

Foster Youth Strategic Initiative 2018 Evaluation Report

Prepared for the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation by Child Trends with strategic consultants Tim Ross (Action Research) and Janis Spire

	in NYC had a verifiable source of income. ⁹	for this 2022 outcome, including information on retention.
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Evaluation strategy

To track progress made in each jurisdiction toward the Initiative’s three objectives, the Hilton Foundation and Child Trends developed the Results Framework. This framework comprises six issue areas: education (grades 8–12); postsecondary education; employment; placement; focused interventions (including access to reproductive health, supports for expecting and parenting foster TAY, and supports for foster TAY also involved in the juvenile justice system); and coordination across systems. Within each issue area, the Initiative established a set of goals and identified specific benchmarks that describe essential elements of progress toward each goal. To review the complete set of goals and benchmarks, see Appendix B.

To determine the extent to which each jurisdiction achieved the benchmarks, we assessed several types of information gathered from July to September 2018. These include public documents; interviews with system stakeholders; a focus group with youth; and information from grantees provided through progress reports, interviews, a survey, and publications. We cross-referenced and verified information received from grantees with stakeholder interviews and public reports/documents. In examining each benchmark, we searched for signs of political will, policy, programs, and data to understand whether and how each jurisdiction was making progress toward each of the identified benchmarks.

This evaluation strategy builds and expands on the work of the Initiative’s previous MEL partner, Westat, by establishing a rigorous methodology for assessing system-level progress in LA and NYC.

⁹ This report uses Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA) data, which is youth- or caseworker-reported and not verified, with more reliable administrative data. This data should be interpreted with caution. Source: New York City Administration for Children’s Services. (2017). *Report on Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2017/YouthInFosterCare2017.pdf>

Key findings from issue area analysis

Key finding 1: Across all issue areas and objectives, grantees are innovating.

The table below shows just a few examples of grantees' progress toward meeting the objectives. This list is not exhaustive and only provides a small sample of the work done. Additional examples can be found in the body of the full report, organized by issue area.

Examples of innovative work toward objectives

Objective 1: Strengthen systems and policy for foster TAY.	
LA	NYC
<p>Promoting strong cross-system coordination. <i>LA Reproductive Health Equity Project for Foster Youth (LA RHEP)</i> brings together youth, public agencies, advocates, and organizations to promote evidence-informed sexual and reproductive health services for foster TAY, resulting in new statewide policies and a LA Board of Supervision's motion to ensure cross-agency coordination.</p>	<p>Promoting strong policies. The Fostering Youth Success Alliance, spearheaded by <i>Children's Aid</i>, successfully advocated for the continuation of NY State's Foster Youth College Success Initiative, which supports foster TAY with financial aid and programmatic resources, as well as an expansion of funding to \$6 million.</p>
<p>Implementing policy. The <i>Alliance for Children's Rights</i>, <i>Children's Law Center</i>, <i>Public Counsel</i> and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) co-chair a steering committee, create tools, conduct webinars, and maintain continued county and state engagement focused on strengthening the state's efforts to increase family placements and its Resource Family Approval and caregiver support policies.</p>	<p>Implementing policy. <i>Juvenile Law Center (JLC)</i> has brought together working groups, conducted trainings, and provided technical assistance at the city and state levels to support strong implementation of ESSA requirements that promote school stability for foster TAY. <i>JLC</i> has consulted on a statewide toolkit to support ESSA implementation as well as draft ACS policies on transportation and best interest decision-making,</p>
Objective 2: Expand and share knowledge with the field.	
<p>Rigorous research. Research conducted by <i>Children's Data Network</i> was used by advocates to support legislation in California around reproductive health (SB 89) and child care (AB 1164), as well as the LA Board of Supervisors' motion of crossover youth. The CalYOUTH study, conducted by the <i>University of Chicago</i>, has been used in LA, NYC, and nationally to elevate the lives and outcomes of youth with foster care experience.</p>	
<p>Sharing knowledge. <i>FrameWorks Institute</i> began research to better understand effective communications strategies when sharing information on foster TAY. <i>Fostering Media Connections</i> expanded coverage of key child welfare issues impacting foster TAY in NYC, complementing their already robust reporting in LA.</p>	
Objective 3: Advance innovative foster TAY programs.	
LA	NYC
<p>Postsecondary programs. <i>United Friends of the Children</i> supports youth with intensive supports and academic preparation around postsecondary readiness and</p>	<p>Education programs. <i>New York Foundling's Road to Success</i> tutoring program provides one-on-one tutoring and advocacy for students. An adaptation of</p>

<p>access, as well as supports that follow foster TAY throughout their postsecondary experience. <i>John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY)</i> and partners trained caseworkers on the importance of higher education and available resources, resulting in improved caseworker knowledge and attitudes.¹⁰</p>	<p>this Hilton-funded program has expanded these supports to more youth across the city. In both NYC and LA, <i>First Star</i> operates on college campuses during the summer and on weekends during the school year to provide four years of support beginning in 9th grade. This support helps to ensure students are on track to graduate from high school and are enrolled in the classes they need to achieve their educational goals toward higher education.</p>
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Key finding 2: Programs are incorporating more data in their work but face ongoing challenges to accessing and using high-quality data to track youth outcomes.

Both LA and NYC have invested in collecting and using data to support policy development, policy implementation, and programmatic decision making. For example, the CalPASS Plus data system tracks postsecondary progress and outcomes for foster TAY in community colleges and some four-year universities. LA’s Education Passport System, supported by MOUs between DCFS, the Probation Department, and all 80 school districts, shares key information to support the educational success of foster TAY. *California’s Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)* also provides access to customizable reports on children and youth involved in the child welfare system. In NYC, ACS receives data on youth engaged, enrolled, and completing workforce programs. There is also monthly data sharing between ACS and NYC’s Department of Education, which provides school attendance and report card information. ACS has also used data to drive programmatic work through its Home Away from Home initiative. Both LA and NYC track congregate care placements.

However, notable gaps and obstacles currently prevent stakeholders in both jurisdictions from regularly using data; in many cases, legal barriers to accessing and sharing data contribute to these gaps. Challenges to accessing and using data include the following:

- **Data gaps.** In developing the evaluation plan, we created a series of 51 indicators designed to measure how TAY are faring in the six issue areas. However, only seven of the 51 are currently gathered and/or reported upon as defined; an additional 22 had proxies available in LA and/or NYC. These gaps, and others described in the full report, make it difficult to understand how youth with foster care experience are faring. The following are several examples:
 - Neither jurisdiction has access to data on foster TAY outcomes after their exit from foster care, meaning that we do not know about TAY’s postsecondary education experiences or employment trajectory.
 - The Economic Development Scorecard in LA reports the number of foster TAY served by workforce development programs, but advocates and public agencies see opportunities to further strengthen the data elements captured in this report.
 - In NYC, it is possible for education data to be disaggregated and reported by foster care status on a regular basis, but NYC is not currently doing so. As a result, stakeholders cannot examine educational outcomes for foster TAY as a group outside of the limited annual data reports published by ACS.

¹⁰ The term “caseworker” is used throughout this report to refer to the individual at DCFS (in LA) or at a provider agency (in NYC) who is responsible for all child welfare case management activities.

- **Inability to link data across systems.** Youth in foster care touch other public systems, such as education, workforce, and health. To gain a full understanding of how they are faring requires connecting the data from these other systems with child welfare data. For example, to understand school stability after a placement change, schools need access to placement data gathered by the child welfare agency. Although there are some examples of linking, both LA and NYC struggle to regularly link and report aggregate data across agencies.
- **Data are not reported with sufficient frequency.** Some data are only reported periodically, making them less useful for decision-making purposes. Although much of the cutting-edge research conducted in LA and NYC rely on linked data, those data are only available for the duration and purposes of the research project and may not be available in a consistent way to all stakeholders. The research projects paint an important picture of the issues facing foster TAY, but do not have long-term applicability for advocacy or programmatic work.
- **Data are not collected or shared in useful formats.** When data are available, they may not be formatted or shared in a useful way. For example, caseworkers in LA are required to enter data on youth who have had reproductive health education as narrative text, making it difficult to run reports and understand what is happening beyond the individual level. In NYC, data are shared between ACS and the Department of Education via spreadsheets, which are difficult for some users to manipulate and analyze.
- **Data are not always shared with service providers.** In several issue areas, particularly in NYC, service providers struggle to access information on eligible foster TAY who may need access to their programming. Without sharing data with service providers, it is a challenge for programs to connect with youth who need services.

Key finding 3: The Hilton Foundation plays a unique and powerful role in both jurisdictions.

Beyond the work of its grantees, the Foundation has also spurred systems change in a variety of ways:

- **Setting the agenda for older youth improvements.** Meeting with leaders in both LA and NYC, Foundation staff regularly connect with the most senior agency executives and child welfare stakeholders to understand their priorities, promote the work of the Initiative, and help set the public agenda for older youth improvements. The Foundation's grants and other activities help keep older youth in the larger conversations of foster care and child welfare.
- **Catalyzing sustained public investments** to support foster TAY. Foundation investments, such as postsecondary education supports for foster TAY in NYC, have been credited by stakeholders with deepening public agency commitment to and investment in these areas.
- **Providing bridge funding** to fill gaps. For example, the Foundation provided bridge funding to support three education consultants at select DCFS offices in LA to process transportation requests in support of school stability. DCFS committed to hiring an additional eight consultants in the future.
- **Coordinating with and leveraging support from other funders** through participation in collaborative efforts such as the Youth Transition Funders Group and the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership. Through these collaborations, Foundation staff create opportunities for shared learning, priority setting, and leveraging of resources to support foster TAY.
- **Convening and energizing grantees** through annual meetings that provide opportunities to hear from leaders in both jurisdictions, learn from experts in the field, network, and explore potential partnerships with each other.

Foster Youth Strategic Initiative Strategy

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Foster Youth Strategic Initiative (the Initiative) focuses on supporting older youth in foster care to become self-sufficient and thriving adults. The Initiative strives to improve education and employment outcomes for transition age foster youth (foster TAY) ages 16-24, in Los Angeles County (LA) and New York City (NYC). As they transition to adulthood, foster TAY face unique challenges in accessing college and career options, and they often have few supportive adults in their lives. To build on foster TAY's resilience and transform the opportunities available to them, the Initiative has three objectives.¹¹

- Strengthen systems and policy for foster TAY.
- Expand and share knowledge with the field.
- Advance innovative foster TAY programs.

