

FUTURE SAVINGS BY IMPROVING OUTCOMES:

STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE

DURING YOUNG adulthood, important skills are developed such as decision making and behavioral and emotional regulation.

For young people in foster care, these developmental milestones can be hindered by frequent placement, housing and school changes and a lack of supportive adult connections, resources and access to services. This places them at avoidable increased risks for lower

educational attainment, higher rates of early parenting, homelessness and incarceration, compared with their peers who are not in foster care.

These disparities cause disruption and trauma that negatively affect brain development, lead to harmful outcomes for young people and cost society billions of dollars. Meanwhile, the personal costs to these young people are immeasurable.

FUTURE SAVINGS: \$4.1 BILLION¹

DISPARITY	IMPACT OF DISPARITY ON YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE	NUMBER IMPACTED BY ELIMINATING DISPARITY	ECONOMIC GAINS AND FUTURE SAVINGS
Education 	▶ Lower rates of high school graduation and reduced lifetime earnings	▶ 5,290 more young people graduate from high school per year	▶ \$2.17 billion in economic gains
Early Parenthood 	▶ Higher rates of early parenthood, resulting in a loss of income, increased medical expenses and an increased likelihood that their child will be in foster care	▶ 2,866 fewer women experience early parenthood by age 19	▶ \$295 million in first 15 years of a child's life
Housing 	▶ More likely to experience homelessness and need access to homeless shelters	▶ 4,370 fewer youth experience homelessness by age 21	▶ \$9.6 million on temporary shelter beds
Incarceration 	▶ Higher rates of juvenile and adult incarceration and recidivism	▶ 4,870 fewer youth involved in juvenile justice system by age 21	▶ \$1.6 billion on detention and incarceration

¹Additional details and methodology can be found here: (Future Savings: The Economic Potential of Successful Transitions from Foster Care to Adulthood)

POLICY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING LIVES AND REDUCING COSTS

There are policies that can help reduce these disparities and help young people with foster care experience get the RELATIONSHIPS, RESOURCES and OPPORTUNITIES they need to achieve well-being and success.



RELATIONSHIPS

Young people in foster care need permanent family connections and a network of supportive relationships, including with mentors, coaches, employers and others.

- ▶ Facilitate permanent family connections and cultivate a web of supportive relationships.
- ▶ Remove disincentives to permanent relationships that create barriers to adoption or guardianship.
- ▶ Extend foster care and permanency subsidies and supports to age 21.



RESOURCES

When leaving foster care, young people need access to critical resources, such as housing, health care and other supports.

- ▶ Provide youth-friendly housing and supportive housing services.
- ▶ Ensure access to health care, including reproductive health services.
- ▶ Implement evidence-based services for young people who are parenting.



OPPORTUNITIES

Young people need opportunities to try new things and learn new skills while in foster care.

- ▶ Connect child welfare and educational agencies to jointly support success.
- ▶ Make postsecondary education more affordable and provide support for students with foster care experience.
- ▶ Provide evidence-based career development and employment services.
- ▶ Implement programs like Opportunity Passport[®] that help young people learn financial literacy and save and purchase assets.