



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 Independent Living services provided to all youth in thirteen broad categories:

independent living needs assessment
post-secondary educational support
employment programs or vocational training
housing education and home management training
budget and financial management
family support and healthy marriage education;
room and board financial assistance

supervised independent living
career preparation
mentoring
education financial assistance
health education and risk prevention
academic support

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

- **Increase youth financial self sufficiency.**
- **Improve youth educational attainment.**
- **Increase youth connections with adults.**
- **Reduce homelessness among youth.**
- **Reduce high-risk behavior among youth.**
- **Improve youth access to health insurance.**

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 Independent Living 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 and complete the survey when asked!