During the first phase of the Initiative (2012-2017), the Foundation invested \$53.5 million—working with grantees, stakeholders, and other funders—to advance systems reforms, provide innovative programs, increase the knowledge base around this population, and convene leaders across the many sectors that touch the lives of foster TAY. Now in its second phase (2017-2022), the Initiative continues its work to ensure that “all foster TAY have the education, skills, and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives.” The outcomes the Initiative is pursuing during this second phase are identified below.¹²

Phase II Strategy: Measuring Success

By 2022, the Initiative will achieve the following outcomes in LA and NYC:

1. A strong system and policy framework will be in place to enable all TAY to become self-sufficient, reinforced by effective advocacy and strong public and private investments
 - Public child welfare, education, juvenile justice, workforce development, and public health agencies will coordinate service delivery and align funding to improve foster TAY outcomes
 - Advocacy capacity will be expanded to promote and ensure the effective implementation of TAY-focused system and policy reform
 - \$60 million in new public funding and \$30 million in private funding will be leveraged for foster TAY programs
2. A robust pipeline of foster TAY-focused research will be established to inform and guide the development of strong policy and practice
 - Collection of critical data will be expanded to address existing gaps in order to build a more complete understanding of foster TAY
 - A comprehensive cross-sector data strategy will enable all relevant foster TAY-serving agencies to share administrative data and measure progress toward self-sufficiency
 - Targeted research will be conducted and broadly disseminated to increase the knowledge and evidence base to improve foster TAY outcomes
3. Foster TAY will have access to the supports, education, and career pathways they need to become self-sufficient and thrive
 - 75% of foster TAY will graduate from high school by age 19
 - 85% of foster TAY will attend only one school during a one-year period

¹¹ The full 2017-2022 strategy is available here: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. (2017). *2017-2022 Foster Youth Strategic Initiative Strategy*. Retrieved from <https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/learning/2017-2022-foster-youth-strategic-initiative-strategy>

¹² Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. (2017). *2017-2022 Foster Youth Strategic Initiative Strategy*. Retrieved from <https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/learning/2017-2022-foster-youth-strategic-initiative-strategy>

- LA and NYC will track and report the rates of permanent part-time or full-time work for all foster TAY through age 24

2017-2022 Foster Youth Strategic Initiative Strategy, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Role of the MEL

Child Trends' role as the Initiative's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) partner is to track progress toward the Initiative's goals, understand the grantees' and the Foundation's contributions, and identify opportunities to continue collective progress.¹³ This role includes facilitating continuous learning, supporting the incorporation of evaluative findings back into the strategy, and strengthening the field by sharing and disseminating what we learn.

Profile of 2018 grantees

Forty-four grantees funded by the Initiative in 2018 collectively received \$19.3 million from the Initiative.¹⁴ Since 2012, the Initiative has invested a total of \$72.8 million.

Locations

- **Eleven** grantees are working in New York City
- **Twenty** grantees are working in Los Angeles
- **Thirteen** grantees are working across both jurisdictions

Objectives

- **Twenty-three** grantees are working on the systems/policy objective
- **Twenty-two** grantees are working on the innovative programs objective
- **Thirteen** grantees are working on the knowledge expansion and sharing objective

For a list of grantees by location and area(s) of focus, see Appendix A. Grantee names are italicized throughout this report.

Note on data limitations

To understand whether progress made at the system level has spurred positive changes for foster TAY, we present youth-level indicators (outlined in Appendix B) by issue area throughout this report. We also present demographic and contextual information for LA and NYC. As described later in this report, current data reporting limits the availability and consistency of data reporting across LA and NYC. We caution that data from LA and NYC should not be directly compared as each jurisdiction collects and reports this information differently. Child Trends will work with the Initiative and its partners to explore opportunities for expanding and strengthening data collection and reporting in the coming years.

LA data regarding the experiences of youth ages 18-21 exiting foster care are published by the *California Child Welfare Indicators Project* using quarterly data reported to the California Department of Social Services by each county. This data includes crossover youth, or youth in foster care under the supervision

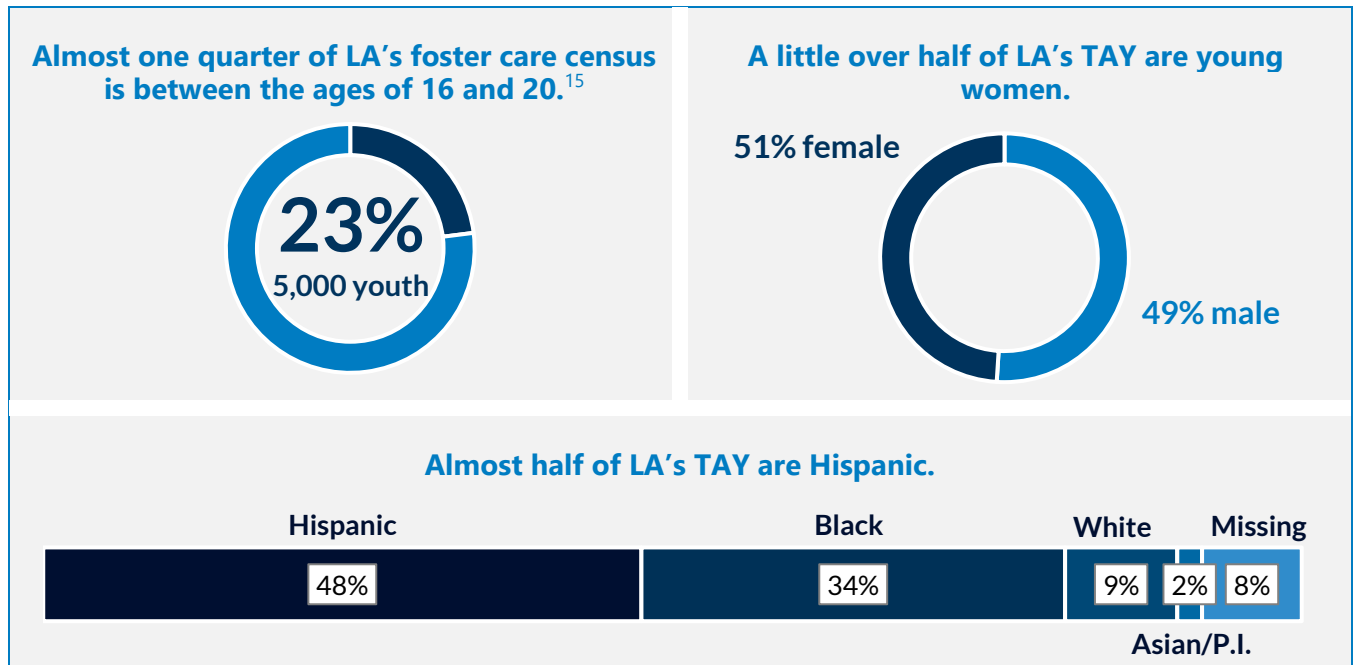
¹³ To learn more about the role of the MEL at the Foundation, see: David, T. (2016). *Emphasizing the "L" in MEL: Guest Post*. Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Retrieved from: <https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/news/151-emphasizing-the-l-in-mel-guest-post>.

¹⁴ This total includes funds received from May 2017 to December 2018.

of the probation system. Data are only reported for youth “whose whereabouts are known” and are missing for some counties; therefore, this data may not be representative of all youth exiting care.

NYC reports this data in ACS’s *Report on Youth in Foster Care*, which draws on several data sources. Some data sources (e.g., the Preparing Youth for Adulthood Checklist) are youth- or caseworker-reported and not verified and should be interpreted with caution.

Youth in Los Angeles



¹⁵ As of January 1, 2018, rounded to the nearest hundred. Includes youth in foster care who are supervised under the probation system. Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., ..., Morris, N. (2018). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx

In 2017, **1,100** youth ages 18 and older exited foster care in LA.¹⁶

Almost all youth ages 18 and older who exited care in 2017 had a permanent connection or housing arrangement when they left care.¹⁷



In addition to serving youth currently in foster care, Hilton grantees also serve former foster youth ages 21-24.

There are an estimated **11,000** former foster youth ages 21-24 in LA.¹⁸

Systems in Los Angeles

We include the information in this section to provide context for understanding the systems with which foster TAY engage in LA. Throughout the remainder of the report, we discuss systems' specific strengths and challenges with respect to supporting TAY.

The **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)** is the public agency in Los Angeles County responsible for child welfare services. Child welfare services are county-administered, with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) providing direction and support at the state level. DCFS has 19 local offices across the county responsible for case management. Supporting these local offices are centralized functions, including the Youth Development Services Division, which focuses on providing TAY with independent living program (ILP) services and resources to successfully transition to self-sufficiency.

¹⁶ Rounded to the nearest hundred. Includes youth in foster care who were supervised under the probation system. Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., ..., Morris, N. (2018). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_8A.aspx?r=1

¹⁷ Among youth whose whereabouts were known at the time of discharge. Includes youth in foster care who were supervised under the probation system. Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., ..., Morris, N. (2018). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_8A.aspx?r=1.

¹⁸ Based on Child Trends' analysis of AFCARS FFY 2010-2016 data. These analyses include all youth who were in foster care after age 16, spent at least 45 days in foster care, and were ages 21-24 on December 31, 2017, excluding youth with a discharge reason of "death of child."

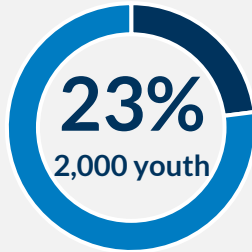
Key public agencies and institutions that partner with DCFS to support TAY

Governing Body for LA County: County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors	
Chief Executive Office	Supports the Board of Supervisors
Office of Child Protection	“The office’s mission is to strengthen the child protection system and promote better communication, coordination and accountability—minimizing, if not eliminating, the risk that a child known to one or more entities in our system will be harmed.” ¹⁹
Public Agencies	
K-12 Education	Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and 80 school districts reporting to the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education (CDE)
Postsecondary Education	Community colleges, California State University, University of California, private colleges
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>County:</i> Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services (WDACS) • <i>City:</i> Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) • <i>Additional Workforce Development Agencies:</i> South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Network, Southeast LA Workforce Development Board, Foothill Workforce Development Board, and Verdugo Workforce Development Board
Juvenile Justice	Probation Department
Health/Mental Health	Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health
Public Benefits	Department of Public Social Services
Courts and Judicial System	
LA Superior Court	Dependency System (including the Non-Minor Dependency Court), Delinquency System

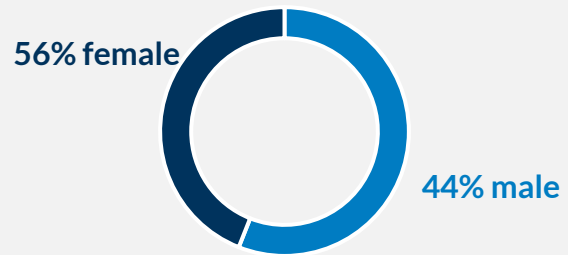
¹⁹County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office. (n.d.). Priorities and Initiatives: Office of Child Protection. Retrieved from: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/office-of-child-protection-priorities/>

Youth in New York City

Almost one quarter of NYC's foster care census is between the ages of 16 and 20.²⁰



Over half of NYC's TAY are young women.

