

HOW WE DO THE WORK

Our approach is a systems-change effort designed to dramatically improve how communities and states respond to the needs of young people who are transitioning from foster care to adulthood. We work at the local, state and national levels to improve policies and practices. Paramount to this work is a commitment to making sure all young people everywhere — regardless of race or ethnicity — have equitable opportunities to achieve well-being and success.

BEST PRACTICES

The Jim Casey Initiative's approach, rooted in adolescent brain research, employs best practices to engage young people in the decisions that shape their lives; apply a racial and ethnic equity lens to reduce system-level disparities; leverage community partnerships to develop resources; use data and evaluation of progress to improve outcomes; and build public will to create better policies that sustain enhancements over time.

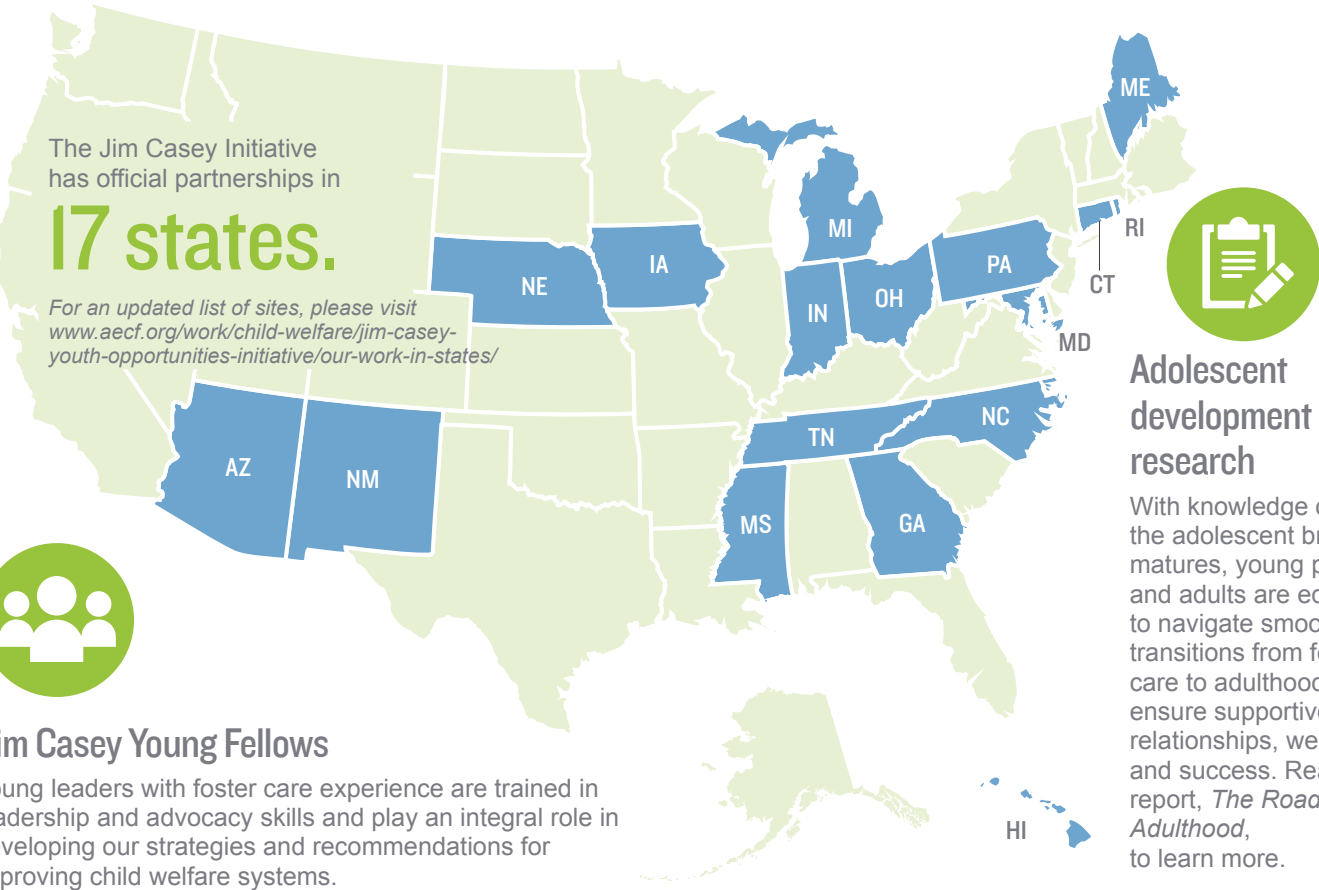
**Authentic youth engagement**

**Racial and ethnic equity and inclusion**

**Partnerships and resources**


**Data, accountability and communications**

**Public will and policy**




The Jim Casey Initiative has official partnerships in **17 states.**

