



Policy Briefing Paper

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Transitions to Adulthood for Texas Foster Youth

Every year, hundreds of Texas kids who were removed from their families' care due to abuse or neglect turn 18 without ever having found a permanent home. Sometimes they leave the state's care with too little guidance and support to make it on their own.

Executive Summary

Roughly 1,500 foster youth leave the state's care each year without a permanent home or family to provide them with support in their first years of adulthood. Transitions to independence without a family's emotional or financial support can prevent many of these youth from reaching their true potential. Foster children who reach adulthood before finding a permanent home face heightened rates of incarceration, homelessness, joblessness, teen pregnancy, poverty, and mental illness.

While 70% of foster youth say they want to attend college, only 3% receive a college degree.

A surge in the number of children taken into the Department of Family and Protective Services' custody in the 1990's and early 2000's means, for the next decade, Texas can expect to continue to face a high number of youth "aging out" of care. To improve outcomes for these youth and save Texas millions of dollars annually in lost wages and opportunity costs, we recommended the following for Texas:

1. Promote lasting connections to caring adults through continued efforts to promote permanency in foster children's lives, reduce foster care placements, and use available tools to build lasting relationships between youth and supportive adults.
 2. Expand housing options for transitioning youth, including supportive apartment housing, supervised shared housing, paid kinship placements, and foster homes for young adults.
 3. Help youth develop habits that promote financial security, such as matched savings account programs.
 4. Increase funding for transition program staff and services to meet the demands of a growing foster youth population.
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Transitions to Adulthood for Texas Foster Youth

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For any teen, the transition from childhood to adulthood can be difficult. Shaping an identity, learning hard lessons about responsibility and relationships, and mastering the practical skills of day-to-day living can lead many young adults to delay becoming fully self-sufficient until well into their twenties. These young adults rely on the support—financial, emotional, and social—of family members and caring adults as they move along the path toward adulthood. For youth who age out of the foster care system, however, this path may not exist. While some find success, others, without the supports available to their peers, are not so fortunate. Foster children who reach adulthood before finding a permanent home face heightened rates of incarceration, homelessness, and mental illness. This paper explores issues facing youth who age out of foster care and how Texas can help foster youth navigate a successful transition from childhood to adulthood.

Defining “Aging Out” of Foster Care and the Emancipated Population in Texas

A child “ages out” or is “emancipated” from the foster care system when he or she reaches 18 years of ageⁱ and is no longer obligated to remain in the custody of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Prior to state legislation passed in 2009, the court’s jurisdiction ended when youth turned 18—even for the approximately 500 youth who voluntarily remained in foster care after age 18 in order to continue receiving support until they were better prepared to live independently. As of 2009, the court can continue to have jurisdiction after age 18 if the youth requests it or is not able to care for him- or herself. In Texas, youth can voluntarily remain in foster care until age 22 if enrolled in an educational program or employed at least 80 hours per month.ⁱⁱ

In Texas, 1,468 youth aged out of foster care in 2008, and, as of August of the same year, 4,395 youth age 14-17 were preparing to age out in the next three years.ⁱⁱⁱ The foster care alumni population is expected to continue growing due to a surge in the number of out-of-home child protective placements in the 1990’s and early 2000’s. Child protection reforms that began in 2005 put greater emphasis on prevention and permanency planning, reducing the number of children entering foster care. There was a 3.5% decline in the out-of-home care population from 2006-2007 alone;^{iv} however, this leaves a “bubble” of children who will be aging out in the coming decade.

Barriers to Success for Former Foster Children

For most adolescents, an 18th birthday is merely symbolic of independence; few changes to the young person’s responsibilities and circumstances occur immediately. Family members often offer material resources in the form of housing, utilities, and meals. For a foster youth, losing these supports at age 18 can be a major barrier to success. For example, finding and maintaining a job can be very difficult when one cannot easily access the internet, a telephone, or reliable transportation. This is especially true for an 18-year-old with little job experience or knowledge of community resources.

