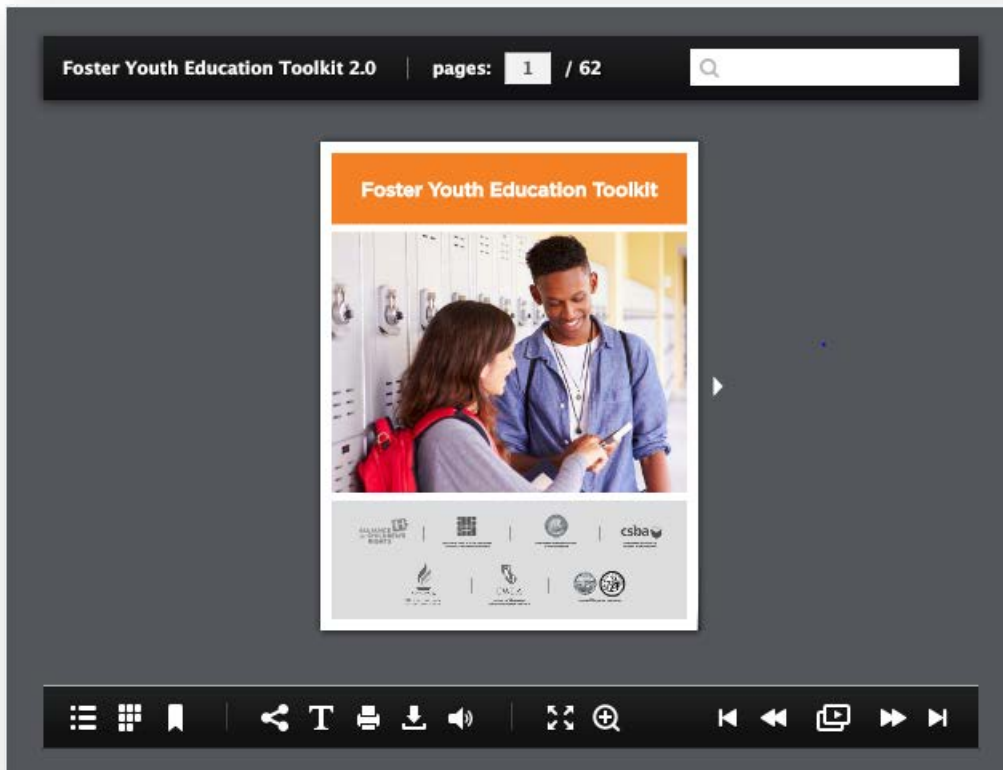
By Elaine Korry

f RECOMMEND t TWEET p PRINT + MORE



Center for Sustainable Journalism: Kennesaw State University cited an in-depth story that appeared in Youth Today. This story looked at some of the most successful examples for reducing the high school dropout rate among foster children and increasing the number of those obtaining college degrees. The story focuses on an innovative collaboration between the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and UCLA.

<http://youthtoday.org/2016/03/giving-foster-youth-a-chance-at-college/>



Alliance for Children's Rights cited the revised, "Foster Youth Education Toolkit." The toolkit is completely interactive and allows the user to easily share, download, flip through, select text, and print. As a result of this publication, Alliance has been asked to train school districts on the legal rights of foster youth, and present the toolkit at several state and national conferences. Due to popular demand, Alliance also created an ongoing Education Toolkit webinar series. <http://kids-alliance.org/edtoolkit>

2016 CA Children's Report Card

Medi-Cal Infographic

LCFF and Early Childhood

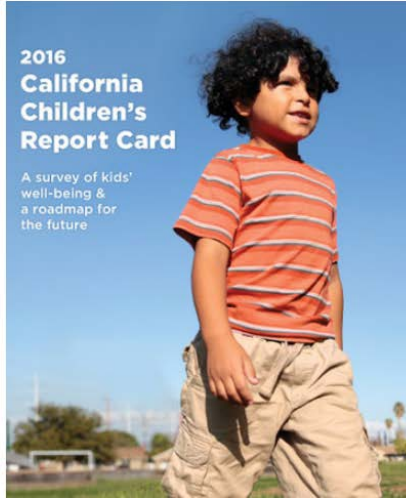
California County Scorecard

Developmental Screening Infographic

See Archives

2016 CA Children's Report Card

A survey of kids' well-being and a roadmap for the future



California is a wealthy state, with more assets than most to devote to its children's well-being. It's time to put more of our resources to work for kids, by investing in quality programs to help lift them out of poverty and set them on the road to success.

California's Children

California is home to more than 9 million children. With 12 percent of the nation's children, the well-being of California kids has a big impact on the well-being of children nationally. Unfortunately, California recently ranked 38th out of 50 states in children's well-being.

Research has shown a strong connection between children's socioeconomic status and overall well-being. California ranks 49th on measures of kids' economic well-being, surpassing only Mississippi. While it is a prosperous state, around 1 in 4 California children lives in poverty.

California is also one of the most diverse states in the US. The state's children are racially, ethnically, linguistically and culturally diverse. Today, 1 in every 2 children are Latino, and 22 percent of students are English learners (EL) from at least 60 different language groups. Nearly half the state's children (4.4 million) live in immigrant families, and the majority of those (91%) are U.S. citizens.

Yet research consistently finds large disparities in kids' well-being based on racial, ethnic and language background. In a state as diverse as California, our future civic and economic well-being hinges on closing those gaps, and ensuring every child is healthy, well-educated and safe.

Children Now cited the 2016 California Children's Report Card. The report card provides a comprehensive, state-level data snapshot of California children's well-being, to highlight various issue areas. It was hand-delivered to all state legislators and leaders, disseminated to more than 1,500 members of The Children's Movement, and shared broadly with over 8,000+ social media followers on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. <https://www.childrennow.org/reports-research/2016cachildrensreportcard/>

STD and Abortion Prevalence in Adolescent Mothers With Histories of Childhood Protection Involvement

CONTEXT: Early sexual debut and unprotected sexual activity place adolescents at risk of adverse sexual health outcomes. Adolescents involved with child protective services (CPS) may be a particularly vulnerable population.

METHODS: California birth records for 86,946 adolescents who became first-time mothers in 2008–2010 were probabilistically linked to statewide CPS records from 1998 and later. The prevalence of STDs at birth and of abortion history were explored by preconception CPS involvement. Generalized linear models, adjusted for health, socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, were used to assess correlates of current STDs and history of abortion.

RESULTS: At the time they gave birth, 1% of adolescents had a documented STD, and 5% reported a previous abortion. After adjustment for other characteristics, CPS involvement was associated with a significantly elevated prevalence both of STDs (relative risk, 1.2) and of previous abortion (1.4). Other characteristics also were associated with both outcomes, but not always in the same direction. For example, delaying prenatal care until after the first trimester or getting none at all was associated with an increased prevalence of STDs (1.3), but a reduced prevalence of abortion (0.8–0.9); having public insurance coverage for the birth was associated with a reduced STD prevalence (0.9) and an elevated abortion history prevalence (1.2).