For an updated list of sites, please visit www.aecf.org/work/child-welfare/jim-casey-youth-opportunities-initiative/our-work-in-states/



Jim Casey Young Fellows

Young leaders with foster care experience are trained in leadership and advocacy skills and play an integral role in developing our strategies and recommendations for improving child welfare systems.



Adolescent development research

With knowledge of how the adolescent brain matures, young people and adults are equipped to navigate smooth transitions from foster care to adulthood to ensure supportive relationships, well-being and success. Read our report, *The Road to Adulthood*, to learn more.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Opportunity Passport®

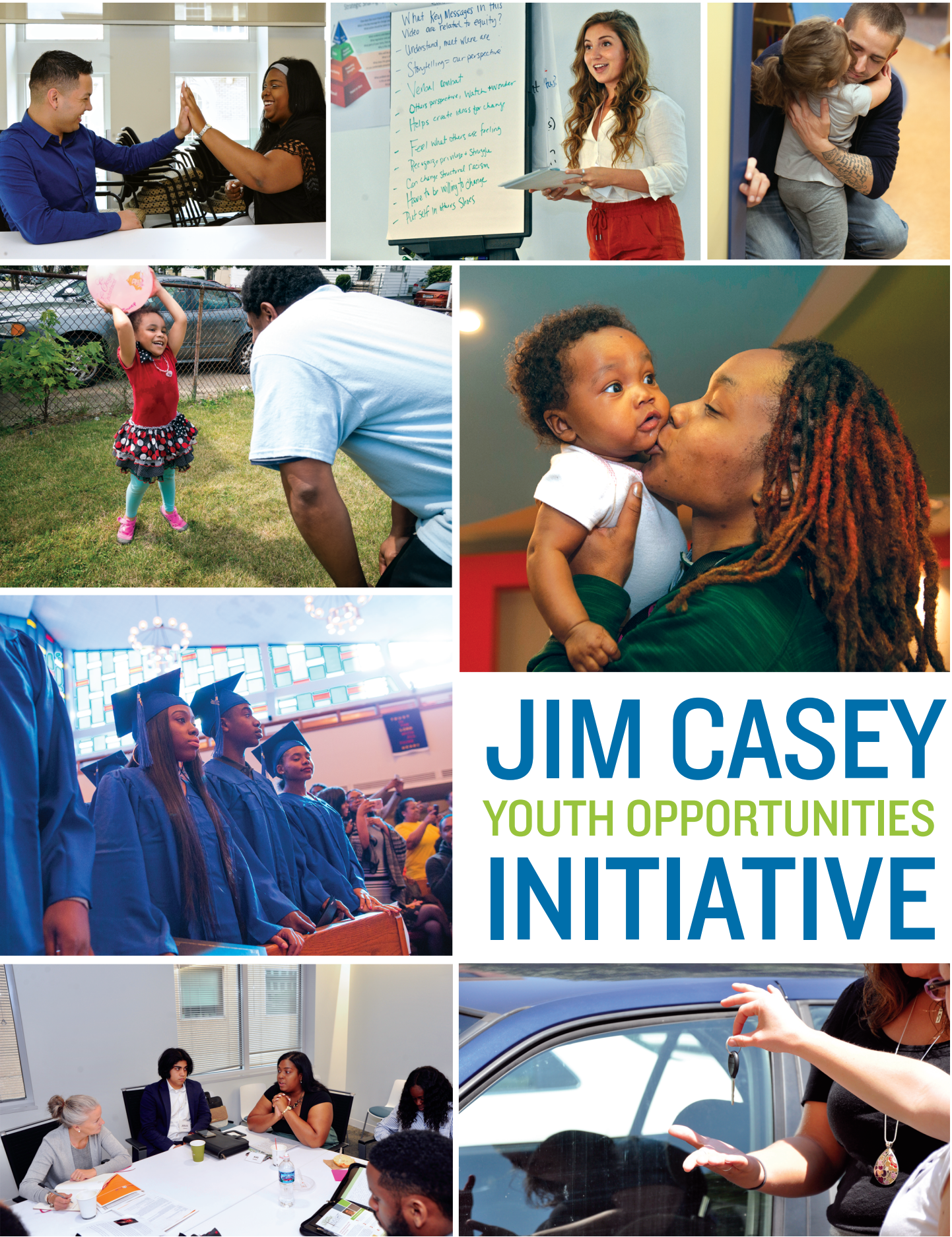
Learning financial capability during young adulthood can help ingrain habits of saving, money management and mainstream banking for a lifetime and build a pathway out of poverty and into successful adulthood. Our data show that Opportunity Passport participants have:

