

MAP

by Katherine Gaughen



Guide to Mapping Community Assets for Transitioning Youth



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During the last decade, policymakers, program developers, advocates, researchers and funders have placed new focus on the challenges faced by young people transitioning from foster care.

Research has documented the overwhelmingly negative life outcomes experienced by young adults who leave foster care without legal permanence, including a reduced likelihood that they will attend and complete post-secondary education resulting in lower lifetime earnings.

Advocates, young people central among them, have highlighted the limitations of the child welfare system in preparing youth for adulthood and the need for services to help them successfully transition to independence. In recent years, these efforts have contributed to the passage of a number of supportive federal and state policies, including the landmark Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections).

Among its many provisions, Fostering Connections provides new supports and services to promote permanency and improve wellbeing of older youth in foster care. These include a new requirement that personal transition plans for youth aging out are developed within 90 days prior to youth exiting foster care. Specifically, Fostering Connections requires states to provide young adults during the 90-day period



immediately prior to aging out of care with assistance and support in developing a transition plan that is personalized at the direction of the young person, includes specific options regarding:

- Housing
- Health insurance
- Education
- Local opportunities for mentors
- Workforce supports and employment services

Additionally, the Affordable Care Act of 2009 requires that transition plans include information about the importance of designating an individual to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the young person and provides the young person with the option to execute a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document recognized under State law.

In order to develop a sound transition plan to effectively assist young people leaving foster care and meet the requirements of federal law, it is critical that state and community leaders have a clear understanding of the full breadth of resources that may be available to assist those young people. This guide seeks to help state and community leaders systematically map the supports and services available to young people transitioning from foster care, so that young people, case workers, advocates, and other supportive adults will be able to effectively take advantage of all of the resources available to them. It includes guidance regarding initiating asset-mapping in your state or community, specific worksheets to guide the mapping process, and advice on creating a repository of information that is easily accessible by young people.

As a companion to this guide, The Finance Project has also developed the Assessment of Resources to Support Young People Transitioning from Foster Care. The assessment tool is meant to help states and communities determine what additional resources and services may need to be developed to support young people in transition.

The guide was developed in collaboration with FosterClub, a national network for youth in foster care, who has developed a planning toolkit to help states implement the youth-directed transition plan mandated by Fostering Connections. It can be used in tandem with FosterClub's Transition Toolkit or as a stand alone document for states and communities that have designed their own youth-led transition planning process.

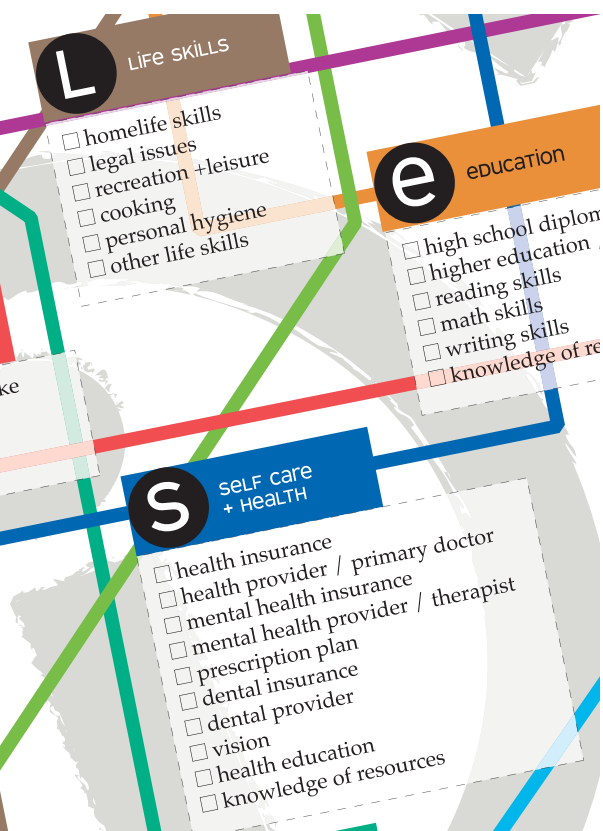
FosterClub's Transition Toolkit

FosterClub's Transition Toolkit was developed in collaboration with young people in and transitioning from foster care. The toolkit is an open source document available for free download from FosterClub's website, www.fosterclub.org.