CONCLUSIONS: To assess whether adolescents with a history of CPS involvement need targeted sexual health interventions, further research is needed on the mechanisms that underlie associations between CPS involvement and adverse sexual health outcomes.

Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2015, 47(4):TK, doi: 10.1363/47e4215

By Julie A. Cederbaum, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Kathrine Sullivan, Hailey Winetrobe and Melissa Bird

Julie A. Cederbaum and Emily Putnam-Hornstein are assistant professors, Kathrine Sullivan and Melissa Bird are doctoral students, and Hailey Winetrobe is project specialist, all at the University of Southern California School of Social Work, Los Angeles.

Sexual activity among adolescents is a normative experience; in 2013, some 46% of adolescent women attending high school reported having ever had sexual intercourse.¹ Early sexual debut, multiple partners and unprotected sexual activity place adolescents at risk of adverse outcomes, including heightened rates of pregnancy and increased rates of STDs.² Although the birthrate among adolescents in the United States is at an all-time low (a finding observed across age and racial and ethnic groups),³ adolescent pregnancy continues to be a significant public health concern because of its association with poor outcomes for both mothers and children.^{4–7}

One group who may be particularly vulnerable to the risk of pregnancy and STDs is adolescents who have a history of involvement with child protective services (CPS) for alleged or substantiated maltreatment. Although almost half of all adolescents attending high school report engagement in sexual activity,¹ rates of involvement in risky sexual behavior are higher for youth with histories of maltreatment

STDs and abortion history in a population-based cohort of first-time adolescent mothers.

BACKGROUND STDs and Births Among Adolescents

In the general population of women aged 14–19, the STD prevalence rate is approximately 24% overall; the rate is 4% for chlamydia, 2% for herpes simplex virus and 1% for gonorrhea.¹³ In 2011, women aged 15–24 in California had a chlamydia rate of 19 per 1,000, a gonorrhea rate of two per 1,000 and a syphilis rate of less than one per 1,000.¹⁴ Black adolescents are more likely than their white counterparts to test positive for an STD, and older adolescents are more likely than younger ones to have a clinically documented STD.¹³

Children born to adolescents account for almost 7% of annual births in the United States.¹⁵ There were 26.5 births for every 1,000 adolescents aged 15–19 in 2013; and the percentage of adolescent births rose to 18% and

University of Southern California Children’s Data Network cited their publication, “Examination of sexually transmitted infections and abortion prevalence in adolescent mothers with histories of child protection involvement” in the peer-reviewed journal, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. In addition, data and findings were included in multiple stakeholder presentations concerning pregnant and parenting youth.

Foundation-Related Work Cited in Media. Grantees answered two questions about their work, which was cited in various types of media.

- Q3a. Number of times Foundation-related work cited in media from April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016.
- Q3b. If known, list up to three media citations generating the greatest response between April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016, and the number of responses.

Media was defined to *“include news articles, websites, Facebook, Twitter, journal articles, other publications.”* Grantees further interpreted media to include the radio, television, press releases, blog posts, and email “blasts.”

Twenty-one grantees, or 65.6 percent of grantees, reported 1 or more times Foundation-related work was cited in the media, with a total of 911. Among those reporting one or more, half were able to list (the maximum requested) three citations.

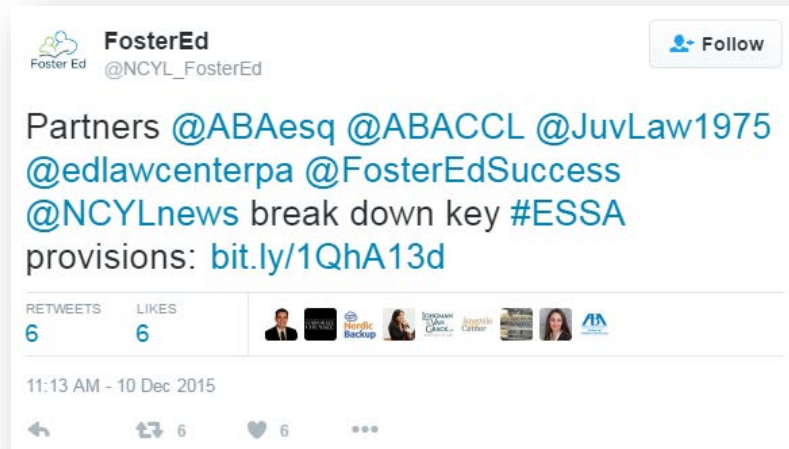
National Media Citations

- * **Children's Aid Society:** Time Warner Cable News, Capital Tonight (segment); February 5, 2016: "Helping Foster Kids Go to College." Featuring Jessica Maxwell from the Fostering Youth Success Alliance (FYSA) and Kari Siddiqui from the Schuyler Center.
- * **Center for Sustainable Journalism Kennesaw State University:** NPR.org; October 1, 2015: "Many Former Foster Youths Don't Know They Have Health Care."
- * **St. Anne's Transition Age Youth Collaborative:** prweb.com; February 19, 2016: "TAY Collaborative Curriculum Chosen for Innovative Foster Youth Jobs Initiative."
- * **University of Southern California Children's Data Network:** CNBC; January 14, 2016: "Can Life as a Data Point Save America's At-Risk Children?"
- * **Children's Village:** Huffington Post; February 24, 2016: "Towards Equity: Bi-partisan Federal Legislation Tackles Racial Disproportionality and Puts Families First."

The screenshot shows the top portion of a Huffington Post article. The header includes the site logo 'THE HUFFINGTON POST' with the tagline 'INFORM • INSPIRE • ENTERTAIN • EMPOWER'. Below the header is a navigation bar with categories: NEWS, POLITICS, ENTERTAINMENT, WELLNESS, WHAT'S WORKING, VOICES, VIDEO, and ALL SECTIONS. The article is categorized under 'THE BLOG'. The main headline is 'Towards Equity: Bi-partisan Federal Legislation Tackles Racial Disproportionality and Puts Families First'. Below the headline is the date and time: '02/24/2016 02:21 pm ET | Updated Feb 25, 2016'. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Email, and Print. A 'Like' button shows 315 likes. The author is identified as 'Jeremy Christopher Kohomban, Ph.D.' with a Twitter icon, and his title is 'President and CEO of The Children's Village'. Below the author information, it says 'Co-Authored by Jess Dannhauser, President and CEO, Graham Windham'. The beginning of the article text is visible: '"Any addict who walks into the police station with the remainder of their drug equipment (needles, etc) or drugs and asks for help will NOT be charged. Instead we will walk them through the system toward detox and recovery. We will assign

A Look at Grantee Like/Share Details

- * **Alliance for Children’s Rights:** The Hollywood Reporter, “Compassion When Foster Kids Become Mothers.” July 31, 2015.
*  1.7M  1.94M  502K
- * **Children’s Aid Society:** The Children’s Aid Society website (blog), “At the Capital, Strength in Numbers.” February 5, 2016. The article highlights Advocacy Day events in Albany, during which 80 scheduled meetings with senators and assembly members occurred.
*  265 Likes
- * **National Center for Youth Law:** Twitter post. December 10, 2015.
*  6 Retweets & 6 Likes



Multimedia Products Developed. Information on multimedia products was captured with the questions below:

- Q4a. Number of multimedia products developed from April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016.
- Q4b. Provide the titles of up to five multimedia products and how they were disseminated between April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016. Please include any feedback you received on the products.