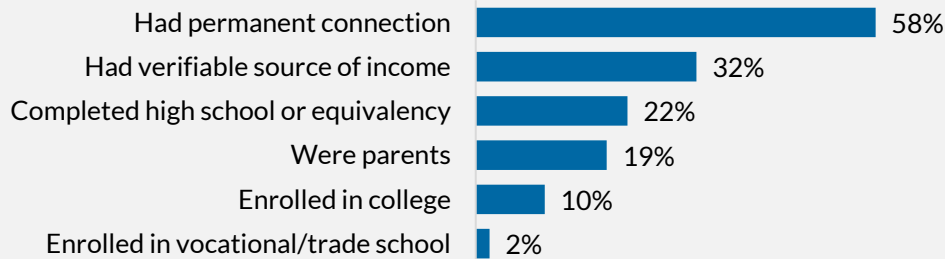


More than half of NYC's TAY are black.



In 2017, **600** youth ages 18 and older aged out of foster care in NYC.²¹

More than half of youth ages 18 and older who aged out of care in 2017 had a permanent connection.²²



In addition to serving youth currently in foster care, Hilton grantees also serve former foster youth ages 21-24.

²⁰ On December 31, 2017, rounded to the nearest hundred. Source: New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2017). *Report on Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2017/YouthInFosterCare2017.pdf>

²¹ Rounded to the nearest hundred. Source: New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2017). *Report on Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2017/YouthInFosterCare2017.pdf>

²² Among other data sources, this report uses Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA) data which is youth- or caseworker-reported and not verified, with more reliable administrative data. This data should be interpreted with caution. Source: New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2017). *Report on Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2017/YouthInFosterCare2017.pdf>

There are an estimated **6,000 - 7,000** former foster youth ages 21-24 in NYC.²³

Systems in New York City

We include the information in this section to provide context for understanding the systems with which foster TAY engage in NYC. Throughout the remainder of the report, we discuss systems' specific strengths and challenges with respect to supporting TAY.

The **Administration for Children's Services (ACS)** is the public agency in New York City responsible for child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education services. Child welfare services are county-administered, with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) providing direction and support at the state level. ACS contracts with private, non-profit community providers for prevention and foster care services. In 2018, 26 private agencies were responsible for providing placements and case management services for children and youth in foster care.

Key public agencies and institutions that partner with ACS to support TAY

Governing Legislative Body for NYC: New York City Council	
Foster Care Interagency Task Force	Created by City Council and includes representatives from agencies, service providers, and youth
Public Agencies	
K-12 Education	Department of Education (DOE)
Postsecondary Education	City University of New York (CUNY), State University of New York (SUNY), private colleges
Employment	Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
Juvenile Justice	Administration for Children's Services' Division of Youth and Family Justice
Health/Mental Health	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Courts and Judicial System: New York City Family Court	

²³ Based on Child Trends' analysis of AFCARS FFY 2010-2016 data. These analyses include youth who were in foster care after age 16, spent at least 45 days in foster care, and were ages 21-24 on December 31, 2017, excluding youth with a discharge reason of "death of child." This analysis is limited by data quality issues in the AFCARS data, which include approximately 2,000 youth without a discharge date/reason. This may be at least partially attributed to differences in discharge reasons in New York's administrative data and AFCARS. It is also possible that some of these youth may be duplicate entries. Due to these data quality issues, we have provided an estimated range rather than an exact estimate.

Issue areas overview

Within the LA and NYC contexts described above, much progress has been made to support foster TAY. To track progress made in each jurisdiction toward the Initiative’s three objectives, the Hilton Foundation and Child Trends developed the Results Framework. This framework comprises six issue areas: education (grades 8–12), postsecondary education, employment, placement, focused interventions, and coordination across systems. Within each issue area, the Initiative established a set of goals:

Issue area	Goals
1. Education (grades 8-12)	School stability for foster TAY in high school Targeted supports to students and schools in service of graduation
2. Postsecondary education	Accessible postsecondary education options Targeted supports in service of postsecondary completion
3. Employment	Accessible postsecondary education options Targeted workforce preparation for foster TAY
4. Placement	Caregiver support Emphasis on families and family-like settings
5. Focused interventions	Accessible reproductive health care Tailored supports for expectant and parenting foster TAY Targeted supports for crossover youth
6. Coordination	Coordinated service delivery across systems Research and data-informed decision-making Data collection and integration

Each goal was refined into specific benchmarks that identify essential elements of progress toward that goal. For a full list of the benchmarks, see Appendix B.

To measure system-level progress toward each of the benchmarks, we assessed several types of information.

1. Public documents, including government agency reports, research conducted by independent organizations, academic literature, policy documents, advocacy reports, webinars, and press releases
2. Interviews with stakeholders, including public agency executives and staff
3. A focus group with transition age youth
4. Information provided by grantees, including progress reports, interviews with grantee executives and staff, a grantee survey, and grantee publications

To develop a holistic understanding of grantees’ work and the progress being made toward the Initiative's goals, we assessed information from grantees themselves and cross-referenced that information through

interviews with external stakeholders and verification via public reports and documents. Data collection occurred between July and September 2018. In examining each benchmark, we searched for the following four implementation components:

1. **Political will:** Agency or institution central to the benchmark (or a multi-agency or multi-sector collaborative) has made a documented commitment to addressing the benchmark
2. **Policy:** Codified requirements committing key agencies or institutions to action regarding the benchmark and active implementation efforts
3. **Programs:** Sustainable and scalable local services aligned to the benchmark
4. **Data:** Regular administrative or survey data collection, analysis, and reporting activities to track local progress related to the benchmark over time

For more details on the methodology, see Appendix C. In the following sections, we systematically explore the progress made in both jurisdictions in each of the six issue areas.

Issue area 1: Improving educational outcomes for transition age foster youth

A high school diploma opens doors to higher education opportunities, is a requirement for many entry-level jobs, and creates ties to a community of adults and mentors. Youth with foster care experience are less likely to graduate from high school than their peers.

Advancing the Initiative's objectives

Through the work of the grantees and the Foundation, the Initiative advanced reform in NYC and LA in several ways. Below we highlight examples of this important work.

Strengthening systems and policy. Federal policymakers have passed legislation—including the Uninterrupted Scholars Act of 2014 and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015—to improve information sharing between education and child welfare agencies and strengthen school stability for youth in foster care. With these shifts on the national stage, communities must work to operationalize federal requirements as they address areas of education need. In LA, many child welfare and education stakeholders, including Hilton grantees, worked to develop and implement a pilot program to transport students to their schools of origin, as required by ESSA. Transportation options have been expanded to include a ride service in partnership with Hop Skip Drive. Throughout the pilot, stakeholders have strived to understand what works well, streamline procedures, conduct trainings, and build partnerships. Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and DCFS have agreed to allocate \$1.1 million additional dollars to extend the transportation pilot to June 2019.

In NYC, the *Juvenile Law Center (JLC)* has supported work at the county and state levels around school stability, culminating in a toolkit that was released to support implementation of state legislation passed in April 2018.

Innovative programs. In LA and NYC, *First Star* operates on college campuses during the summer and on weekends during the school year, providing four years of academic, social, and emotional support, beginning in 9th grade, to ensure students are on track to graduate from high school and enrolled in the classes they need to achieve their educational goals toward higher education. *First Star* staff in LA also connect with school guidance and foster youth achievement counselors at each school and with caregivers when issues arise. In NYC, *NY Foundling's Road to Success* tutoring program provides students with one-on-one tutoring, as well as advocacy. An adaptation of this Hilton-funded program has expanded these supports to more youth across the city.

Foundation as a change agent
 In LA, Hilton funding was used as a bridge to support three Education Consultants at select DCFS offices who will process transportation requests in support of school stability. DCFS has committed funding to hire eight additional Consultants in the future.

Expanding and sharing knowledge. In LA, *Fostering Media Connections'* analysis of state compliance with ESSA accountability requirements found LA out of compliance. In response to this reporting, a plan and funding were quickly put in place to address the compliance problem. Several Hilton grantees also serve as advisors to LACOE on the development and launch of the Education Passport System. Through MOUs between DCFS, the Probation Department, and all 80 school districts, the Education Passport System will share key information to support the educational success of foster TAY. Opportunities for continued expansion are being explored for 2019.





Overview of education benchmarks and opportunities

Benchmark	Opportunities
Goal 1: School stability for foster TAY in high school	
Schools and child welfare agencies prioritize school stability when placements change	Implementation of the school stability provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is still in the early stages in both LA and NYC. Continued efforts are required to standardize and enforce processes and educate necessary stakeholders. Child welfare agency policies on school stability during placement decision making exist in LA, but there are opportunities to strengthen implementation. With an Initiative-funded outreach coordinator, LA will seek to build necessary capacity beyond pilot programs and establish and coordinate long-term transportation agreements between DCFS and school districts.
Cost-sharing arrangements between education and child welfare support foster TAY with transportation and planning to promote school stability	
Goal 2: Targeted supports to students and schools in service of graduation	
Schools prioritize student engagement and persistence when supporting foster TAY during school transitions	Local programs in both LA and NYC support this goal but are limited as they rely primarily on private funding and often have unclear pathways to larger scale implementation. Data challenges exist in both jurisdictions. While CA disaggregates data for youth in foster care, advocates raised concerns about the accuracy of the data and the need for additional metrics specific to youth in foster care. Policies exist in LA, but dedicated funding streams and enforcement to ensure accountability specifically for foster youth outcomes need further
Foster TAY have consistent graduation counseling (e.g., designated individuals assigned to youth, case management plans, specialized services)	
Academic support services are accessible to foster TAY	

School environments support the socioemotional and/or behavioral needs of foster TAY	development. NYC Department of Education does not disaggregate data or have dedicated staff focused on students in foster care, outside of the newly established Family Support Manager for Vulnerable Populations. Supports available to foster TAY also vary by provider agency in NYC.
Schools receive tailored supports to assist foster TAY and are held accountable for foster TAY performance	

An example of efforts toward the education benchmarks, representing the work of the Initiative and its grantees as well as other system stakeholders and partners, is presented below for each jurisdiction. We recognize that there may still be room for progress across these areas and will continue to monitor over time.