An arguably greater barrier to success for these youth is the absence of a caring adult to provide guidance, advice, and instruction. Lessons about adult responsibilities—money management, housekeeping, relationships, and healthcare—may be missed, not to mention emotional support, encouragement, and reassurance. An emancipated youth is likely to have spent, on average, five years of his or her life in the foster care system. Older youth typically have little stability, moving between foster homes and institutional settings, on average, roughly nine times during a five-year period (This is more than twice the rate of placement changes for children who do not age out of care, but instead are adopted or placed back with their family.).^v With so many placements, it is not surprising that many foster youth lack caring adult support systems.

While 70% of foster youth say they want to attend college, only 3% receive a college degree.^{vi} A study of 122 service providers in New England explored barriers to educational attainment of youth eligible for the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher program.^{vii} Results showed that many youth who were aware of available supports did not access them because of prior negative experiences with school and child welfare systems. Failure to have needs like housing, transportation, and mental health met can further impede academic achievement.^{viii}

It is important to remember that many foster youth overcome challenges and do exceedingly well. However, outcome statistics show that foster youth, as a group, struggle more than other young adults:

- Foster care alumni are more than twice as likely to drop out of high school.^{ix}
- After four years of independence from the foster care system, only half of former foster youth hold a job.^x
- A 2003 study found a third of foster care alumni have household incomes at or below the federal poverty level^{xi}—nearly three times the national poverty rate.^{xii}
- Thirty percent of homeless adults report having been involved in the foster care system.^{xiii}
- One in four former foster youth have reported symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder, compared to 4% of the general population.^{xiv}
- Roughly 30% of foster youth who age out of care have a diagnosed mental health challenge, such as depression.^{xv}
- The teen birth rate for girls in foster care is twice that of the general population. Nearly half of all girls who lived in foster care are pregnant at least once by age 19.^{xvi}
- Among male foster youth and alumni, 30% are incarcerated by age 19.^{xvii}

The Economic Impact for Texas

Each of the above-listed outcomes carries a high price for Texas and taxpayers. Allowing foster youth to fall through the cracks represents lost potential and real economic and social expenses for years to come. For example, each former foster youth who is incarcerated costs Texas an average of \$22,650 per year, not accounting for inflation.^{xviii} Former foster children are also more likely to live below the poverty line and be dependent on government aid such as Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) as adults. These programs range in average monthly costs, but can total approximately \$600 per month per person.^{xix} For the 1,468 youth who aged out of foster care in 2008, the cost of Medicaid, TANF, SNAP, and imprisonment total approximately \$8.5 million a year, without even accounting for inflation.^{xx} This does not include lost opportunity costs for former foster youth who drop out of high school or remain jobless, mental health service costs, and other expenses associated with barriers former foster youth encounter.

Current Policies to Help Transitioning Youth

While the above statistics are disheartening, they need not predict the future of any foster child. Recent policy changes provide opportunities for improved outcomes. The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Fostering Connections), passed in October of 2008, seeks to improve access to education and health care and extend federal support for foster youth until age 19, 20, or 21—whichever states choose. This support is provided for youth who are employed or enrolled in college, a technical/training school, or a work training program.^{xxi} Texas has extended support until age 21 (22 if still in high school) since 2005, so the new federal legislation will replace state funds with federal funds.^{xxii}

Finding independent housing that offers the right balance of freedom, supervision, and resources that young people need can be a struggle. Under the Fostering Connections Act, the federal government will make foster care payments for youth who live in supervised independent living settings beginning in FY 2010.^{xxiii} DFPS is preparing for the implementation of Fostering Connections, which will offer federal- and state-funded independent housing options to Texas foster youth for the first time.^{xxiv}

Texas is also taking more steps than ever before to make sure the voices of foster care alumni are heard. A bill passed in 2009 requires DFPS to create a transitional living workgroup to generate recommendations for improving services to youth leaving foster care. This group includes transitional service providers, CASA volunteers, former foster youth, and other relevant professionals.^{xxv} The Youth Leadership initiative at DFPS brings former foster youth into advisory roles in each DFPS region to advise staff and support the statewide Youth Leadership Council of current and recently emancipated foster youth. It is used^{xxvi} as an avenue for input and feedback to inform program development.