Multimedia products were defined to “include podcasts and videos related to your Foundation funding.” Grantees further interpreted multimedia products to include apps, online referral tools, and digital PSAs.

A total of 17 grantees, or 53.1 percent, reported 51 multimedia products developed within the data collection period.

Center for Sustainable Journalism: Kennesaw State University cited “Messengers,” a video produced and published on Youth Today, and the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange. The video takes a close look at a mentoring program run by The Children’s Village in the Bronx and has 350+ views.



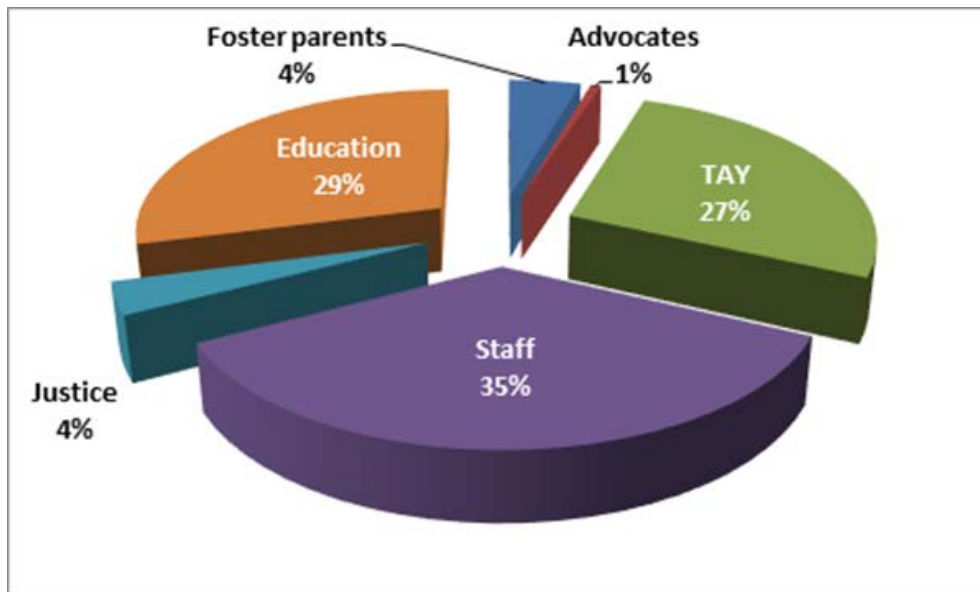
Curricula, Created or Revised. Grantees responded to the requests the below about created curricula.

- Q5a. Number of curricula created or revised from April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016.
- Q5b. Provide the titles of up to five curricula created or revised from April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016, along with the intended audience, number of persons using the curricula (if known), and any feedback received on the curricula.

A **curriculum** was defined as “a specialized course of study, either print or electronic.”

Sixteen grantees, or 50.0 percent, reported a total of 90 curricula created or revised for the reporting period. As shown in Figure 4-1, audience composition reported by grantees divided into six categories: TAY, foster parents, child welfare, justice, education, and advocates.

Figure 4-1. Audience Composition for Curricula Development



4.1.2 Research Grantees

Research grantees are incredibly impactful in using scientific research to inform relevant audiences of influential stakeholders, including Federal and state officials, public and private child-welfare providers, advocacy leaders, researchers, and academics. Grantees such as Dr. Mark Courtney at the University of Chicago and Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein at the University of Southern California are contributing significant knowledge to the field regarding outcomes of youth staying in the child welfare system. This knowledge informs decisionmakers in understanding the impact recent policy is having and what steps to take moving forward.

How Knowledge Grantees are Making an Impact

Raising Awareness

Dr. Mark Courtney of the School of Social Service at the University of Chicago presented CalYOUTH Study findings in both NYC and LAC:

- In April 2016, New York University's Silver School of Social Work hosted the conference, *Making Extended Care Work for Foster Youth: The State of the Evidence*. The conference focused on key issues facing TAY, including employment, education, health, mental health, youth engagement in services, pregnancy and parenting, and social relationships. In addition, Dr. Mark Courtney, a grantee, gave the keynote address, highlighting findings from his groundbreaking CalYOUTH Study. With more than 240 attendees, including other grantees, the conference provided an opportunity for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and youth to engage in a dialogue about achievements and continued challenges facing TAY.
- Again in May 2016, Chapin Hall and the Hilton Foundation held an event to share CalYOUTH Study findings with LAC. The event, which attracted more than 100 attendees, included foundation representatives, policymakers, practitioners, foster youth, advocates, and academics. Specific panels on various aspects of the findings (health, housing, criminal justice, education) helped spark discussion and raise awareness of how extended foster care is benefiting youth and what barriers remain.
 - The Alliance for Children's Rights picked up on this story and also publicized the findings on their website for further exposure to the general public: <http://kids-alliance.org/galleries/chapin-hall-releases-new-report-on-extended-foster-care/>
- In January 2016, the California Co-Investment Partnership disseminated an "Insights" report on the status of crossover youth in California, and provided

policy recommendations for moving forward. The issue offers an overview of the data, studies, and policy and practice reform efforts responding to the needs of the crossover youth to “move beyond blaming systems, and instead address our shared responsibility to prevent crossover for the most vulnerable of our youth.” The brief drew on data from current grantee UC Berkeley, and cited the work of current Hilton grantee Dr. Mark Courtney, and former grantees Dr. Dennis Culhane and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown (see http://co-invest.org/home/wp-content/uploads/insights_volume10.pdf).

Promoting Cross-Sector Learning

- Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein with the Children’s Data Network, and Dr. Mark Courtney with the CalYOUTH Study are making data and research findings from their respective efforts available to other grantees via events like those described above, and through informal discussions. In doing so, they are helping to “*form a learning community to collectively implement programs and consciously learn from one another*” (Grantee Interview, John Burton Foundation).
- By promoting their research findings, especially around outcomes for TAY, grantees are setting the stage for establishing standardized definitions, disaggregating data, and developing consistent benchmarks against which grantees can measure the impact of their efforts to improve the lives of TAY in Los Angeles County and New York City (interviews with key stakeholders at John Burton Foundation and Children Now).