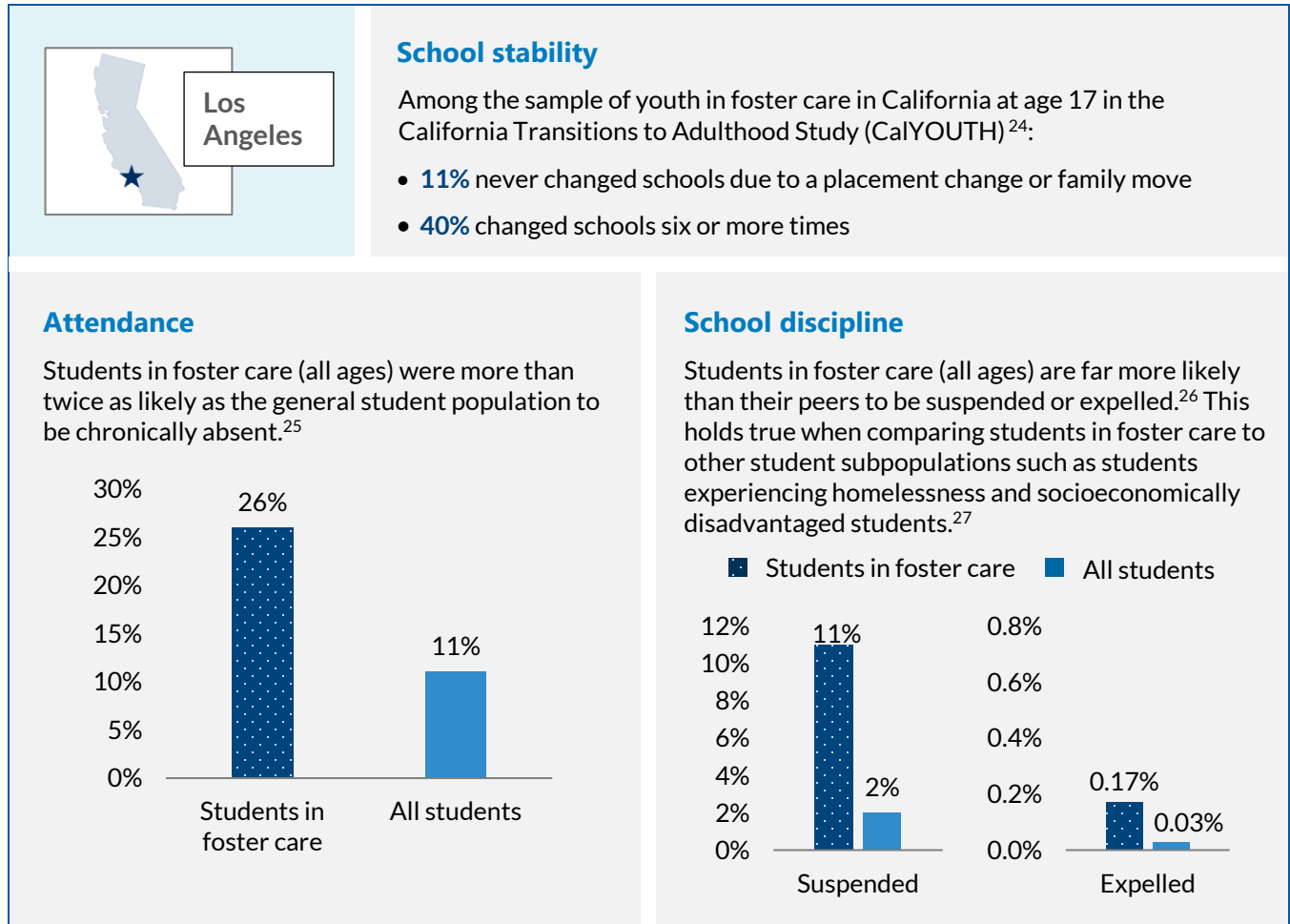
Figure 2. Examples of work in LA and NYC toward education benchmarks

	LA BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:	NYC BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:
	Schools receive tailored supports to assist foster TAY and are held accountable for foster TAY performance	Schools and child welfare agencies prioritize school stability when placements change
Political Will 	Civil Grand Jury reviewed funding and outcomes specific for foster TAY and issued recommendations for improvement.	Interagency Foster Care Task Force recommended issuance of new regulations regarding school stability.
Policy 	Local Controlled Funding Formula (LCFF) includes foster TAY as one of three identified subgroups. School districts outline foster TAY-specific goals in their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). LACOE conducts regional learning networks to support these plans, and the <i>Alliance for Children's Rights</i> leads a Professional Learning Network for six districts.	New procedures are in place for coordination between DOE's Office of Enrollment and ACS when a school change is requested.
Program 	If a school district has performance disparities for any subgroup of students (such as foster TAY) in two or more LCFF priorities, the district receives differentiated assistance to improve those scores.	<i>Juvenile Law Center</i> provided training and consultation on school stability at the state and local levels.
Data 	Through DataQuest and the California Dashboard, CDE publicly reports on how schools and local educational agencies are performing on key indicators, disaggregated for foster TAY.	ACS is required to report annually on school stability under Local Law 142.

Educational experiences and outcomes of foster TAY in LA and NYC

The Initiative continues to work toward meeting its 2022 expected results related to education:

- **85%** of foster TAY will attend only one school during a one-year period
- **75%** of foster TAY will graduate from high school by age 19



²⁴ Chronically absent is defined as missing 10% or more of enrolled days. Source: Courtney, M.E, Pajarita, C., Okpych, N.J., Napolitano, L., Halsted, K. (2014). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Foster Youth at Age 17*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE1214-1.pdf

²⁵ California Department of Education. (n.d.) 2016-17 Chronic Absenteeism Rate. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/AttChrAbsRate.aspx?aggllevel=County&cds=19&year=2016-17>

²⁶ California Department of Education. (n.d.) 2016-17 Suspension Rate. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqCensus/DisSuspRate.aspx?year=2016-17&aggllevel=County&cds=19> & California Department of Education. (n.d.) 2016-17 Expulsion Rate. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqCensus/DisExpRate.aspx?year=2016-17&aggllevel=County&cds=19>

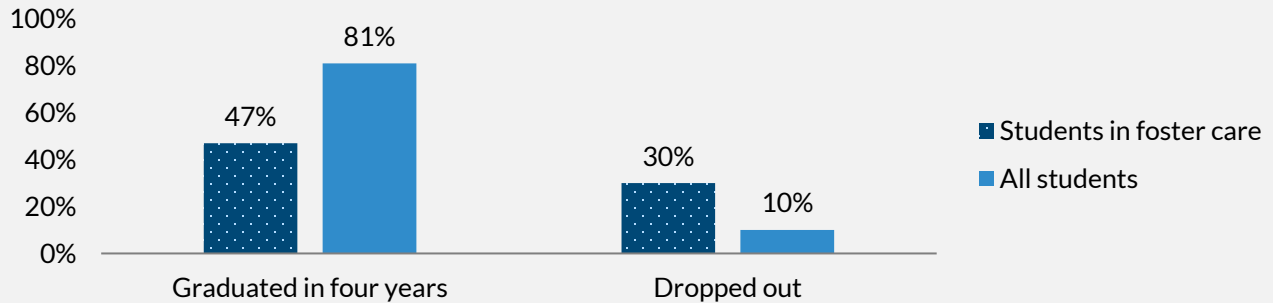
²⁷ California Department of Education. (n.d.) 2016-17 Suspension Rate. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqCensus/DisSuspRate.aspx?year=2016-17&aggllevel=County&cds=19> & California Department of Education. (n.d.) 2016-17 Expulsion Rate. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqCensus/DisExpRate.aspx?year=2016-17&aggllevel=County&cds=19>

Graduation

CaLYOUTH findings indicate that, among youth who were in foster care in California at age 17:

- **Two-thirds** had earned their high school diploma by age 19
- **80%** had earned their diploma by age 21 (in 2017)^{28, 29}

California Department of Education's DataQuest tracks high school graduation within four years for all students, and students who experienced foster care at any time during the four years³⁰:



²⁸ Courtney, M., Okpych, N. J., Charles, P., Mikell, D., Stevenson, B., Park, K., ... Feng, H. (2016). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CaLYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 19*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE0516_4.pdf

²⁹ Courtney, M., Okpych, N. J., Park, K., Harty, J., Feng, H., Torres-Garcia, A., & Sayed, S. (2018). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CaLYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 21*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE0518_1.pdf

³⁰ Among students who entered high school in 2012-2013. Source: California Department of Education. (n.d.) 2016-17 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome: Los Angeles County Report. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/CohOutcome.aspx?aggllevel=county&year=2016-17&cds=19&ro=y>



School stability

Among children and youth in foster care ages 5-20 during the 2016-2017 school year³¹:

- **72%** remained in their school of origin 90 days after initial placement
- **77%** remained in their school of origin 90 days after a placement change

Attendance



More than three in four foster TAY ages 16-20 (77%) had an attendance rate of less than 90 percent.³² Attendance rates among all NYC youth have increased for several years.³³

School discipline

No data available.

Graduation



- Of the 263 youth in foster care who graduated from high school in 2015-2016, **over two-thirds (68%)** graduated in four years or less.³⁴
- Data on the dropout rate for foster TAY were unavailable.
- Graduation rates among all NYC youth have increased for several years, while the dropout rate has declined.³⁵

Challenges and next steps

Strengthening systems and policy. Both NYC and LA are in the early stages of implementing ESSA school stability requirements. In LA, education and child welfare partners will turn their attention to long-term solutions based on learnings from their pilot program. Workgroup and pilot partners have developed a draft transportation plan template to support the development of long-term interagency agreements between DCFS and school districts. As these relationships are formalized, ongoing education of all involved stakeholders will be important to successful implementation. Furthermore, schools in LA are not always aware of the educational policies that are in place to support foster TAY, and challenges persist in timely and accurate identification of Education Rights Holders (adults, or foster TAY over age 18, who make educational decisions for foster TAY) to inform education decisions, eligibility for credits, and enrollment. Implementation of existing child welfare policy related to school stability could also be strengthened when placement decisions are made.

³¹ New York City Administration for Children's Services. (n.d.). *Educational Continuity of Children in Foster Care (School Year 2017-2018)*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2018/citycouncilreport.pdf>

³² New York City Administration for Children's Services. (n.d.). *Educational Continuity of Children in Foster Care (School Year 2017-2018)*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2018/citycouncilreport.pdf>

³³ Ross, T and Mayevskaya, Y. (2018). *Trends in New York City Education Outcomes*. Hilton Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Team Policy Brief No. 4.

³⁴ New York City Administration for Children's Services. (n.d.). *High School Graduation Rates of Youth in Foster Care Annual Report 2017*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2018/graduationrates.pdf>

³⁵ Ross, T and Mayevskaya, Y. (2018). *Trends in New York City Education Outcomes*. Hilton Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Team Policy Brief No. 4.