The toolkit's design plays off a city metro/subway system, helping a young people to think about transition planning in the way that they could use a map to navigate a city. Each "subway line" of the map correlates to a domain that should be planned for as the young person prepares for transition to adulthood:

- Housing
- Self Care & Health
- Education
- Life Skills
- Transportation
- Identity
- Permanence
- Community, Culture & Social Life
- Job & Career

For every domain, the Toolkit contains youth-friendly instructions and worksheets. Youth are prompted to work with a Transition Team (a group of supporters of their choosing) to complete the Toolkit.



Young people may choose to tackle all of the domains or select those they most feel like they need to work on. Upon completion of all the worksheets, a young person will possess a comprehensive transition plan consisting of:

- An inventory of current assets (including hard assets, skills, and knowledge) that they currently possess that will aid in transition,
- Resources they can be accessed (a perfect spot to place resources identified in *Mapping Community Assets for Transitioning Youth*), and
- A plan for preparing themselves.

Each worksheet has a readiness scale that will help young people and their team assess current areas of strength and highlight areas where more work needs to be done before the young person transitions to independence.

The worksheets are customizable to meet a state or community's needs. Most importantly — it is youth-powered and youth-friendly.

Before starting the asset-mapping process, it is critical to think through how you will manage the work. Take some time to consider the following issues:

Decide who's input you need.

Resource mapping for young people transitioning from foster care is best done as a collective process, including the input of variety of stakeholders. The quality of the resource map you produce depends in large part on the range of stakeholders you involve in its development.

Representatives from a broad range of state and local public and private agencies, young people, and advocates each bring knowledge regarding specific supports and services that are available in their area of expertise. Having a wide range of stakeholders at the table ensures a comprehensive mapping process, so that all of the potential resources that young people may need to access are fully explicated.

It can be time intensive to coordinate a large group of stakeholders to undertake the mapping process, but it is time well spent. In many states and communities, there may be existing stakeholders groups that can take on this work as part of their operating mandate. If so, using an established collaborative is often the easiest and most efficient way to proceed. At the state level, this might be the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) stakeholder group or a subcommittee of the CFSR stakeholder group. At the local level, this may be an existing community collaborative focused more broadly on issues facing young people. One way to identify existing groups that support transitioning youth is to contact the local or state public child welfare agency and ask about any workgroups or committees that focus on transitioning youth or whether there is an existing group that might take on the work as part of their mission.

Build off of other mapping efforts.

Consider doing an environmental scan to determine whether anyone else in the state or community has done similar work. The United Way, states, and communities often have web-based resource directories. By reviewing any existing resource directories, you can determine whether these documents need to be updated and/or tailored specifically for young adults

Critical Partners in Mapping Assets for Transitioning Youth

Whether you are undertaking community mapping with an established group of stakeholders or engaging a new group of stakeholders, consider including representatives from the following groups:

- Young adults
- Judges
- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Guardian ad litem
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Tribal representatives
- Caseworkers
- Biological parents
- Foster parents
- Adoptive parents
- Legal guardians
- Department of Education
- Post-secondary education
- Department of Health
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Housing
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment
- Department of Labor
- Juvenile Justice
- Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- Child Care
- Domestic Violence
- Developmental Disabilities
- Private child welfare contractors
- Citizen Review Panel representatives
- Advocates

Remember, a large and diverse stakeholder group will lead to a more comprehensive list of resources to support transitioning youth.



transitioning from foster care. Building off existing resource directories is one way to ensure that your asset-mapping efforts use your partners' time most efficiently.

Consider your data repository

Before beginning the mapping process, spend some time determining how you will make the data you collect available to young people, caseworkers and other supportive adults. Consider where the data will reside and in what form. Determine whether data will be accessible via the web and whether you will print hard copies of the information for distribution.

Using the Asset Mapping Tool

Once you have assembled a committed group of stakeholders, completed some background work, and established a data repository system, the process of mapping assets for transitioning youth involves three critical steps:

1. Establish the scope of your mapping effort
2. Map the existing resources in your state or community
3. Create a repository of resources

Establish the Scope of your Mapping Effort

Establishing the scope of your resource mapping effort is critical to keep the mapping process focused. First, consider the population of young people that the resource guide seeks to assist as they transition to independence. As a group, consider the following questions:

- What population of young people does the resource map intend to target?
- What age groups?
- Are transitional services for young people leaving the juvenile justice and/or corrections systems included?
- Does the population include young people that have achieved legal permanence?