Informing Policy Advocacy

- Grantees reported using Dr. Courtney’s CalYOUTH Study findings and Dr. Putnam-Hornstein’s research on pregnant and parenting youth as key reference points for providing both justification and future direction for the policy reforms with which they are involved.
 - Representatives from Community Coalition, Children Now, John Burton Foundation, and Public Counsel all stressed the continued need for access to timely, pertinent information in the form of policy briefs, applied analysis, and research studies to provide foster youth advocates, including themselves, with the necessary data to compel state legislators to act. As one stakeholder from the John Burton Foundation stated: “*Without the Hilton-funded research of Emily Putnam-Hornstein, we would be screaming in the wind. Other states are looking to us but they do not have the data. Hilton’s investment in her research is having a national impact.*”

From the University of Chicago, Dr. Mark Courtney delivered eleven presentations supporting his three publications of his Foundation-related project, CalYOUTH. The focus of these publications include: (1) early findings on extended foster care and legal permanency; (2) mental health, substance use problems, and service utility; and (3) perspectives of foster youth and caseworkers. All findings and other reports can be found on the website of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Courtney estimated 130 Foundation-related citations in the media for the reporting period.

The University of Southern California's, Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein reported over 20 presentations reaching over 970 attendees and 8 publications related to her Foundation-supported work at the Children's Data Network. One particular publication, "*Extended foster care for transition age youth: an opportunity for pregnancy prevention and parenting support*" was disseminated by the John Burton Foundation and reported to have been downloaded over 5,000 times. A PDF version of the publication is available on the Children's Data Network website. In addition, Dr. Putnam-Hornstein estimated 254 citations in the media.



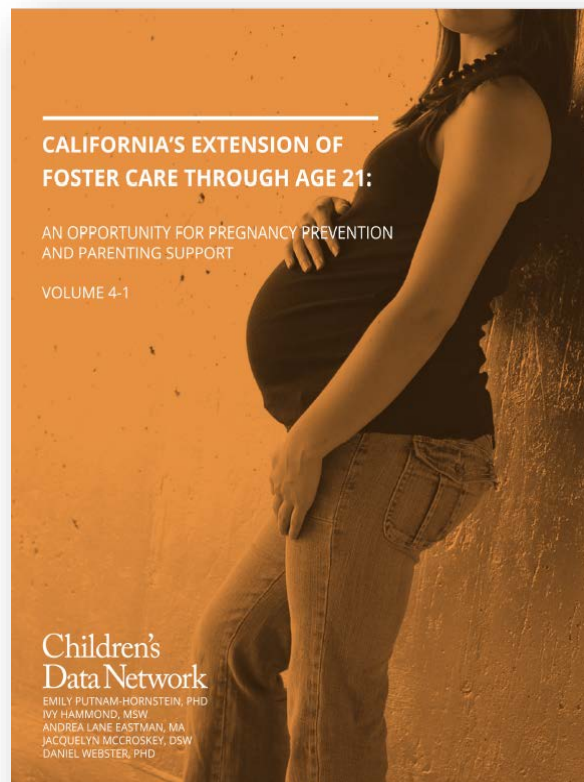
Chapin Hall Discussion Paper

Mental Health and Substance Use Problems and Service Utilization by Transition-Age Foster Youth: Early Findings from CalYOUTH
Mark E. Courtney
Pajarita Charles

Introduction¹

A growing body of research has shown that youth transitioning to adulthood from the foster care system exhibit rates of mental health disorders that are much higher than their same-age peers (Havlicek, Garcia, & Smith, 2013). It is less clear whether these young people are more likely than their peers to suffer from substance use disorders, though many of them do use substances in harmful ways (Keller, Salazar, & Courtney, 2010). Given their trauma histories, it is not surprising that youth in care often have mental health problems when they enter care. However, research also suggests that the instability they often experience while in care can exacerbate these problems (Rubin, O'Reilly, Luan, & Localio, 2007).

¹ Disclaimer: The findings reported herein were performed with the permission of the California Department of Social Services. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the authors and should not be considered as representing the policy of the collaborating agency or any agency of the California government.



CALIFORNIA'S EXTENSION OF FOSTER CARE THROUGH AGE 21:

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PREGNANCY PREVENTION AND PARENTING SUPPORT

VOLUME 4-1

Children's Data Network
EMILY PUTNAM-HORNSTEIN, PHD
IVY HAMMOND, MSW
ANDREA LANE EASTMAN, MA
JACQUELYN MCCROSKEY, DSW
DANIEL WEBSTER, PHD

Seattle Children's Hospital reported eight presentations and five publications. Currently, they have drafted a manual and script for a 6 hour pregnancy and STD prevention training for foster and kinship caregivers. In addition, the curriculum titled, "Foster Youth & Sexual Health: Training for Foster & Kinship Caregivers" was created to teach foster and kinship caregivers strategies for talking to foster youth about sexual health and risky behaviors. One pilot training has been completed and three additional pilot trainings are scheduled for this spring. To supplement the training curriculum, they are working toward completing two brief animated videos, "States of Mind" and "DEAR MAN."

4.2 Progress on Leveraged Funding Goal

What We're Learning, Where We're Going
Learnings
There is good news here! Grantees have far surpassed leveraged funding expectations of \$20 million by reporting more than \$31 million in leveraged funding from private sources and almost \$12 million from public sources.
What's next?
Grantees should be encouraged to continue their progress in this area.

The inclusion of leveraged funding data in the GDCF provides the Foundation with a quantitative measure by which to assess the impact of FYSI funding on the supported organizations. The impact of the FYSI can be measured in part by assessing the leveraged funds—private and public—which attach to FYSI-supported projects. Grantees were asked to list any leveraged funds together with the source for the reporting period, and indicate the status as committed or received.

The GDCF defines leveraged funding as using one source of funding (Conrad N. Hilton Foundation) to attract commitment of funds from other sources. These funds include private (corporate, foundation, individual) or public funding supporting the project that is a part of the FYSI.

Continuing grantees were provided with the list of funds that they reported last year and were instructed to review the list and make any necessary changes. All grantees were then instructed to:

- List any committed or received funding (not projected) between April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016 for your FYSI project.

Grantees³⁴ submitted details on private- and public-leveraged funding for the period, with a total of \$14,304,665 in private and public funds both committed and received (Figures 4-1 and 4-2) In the previous year, grantees reported leveraging \$10,095,012 total in funds.

³⁴ This includes only grantees with current funding.