While LCFF in CA elevates schools' focus on foster TAY as one of three identified subgroups, the Civil Grand Jury found significant limitations to this funding and accountability structure. The funding formula uses an unduplicated count of students who have low socioeconomic status, are English language learners, or are in foster care, which means that students crossing multiple categories are only counted once for additional funding. School districts are not required to use these funds for youth in foster care, and only five of ten school districts assessed by the Civil Grand Jury had designated funding for substantial programming to meet foster TAY's needs.³⁶

NYC does not have a dedicated office or staff at DOE focused on students in foster care, although the newly established Family Support Manager for Vulnerable Populations at DOE is intended to help fill this gap. Schools do not receive funding specifically tied to their number of students in foster care. Further, while many NYC foster care provider agencies have Education Specialists to support foster TAY in reaching their educational goals, not every foster TAY has access to this support due to insufficient funding and a lack of standardization in this role.

Innovative programs. There are multiple examples of programmatic work being done by grantees in both jurisdictions. However, pathways toward larger-scale implementation were unclear. Although program leaders see the need to expand to additional youth, sustainability poses a challenge, and many academic support programs are supported exclusively by private dollars.

Grantees in both LA and NYC are also grappling with how foster TAY's experiences of trauma should be addressed in their educational settings. Schools and teachers, while mandated to report child maltreatment, are not necessarily trained in how to support the complex needs of youth who have experienced trauma. The *Alliance for Children's Rights* is conducting trainings in schools to help bring awareness to this issue. *Public Counsel* is leading wide-scale reform efforts to end school discrimination against trauma-impacted students and to use proven models of trauma-informed learning.

Expanding and sharing knowledge. Both jurisdictions struggle to capture accurate and timely data on foster TAY and their educational experiences, and grantees are working to improve data infrastructure. In LA, the *Alliance for Children's Rights* leads the Professional Learning Network in eastern Los Angeles County, which convenes six school districts to focus on students in foster care. The Network has been developing meaningful metrics for measuring foster TAY progress and outcomes beyond those required by the state, which may help to inform data reporting in other districts in LA in the future. School stability is one key measure that is not required by the state. However, this measure could be produced by using the data shared between the child welfare and education agencies. Advocacy around adding this measure is an area of opportunity for the Initiative.

In NYC, the education workgroups convened by the *Juvenile Law Center* have identified a need to further explore how the data currently being shared between DOE and ACS can be used and enhanced to better understand the progress and outcomes of students in foster care. Unlike school districts in California, NYC's DOE does not maintain disaggregated data on their students in foster care. All available data are maintained by ACS and compiled through data exchanges via spreadsheets.

³⁶ Los Angeles County Grand Jury. (n.d.). *2017-2018 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report*. Retrieved from <http://grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2017-2018%20Los%20Angeles%20County%20Civil%20Grand%20Jury%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Upcoming areas of focus

The Initiative and grantees are directly supporting robust implementation of new school stability policies. An outreach coordinator hired with Hilton support will facilitate relationship-building and transportation agreements between DCFS and individual school districts in LA starting in Fall 2018.

Grantees will also provide programmatic support in expanded ways next year. JLC is completing a series of ten training modules for Education Specialists in NYC. This optional, online training covers topics like special education, school discipline issues, and enrollment, and will help align supports and promote consistency across agencies. In LA, the *National Center for Youth Law* will begin locating FosterEd liaisons directly in schools in the Antelope Valley region during the 2018-2019 school year to support students who are system-involved.

Issue area 2: Improving postsecondary outcomes for transition age foster youth

The nation's workforce increasingly requires higher-level educational credentials to open career pathways that lead to family-sustaining wages; yet foster TAY enter and complete postsecondary education at a rate lower than their peers.

Advancing the Initiative's objectives

Through the work of the grantees and the Foundation, the Initiative advanced reform in several ways in NYC and LA. The list below is not exhaustive, as both grantees and the Foundation have worked in many additional ways to pursue postsecondary goals.

Strengthening systems and policy. In New York State, the Foster Youth Success Alliance (FYSA), spearheaded by *Children's Aid*, successfully advocated for the continuation of the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI). Funding was expanded to \$6 million for FY 2019 and will continue to support foster TAY with financial and programmatic resources. Access to FYCSI supports is predicated on enrollment in an approved opportunity program, and FYSA has been working to break down this barrier in two ways: First, FYSA has successfully partnered with State University of New York (SUNY) to add a mechanism to identify current and former foster youth at the point of college application to support access to programmatic and financial supports. Second, through legislation passed in 2018, foster TAY attending SUNY schools can now access financial support for housing and meal plans through FYCSI without enrolling in an approved program.

In California, Hilton grantees supported several state laws that were passed and/or implemented this year, including:

- SB 12 (2017): Requires the identification in the child welfare case plan of an individual to support each youth in foster care 16 or older to apply for college and financial aid; the law also streamlines financial aid eligibility verification process and expands the maximum number of districts the could be funded under the NextUp campus-based support programs.
- AB 1809 (2018): Expands access to Cal Grant funds from four to eight years for current and former foster youth who apply before age 26; the law provides an additional \$5.3 million in Cal Grant funding for this population and extends the Cal Grant application deadline for current and former foster youth.
- AB 1811 (2018): Extends Chafee eligibility up to age 26 (from 22). This was supported by a \$4 million expansion in the state budget.

Through these expansions of Chafee, Cal Grant, and NextUp, California is now investing \$32.3 million annually for the postsecondary success of foster TAY.³⁷

Advancing innovative programs. In LA, *United Friends of the Children* provides extensive supports and academic preparation around postsecondary readiness and access, as well as case management supports that follow foster TAY throughout their postsecondary experience. In Antelope Valley, *John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY)* has partnered with DCFS, LACOE, and *National Center for Youth Law* to train caseworkers on the importance of higher education and the resources that are available for youth.³⁸ This pilot successfully improved caseworkers' knowledge and attitudes (as measured by pre- and post-surveys). JBAY is working on additional resources to support caseworkers in this region with postsecondary planning. This work could serve as a model for other areas of the county and NYC. In LA, JBAY and the *LA Chamber of Commerce* are also working with LACOE, DCFS, and the California Community College Chancellor's Office to implement county-wide strategies to improve stakeholder knowledge and youth access to financial aid, postsecondary options, and campus supports. This effort builds off JBAY's successful statewide FAFSA completion campaign, which led to strong support across education and child welfare agencies to set goals, support youth, and track data on FAFSA completion. Because of this work, LA knows for the first time how many seniors in foster care completed the FAFSA (37% in the 2017-18 school year) and will use this information for future goal setting.

In both jurisdictions

First Star partners with the child welfare agencies and colleges in LA and NYC to provide immersive summer experiences on college campuses for foster youth in high school. Through early exposure to college campuses and support with postsecondary prerequisites, *First Star* supports postsecondary access for its students.

In NYC, the supports available to youth at the City University of New York (CUNY)—from enrollment to completion—are extensive and deeply influenced by the Foundation's investments. Through a grant to the *Research Foundation of the CUNY*, the Initiative supports CUNY's Foster Care Initiative (FCI), which provides foster TAY with remedial supports as needed through the CUNY Start and Math Start academic bridge programs, and then links them to CUNY's ASAP accelerated degree program. Throughout their involvement with FCI, foster TAY are connected to support with the college transition, paid on-campus internships, social and cultural events, and financial supports such as fee waivers and Metrocards. FCI is just one support for foster TAY on CUNY campuses. The Fostering College Success Initiative, also referred to as the Dorm Project, is a partnership between ACS, CUNY, and *NY Foundling*. It is designed to serve 200 students with year-round housing in CUNY dorms, supplemented with individualized tutoring and social emotional support. The Foundation's investment in postsecondary supports in NYC is widely credited with deepening public agency commitment to and investment in these types of supports for foster TAY.

Expanding and sharing knowledge. In LA, JBAY's promotion and utilization of CalPASS Plus to track postsecondary progress and outcomes for foster TAY in community colleges and California's four-year universities has the potential to generate information to benefit individual programs and the broader field. *University of Chicago's CalYOUTH* report on California foster TAY at age 21 (2018) and issue brief on predictors of high school completion and college entry (2017) continue to deepen the field's understanding of foster TAY's postsecondary pathways and experiences.

In NYC, the Hilton Foundation supports three faculty researchers through the *Research Foundation of the CUNY* to contribute to the knowledge base on foster youth in higher education. A symposium will be held in December 2018 highlighting their research.

³⁷ California College Pathways (2018, November 15). California College Pathways: A case study on how strategic philanthropy leads to system change [Webinar]. Retrieved from <http://www.cacollegepathways.org/california-college-pathways-case-study-on-how-strategic-philanthropy-leads-to-system-change/>





³⁸ The term "caseworker" is used throughout this report to refer to the individual at DCFS (in LA) or at a provider agency (in NYC) who is responsible for all child welfare case management activities.

Overview of postsecondary benchmarks and opportunities

Benchmark	Opportunities
Goal 1: Accessible postsecondary education options	
Academic bridge programs facilitate transition into postsecondary education for foster TAY	Academic bridge programs in LA are limited and rely primarily on private funding. Formalizing existing partnerships between college campuses, high schools, and child welfare agencies could strengthen postsecondary pathways and increase academic supports during the bridge period. There is also a need for more sustainable and scalable career and technical education programs for foster TAY in both LA and NYC , with efforts underway in LA to strengthen awareness of career and technical programs among foster TAY and stakeholders.
Supports are available to help foster TAY complete postsecondary prerequisites (e.g., selection, application, standardized tests, and financial aid)	
Foster TAY are given priority in enrollment decisions and course access	
Foster TAY have access to career and technical education as a viable postsecondary option	
Goal 2: Targeted supports in service of postsecondary completion	
Financial supports are available for foster TAY for tuition and related expenses (excluding housing)	While several programs support foster TAY in LA and NYC , youth face significant challenges in identifying and navigating these resources. Forthcoming efforts to centralize information on postsecondary resources in both jurisdictions will be one important step in addressing these challenges. Recent legislation in CA expanded financial resources for foster TAY, and we will monitor for implementation activities in the coming year. Youth homelessness remains a significant area of concern among LA grantees and stakeholders. NYC has efforts underway across all benchmarks for this goal, and we will look for evidence of sustained momentum next year.
Programs and/or structures designed to support foster TAY students are available (e.g., designated foster liaison, programs to identify and support foster TAY students, guardian scholars, and EOPS programs)	
Programs and/or structures are available to provide year-round housing supports for foster TAY students	

An example of efforts toward the postsecondary education benchmarks, representing the work of the Initiative and its grantees, as well as other system stakeholders and partners, is presented below for each jurisdiction. We recognize that there may still be room for progress across these areas and will continue to monitor over time.

