



alliance for our
FUTURES

Youth at the Cap TACFS Advocacy Day 2025

825 youth aged out of our state's foster care system last year. Aging out of foster care means that a young person in the foster care system has reached the legal age limit while under the state's conservatorship and they must transition to living independently, often without a permanent home or family to rely on.

Data shows that foster youth who age out of the foster care system often face significant challenges including high rates of homelessness, unemployment, lack of education attainment, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

According to data from the National Youth in Transition Database, by age 21, around 29% of youth who age out of foster care experience homelessness, with only about 57% being employed at that age.

We advocate for policies and funding that enhance services for older youth in foster care and young adults aging out of state care. This includes help with housing, transitional living, education, healthcare, and job readiness.






Why Youth Voice Matters

Youth in care are sometimes faced with an unfortunate catch-22 of choosing between the loss of the legal benefits that accompany a longer stay in foster care or positive legal permanency without proper support. Our youth should not have limited opportunities to build new connections because of the threat of lack of support. Alliance for our Futures will continue to advocate for improved access to appropriate services and an end to the impossible choice between a permanent home or necessary services.

Youth continue to express their desire to have meaningful input into their plans for their own future but find it difficult to give honest opinions to those who seemingly control that future. Employing youth-focused strategies that would strengthen existing relationships and promote healthy growth, while utilizing impartial facilitators would greatly empower youth to create their own transition planning meetings and give stronger voice to their own wants for their futures.

Youth who have system involvement have a unique perspective to offer, not only to their peers who come after them, but also to all of those who interact with system-involved youth, including the child welfare workforce, legal community, caregivers, and other community members. These youth often encounter stigma in their communities and would greatly benefit from those around them employing trauma-responsive practices that would recognize the transformative healing that can occur through any supporting relationship.



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