Texas lawmakers have made education and health for foster youth a priority. The Legislature has waived tuition and fees at state universities for former foster children who age out of care or were adopted after the age of 14.^{xxvii} Over 1,700 students benefited in the 2006-2007 school year.^{xxviii} In 2009, this program was expanded so that foster youth have until age 25 to enroll in college and take advantage of the tuition/fee waiver.^{xxix} Additionally, the Educational and Training Voucher Program provides foster care alumni ages 16-23 up to \$5,000 per year in educational assistance.^{xxx} State legislation from 2005 expanded former foster youths' access to Medicaid so that foster youth who are living independently or still receiving foster care services are eligible for Medicaid until their 21st birthday.^{xxxi}

DFPS, workforce development boards, and the Texas Workforce Commission, along with community-based organizations, all have a role in meeting the unique employment needs of foster youth. The Texas Legislature in 2009 gave former foster youth a hiring preference at state agencies over similarly qualified applicants^{xxxii} and identified emancipated foster youth as economically disadvantaged individuals, making them eligible for employment benefits available to members of this group. One of the most persistent barriers to employment is lack of documentation. It is nearly impossible to get a job without a birth certificate, passport, driver's license, social security card, or other official identification. Legislation from 2009 requires that youth age 16 and older have continuous access to personal identification documents, including a state-issued I.D. card, a social security card, and immunization records, and assigns a DFPS employee to ensure youth receive these documents and help with their replacement if lost or stolen.^{xxxiii}

The federal Fostering Connections Act requires that, 90 days before a youth is emancipated, a caseworker must help the youth develop a personal transition plan.^{xxxiv} Texas takes this further: planning for transition to adulthood and transitional family group decision making begins at age 14. This includes

enrolling the youth in the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program and individually tailored adult life skills education in a supervised setting.^{xxxv} PAL begins with an independent living skills assessment, and includes training on everyday activities such as grocery shopping, laundry, money management, finding housing, transportation, self care, and housekeeping. The program also provides short-term financial assistance, job skills training, and vocational and educational services.^{xxxvi} In 2008, of 8,610 eligible Texas youth, 7,622 received PAL services,^{xxxvii} a marked increase over the 4,297 participants in 2002.^{xxxviii}

Evidence-Based and Promising Practices for Improving Transitions to Adulthood

One way to ensure that state policy helps improve outcomes for foster care alumni is by implementing foster care transition programs with a proven record of success. There are evidence-based promising practices across the nation and in Texas that are setting the stage for successful youth transitions.

Practice #1: Continued foster care and court involvement

Youth who remain in a court-involved child welfare system beyond age 18 fare considerably better than those who do not.^{xxxix} As mentioned above, Texas passed legislation in 2009 allowing youth to voluntarily remain under court jurisdiction until age 21. This will give youth continued access to an attorney or guardian to assist them in accessing services.^{xl} A major study has also found that those who remain in foster care beyond age 18 are more likely to pursue higher education, delay pregnancy, and have increased lifetime earnings.^{xli} In Texas, allowing youth to stay in foster care until age 21 costs roughly \$35,000 per child,^{xlii} but the federal government will pay for a portion of these costs starting in FY 2010 when the Fostering Connections Act goes into effect, saving state dollars.^{xliii} A study on the effect of the Fostering Connections Act in California showed that for every dollar spent keeping kids in foster care until age 21, there was a \$2.40 return on that investment for the youth who earn a bachelor's degree and a \$2 return on each dollar for those with some college.^{xliv} A study on the effects of a proposed transitional support program for California foster youth predicted that it "would increase lifetime earnings and taxes paid due to increased education and would lower use of TANF and prison, resulting in a benefit-cost ratio of 1.5 to 1."^{xlv}

Practice #2: Asset-building programs

Savings and financial planning initiatives help youth build resources that facilitate economic success. The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative's Opportunity Passport program is one example. The program, which is privately funded, offers foster care youth age 14-24 matched savings Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to promote money management skills and experience with mainstream financial systems, while also providing a way to build assets. A foundation matches up to \$1,000 per year for savings that can be spent on education, healthcare, a vehicle, housing, investment, and enterprise.^{xlvi} Cities in ten states are utilizing this program.^{xlvii} Outcome surveys show that youth who are parents and who have no adult support use IDAs at higher rates than their peers, indicating that the program works even for those facing the greatest barriers to economic success. Asset purchasers report a greater likelihood of having stable employment and housing. The asset most often purchased was a vehicle, providing youth with reliable transportation to work or school and greatly expanding access to jobs and safe, affordable housing.^{xlviii}