Figure 3. Examples of work in LA and NYC toward postsecondary education benchmarks

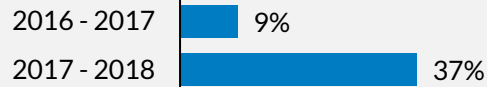
	LA BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:	NYC BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:
	Programs and/or structures designed to support foster TAY students are available (e.g., designated foster liaison, programs to identify and support foster TAY students, guardian scholars, and EOPS programs)	Supports are available to help foster TAY complete postsecondary prerequisites (e.g., selection, application, standardized tests, and financial aid)
Political Will 	CA Community College Chancellor's Office commits to campus support programs, including issuing a press release on the importance of expanding the Next Up program.	Interagency Foster Care Task Force recommended that DOE explore providing dedicated counselors for students in foster care, who would be trained to support youth in preparing for, exploring, and applying to college.
Policy 	AB 1567 (2017) requires community colleges and California State Universities to notify foster youth about campus support programs and provide students with instructions to access these programs.	CUNY has application fee waivers to reduce barriers to application among low-income students, including students in foster care.
Program 	SB 12 (2017) expanded the Next Up program to half of LA's 22 community colleges. The 2018 budget included funds to provide supportive service coordination, counseling, tutoring, and other assistance to foster youth. Other local services are provided by Hilton grantees (e.g., <i>United Friends of the Children</i> and <i>Coalition for Responsible Community Development</i>).	Several grantees (e.g., <i>Graham Windham</i> , <i>Good Shepherd Services</i> , <i>NY Foundling</i>) help foster TAY plan for and complete postsecondary prerequisites.
Data 	CalPASS Plus is a data system that allows campus support programs to track outcomes for cohorts of participating students.	The ACS Youth Experience Survey regularly tracks the number of youth needing assistance with prerequisites and the percent who have those needs met.

Postsecondary experiences and outcomes of foster TAY in LA and NYC



Prerequisites

In LA, 37% of high school seniors in foster care completed a FAFSA application in the 2017-2018 school year.³⁹



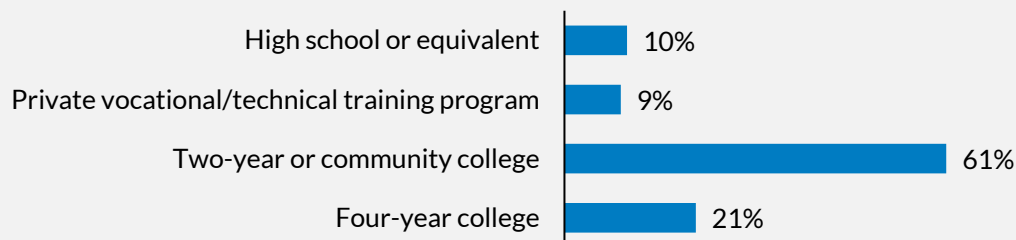
Enrollment

In LA, enrollment of current or former foster youth in community colleges totaled **4,126** in Fall 2017 and **3,675** in Spring 2018.⁴⁰



29% of CalYOUTH respondents were enrolled in school at age 21.

Those enrolled attended⁴¹:



³⁹ Note: The figure for 2016 – 2017 is an estimate. LACOE Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (May 2018). *Newsletter for the FYSCP Executive Advisory Committee*.

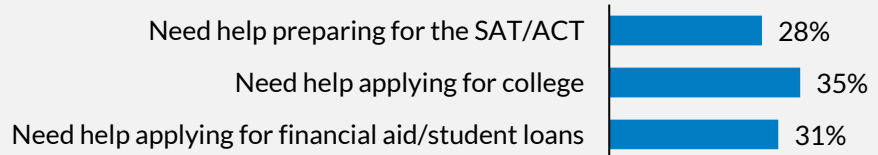
⁴⁰ Unduplicated head count of students identified as foster youth in the following community college districts (CCDs): Antelope CCD, Cerritos CCD, Citrus CCD, El Camino CCD, Glendale CCD, Long Beach CCD, Los Angeles CCD, Mt. San Antonio CCD, Pasadena CCD, Santa Clarita CCD, and Santa Monica CCD. Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Management Information Systems Data Mart. (n.d.) *Special Population/Group Student Count*. Retrieved from https://datamart.cccco.edu/services/special_pop_count.aspx

⁴¹ High school equivalent includes GED classes and continuation schools (alternative high school diploma programs for students ages 16 and older who have not graduated, are required to attend school, and are at risk of not graduating): Courtney, M., Okpych, N. J., Park, K., Harty, J., Feng, H., Torres-Garcia, A., & Sayed, S. (2018). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 21*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE0518_1.pdf



Prerequisites

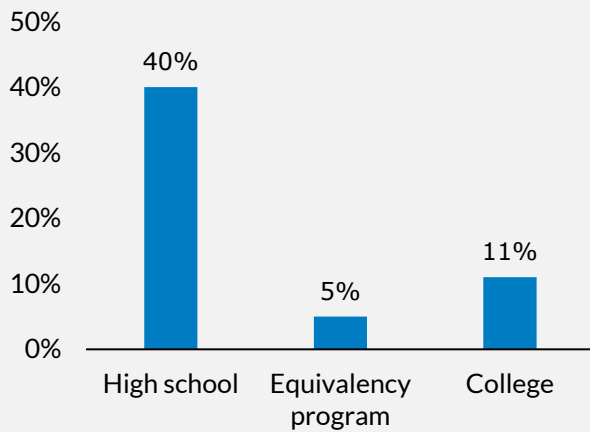
Among foster youth in grades 9 and above who completed the ACS Youth Experience Survey:



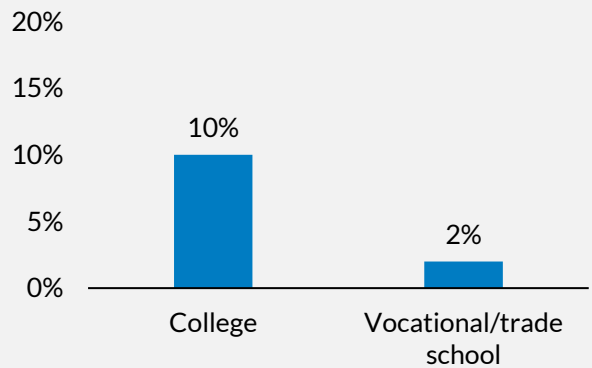
Among youth who reported needing this help, approximately **half** report receiving it.⁴²

Enrollment

Enrollment among foster TAY in care ages 18-20⁴³:



Enrollment among youth age 18 and older who aged out in NYC in 2017⁴⁴:



⁴²New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2018). *Youth Experience Survey 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2018/ACSYouthExperienceSurveyMay152018.pdf>

⁴³ Among other data sources, this report uses Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA) data which is youth- or caseworker-reported and not verified, with more reliable administrative data. This data should be interpreted with caution. Source: New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2017). *Report on Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2017/YouthInFosterCare2017.pdf>

⁴⁴ Among other data sources, this report uses Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA) data which is youth- or caseworker-reported and not verified, with more reliable administrative data. This data should be interpreted with caution. Source: New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2017). *Report on Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2017/YouthInFosterCare2017.pdf>

Challenges and next steps

Strengthening systems and policy. Policies are in place across many of the benchmarks in this issue area in both LA and NYC. To ensure that newly passed and existing policies are implemented as intended, we will monitor for active implementation activities in the coming year.

Advancing innovative programs. Significant challenges were identified in both LA and NYC regarding foster TAY's ability to navigate and access available resources. Connections to resources vary based on the individual youth's caseworker, probation officer, independent living coordinator, or caregiver. Additionally, differing eligibility requirements may exclude some foster TAY and create additional barriers to navigating resources. Community college campuses in LA often have multiple programs that support foster TAY with varying degrees of coordination; this issue presents an opportunity to further align program application processes and strengthen coordinated supports for foster TAY. In addition, while community colleges are beginning to engage more with local high schools, formal academic bridge programs to support foster TAY's transition to college are limited, making these programs an area for further development in LA—particularly as many rely primarily on private funding.

What are young people saying?

In LA, youth explained that they had stumbled upon campus resources or heard of them through word of mouth, rather than being informed about or connected to resources in a systematic way.⁴⁵

In NYC, concern was expressed that certain services and supports are unavailable to youth who have exited foster care; moreover, youth are not always made aware of these implications when making decisions about exiting care. At the same time, there are programs that are expanding eligibility, and they could serve as models. For example, the Foster Care Initiative, supported through the *Research Foundation of the CUNY*, changed its eligibility criteria to serve youth ages 17-25 who have experienced foster care or juvenile justice involvement.

Innovative approaches to year-round housing are being implemented in NYC through The Dorm Project, a partnership between CUNY, ACS, and *NY Foundling*; however, stakeholders in both cities indicate that housing challenges remain. Youth homelessness is a significant challenge in LA as well. *JBAY* has worked to connect campus support programs with the Youth Coordinated Entry System (CES) to facilitate access to housing support. Additionally, the *Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD)* serves as a lead for the CES in South LA, helping connect young people with housing resources. In NYC, youth in foster care are given priority for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) housing; however, youth without children qualify only for studio apartments—and NYCHA has a very limited supply of these units, with no expansion plans. Furthermore, if NYCHA offers an apartment to a youth attending college outside NYC, the youth must either leave school to obtain their apartment or stay at school and move to the bottom of the list. In addition to identifying housing challenges for TAY, grantees providing postsecondary supports underscored the importance of connecting youth with mental health services to support their well-being and postsecondary persistence.

Finally, while there are examples of innovative vocational opportunities in NYC (e.g., *The Door's* programming; the partnership between the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), ACS, and York College) and in LA (e.g., *First Place for Youth's* Career Pathway Program and *CRCD's* Project Tipping Point), pathways toward larger-scale implementation are unclear. LA grantees have been working to raise awareness of existing vocational opportunities on community college campuses, and NYC grantees voiced a greater need for vocational training programs. This is an issue for which grantees in both locations may be able to come together in a learning community to advance programming in their respective jurisdictions.

Expanding and sharing knowledge. While some data exist regarding foster TAY's pathways to and experiences in postsecondary education, significant work remains. CalPASS Plus is currently

⁴⁵ Los Angeles Youth Focus Group. (2018). Child Trends.

underutilized as a tool for tracking campus support program participants, and JBAY continues to work to raise awareness and use of this resource.

Upcoming areas of focus

Both LA and NYC are prioritizing efforts to support foster TAY in identifying and accessing available resources. This includes expanding information for youth, caregivers, caseworkers, and other professionals through online and/or application platforms. Initiative grantees are closely involved in these efforts. In NYC, *Juvenile Law Center* will be exploring avenues to publish an inventory of programs and services that support access to and success in postsecondary education, complementing *iFoster's* work at the state level to revamp and expand New York State's Youth in Care website. LA, under the leadership of the Chief Executive Office, is developing an online county-wide TAY Hub that will coordinate access to the full spectrum of resources and information across county agencies and community partners, including postsecondary resources.