Figure 4-1. Status of Leveraged Funds from Private Sources, April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016

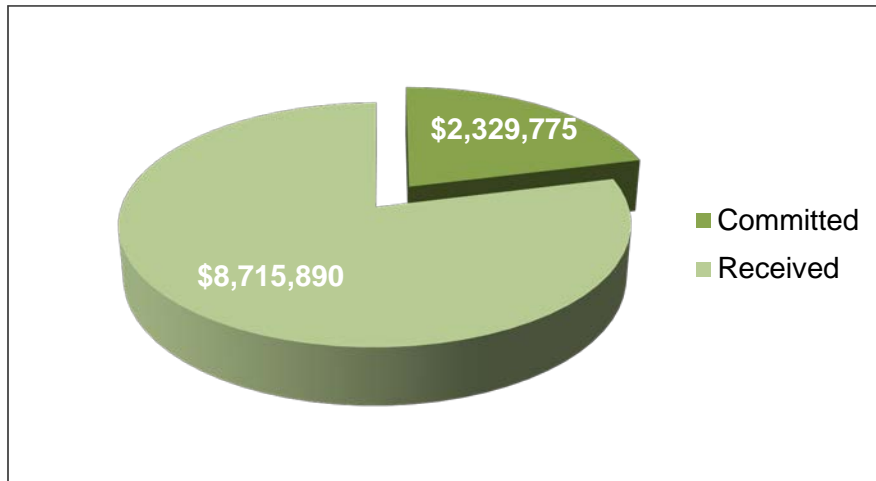
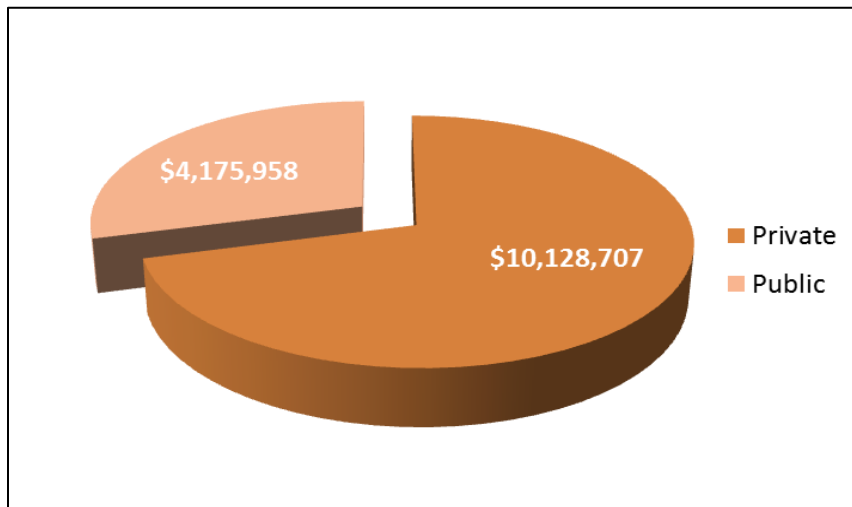


Figure 4-2. Private and Public-Leveraged Funds, April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016



5. CONCLUSIONS

The FYSI is built on a theory of change that proposes that funding a strategic, three-component initiative (self-sufficiency services, systems change, and new knowledge development) increases the likelihood of improving outcomes for TAY in LAC and NYC. The evaluation is not a program evaluation; that is, it is not designed to measure individual grantee outcomes. Instead, it is focused on the overall strategy and its ability to influence change in youth, systems change, and knowledge and funding sharing goals.

This report covers evaluation activities from June 2015 through August 2016. Specifically, it covers findings from (1) grantee progress reports and data collection forms, (2) policy tracking activities, (3) the second social network analysis survey, and (4) analysis of administrative and secondary data sources.

Transition Age Youth Goals

First and foremost, grantees are making progress toward TAY self-sufficiency goals, especially around improving educational outcomes for TAY. Since FYSI began, grantees have provided almost 3,500 TAY with education-focused services, over 3,000 TAY with career readiness or employment services, and almost 4,000 TAY with connections to material resources necessary for school success (laptops, cell phones). Most foster youth are enrolled in school, and ever-increasing numbers of TAY are attending college, whether at a 2- or 4-year institution or vocational training program.

With regard to employment, several grantees provided critical opportunities for TAY, including the Aspen Institute, which launched the 100,000 Opportunities Initiative, creating “more pathways to economic prosperity for youth.” Catalyzed with assistance from the Foundation, the initiative is quickly becoming one of the largest employer-led youth employment coalitions in the country. Meanwhile, iFoster’s Jobs Program saw its first 150 TAY participants gain employment under the program.

On the topic of pregnant and parenting and crossover youth, grantees are also making progress. Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein’s groundbreaking research on pregnant and parenting youth continues to shape the national agenda around serving this subpopulation of TAY. Her research also suggests more work is needed, recently showing that in a 2014 study, more than 28 percent of female foster youth in LAC gave birth to one or more children by age 20, an increase of about 3 percentage points over what was reported in 2013. Crossover youth continue to pose a challenge to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. One of the four grantees funded specifically to work with this vulnerable youth population served 315 crossover youth in the last 2

years, but more importantly, is creating systems reform through advocacy and education (i.e., community forums, policy advocacy workshops, policy briefs and op-ed pieces, direct advocacy with probation departments) to increase awareness of the particular needs and challenges faced by crossover youth and services designed to assist them.

Grantees continue to promote activities focused on supporting caregivers, reaching over 5,756 caregivers and service providers and staff who work with caregivers, with much of this activity focused on trainings and other supports to improve educational outcomes for TAY. In addition, in the Cal-YOUTH study, foster youth reported their caregivers as most helpful to them around education, employment, living skills, physical health, family planning, and relationship skills. Preparing Youth for Adulthood data show that 95 percent of foster youth report having a permanent connection to an adult—a huge achievement, to say the least.

Systems Change Goals

Cross-sector coordination and collaboration is a persistent strength of FYSI grantees. Each year the MEL has assessed cross-sector coordination and collaboration, and each year it has gotten stronger. The second stage of the social network analysis confirms clear evidence of network growth over time: the network now includes new and more connections among grantees, more connections between grantees and partner agencies, and has shown a significant increase in partner agencies. Overall, the sustainability of the network has improved, which demonstrates that FYSI has strengthened the infrastructure by which child welfare serving agencies in LAC and NYC collaborate around shared interests—this kind of collaboration is an indicator of shared knowledge and practice, more seamless referrals, a collective voice on advocacy, and a more unified vision across grantees about how to improve outcomes for TAY.

In addition, advocacy remains one of the strongest areas of progress for the grantees. Grantees continue to give voice to foster youth by representing their interests in national and state legislative activities, and advocating for efforts to improve educational outcomes, coordinate and expand employment opportunities, improve data available to track youth outcomes, and ensure caregivers have the resources they need to effectively parent and support the youth in their care. Since FYSI began, TAY are staying in care for longer periods of time. This, coupled with declining exits from foster care, offer clear evidence that policy reforms – like AB 12 in CA – have been successful!