Once the group has collectively agreed on the population that the resource map intends to inform, it is important to determine the resources that will be included in your mapping efforts. Consistent with the FosterClub Transition Toolkit, this guide outlines ten critical domains necessary to support transitioning youth:

Ten Critical Domains

Finances and Money

including information regarding banking; sources of government support, budgeting, credit checks, financial education and Individual Development Accounts.

Job and Career

including information regarding career assessments, job search and placement services, resume preparation, interview skills, and job retention.

Life Skills

including information regarding safety, legal issues, etiquette, recreation/leisure, grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, personal hygiene, and positive communication.

Identity

including information regarding how to obtain a birth certificate, state-issued picture identification, social security card, and citizen/immigration documents.

Permanence

including information regarding understanding and establishing permanence and resources to identify kinship and sibling connections, to connect to supportive adults, and to support permanency, such as support groups.

Education

including information regarding obtaining school records, secondary education supports and post-secondary enrollment and retention supports.

Self Care & Health

including information regarding health, mental health, dental, vision and prescription insurance coverage and providers; and health education resources, such as substance abuse, coping with stress, nutrition, healthy relationships, pregnancy prevention and sexual health, fitness, first aid, and health self-advocacy.

Housing

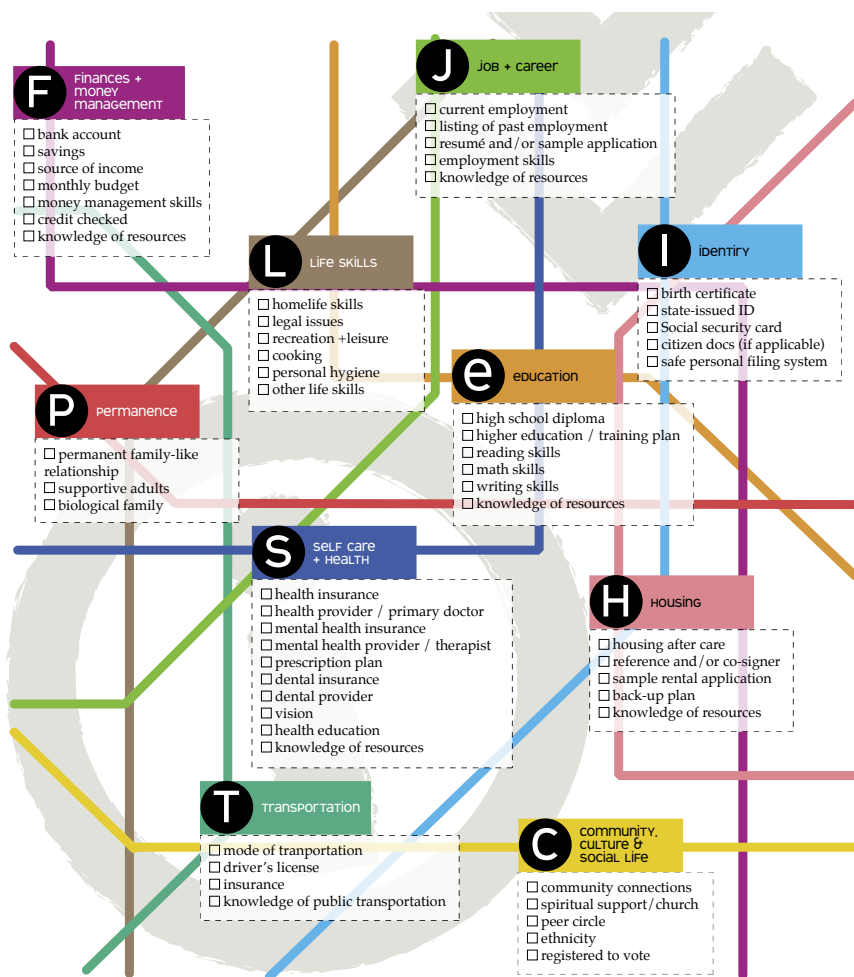
including information regarding transitional housing options, housing assistance, tenants' rights, purchasing a home, and emergency shelters.

