

NYTD 101

What is NYTD?

In 1999, Congress established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). This program gives States flexible funding to assist youth in transitioning out of foster care. The law also requires the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track the independent living services provided to youth and to develop outcomes that measure states' success in preparing youth for their transition from foster care to independent living. To meet this requirement, the National Youth in Transition Database, or NYTD, was created.

What data will be collected?

When NYTD is implemented, States will be asked to report the IL services provided to all youth in thirteen broad categories:

- **independent living needs assessment**
- **academic support**
- **post-secondary educational support**
- **career preparation**
- **employment programs or vocational training**
- **housing education and home management training**
- **budget and financial management**
- **health education and risk prevention**
- **family support and healthy marriage education;**
- **mentoring**
- **supervised independent living**
- **room and board financial assistance**
- **education financial assistance**

States will also be expected to survey certain youth at ages 17, 19 and 21 about the following outcomes:

- **financial self-sufficiency**
- **experience with homelessness**
- **educational attainment**
- **positive adult connections**
- **high-risk behavior**
- **access to health insurance**

What is happening with NYTD now?

In February of 2008, States received a notice (called the Final Rule) about the data to collect and that collection would begin on October 1, 2010. The first data submission is due by May 15, 2011. States are now determining the best way to collect the data that is required by NYTD.

What happens if States don't collect the data?

States are required to get at least 80 % of youth in foster care and at least 60 % of youth who have left care to participate in the youth outcomes survey. If States do not comply with (or meet) the data standards, they can be penalized between one and five percent of their annual Chafee Foster Care Independence Program allotment.

Why should you be involved?

This is your chance to make sure that IL services and outcomes for youth in your state are counted. Your involvement in NYTD will encourage your peers to participate, positively impact your own life, and, ultimately, improve services for younger youth in your state. We know that the outcomes of many youth who leave care are not always that positive. By participating and being active with NYTD, you can help change those outcomes. Get involved with NYTD!

Developed by the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development

What is your role?

Marketing NYTD – Get involved in spreading the word about NYTD. Talk about NYTD at teen conferences, youth advisory boards, trainings for child welfare professionals, and other places that involve the youth or caseworker.

The NYTD Process – Get involved with your State’s NYTD Team. Volunteer to complete a NYTD interview to understand the procedure better. Remember, data will be collected at ages 17, 19, and 21. You can be someone who helps to locate youth to interview. You can also interview current and former foster youth for the NYTD data collection as young people from care are more receptive to their peers in care rather than caseworkers.

Staff Training – Help train former foster youth and caseworkers on strategies for locating and engaging youth in the NYTD data collection process. Most caseworkers and other child welfare professionals may not have the technology savvy skills you may have when it comes to contacting and locating youth through popular social networks such as Facebook and MySpace.

Glossary of NYTD Terms

ACF – Administration for Children and Families

Baseline Population – For NYTD purposes, each youth who is in foster care as defined in 45 CFR 1355.20 and reaches his or her 17th birthday during FFY 2011, and such youth who reach a 17th birthday during every third year thereafter.

Final Rule – Established the National Youth in Transition Database in February 2008.

Follow-up Population – Each youth who reaches his or her 19th or 21st birthday in a FFY and participated in the State’s outcomes data collection as part of the baseline population, as specified in 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2). The follow-up population may be subject to sampling, as specified in 45 CFR 1356.84. A youth who participated in the data collection at age 17, but not 19 for a reason other than being deceased remains a part of the follow-up population at age 21. A youth is in the follow-up population as described regardless of the youth’s foster care status at ages 19 or 21.

NYTD – Acronym for the National Youth in Transition Database.

Report Period(s) – NYTD requires semi-annual reporting. The six month report periods are from October 1 to March 31, and April 1 to September 30. States must submit these files to ACF within 45 days of the end of the reporting period (i.e., by May 15 and November 14).

Reporting Population – The reporting population is comprised of youth in the served, baseline, and follow-up populations depending on the reporting period. These sub-populations are described elsewhere in this document.

Served Population – Each youth who receives an independent living service paid for or provided by the CFCIP agency during the reporting (six month) period is part of the served population.

John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) –CFCIP provides States with greater funding and flexibility to carry out programs which assist youth in making the transition from foster care to self sufficiency. It was created with the enactment of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

Sources: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/systems/nytd/about_nytd.htm

Developed by the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development