Practice #3: Transition centers

Youth need easy access to a variety of services in order to transition successfully. Transition centers offer just that—a one-stop shop for foster care alumni to learn about and access community resources and necessities for independent living. They house PAL classes, job-skills training, counseling, case management, and other services all under one roof, which is critical for youth for whom navigating an

uncoordinated patchwork of services spread out across a city could otherwise easily prove challenging. Some transition centers, such as the Lifeworks Youth Resource Center in Austin, even offer computers, long-distance phone service, voicemail, and office equipment use. Utilizing services through Lifeworks has yielded a variety of positive outcomes: 98% of clients did not experience a subsequent pregnancy, 83% improved their education and/or employment, and 100% had stable housing 30 days after discharge.^{xlix} There are ten existing transition centers in Texas, yet many parts of the state lack this type of service coordination altogether. Initial transition center operations were funded by the Texas Workforce Commission, Casey Family Programs, and various community partners,¹ and they are struggling with very limited financial and human resources to meet the needs of youth who seek their services.

Practice #4: Independent housing

Supportive, affordable housing allows youth to practice independent living skills while they transition to independence. First Place Fund in Oakland, California, found that foster youth participating in their transitional housing program were “six times less likely to become incarcerated, four times less likely to be homeless, three times less likely to receive public assistance, and 50% more likely to be employed” than the general population of foster youth 12-18 months after leaving foster care. This program gradually decreases the rental subsidies it pays to participants over the course of two years, so young adults have time to adapt to independence rather than abruptly lose all rent assistance.^{li}

Practice #5: Lasting emotional support systems

Few things matter more for a successful transition to adulthood than having a lasting emotional connection to a caring adult. A study of 339 older youth in foster care found that those who had a natural mentoring relationship at age 18 had fewer symptoms of depression, less stress, and greater satisfaction with life six months later.^{lii} The same group continued to show lower stress levels and was less likely to have been arrested at age 19 compared to youth who did not have a mentor. This study defines a natural mentor as someone the youth selected who is an adult and not related, but offers a willing ear, along with guidance and encouragement. As an example, 51% of foster youth in a similar study identified adults they had met through formal service systems such as caseworkers or counselors as natural mentors.^{liii} Programs such as DFPS’s Circles of Support, which brings together a group of youth-selected, caring adults who help the youth carry out his or her transition plan, may help promote natural mentoring relationships.^{liiv}

Recommendations for Texas

Recent foster care transition legislation and best practice programs across the state are big steps in the right direction. To continue improving outcomes for foster care alumni, we recommend that Texas:

1. Promote lasting connections to caring adults.

The positive outcomes associated with having a permanent connection to a caring adult are too strong to ignore. A Chapin Hall study of former foster children found that emotional support represented the support these young adults most needed and most lacked.^{liv} The most significant way to provide this connection is to continue promoting permanency in CPS cases through reunification, placement with someone a youth identifies as a family member, adoption, and foster caregiver retention efforts. Until permanency is achieved, a secondary goal should be to minimize the number of foster care placements a child experiences.^{lvi} Another way the state can promote lasting connections is by formally incorporating a tool such as a permanency pact—a written agreement between a foster youth and a

caring adult establishing a permanent, supportive relationship^{lvii} —into the PAL curriculum or into Circles of Support. Currently DFPS gives out information about this type of tool, but it is not part of either program.^{lviii} Incorporating such a tool into these programs would carry little, if any, cost.

2. Expand housing options for transitioning youth.

Youth transitioning to adulthood need housing options that offer a continuum of services and supervision. Currently there are few choices between living in a foster home and living independently. Supportive apartment housing for those prepared for independent living, supervised shared housing for those who need more structure, paid kinship placements, and foster homes with caregivers specially trained to help guide youth ages 18 and older would provide a more comprehensive approach. DFPS is currently gathering information on options for and challenges to implementing supervised independent living settings under the federal Fostering Connections Act.^{lix} Given the positive outcomes associated with such placements, Texas needs to maximize its use of funding available through Fostering Connections to provide as many independent living arrangements as it can. Once the federal government begins funding eligible supervised independent living placements, DFPS will pay only a small portion of these costs.^{lx}

