



Youth Transition Action Teams

Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth

Fact Sheet

The Youth Transition Action Team Initiative focuses on bringing together the resources of the workforce, education, and child welfare systems with philanthropy to better prepare adolescents who are current or former foster youth to achieve economic, educational, and employment success as they transition into the adult world.

The Charge of Transition Action Teams

Transition Action Teams are made up of leaders from the child welfare, education, workforce development, juvenile justice, and other local systems, working together with philanthropy to improve transition outcomes for youth touched by the child welfare system. Each team is also charged with assisting its respective county in achieving their child welfare system improvement goals, particularly in the area of youth permanency.

Teams from across the state bring together and leverage the approaches, strategies, and resources of multiple efforts concerned with the issue of successful youth transition. They have assessed their current capacity to address the needs of foster and kinship youth, and developed practical and outcome-based work plans that align local resources and programs to meet the needs of foster and kinship youth. Participating counties are currently putting those plans into action.

An Eye to Outcomes

The impacts of the YTAT initiative will be measured by its success in improving outcomes for youth aging out of the foster care system in the following areas:

- ❑ **Educational achievement and aspiration** including the successful completion of high school, grades and credits earned, course of study meeting the standards for CSU admission, enrollment or plans for enrollment in post-secondary education, and scholarships earned.
- ❑ **Workforce readiness** including the creation of a career development portfolio, earning a work readiness certificate, successful completion of career development/professional-technical coursework and related activities, participation in a sequenced range of work-based learning activities and employment experience.
- ❑ **Employment** at a level sufficient to provide the resources for independent living.
- ❑ **Support Networks** including formal and informal positive relationships with peers, adults and institutions.

The initiative will also develop a set of measures to gauge the systems impacts on local youth serving collaborative efforts. Outcomes will include measures of efficiency in cross program collaboration, resource leveraging, evidence of effective partnering, the creation of common evaluation frameworks and tools, and supportive policy development.

Incorporating All Youth-One SystemSM Principles

To address the needs of foster and kinship youth in the context of a comprehensive transition system for all youth, Youth Transition Action Teams are applying the All Youth-One SystemSM (AYOS) principles developed by New Ways to Work. The AYOS approach integrates a set of services across systems that include the four core elements of academic achievement, career preparation, community services and support, and youth leadership, supported by a comprehensive youth development approach. Local YTAT's seek to align services and opportunities that address these elements among local and county agencies, programs, and organizations. The AYOS approach has been adopted by numerous Workforce Investment Boards and Local Youth Councils, educational institutions, and youth development practitioners, and now guides the Transition Action Teams in their work to build local systems to better serve youth in transition.

Supports Provided to Youth Transition Action Teams

All Transition Action Teams receive the following supports from the initiative:

- Technical assistance and coaching with a focus on
 - building effective, cross-system collaborations;
 - developing individual career development and transition plans;
 - implementing strategies for leveraging services and program activities from the education and workforce development communities;
 - identifying and effectively utilizing existing resources across systems;
 - conducting effective workplace partner and employer engagement activities; and
 - utilizing work-based learning as a developmental tool to ensure youth success in the transition to adulthood.
- Assistance in connecting to and building effective partnerships with workforce development, education, community-based, and career-development programs.
- Regular workshops, forums, and training in key areas identified by the participating communities.
- Communication and technology supports, including the collection and sharing of promising practices, tools, and ideas; newsletters and electronic e-news to update progress and communicate success to all counties and interested partners; and an interactive website.
- Training, support, and regular networking opportunities for identified team leaders in each implementing community.
- Annual networking events & activities designed to deliver critical content, support peer networking, and allow for focused strategic planning time.

Current Partners

- New Ways to Work (Facilitating Partner)
- The Child and Family Policy Institute of California
- The Foster Youth Employment, Training, and Housing Taskforce
- California Department of Social Services

Current and Former Investors

- Casey Family Programs (Initiative Sponsor)
- Walter S. Johnson Foundation
- Jewish Community Foundation
- Peninsula Community Foundation
- The San Francisco Foundation
- California Department of Social Services

Youth Transition Action Team Counties

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| ■ Alameda | ■ Orange | ■ San Mateo |
| ■ Amador/Calaveras | ■ Placer | ■ Shasta |
| ■ Fresno | ■ Sacramento | ■ Tulare |
| ■ Glenn | ■ San Bernardino | ■ Ventura |
| ■ Humboldt | ■ San Diego | ■ San Luis Obispo |
| ■ Los Angeles | ■ San Francisco | |
| ■ Mendocino | ■ Tehama | |