NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE **2022 NATIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES**

Mentorship and Relational Permanence



Young people involved in the foster care system often face limited opportunities to connect with supportive adults and peer groups, which especially effects transition-aged youth. Without these connections, young people are more likely to face issues with their independence and stability.

- Funding for young people to explore peer and professional professional networks
- Facilitating connections with mentors and supportive adults
- Data tracking to ensure connections are made for all youth

Access to Equitable and Quality Healthcare

Many of the children and adolescents who enter foster care have complicated and severe medical, mental, oral, and psychosocial health issues, including complex trauma. Problems faced by youth in foster care are compounded by a lack of adequate access to health services.



- Guarantee continuous coverage across state lines
- Mental health and oral care coverage •
- Medicines and treatments
- Preventive care
- Prenatal care and family planning

Juvenile Justice and the Foster Care to Prison Pipeline

Children who have been in foster care have a disproportionate risk of being incarcerated at some point in their young lives due to a variety of factors caused by an inequitable and flawed criminal justice system. This contributes to the "foster care to prison pipeline".



- Expanding diversionary programs that avoid youth incarceration
- Cross-agency connections between juvenile justice and child welfare systems
- Improve congregate care facilities and group homes so they are used only when needed and they best serve youth

Kinship Care and Support

Children and young people who enter foster care should be placed with family and kin, however, this does not always happen and they are instead placed into foster homes, where they can be subjected to multiple, short-term placements.

- Financial and peer support for kin while they care for young people
- Reducing barriers for kinship placement like using an old criminal convictions that don't jeopardize child safety
- Diligent recruitment of families and kin

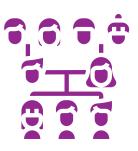
Higher Education Funding and Support



Higher education has become increasingly necessary. Unfortunately for foster youth, the financial resources, support, stability, and guidance needed to apply for and complete postsecondary education or training programs are often lacking.

- Increased ETV funds for young people
- Expanding age limits for Chafee/ETV programs
- Assistance with navigating and applying for school and related support programs





INTHE PIPELINE FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

JUVENILE JUSTICE

HR2908

Introduced 04/30/21

CHILDHOOD OFFENDERS REHABILITATION AND SAFETY ACT - REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)

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HR2834 / S2498

Introduced 04/26/2021

PROTECTING PROTECTING MIRANDA RIGHTS FOR KIDS ACT - REP. TONY CARDENAS (D, CA-29) - SEN. COREY BOOKER (D, NJ)

KINSHIP SUPPORT

HR2747 / S1540

Introduced 04/21/21

HELP GRANDFAMILIES PREVENT CHILD ABUSE ACT - REP. MARY SCANLON (D, PA-05) - SEN. MAGGIE HASSAN (D, NH)

HR5856

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

HR1793 / S712

Introduced 03/11/21 DOSHA JOI IMMEDIATE COVERAGE FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT - REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)

- SEN. BOB CASEY (D, PA)

HR1794

Introduced 03/11/21 FOSTER YOUTH DENTAL ACT - REP. BASS, KAREN (D, CA-37)

HR2033 / S836

Introduced 03/18/21

TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT - REP. BRENDA LAWRENCE (D, MI-14) - SEN. ROY BLUNT (R, MO)

HIGHER EDUCATION

Introduced 11/04/21

21ST CENTURY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT - REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)

MENTORSHIP

HR3083

Introduced 05/11/21

FOSTER YOUTH MENTORING ACT - REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)

HR5661 / S3078

Passed House 10/26/21

CONTINUED STATE FLEXIBILITY TO ASSIST OLDER FOSTER YOUTH ACT - REP. DANNY DAVIS (D, IL-07) - SEN. DEBBIE STABENOW (D, MI)

HR2028

Introduced 03/18/21

FOSTERING POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS FOR FOSTER AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT - REP. DAN KILDEE (D, MI-05)

HR2247

Introduced 03/26/21 JOHN LEWIS FOSTER YOUTH TUITION FAIRNESS ACT

- REP. MARK POCAN (D, WI-02)

S3350

Introduced 12/09/21

HELPING FOSTER AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACHIEVE ACT - SEN. JACKY ROSEN (D, NV)

> FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL US AT CONTACT@NFYI.ORG