EDUCATION
2.7x 
higher odds of reporting being in school

VEHICLES
3.0x 
higher odds of reporting adequate transportation for school and work

HOUSING
1.7x 
higher odds of reporting stable housing

EMPLOYMENT
1.7x 
higher odds of reporting employment with a vehicle



JIM CASEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE

WHO WE ARE

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative® works to ensure that young people — ages 14 to 26 — in the United States who have spent at least one day in foster care after their 14th birthday have the resources, relationships and opportunities to achieve well-being and success. The Jim Casey Initiative does this by creating opportunities for young people to form permanent family connections, experience stable housing, achieve positive outcomes in education, become economically secure and make informed decisions about when to become parents.



MEASURING SUCCESS

The Jim Casey Initiative uses data to drive its decision making and strategy development, making it a leader in the collection of data from young people who are in or have been in foster care after the age of 14. We closely monitor this data to better understand how young people are faring and what more needs to be done to ensure they are thriving as they transition into adulthood.

Permanency

End the pipeline of youth exiting foster care and connect them with a caring adult who will support them for a lifetime.

% of youth of color with shorter lengths of stay in foster care

% of youth of color living with relatives

Stable Housing

Provide youth with a safe place to live that they can call home.

% of young people of color with safe and stable housing after exiting foster care

% of young people of color who avoid homelessness within two years of exiting foster care as a teen

Education Success & Economic Security

Connect youth with work opportunities and/or help them earn a high school diploma and postsecondary credential.

% of young people graduating from high school or earning a GED

% of young people who are employed by age 21

Pregnancy Prevention & Parenting Support

Prevent early pregnancies and support parents with the necessary tools to raise healthy children.

% of young people who delay having a child

% of young parents who retain custody of their children



WHY WE DO THE WORK

The Jim Casey Initiative advances strategies that aim to break the cycle of poverty for young people and build pathways to long-term stability and financial capability. Through our collective action and engagement with young people, we seek to ensure that they have equitable access to permanent family connections, stable housing, education success, economic security and pregnancy prevention and parenting support when they are exiting foster care. Our goal is to provide those who have experienced foster care with a rock-solid foundation that will propel them toward success and well-being.



JIM CASEY
YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES
INITIATIVE
THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION