

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

Program Description:

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA) of 1999, required the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop and implement a data collection system to track the independent living services provided to youth, and develop outcome measures that may be used to assess a states performance in operating their independent living programs. The data will be collected and reported to ACF on a semi-annual basis.

Program Background:

On February 26, 2008, the ACF Children's Bureau published its Final Rule on NYTD in the Federal Register. The final rule outlines new requirements for States to collect and report youth data. States must comply with the regulations by October 1, 2010.

To continue to receive Federal Chafee funds and to be able to provide Independent Living Program Services to California's foster youth, the following must occur:

- CDSS must be able to transmit the data to the ACF in a specified format.
- Failure to meet the required response rate and submit 90% error free data will result in federal penalties.
- Penalties against the Chafee funding will result in less ILP services being provided to transition age youth.
- The primary goals of the project are to obtain data that will help to make informed decisions about service provision and to improve transition services and outcomes for current and former foster care youth.

Funding Accessibility:

- No additional federal funding is allocated for this project.
- Title IV-E funds are available for system changes in Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS/CMS).
- Chafee FCIA funds can be used for any and all costs associated with implementing the database.

Data Collection Requirements:

Served Population:

Any foster youth who has received one or more independent living services paid for or provided by the State agency.

Baseline Population:

Every youth receiving ILP services regardless of foster care status (KinGap, Probation and any other youth receiving services that is considered "after care" (no longer in the Foster Care system)).

- Track the number and characteristics of children receiving independent living services
- Track the type and quantity of independent living services States provide to youth
- Develop outcome measures to assess States' performance.

Data Collection Focuses:

1. All foster youth (including probation and KinGAP) who receive Independent Living Program (ILP) services:
 - As of July 1, 2009, there were 16,287 foster youth who were eligible for ILP services between the ages of 16 and 20.
 - Data collection is to be based on 11 broad categories of services: education, training, employment, mentoring, housing and daily living skills.
2. All 17 year old foster youth (including probation), regardless of participation in ILP:
 - As of July 1, 2009 there were 5,678 seventeen year olds in care. These youth must be surveyed within 45 days of their 17th birthday.
3. A sample follow up survey of the 17 year olds is to be done at ages 19 and 21:
 - Of the total population of 17 year olds to be surveyed initially, it is estimated that we will have to resurvey approximately 350 youth at age 19 and again at age 21..