Transportation

including information regarding public transportation resources, accessing driver's education, obtaining a driver's license, and education regarding car ownership and insurance.

Community, Culture, Social Life

including information regarding spiritual supports, peer supports, voter registration, selective Service registration, and ethnic affinity groups.



Based on your group's feedback, the list of resources required to achieve positive outcomes for transitioning youth in your state or community may differ from the specific resources listed within the ten domains above. While it is important that every mapping process be customized to meet the specialized needs of young people transitioning from any particular system, it is likely that all young people will need some level of support along each of these ten domains.

Map Existing Resources

Once your stakeholder group has agreed upon the list of resources necessary to support young people as they transition to adulthood, it is time to begin the work of mapping the specific supports and services that currently exist in your state or community.

If you have been able to assemble a multi-disciplinary stakeholder group, ask people to divide into subcommittees

Special Populations

In addition to mapping resources along the ten listed domains, some states and communities may want to map resources for special populations of young people, including young parents, tribal youth, and young adults with developmental disabilities.

If you are interested in mapping resources for these special groups of young people, you may want to consider pulling together a subcommittee of stakeholders that are experts in the subject area. Remember to follow the same general steps outlined throughout this guide – it is critical that stakeholders share a common vision and set of desired results in order to generate a comprehensive list of resources to support all young adults who may face additional challenges as they transition from foster care.



based on their area(s) of interest and expertise. While members of each subcommittee may be knowledgeable about the array of supports and services available to transitioning youth, several national resources are listed on the downloadable worksheets, which may help identify specific programs available in your state or community. Once each subcommittee has completed a preliminary map of their assigned domain, the resources can be circulated to the wider committee for their comment and review.

The following worksheets provide a sample format that you can use to map existing resources for transitioning youth. All of the worksheets can also be downloaded individually at no cost. Print as many worksheets as necessary in order to capture all of the resources available along any given domain. In order to ensure that young adults can easily assess which services are the “best fit” to meet their needs, it is critical to record the following information regarding each service concisely and in terms that are easy for young adults to understand:

- **Program Information.** Record the name of the program, address, main telephone number and website. In addition, if possible, identify a specific point of contact that a young person can contact for more information, including a telephone and e-mail address. Remember to include the title of the contact person to account for staff turnover.
- **Geographic Area Served.** Record the specific area that the program serves, including the city, county, and school district, if relevant.
- **Services Provided.** List the services that the program provides with as much specificity as possible.
- **Eligibility Criteria.** Record the specific eligibility criteria for the program, including any age, income, educational and residency requirements.
- **Application Requirements.** List any application requirements for the program, such as state-issued photo identification, drug or alcohol testing, etc.



Banking

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Financial Supports (Social security, disability, TANF, Chafee, etc.)

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Credit Checks

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Financial Education

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:

Individual Development Accounts

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:



Transitional Housing

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		Eligibility criteria:
Contact person (name, title)		
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Housing Assistance

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		Eligibility criteria:
Contact person (name, title)		
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Tenants' Rights

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		Eligibility criteria:
Contact person (name, title)		
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Home Ownership

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		Eligibility criteria:
Contact person (name, title)		
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		

Emergency Shelter

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		Eligibility criteria:
Contact person (name, title)		
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		



Health Insurance and Providers

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Mental Health Insurance and Providers

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Dental Insurance and Providers

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Vision Insurance and Providers

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:

Health Education Resources (including substance abuse, coping with stress, nutrition, healthy relationships, pregnancy prevention and sexual health, fitness, first aid, and health advocacy)

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:

Accessing Educational Records

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Secondary Education Supports (tutoring, credit transfer, GED programs, vocational programs, etc.)

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Post-secondary Education Enrollment and Retention Supports

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Post-secondary Retention Supports

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Post-secondary Housing Supports

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		



Life Skills Resources

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		



Public Transportation

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Driver's Education / Obtaining a Drivers License

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Car Ownership

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Obtaining a Birth Certificate

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Obtaining State-Issued Picture Identification

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Obtaining a Social Security Card

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Obtaining Citizenship / Immigration Documents

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		Application requirements:
Geographic area served		

Resources to Assist Young People in Understanding and Achieving Permanence

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Resources to Assist Young People in Identifying and Connection w/ Siblings & Kin

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Resources to Support Permanency

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Resources to Connect Young People to Supportive Adults

(mentoring programs, eco-mapping, Permanency Pact facilitators, etc.)