3. Help youth develop habits that promote financial security.

Promoting participation in IDA programs can pave the way to financial success. As an example of the short-term costs of an IDA program funded by the private sector, participants in the Jim Casey Foundation's Opportunity Passport asset-building program can receive up to \$10,000 in matched funds over ten years. Actual costs vary because not all participants save the yearly \$1,000 maximum, nor do all remain in the program for ten years.^{lxi} The habit of saving developed by youth who save through an IDA continues to pay off well into the future.^{lxii}

4. Increase funding for transition program staff and services.

There are two prongs of transition services that need support. First, community-based transition centers require additional funding to provide current services to a growing foster youth population. Their public funding has been seed money only, and the period for those funds is ending. DFPS has encouraged the development of transition centers, and the state has a responsibility to fund this effective infrastructure for youth for whom it has been the parent. Existing transition centers in Texas have roughly estimated they would need a minimum of \$100,000 annually to increase case management for existing youth at each of the ten centers, approximately \$1 million annually.^{lxiii} A start-up investment is also needed for new transition centers, or alternative transition services models, in parts of the state that do not have an existing transition center. Second, hiring more caseworkers and working toward caseworker retention within DFPS will also improve transition services. Despite recent reforms, caseworker caseloads are still far above recommended levels. For example, in 2008, Central Texas PAL caseworkers carried up to 450 cases at once, making it very difficult to effectively and thoroughly deliver PAL services.^{lxiv} Funding for additional staff during the 2010-2011 biennium should improve projected caseloads, but additional job responsibilities for PAL staff, such as maintaining the National Youth in Transition Database^{lxv} and fulfilling the new documentation requirement for transitioning youth,^{lxvi} make the true caseload impact of additional funding difficult to determine.

ⁱ Texas Family Code, Title 5, Subtitle B, <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/?link=FA>

ⁱⁱ SB 6, Relating to protective services and certain family law matters; providing penalties. Available at: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=79R&Bill=SB6>

ⁱⁱⁱ DFPS data book 2008 http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/about/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2008/databook/default.asp