The Foster Youth Success Alliance, led by *Children's Aid* in NY, will be exploring mechanisms to identify applicants as current and former foster youth at CUNY, mirroring their success at SUNY. They will also monitor expanded foster TAY access to FYSCI funding for housing and meal plans to advocate for appropriate funding levels. Grantees in LA anticipate advocacy work around strong implementation of SB 12 and expanded eligibility for Cal Grant and Chafee funding in the coming year.

Issue area 3: Improving employment outcomes for transition age foster youth

Having stable employment that supports a healthy standard of living is critically important for all youth transitioning to adulthood.

Advancing the Initiative's objectives

Through the work of the grantees and the Foundation, the Initiative advanced reform in several ways in NYC and LA. Below, we highlight examples of this important work.

Strengthening systems and policy. In November 2017, the LA Board of Supervisors passed a motion calling for county-wide engagement around foster TAY self-sufficiency. The *Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC)* has helped bring attention to this void, and the motion instructed that foster TAY be prioritized by public workforce development agency leaders. In NYC, *The Door* partnered with ACS, DYCD, and Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow to improve the structure of the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP Plus) to better meet the needs of youth in foster care. YAIP Plus connects ACS-involved youth with job training and internships.

Foundation as a change agent

Agency stakeholders attribute DCFS's contribution of \$1 million to support workforce programming for foster youth to the collaborations that have been fostered through the Initiative.

Advancing innovative programs. In LA, *First Place for Youth* has a Career Pathway Program with nine different pathways (e.g., healthcare, green technology, logistics), supported by Employment and Education Specialists who work closely with youth to become employment ready. Youth progress through a series of steps including assessment, career readiness, career exposure and pathway selection, and technical training and employment. *PBS So Cal* has hosted several workforce development programs, providing opportunities for transition age youth to gain experience in arts industries. These have included video diary creation workshops, photography programs, work shadows, writing workshops, field trips, and the stewardship of internships.

The Door in NYC provides its Bronx Academy participants with a breadth of career development services, including job training, internship and employment placement, and job retention support. Career

Advancement Coaches work with youth to develop individualized career plans and navigate *The Door's* tiered career services. *The Door* connects youth with internships and job opportunities and provides one year of retention support to support connection to the workforce.

Expanding and sharing knowledge. In LA, World of Work, the evidence-based workforce development curriculum developed by Columbia University's School of Social Work and implemented by the TAY Collaborative, a partner of OYC, is embedded into six of the seven workforce development agencies to train and match youth with competitive jobs. In addition, LACOE, the Probation Department, DCFS, and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) all signed MOUs to begin using this curriculum in their agencies. In NYC and LA, *iFoster* measures success of their program through retention rate, average length of time to promotion, and length of employment.

University of Chicago's CalYOUTH study continues to expand the field's understanding of the early adulthood experiences of youth who were in foster care at age 17. In 2018, findings from the third wave of the CalYOUTH study detailed youth's experiences at age 21, including current and recent employment experiences described below.

In both jurisdictions

iFoster provides training (World of Work curriculum), assesses work readiness, and helps to reduce workplace barriers (e.g., cell phone access, transportation, stable housing, child care). Once youth pass the readiness assessment, they can be matched with employers. Although youth face a competitive interview process, TAY applications are moved up to the front of the line for interviews. *iFoster* prepares TAY for interviews and may also provide assistance to youth or employers after they begin work.





Overview of employment benchmarks and opportunities

Benchmark	Opportunities
Goal 1: Employer engagement with foster TAY	
Formal structures enable foster TAY to directly engage employers (e.g., job fairs, online tools, training programs, etc.) ⁴⁶	Youth seeking employment in both LA and NYC would benefit from increased opportunities to engage a range of different employers to facilitate connections in their fields of interest. In NYC in particular, many internship opportunities are in social services. Next year, we will assess foster TAY's access to employment retention supports, which emerged as an area needing attention.
Training and mentoring opportunities are available to support employed TAY	
Goal 2: Targeted workforce preparation for foster TAY	
Training opportunities (e.g., skill building workshops, internships, apprenticeships) are available to TAY unprepared for employment	LA is working to streamline foster TAY access to public agency workforce programming but lacks a sustainable funding solution to ensure dedicated program slots for foster TAY. In NYC , accessible and flexible training opportunities that are responsive to the needs and experiences of the full range of foster TAY are needed. Data infrastructure is an ongoing area of focus in both LA and NYC .
Reengagement strategies exist to identify and reconnect foster TAY who lack access to high school equivalency, higher education, and employment	


⁴⁶ Training programs that provide foster TAY with the opportunity to directly engage with employers across a variety of fields are included here. This benchmark does not include internships or apprenticeships that connect youth with a single employer, which are captured under the first benchmark for Goal 2.

An example of efforts toward the employment benchmarks, representing the work of the Initiative and its grantees as well as other system stakeholders and partners, is presented below for each jurisdiction. We recognize that there may still be room for progress across these areas and will continue to monitor over time.

Figure 4. Examples of work in LA and NYC toward employment benchmarks

	LA BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:	NYC BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:
	Training opportunities (e.g., skill building workshops, internships, apprenticeships, etc.) are available to TAY unprepared for employment.	Training opportunities (e.g., skill building workshops, internships, apprenticeships, etc.) are available to TAY unprepared for employment
Political Will 		ACS demonstrated commitment to this benchmark by establishing the Office of Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives.
Policy 	LA has dedicated 100% of its federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds to disconnected (out of work/school) youth. The Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) ensured the county received a waiver through LA's Performance Pilot Partnership (P3) that allows foster youth in school to be included in WIOA programs.	
Program 	Several programs run by city and county agencies provide training experiences that are sustainable and scalable. For example, LA County's Youth@Work program provides youth with 120 hours of training and work experience, and DCFS partners with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board to provide foster TAY with training and internships. Several OYC partners also provide job training programs.	Sustainable and scalable programming is in place in NYC to provide training to foster TAY. In partnership with DYCD, ACS connects foster TAY to the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) Plus and the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Several grantees also provide direct services.
Data 	The Economic Development Scorecard reports on the number of individuals in foster care served by workforce development programs.	ACS captures some employment data through its annual Youth Experience Survey, including the number of foster youth who are employed or would like to be employed.

Employment experiences and outcomes of foster TAY in LA and NYC



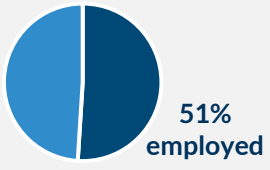
Los Angeles

Employment Rates

Employment data are not available for foster TAY currently in foster care in LA.

Among youth exiting foster care, a little over half were employed.⁴⁷


49% not employed




51% employed

Earnings

Employed foster TAY in CalYOUTH's statewide sample earned an average of \$12.48 per hour at age 21.⁴⁸



\$12.48
per hour



New York City

Employment Rates

Foster TAY completing the ACS Youth Experience Survey with a job or paid internship⁴⁹:

Ages 16-17	<div style="width: 23%; background-color: #0070C0; height: 10px;"></div>	23%
Ages 18-20	<div style="width: 38%; background-color: #0070C0; height: 10px;"></div>	38%

Of note, nearly all foster TAY responding to the Youth Experience Survey (ages 13-20) were in school (92%), decreasing foster TAY's availability for employment.⁵⁰

A little over two-thirds (68%) of foster TAY who aged out of care in 2017 did not have a verifiable source of income at exit.⁵¹

Average unemployment rates for all youth in NYC^{52,53}:

Ages 16-19	<div style="width: 33%; background-color: #0070C0; height: 10px;"></div>	33%
Ages 20-24	<div style="width: 16%; background-color: #0070C0; height: 10px;"></div>	16%

Earnings

No data available.

⁴⁷ Includes youth exiting care of DCFS as well as crossover youth exiting care of the Department of Probation. Source: California Department of Social Services. (2018). *Outcomes for Youth Exiting Foster Care at Age 18 or Older*. Retrieved from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website: [URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_8A.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_8A.aspx)

⁴⁸ Courtney, M., Okpych, N. J., Park, K., Harty, J., Feng, H., Torres-Garcia, A., & Sayed, S. (2018). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 21*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE0518_1.pdf

⁴⁹ New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2018). *Youth Experience Survey 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2018/ACSYouthExperienceSurveyMay152018.pdf>

⁵⁰ New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2018). *Youth Experience Survey 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2018/ACSYouthExperienceSurveyMay152018.pdf>

⁵¹ Among other data sources, this report uses Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA) data which is youth- or caseworker-reported and not verified, with more reliable administrative data. This data should be interpreted with caution. Source: New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2017). *Report on Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2017/YouthInFosterCare2017.pdf>

⁵² Three-year combined estimate from 2014-2016 for youth actively seeking employment. Source: Citizens' Committee for Children of New York. (2018). *Teen Unemployment (16 to 19 Years)*. Retrieved from <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/81/teen-unemployment-16-to-19-years#81/a/3/125/22/a>

⁵³ Five-year combined estimate from 2014-2017 for youth actively seeking employment. Source: Citizens' Committee for Children of New York. (2018). *Youth Unemployment (20 to 24 Years)*. Retrieved from <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/1180/youth-unemployment-20-to-24-years#1180/a/3/1312/25/a>

Challenges and next steps

Strengthening systems and policy. While DCFS has provided one-time funding to dedicate training slots for foster youth at publicly-funded workforce agencies in LA, long-term cross-system solutions are needed.

Advancing innovative programs. Although there are some exciting programs designed to equip foster TAY to enter the workforce, they tend to focus on and incentivize job placement. Stakeholders shared concerns that fewer supports promote retention. Pursuing stronger long-term partnerships between workforce systems and employers, so that the system is incentivized beyond the first day of hire, would help with this issue.

In NYC, there are concerns that some of the requirements and criteria for participating in workforce programs are too structured to be appropriate for foster TAY, who often face chaotic housing and caregiver situations. This, combined with the multiple ways of accessing employment services, may prevent these programs from reaching a wide range of foster TAY. Limited opportunities also exist for foster TAY to directly engage with employers from a range of industries, which may contribute to difficulties that youth report in finding places that are hiring. Many available opportunities are within social services, and youth would benefit from a range of opportunities to foster and explore other interests.

Finally, workforce resources in LA are sometimes underutilized due to challenges with identifying and engaging foster TAY. With their different areas of expertise, child welfare and workforce agency staff would benefit from continued cross-system learning opportunities. The Los Angeles Performance Partnership Pilot (LAP3) initiative, which seeks to improve education and employment outcomes for disconnected youth, including foster TAY, provides one avenue for this cross-sector learning and support. Monthly regional LAP3 workgroups bring together public and private agencies from health, education, workforce, probation, and child welfare, and the OYC continues to prioritize support of foster youth in these efforts.

