



---

## PROMISING FOSTER YOUTH TRANSITION PRACTICE

### *Youth Transition Action Teams Initiative* Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth

---

## North Central Counties Consortium's Foster Care Youth Project Helps Improve Transition Outcomes

**Submitted by:** North Central Counties Consortium (NCCC)

**Community:** Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, and Yuba Counties, California

**Key Partners:** Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, and Yuba Counties, California working through the NCCC; California Employment Development Department (EDD)

**Subject:** Youth-friendly One-Stops

**All Youth – One System Element:** Career Preparation

**Function:** Improve Program Practice

### **The Challenge:**

The five counties that make up the North Central Counties Consortium (NCCC)—Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, and Yuba—all have large areas that are rural. The scattered population, combined with inadequate funding for social services and few community-based or faith-based organizations, have historically led to significant gaps in services for current and emancipated foster youth. The NCCC found that there was no bridging system for transitioning foster youth: no housing, no emergency homeless shelters for emancipated youth, no access to ongoing education, and in fact no bridge to independence aside from the Independent Living Program (ILP) courses that were offered. The NCCC needed to do something about this dearth of services.

The NCCC found that some of the five counties were doing a good job coordinating services with the County Health and Human Services Department, as well as with their ILP; however, others were not. The NCCC felt it was imperative to educate all parties about the needs of foster youth and to begin to get the lines of communication open across agencies. The necessary communication topics included what the parties could do, whom they could serve, and how they could get referrals moving so that foster youth could access services.

Two other challenges were helping One-Stop staff understand the needs of foster youth and facilitating communication among the One-Stops, youth, and the Department of Health and Human Services. NCCC members recognized that it is difficult to make a government program into one that appeals to the current and former foster youth it is intended to serve. The programs in place operate under the constraints of the WIA and their rules, so the need to conform can deter youth from being involved. There is a tremendous amount of institutionalization of youth in foster care. They are used to having people tell them what to do, when to do it, and why to do it. At a certain point, though, youth do not want to hear this anymore.

---

## PROMISING FOSTER YOUTH TRANSITION PRACTICE

---

### **The Practice and Evidence:**

***The Practice:*** The NCCC embarked on the Foster Care Youth Project, one of three pilot EDD programs supported by the governor's WIA fifteen percent funds. The goal of the project is to improve transition services for foster youth. The NCCC wanted to educate partners located in the One-Stops on serving foster youth, educate the target population about how to use the One-Stops, and educate agencies that are working with current and emancipated foster youth on the services available at the One-Stops. They began with trainings for all involved staff, provided by Rick Rickord of the EDD. The next step entailed marketing the One-Stop system to current and emancipated foster youth.

***The Evidence:*** The county One-Stop operators were successful in accomplishing their outreach goals not only to the target population but to other organizations as well. They recorded increased service levels of both current and emancipated foster youth; improved relationships between the Departments of Social Services and One-Stops; increases in population coming in to One-Stop, whether they are being enrolled or not; and development of trust between youth and One-Stop staff so that youth are using the One-Stop system.

### **The Details:**

***Process used to establish the practice:*** The NCCC was actually approached by the EDD to participate in this pilot project because they serve a rural area. Before beginning the program, the NCCC interviewed One-Stop operators and managers from the departments of health and human services in the five counties and verified that foster youth were being underserved. The NCCC realized they needed to improve services for this population, and they wholeheartedly accepted this challenge.

***Strategy and practice:*** The NCCC brought the county programs and One-Stop staff together and developed a plan for educating all One-Stop partners (besides WIA partners) about how to work with foster youth. The specific focus was on the combining of efforts to serve foster youth and emancipated foster youth. The NCCC also realized they could educate the agencies within the counties that work with foster youth about what the One-Stop could provide.

***Evaluation:*** The NCCC has used the data that One-Stops are required to collect on service levels, and numbers of current and former foster youth coming to the centers to evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

### **What's Next for this Promising Transition Practice?**

The members of the NCCC have made a commitment to the One-Stops and to other involved administrative entities to continue the efforts beyond the pilot funding. They will use WIA funding. In addition, the NCCC will continue to write grant proposals and continue to look for funding and housing for high-risk youth.

### **Where to go for more information**

NORTH CENTRAL COUNTIES CONSORTIUM  
1215 Plumas Street, Suite 1800  
Yuba City, CA 95991  
(530) 822-7145  
(530) 822-7150 (fax)  
[www.northcentralcounties.org](http://www.northcentralcounties.org)

Cindy Newton  
Program Director  
Administrative Entity  
North Central Counties Consortium  
1215 Plumas Street, Suite 1800  
Yuba City, CA 95991  
(530) 751-8202  
[cnewton@ncen.org](mailto:cnewton@ncen.org)

---

## PROMISING FOSTER YOUTH TRANSITION PRACTICE

---

Lettie Seaver  
Administrative Entity  
North Central Counties Consortium  
1215 Plumas Street, Suite 1800  
Yuba City, CA 95991  
(530) 751-8202  
[lseaver@ncen.org](mailto:lseaver@ncen.org)

### **Tools**

*BustNOut* Web site for foster youth in the area developed by the Glenn County Human Resource Agency  
[www.bustnout.com](http://www.bustnout.com)