Grantees' advocacy work is incredibly important. As foster youth have limited ability to influence political, social, or economic change themselves, they need trusted advocates, like the grantees, to represent their views where they matter most—around policies that significantly impact their well-being. National Center for Youth Law's successful efforts include foster and juvenile justice youth provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Obama in 2015, is just one important example of the influence of grantees' advocacy efforts.

Grantees also continue to make enormous strides to disseminate knowledge about their work with the larger child welfare policy, research and practice communities, and leverage funding to support this work. It is important to recognize that dissemination can be considered another form of advocacy in that it is a tool by which grantees can engage and influence stakeholders and decisionmakers around issues important to child welfare, thus creating opportunities for far-reaching, positive impacts for TAY.

Over the past 3 years, 44 grantees have made 1,104 presentations, authored more than 246 publications, been cited in the media 1,660 times, and produced 159 multimedia products and 320 curricula—advancing the reach of their efforts enormously. Research grantees are producing and disseminating findings via less traditional avenues like public events and “issue briefs” that are changing the landscape for TAY by helping child welfare and juvenile justice policymakers, practitioners, and other researchers understand their status and the factors that contribute to it and recommend areas for further study. These all help to advance TAY's cause. In addition, by sharing their findings with other grantees, they have effectively “formed a learning community” whereby grantees can “collectively implement programs and consciously learn from each other.” This kind of sharing not only extends the reach of the grantees' efforts, but also promotes continued collaboration and cross-sector coordination among grantees.

Finally, grantees have far surpassed leveraged funding expectations of \$20 million by reporting more than \$45 million in total leveraged funds, with \$31 million in leveraged funding from private sources and almost \$12 million from public sources. This information alone demonstrates the pronounced impact FYSI has had on grantees and TAY alike, but when coupled with the other progress highlighted in this report, it becomes more obvious that FYSI has had a profound and lasting impact on the child welfare community, not just in LAC and NYC, but across the nation.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a lot to celebrate, but there is still work to be done. Throughout the report, we have highlighted the successes that grantees have achieved both in the past year and across the 3-year FYSI period—and they are substantial. They have made great strides in achieving FYSI goals to increase TAY self-sufficiency; strengthen and increase cross-system collaboration and promote systems change; and develop and disseminate new knowledge about the needs of TAY and effective strategies for meeting those needs.

However, as FYSI moves into its fourth year and efforts are underway to prepare for the future of it, it is an appropriate time for the Foundation to both take stock of its achievements and determine how best to focus its future FYSI efforts. Throughout the report, we have also highlighted areas where work still needs to be done; these provide a starting point for the Foundation as it considers how best to focus FYSI targets, moving forward.

In this section, based on our experience and the information we have collected and reported on over the past 3 years, we make some recommendations for taking FYSI further and increasing its impact. These recommendations are made in four areas: (1) build the evidence base for *what works* to improve educational outcomes for TAY; (2) create more inroads into understanding the status of pregnant and parenting and crossover youth, the factors that contribute to their status, and how best to serve them; (3) improve the availability and accessibility of cross-system data to track outcomes for TAY; and (4) continue to support dissemination and information-sharing activities to promote FYSI's reach beyond the child welfare community and promote “translational knowledge” among grantees.

Invest in building the evidence base around what works to promote positive educational outcomes for TAY. Across the country, agencies are increasingly focusing their investments on programs with demonstrated evidence of effectiveness based on rigorous evaluation research. Despite real and significant efforts to make headway in child welfare, a dearth of proven, evidence-based programs and interventions persist. In addition, while grantees have made significant progress around educational outcomes for TAY, problems endure. TAY in LAC continue to experience school disruptions that contribute to school absence and dropout rates, while in NYC, one-third of 19-year-old TAYs were not in school and had not completed high school. Given the high risk associated with such negative events as criminal activity and homelessness for youth without a high school degree, this constitutes a considerable problem for TAY. Building on current successes, the Foundation might consider identifying one or two grantee programs focused specifically on improving educational outcomes and investing resources in a rigorous program evaluation of them; for

example, United Friends of the Children in LAC and New York Foundling and Graham Windham have academic preparation programs that have shown promise in helping foster youth graduate from high school and attend college. This could be done in collaboration with the MEL team to either build the capacity of the grantees to collect and analyze evaluation data or conduct the evaluation itself, extending the MEL's current responsibilities. Findings generated from such an evaluation could be used to promote grantees' programs as "evidence-based" and support replication of them in other jurisdictions. This would be a major contribution to the field.

Make further inroads into understanding pregnant and parenting and crossover youth. As noted, pregnant and parenting and crossover youth continue to pose a challenge for child welfare and juvenile justice policymakers and practitioners. And while research grantees are contributing substantially to this body of knowledge, more work is required first to better understand the factors that contribute to their circumstances and how best to prevent them. By supporting both research grantees and self-sufficiency grantees, the Foundation is uniquely positioned to further the cause and service of this population. The findings being generated by research can be used—is being used—by self-sufficiency grantees to adjust the focus of their efforts and, in turn, improve outcomes. This type of integration should be encouraged and can be achieved through forums or convenings focused on this population. For example, in FYSI's first year, Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, a dual geography grantee, led a forum on crossover youth that was very successful in raising awareness of this population and the special challenges they face. In addition, funding more grantees to work *specifically* with this vulnerable youth population will continue to generate knowledge that can be used to improve outcomes for them.

Improve the availability and accessibility of cross-system data to track outcomes for TAY. There is a good deal of data presented in this report; however, it was culled from numerous sources with each data source using unique definitions and measures of similar constructs, and tracking progress across systems in different ways. This is a problem as it creates a situation where it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to effectively track outcomes for TAY within and across jurisdictions and systems. To this end, the Foundation could support new systems reform or research grantees to focus specifically on ways to integrate data across systems; current research grantees could even make recommendations for agencies or individuals who might be appropriate for this type of work. The Foundation might also think to use its current research grantees as "thought leaders" in this area, having them provide leadership around how to improve data systems to support the needs of both the Foundation and the larger child welfare and juvenile justice communities. An integrated data system would be an enormous contribution to the field.

Continue to support dissemination and information-sharing activities to increase FYSI’s reach beyond the child welfare community, and promote “translational knowledge” among grantees. Information is only useful if it is provided to individuals who can understand and use it. Grantees share information in a variety of ways, reflecting both traditional avenues (e.g., reports and briefings) and those that are more technologically savvy (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram). In this way, they reach a vast and diverse audience—grantees have been cited in such media more than 1,600 times and have created more than 159 multimedia products. These efforts should continue and grantees should be acknowledged for their contributions.