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		



Spiritual Supports

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Peer Supports

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Voter and Selective Service Registration

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Ethnic Affinity Groups

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		



Employment Supports

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

**Resource Type:**

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
Main telephone number		
Website		
Contact person (name, title)		Eligibility criteria:
E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Resource Type:

Program Name		Services Provided:
Address		
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E-mail		
Telephone number		
Geographic area served		Application requirements:
<i>Last updated (name, date)</i>		

Create a Repository

After you have catalogued the comprehensive range of the resources available in your state or community, it is critical to create a repository of information that is easily accessible to young people transitioning from foster care, their caseworkers, advocates, and other supportive adults. Ideally, such a repository would be web-based and easily searchable using a user-friendly interface, but even posting the list of resources as a Word document on websites that young people access regularly will begin to help meet their needs. If you have the resources to do so, consider creating an interactive website, where service providers can update their own information and young people can “review” services, giving real-time feedback on which resources are most useful to them as they leave care.

Once you have determined the medium in which you will make the resource list available, draft a communications plan to ensure that various user groups know that the resource list exists and how to access it as a support during the transition planning process. Use the stakeholder group to brainstorm creative outreach strategies to reach young people, caseworkers, advocates and supportive adults. Youth leadership board meetings and all-staff meetings at public and private child welfare agencies are two obvious ways to reach out to consumers of the resource map, but there may be other creative ways to ensure the repository of resources is accessed frequently, including e-mail blasts, text messaging, and updates on social networking websites.

Finally, it is critical to create a plan to bring the stakeholder group back together at least every six months to review the current list of resources. At these check-in meetings, stakeholders should review the current list of resources in each domain, ensuring that information is up-to-date and reflects any new resources that have become available in the state or community, as well as any resources that have disappeared.

The passage of Fostering Connections created important new opportunities to support young adults transitioning from foster care. The requirement of a youth-directed 90-day transition plan underscores the need to make sure that young people have access to the range of supports and services necessary to positively transition to independence.

Mapping resources for young people transitioning from foster care is an exciting and rewarding process. While it does take the time, commitment, and resources of a devoted group of stakeholders, a comprehensive asset-mapping process will reap great benefits for young people leaving foster care. The Guide to Mapping Community Assets for Transitioning Youth seeks to assist states and communities in undertaking this critical work in hopes to ease young people’s journey to adulthood.

The Fostering Connections Resource Center

The Fostering Connections Resource Center provides information, training and tools related to furthering the implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. The Older Youth Network coordinates support for and the dissemination of resources related to the older youth provisions of the law. The Older Youth Network is led by The Finance Project in partnership with the National Foster Care Coalition. The Fostering Connections Resource Center is supported through the generous contributions of the Annie E Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Dave Thomas Foundation on Adoption, Duke Endowment, Eckerd Family Foundation, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Sierra Health Foundation, Stuart Foundation and Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

For more information about the Fostering Connections Resource Center, visit www.fosteringconnections.org

The Foster Care Work Group

The Foster Care Work Group (FCWG) is one of three work groups of YTFG. The mission of FCWG is to ensure that all youth transitioning from foster care have lifelong family, personal, and community connections and the opportunities and tools to achieve economic success and well being. FCWG members work to coordinate and leverage investments that: help to build the capacity of communities to effectively support young people transitioning from foster care; strengthen federal and state policies for youth leaving care; and raise public awareness of the needs of youth currently in or transitioning from foster care. Together, members of FCWG are building a national movement of funders, community leaders, young people, policymakers, practitioners and researchers with a shared focus on supporting successful futures for foster youth.

For more information about FCWG, visit www.financeproject.org/special/practice/fcwg.cfm.

The Finance Project

The Finance Project (TFP) is a specialized non-profit research, technical assistance and training firm for public and private sector leaders nationwide. TFP helps leaders make smart investment decisions, develop sound financing strategies, and build solid partnerships that benefit children, families and communities. TFP supports policymakers, program developers, and community leaders by providing: creative new ideas for policies, programs, and system reforms; comprehensive tools for identifying, refining, and expanding the use of promising practices, and effective policy and program tools to help clients identify needs and achieve goals. TFP provides staff support to FCWG.

For more information, visit www.financeproject.org.

