

A Call to Action for Transition-Aged Youth During the Pandemic: Fulfilling the Promise of the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act and Building a Bridge to a Thriving Recovery

Recommendations at a Glance

The full report can be found [here](#). Below are the short and long term recommendations included in the report to ensure an effective pandemic response as well as to begin efforts for much needed transformative policy reform to better support transition-aged youth with experience in foster care.

I. Recommended Immediate Actions Prior to September 30, 2021

1. Extend all provisions of Division X of the CAA until September 30, 2022 and continue the increase in Chafee funds.
2. Increase federal agency and Congressional oversight of implementation and increase technical assistance provided to child welfare agencies.
3. Enhance transition planning requirements and provide additional support to states to reflect the increased stresses and challenges young people face during the pandemic and recovery.

II. Recommended Post-Pandemic Actions to Build a Better Foundation of Supports for Transition-Aged Youth with Experience in Foster Care

1. Enact and enforce laws and policies that address the structural racism in the child welfare system and affirmatively promote anti-racism in the development and provision of services and supports to families and young people.
2. Require that all states provide extended foster care and remove all participation requirements to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to be served.
3. Re-envision extended foster care to ensure that it is able to provide the support intended for our most vulnerable youth in a new pandemic and post-pandemic reality, including applying adolescent and young adult development principles to practices and policies.
4. Require that the age of eligibility for Chafee services and funds be permanently extended through age 26, expand eligibility to young people who were adopted or entered guardianship prior to age 16, and remove any citizenship or immigration requirements.

5. Permanently increase the Chafee allocation, including the allocation for ETV, to reflect the number of eligible youth and the array of services and supports needed, and explore revamping the Chafee program to be more responsive to the needs of transition-aged youth.
6. Increase investments in older youth permanency and family based settings and continue efforts to limit the use of congregate and institutional settings that leave youth without family support while transitioning to adulthood.
7. Clarify that IV-E funds can be used to engage youth and alumni of the foster care system in designing and implementing policies and increase investments in engagement and hiring of youth with experience in foster care.
8. Increase federal investments in housing for young people as they transition to adulthood to reflect the need, and to account for regional housing costs.
9. Improve federal and state information technology systems generally and data collection while youth are in care and after they leave so that there is a more efficient means to connect youth to services, communicate with them, and track outcomes.
10. Develop systems for accountability that are co-designed with young people and ensure that any needed services are provided, and that services are high quality, engaging and result in positive outcomes.

Youth Law Center

832 Folsom Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94107

Contact Jennifer Pokempner at:
info@ylc.org

www.ylc.org

Think of Us

700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20003

Contact Sixto Cancel at:
sixto@thinkof-us.org

www.thinkof-us.org