Expanding and sharing knowledge. Both jurisdictions are working on improving data infrastructure. In LA, advocates and public agencies will work to strengthen the data elements captured in the Economic Development Scorecard described above. In NYC, although ACS receives data on the number of youth engaged, enrolled, and completing workforce programs, leaders would like more data on outcomes and better data to help inform which youth are eligible for and would benefit from programs.

What are young people saying?

NYC: Two-thirds of youth need help finding places that are hiring. Of the youth who needed this assistance, less than half (46%) had this need met. Almost half (48% of youth) also indicated needing help learning what jobs to apply for, and less than half (42%) had this need met.⁵⁴

LA: Training and vocational work opportunities should recognize that not every youth wants to be in construction, retail, or grocery. Ask youth about their interests and build responsive opportunities.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ New York City Administration for Children's Services. (2018). *Youth Experience Survey 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/data-analysis/2018/ACSYouthExperienceSurveyMay152018.pdf>

⁵⁵ Los Angeles Youth Focus Group. (2018). *Child Trends*.

Upcoming areas of focus

In the later months of 2018, much work was done in LA to develop a uniform process for referrals from DCFS to all seven Workforce Development Boards. An MOU is in development to formalize this process, with the support of the OYC. Workforce Development agencies will be required to contact referred youth within seven days, with a feedback loop to let the youth's caseworker know what services or supports were utilized. Finalization and implementation of this new process to open and streamline entry into public training and work experience programs will be a part of 2019's work. OYC is also working on a guide to support youth with their employment pathways, and OYC partners will convene an employment summit in July 2019, bringing together workforce and child welfare partners to increase cross-system understanding of resources and improve youth access to services. In partnership with OYC and DCFS, *iFoster* will recruit, train, supervise, and place 100 foster TAY into AmeriCorps internships hosted at public Workforce Agency locations, college campus support programs such as Guardian Scholars, DCFS, and other county and community offices.

Issue area 4: Improving placement experiences for transition age foster youth

Placing foster TAY in supportive and nurturing family foster homes allows them to form close relationships with adults who help them transition to adulthood.

Advancing the Initiative's objectives

Through the work of the grantees and the Foundation, the Initiative advanced reform in several ways in NYC and LA. Below we highlight examples of this important work.

Strengthening systems and policy. LA system leaders and Initiative grantees have invested deeply in California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), which provides the policy framework to support all children and youth in foster care to live with committed, nurturing, and permanent families. Grantees have done significant work around CCR implementation. For example, related to the Resource Family Approval (RFA), grantees have taken leadership roles on the RFA Steering Committee, which meets monthly and is co-chaired by the *Alliance for Children's Rights*, *Children's Law Center*, *Public Counsel*, and DCFS. Advocates also championed AB 1811, which provides funding at time of placement while families await finalization of RFA approval, and SB 1083, which makes the RFA process more timely by extending the conversion deadline and establishing time limits on family assessments.

The Step Up Coalition is a partnership of several Hilton grantees (the *Alliance for Children's Rights*, *Children's Law Center*, *John Burton Advocates for Youth*, *Public Counsel*, and *Children Now*) and other organizations that mobilizes systems, engages kin caregivers, and elevates the focus on kin caregiver needs in these and other related policy efforts.

Advancing innovative programs. As part of Home Away from Home, Hilton funding to *New Yorkers for Children* supports intensive technical assistance and data analysis directly to provider agencies to improve recruitment, training, support, and retention. Results from the first year show marked increases in foster care recruitment at these agencies, and little change at those who did not receive this intensive support.

Grantees in both LA and NYC have done much work to support caregivers through their programs. In LA, the RFA Toolkit developed by the Step Up Coalition guides prospective resource parents through the RFA application process and provides easy-to-understand information on the services and financial supports available to resource families. Grantees are augmenting the core services available to resource families under CCR by developing training programs (e.g., JBAY developed a training program on how to create college-going cultures in the home, and the *LA Reproductive Health Equity Project [LA RHEP]* is collaborating with Seattle Children’s Hospital to revise their reproductive health curriculum for caregivers). In LA and NYC, *First Star* hosted workshops for caregivers on topics such as postsecondary admissions requirements. Similarly, in NYC, *Children’s Village’s Families Supporting Teens (FaST)* program provides foster families with in-home visits at least monthly to discuss goals, progress, and crisis intervention, as well as access to 24/7 support. *Graham Windham* also keeps in monthly contact with families to support educational plans and positive family dynamics.

Foundation as a change agent

Although all provider agencies in NYC receive support around foster home recruitment, the six Home away from Home Innovation sites, funded with support from the Hilton Foundation, have seen the greatest successes. They have increased their numbers of new foster homes by 50%, compared to 4% for the rest of the system, and 20-25% will accept teens immediately.

Expanding and sharing knowledge. The dynamic reporting tools on *California Child Welfare Indicators Project’s (CCWIP)* website allow users to drill down to better understand the experiences and outcomes of foster TAY in LA. CCWIP’s website provides a wide range of data across several issue areas, including quarterly placement data by office in LA, allowing stakeholders to monitor progress toward family-based and kin placements and variability across the county. In LA and NYC, *FosterMore* launched an advertising campaign to recruit foster parents, including online media, PSAs, a website, and a Foster Parent of the Year promotion.

Public Catalyst, which provides intensive technical assistance and trainings to provider agencies, and Action Research, which provides research and data support, meet monthly with ACS to discuss current trends for foster TAY, caregiver recruitment and retention, foster care utilization and placement, and best practices through Home Away from Home, which the Initiative funds through *New Yorkers for Children*.





Overview of placement benchmarks and opportunities

Benchmark	Opportunities
Goal 1: Caregiver support	
Sufficient number of appropriate caregivers are recruited and retained to provide family-based placement to all TAY	Training and technical assistance related to resource family recruitment and retention continue in both LA and NYC through Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and Home Away from Home, respectively. Additional strategies are required to recruit more families generally and to support more experienced foster parents to provide care for TAY and youth with intensive therapeutic needs. Legislative activity is anticipated in LA related to an urgent response system for resource families and foster TAY, along with continued CCR implementation support on topics such as the level of care assessment tool for specialized needs.
All caregivers, including relative caregivers, receive ongoing and adequate financial supports	
Caregivers are supported to adequately meet the mental and physical health, education, and developmental needs of the foster TAY placement	
Goal 2: Emphasis on families and family-like settings	

Child welfare agency gives priority to placements with families, including kin	As with Goal 1, continued implementation of CCR and Home Away from Home will support progress in LA and NYC toward strengthening family-based placement and reducing congregate care.
Child welfare agency works to reduce placement and length of stay in congregate care with appropriate planning for step down and into family settings	

An example of efforts toward the placement benchmarks, representing the work of the Initiative and its grantees as well as other system stakeholders and partners, is presented below for each jurisdiction. We recognize that there may still be room for progress across these areas and will continue to monitor over time.

Figure 5. Examples of work in LA and NYC toward placement benchmarks

	LA BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:	NYC BENCHMARK EXAMPLE:
	Sufficient number of appropriate caregivers are recruited and retained	Child welfare agency gives priority to placements with families, including kin
Political Will 	DCFS has identified recruitment priorities, including increased coordination with the Family Foster Agencies (FFAs), targeted recruitment, and caregiver engagement.	Interagency Foster Care Task Force recommended ACS explore hiring Kinship Specialists to identify and support kin placement. This recommendation has been implemented.
Policy 	Continuum of Care Reform (AB 403) augmented funding for foster parent recruitment, retention, and support. This funding has been extended into a fourth year.	State legislation broadened supports available through KinGAP (subsidized permanent guardianship).
Program 	DCFS has contracted with community-based organizations to support prospective and current foster parents. CA has engaged an expert consultant to train counties on recruitment and retention. LA's Probation Department is coordinating with DCFS on the use of \$5 million in state funding for recruitment.	Home Away from Home provides technical assistance to a subset of provider agencies and workshops for all provider agencies on increasing kin and family-based care. ACS launched a pilot to increase the proportion of children placed with kin.
Data 		ACS reports monthly placement data, including kin placements, in its Flash Report. More detailed data are available to providers on a monthly basis. ACS has set a goal of increasing kin placement from 31% to 46% by the end of 2020.

Placement experiences of foster TAY in LA and NYC



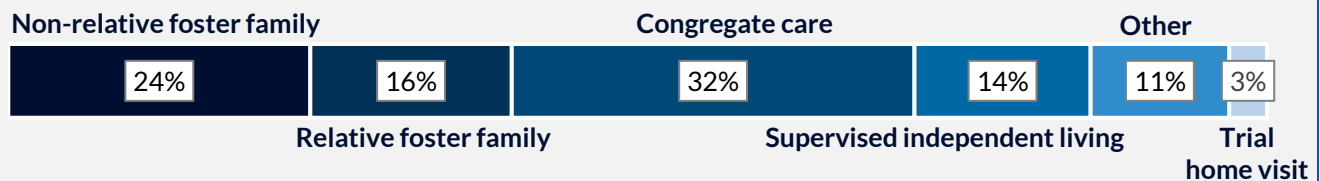
Los Angeles

Caregivers

No data available.

Placement⁵⁶

Placement for foster TAY ages 16-20 in FFY 2016:



Foster TAY, in care on July 1, 2018, in a family-based placement⁵⁷:



Placement stability

Placement stability during the school year is one factor that supports school stability.

Foster TAY experience an average of **three** placement moves per 1,000 days in care.⁵⁸

Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, **69%** of foster TAY remained in the same placement.⁵⁹

Among foster TAY ages 16 and 17 who entered care between July and December 2017 and were still in care at six months, **53%** were still in their first placement.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ TAY placement data presented here are based on Child Trends' analysis of AFCARS FFY 2016 data. These analyses include youth who were age 16 or older at the end of the year and had spent at least 45 days in foster care. Congregate care includes group homes and institutions for these analyses.

⁵⁷ Family-based placements include pre-adoptive, relative/NREFM, foster, FFA, guardian-dependent, and guardian-independent, and trial home visit. Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs) are not counted here, although some 18-21-year-old foster TAY in SILPs are also living in family settings. Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., ..., Morris, N. (2018). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

⁵⁸ Child Trends' analysis of AFCARS FFY 2016 data.

⁵⁹ Based on Child Trends' analysis of AFCARS FFY 2016 data. These analyses include youth who were age 16 or older at the end of the year and had spent at least 45 days in foster care. Entry into foster care was not counted as a placement change.

⁶⁰ Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., ..., Morris, N. (2018). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