In addition, in this year’s report, we highlighted something new: research grantees making their knowledge relevant and available to both the other grantees and a wider child welfare audience. In this way, they are promoting *translational knowledge*, translating research findings so that other grantees and stakeholders can apply them to their own work. Translational knowledge is best described as “a systematic effort to convert basic research knowledge into practical applications to enhance human well-being.”³⁵ In other words, research is *translated* in a way that allows policymakers and practitioners alike the opportunity to use it in practical ways. It includes “action steps” for the field or opportunities, like those Mark Courtney created (with support from the Foundation) in his May 2016 event, where he publicized CalYOUTH research findings to generate a discussion with various child welfare stakeholders around how extended foster care is benefitting TAY and what challenges remain. These kinds of dissemination activities allow child welfare stakeholders to understand and make practical use of research findings, but also to offer their own insights into research findings. Along with continued dissemination and knowledge sharing, research grantees should be encouraged—even funded—to continue and expand this trend toward translational knowledge. The more able grantees (and others) are to integrate research findings into their work on the ground, the stronger the impact will be on improved outcomes for TAY.

³⁵ <http://evidencebasedliving.human.cornell.edu/2010/08/18/what-is-translational-research/>.

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APPENDICES

CalYOUTH Los Angeles Sample Description and Additional Tables

The Los Angeles County CalYOUTH sample (Courtney et al., 2014b) consists of 106 foster youth, including 65 females (61.3%) and 41 males (38.7%). All youth were approximately 17 years old at the time of the baseline interview; most were age 17 (n=97, 91.5%) and the rest were still 16 (almost 17) or had just turned 18 at the time of the interview. For simplicity, this report refers to the youth as age 17. More than half identified themselves as Hispanic (n=58, 54.7%). More than half identified as mixed race (n=61, 57.6%), one-fifth black (n=21, 19.8%), 13.2% white (n=14), and 6 Asian or American Indian.

Most of the foster youth in the Los Angeles sample were living in non-relative foster homes (43.4%), relative foster home (17.0%), or group care/RTC placements (25.5%) at the time of the interview. A smaller number were in guardianship arrangements (8.5%) or adoption/other placements (5.7%). When asked about the number of foster homes (relative or non-relative) they had lived in, just over one-third reported being in 2 or fewer foster homes (n=38, 35.8%), less than one-third in 3 or 4 foster homes (n=31, 29.3%), and just over one-third in 5 or more foster homes (n=37, 34.9%). More than half of the youth had lived in a group home, residential treatment center, or child caring institution (n=58, 54.7%). Of the 58 youth, most had been in one or two (n=39, 67.2%), and one-third in three or more (n=19, 32.8%) group homes, residential treatment centers, or child caring institutions.

CalYOUTH participants were also asked about their desire to stay in foster care after age 18 and reasons for staying. (Table A-1 LAC TAY Desire to Stay in Care after age 18.)

Table A-1. LAC TAY Desire to Stay in Care after age 18: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106)

	n	%
Would you want to stay in foster care after age 18? ^a		
Yes	72	67.9
No	31	29.2
Reason closest to why you most WANT to stay in care (n=75)		
Want help achieving educational goals	42	56.0
Continue receiving housing and other material support	22	29.3
Happy in current foster care placement	5	6.7
Other responses ^b	6	8.0
Reason closest to why you would most NOT want to stay in care (n=34)^c		
Want to be on own and want more freedom	12	35.3
Do not want to deal with social workers anymore	6	17.6
Do not want to deal with court system or foster parents/group home staff anymore	5	14.7
Other responses ^c	11	32.4
Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).		
^a There were another n=3 youth with response “Don’t know/Refused.”		
^b Other combines response options: “do not have anywhere else to go”, “want to continue having an attorney and court hearings,” and “something else.” Two other options were not selected by LA County youth.		
^c “Do not want to deal with court system anymore” and “Do not want to deal with foster parents or group home staff anymore” were combined into one category. Others combine four options: “want to live with biological parents,” “want to live with boyfriend or girlfriend,” “want to join the military,” and “something else.”		

According to the CalYOUTH Study findings (Courtney et al., 2014b), most Los Angeles foster youth interviewed at age 17 were enrolled in school (87.7%), and the others (12.3%) had been enrolled in the past academic year (Table A-2. LAC TAY Education and Employment Status). Most were in high school (79.2%), five youth (4.7%) were enrolled in a 2-year or community college, and the rest (16.0%) were in an “other” school setting. A small proportion of foster youth were employed at the time of the interview (13.2%), working mostly part-time, and more than one-fifth (21.7%) had completed an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training during the past year (Table A-2). One-quarter (24.5%) of youth reported they had worked for pay outside the home during the last 4 weeks.

Table A-2. LAC TAY Education and Employment Status: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106)

	n	%
Education		
High School (HS) diploma/GED/HS equivalency earned (age 17)	11	10.4
Currently enrolled in school	93	87.7
Not currently enrolled, but enrolled past academic year	13	12.3
Type of School Enrolled In		
High school	84	79.2
GED classes or vocational school	0	0.0
2-year or community college	5	4.7
4-year college	0	0.0
Other	17	16.0
Highest grade completed		
9th grade or lower	11	10.4
10th grade	36	34.0
11th grade	46	43.4
12th grade	12	11.3
Vocational/job training certificate or license		
Ever placed in special education	29	27.4
Employment		
Currently employed part-time or full-time (most part-time)	14	13.2
Completed apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training during past year (paid or unpaid)	23	21.7
During last 4 weeks, worked for pay for anyone outside home	26	24.5

Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).

Los Angeles foster youth responses regarding health (Table A-3), social support (Table A-4), perception of preparedness to achieve goals (Table A-5), receipt of training and services (Table A-6), and characteristics of TAY pregnancy (Table A-7) are presented below. Additional responses related to education and employment, pregnancy and parenting, criminal justice involvement, and desire to stay in care are included in the body of the report.

Table A-3. Los Angeles County TAY Health and Mental Health: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013

	n	%
Health (n=106)		
General health		
Very good or excellent	57	53.8
Good	33	31.1
Fair or poor	16	15.1
How often a health or emotional problem caused youth to miss a day of school in the last month ^a		
Never	52	49.1
Just a few times	44	41.5
Once a week or more often	8	7.5
Worst injury in last year		
Very minor or minor	77	72.6
Serious	17	16.0
Very serious or extremely serious	12	11.3
Suicidal Ideation or Attempt (n=104)		
Past suicidal ideation	39	37.5
Past suicide attempt	22	21.2
Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).		
^a Response of “Don’t know/Refused” n=2, 1.9 percent for “How often a health or emotional problem caused...”		

Table A-4. Los Angeles County TAY Social Support: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013

	n	%
Supportive Relationships with Adults (n=106)		
At least one adult in youth’s life to whom youth can go for advice or emotional support (other than caseworker)	93	87.7
Social Support (n=105)^a		
Emotional support		
0 or 1 individual ^b	18	17.1
2 individuals	28	26.7
3 individuals	59	56.2
Tangible support		
None	5	4.8
1 individual	18	17.1
2 individuals	40	38.1
3 individuals	42	40.0
Advice/guidance supports		
None	5	4.8
1 individual	27	25.7
2 individuals	24	22.9
3 individuals	49	46.7

Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).

^a The Social Support survey asked the foster youth to nominate individuals they could turn to for each type of support. Results represent the number of individuals they nominated. The total (n=105) reflects that the social support questions were not administered to one LA youth “due to a survey administration error.”

^bFor Emotional support, 0 individuals and 1 individual were combined due to few youth who said 0.

Table A-5. Los Angeles County TAY Perception of Preparedness to Achieve Goals: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106)

Life Skill Area ^a	Very Prepared		Prepared		Somewhat Prepared or Not Prepared ^b	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Education or Job Training	54	50.9	36	34.0	15	14.2
Employment (get and keep a job)	24	22.6	46	43.4	35	33.0
Housing	18	17.0	32	30.2	55	51.9
Financial Literacy	20	18.9	33	31.1	52	49.1
Independent Living Skills	51	48.1	31	29.2	23	21.7
Physical Health	36	34.0	47	44.3	22	20.8
Mental/Behavioral Health	38	35.8	46	43.4	21	19.8
Substance Abuse	70	66.0	29	27.4	6	5.7
Family Planning	61	57.5	29	27.4	15	14.2
Relationship skills	54	50.9	42	39.6	9	8.5
Parenting (n=6)	6	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).

^a For Los Angeles County, all items have n=1, 0.9 percent Don't know/Refused.

^b Somewhat Prepared and Not Prepared are combined due to small cell size for three of the items. Participants were also asked about Sexual Health, and Prepared and Somewhat Prepared categories were combined due to small cell size. Los Angeles results regarding Sexual Health were: Very Prepared (n=72, 67.9%), Prepared or Somewhat Prepared (n=33, 31.1%), Don't know/Refused (n=1, 0.9%).

Table A-6. Los Angeles County TAY Receipt of Life Skills Preparation, Support Services, or Training: CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013 (n=106)

Life Skill Area ^a	A lot		Some		A little		None	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Education or Job Training	32	30.2	56	52.8	12	11.3	5	4.7
Employment (get and keep a job)	21	19.8	53	50.0	21	19.8	10	9.4
Housing	23	21.7	37	34.9	24	22.6	21	19.8
Financial Literacy	18	17.0	44	41.5	30	28.3	13	12.3
Independent Living Skills	45	42.5	38	35.8	17	16.0	5	4.7
Physical Health	38	35.8	43	40.6	18	17.0	6	5.7
Mental/Behavioral Health	33	31.1	55	51.9	8	7.5	9	8.5
Substance Abuse	50	47.2	34	32.1	12	11.3	9	8.5
Sexual Health	65	61.3	31	29.2	9	8.5	0	0.0
Family Planning	53	50.0	32	30.2	10	9.4	9	8.5
Relationship skills	51	48.1	37	34.9	9	8.5	8	7.5

Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).

^a Responses of “Don’t know/Refused” are not shown, but are evident when adding Ns and %s. For Los Angeles County, all items have at least n=1, 0.9 percent Don’t know/Refused. Family Planning has n=2, 1.9 percent.

**Table A-7. Los Angeles County Characteristics of TAY Pregnancy:
CalYOUTH Sample of Foster Youth Age 17 in 2013**

	n	%
Pregnancy among female youth^a		
Ever been pregnant (n=65 female) ^b	22	33.8
Number of times been pregnant (n=22) ^b		
1 time	14	63.6
2 or 3 times	6	27.3
Given birth to any children (n=22)		
Married to child's other parent at time child was born (n=5)	0	0.0
Characteristics of most recent pregnancy (n=22)		
Using birth control at time of pregnancy	5	22.7
Wanted to get pregnant at that time		
Definitely not or probably No	14	63.6
Neither wanted nor didn't want	6	27.3
Probably or definitely Yes	2	9.1
Youth wanted to marry partner ^b		
Yes	10	45.5
No or didn't care	10	45.5
Month of pregnancy first saw a doctor or nurse		
Month 1	7	31.8
Month 2-6	5	22.7
Month 7-9	0	0.0
Didn't receive prenatal care	5	22.7
Data Source: CalYOUTH Study: Selected findings for Los Angeles County (Courtney et al., 2014b).		
^a All 6 youth reporting they had living children were female.		
^b Don't know/Refused not reported in table. Ever been pregnant n=1 Don't know/Refused (and n=42 no). Number of times been pregnant n=2, youth wanted to marry partner n=2, month of pregnancy n=5 Don't know/Refused. The CalYOUTH Study also included questions about the male youth's history of impregnating females, but LA-specific findings are not reported due to small sample sizes, as "fewer than 5 males reported ever getting a female pregnant" (Courtney et al., 2014b).		

PYA education data for each youth in care 2013 to 2015 is presented in Table A-8.

Table A-8. PYA Outcomes for APPLA Youth Ages 17-21 in Out-of-Home Placement in NYC, 2013-2015					
Outcome	Answer	2013	2014	2015	Average
		(N=2,506) %	(N=2,591) %	(N=2,414) %	2013-2015 %
Youth is currently attending high school/GED	Graduated	28.1	27.9	29.7	28.6
	Yes	45.0	45.1	41.8	44.0
	No	26.9	27.0	28.4	27.4
Youth is currently attending college	Graduated	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.5
	Yes	14.2	13.6	15.1	14.3
	No	84.5	84.6	83.3	84.2
Youth is currently attending vocational/trade program	Graduated	3.4	3.9	4.3	3.8
	Yes	5.5	4.7	4.5	4.9
	No	91.1	91.5	91.2	91.3
Youth is eligible to apply for ETV	Not in school	34.6	34.2	32.4	33.7
	Yes	22.0	21.1	20.4	21.2
	No	43.4	44.7	47.2	45.1
Youth is currently working or in an internship	Yes	26.8	26.6	27.1	26.8
	No	73.2	73.4	72.9	73.2

Data Source: ACS PYA database. Prepared by the Management Analysis & Reporting Unit, ACS, February 22, 2016.

Notes: PYA data are collected twice a year for youth in foster care with APPLA. Answers are based on the last PYA form completed for the youth in a year. The number of APPLA youth age 21 increased substantially between 2013 (N=64) and 2015 (N=158), whereas the number of youth age 17-20 declined slightly (2013 N=2,442 to 2015 N=2,256). Data include duplicate youth across data years, as some youth remained in care for 2 or 3 of these years.