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- ^{iv} Casey Family Programs Texas 2020 Data Brief “What is the impact of screenings and investigations on the number of children in out-of-home care in Texas?” Available at www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/DataBriefs/pdf/Texas.pdf
- ^v DFPS data book 2008 http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/about/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2008/databook/default.asp
- ^{vi} Ibid.
- ^{vii} To learn more about the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher program in Texas, go to http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/chafee.asp
- ^{viii} Wells, Melissa, and Zunz, Sharyn “Challenges and strengths among Chafee Education and Training Voucher eligible youth: The rural service providers’ perspective” Children and Youth Services Review, Volume 31, Issue 2, February 2009, Pages 235-242
- ^{ix} “Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care” Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA www.casey.org
- ^x Ibid.
- ^{xi} Pecora, P.J., Kessler, R.C., Williams, J., O’Brien, K., Downs, A.C., English, D., White, J., Hiripi, E., White, C. R., Wiggins, T., & Holmes, K.E., “Improving Family Foster Care: Findings from the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study”. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs. Available at <http://www.casey.org>.
- ^{xii} US Census Bureau Poverty: 2004 highlights <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty04/pov04hi.html>
- ^{xiii} Child Welfare League of America 2007 Children’s Legislative Agenda www.clwa.org
- ^{xiv} Ibid.
- ^{xv} “Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care” Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA www.casey.org
- ^{xvi} Melissa Fletcher Stoeltje San Antonio Express News “Foster kids-turned-moms becoming an alarming trend” http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/Foster_kids-turned-moms_becoming_alarming_trend.html
- ^{xvii} “Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care” Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA www.casey.org
- ^{xviii} Stephan, James J. “Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: State Prison Expenditures, 2001.” US Department of Justice. Available online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pubalp2.htm#spe>
- ^{xix} Texas spent an average of \$439 per month for each non-disabled, non-elderly adult Medicaid recipient in FY 2007, according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. “Texas Medicaid and CHIP in Perspective (The “Pink Book”).” Seventh Edition, January 2009. Available at <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Medicaid/reports/PB7/PinkBookTOC.html>. In July of 2009, Texas spent an average of \$68 for each of its TANF State Program recipients, and in September 2009 Texas SNAP payments averaged \$122 per recipient, according to Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas TANF and SNAP Enrollment Statistics. Available at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/TANF_FS.asp
- ^{xx} This is an approximation based on Texas Care’s calculation that a) 30% of the 798 male foster care alumni (assuming the percentage of males who emancipated from foster care reflects the percentage of males in foster care as a whole) will spend an average of at least 1 year in the prison system (based on an average time served of 4.5 years for Texas prison inmates, 91% of the incarcerated population, and .8 years for Texas state jail inmates, 9% of the incarcerated population), at a cost of \$22,650 per year (2001 costs) totaling \$5,422,410, not adjusted for inflation, b) 33.2% of the 1468 youth aging out of care in 2008 will live in poverty, of which 2.77% will be eligible for and receive TANF benefits (equivalent to the percentage of Texas’s population in poverty who received TANF in July of 2009), of which 4.3% will be paid for with state dollars, totaling \$473.70 c) 33.2% of 1468 emancipated youth will live in poverty, of which 100% will receive Medicaid (assuming that all take advantage of new legislation that allows for a single Medicaid application up to age 21) totaling \$2,567,496.77 and d) 33.2% of 1468 emancipated youth will live in poverty, of which 77.5% will be eligible for and receive SNAP benefits (equivalent to this percentage for all Texans in poverty) totaling \$552,976.80. Totals \$8,543,357.27 annually.
- ^{xxi} Children’s Defense Fund “Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act” Summary, October 2008
- ^{xxii} SB 6, Relating to protective services and certain family law matters; providing penalties. Available at: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=79R&Bill=SB6>
- ^{xxiii} In order to qualify for this funding the foster youth must be enrolled in high school, a GED program, college, a trade/technical school, an employment program or must be employed.
- ^{xxiv} Interview with Gaye Vopat, Statewide Preparation for Adult Living Specialist, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. October 9, 2009.
- ^{xxv} HB 1912, Improving Transition Services for Youth Leaving Foster Care. 81st Texas Legislative Session. Available online at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB1912>
- ^{xxvi} DFPS Transitional Living Services Program Description http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Transitional_Living/default.asp
- ^{xxvii} SB 6, Relating to protective services and certain family law matters; providing penalties. Available at: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=79R&Bill=SB6>
- ^{xxviii} DFPS Transitional Living Services Program Description http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Transitional_Living/default.asp
- ^{xxix} SB 43, Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for students who have been under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services. 81st Texas Legislative Session. Available online at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=SB43>
- ^{xxx} TDFPS Transitional Living Services Program Description http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Transitional_Living/default.asp
- ^{xxxi} SB 6, Relating to protective services and certain family law matters; providing penalties. Available at: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=79R&Bill=SB6>
- ^{xxxii} HB 1043, Relating to the creation of employment opportunities for certain former foster children. Available at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB1043>

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- ^{xxxiii} HB 1912, Improving Transition Services for Youth Leaving Foster Care. 81st Texas Legislative Session. Available online at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB1912>
- ^{xxxiv} Children’s Defense Fund “Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act” Summary, October 2008
- ^{xxxv} HB 1912, Improving Transition Services for Youth Leaving Foster Care. 81st Texas Legislative Session. Available online at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB1912>
- ^{xxxvi} Ibid.
- ^{xxxvii} DFPS data book 2008 http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/about/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2008/databook/default.asp
- ^{xxxviii} DFPS data book 2004 http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/about/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2008/databook/default.asp
- ^{xxxix} Buss, Emily et. Al. “From Foster Care to Adulthood” The University of Chicago Law School Foster Care Project’s Protocol for Reform, 2008.
- ^{xl} Center for Public Policy Priorities. “Policy Page: Child Protective Services and the 81st Legislature.” July 16, 2009. Available online at http://www.cppp.org/files/4/412_CPS.pdf.
- ^{xli} Courtney, Mark, Amy Dworsky and Harold Pollack “When Should the State Cease Parenting? Evidence from the Midwest Study” Chapin Hall Center for Children Issue Brief, December 2007
- ^{xlii} According to the DFPS 2008 Data Book, there were 30,150 paid foster care clients and 31,058 children in foster care in Texas in 2008. A total of \$363,973,648, was paid to these families, averaging \$11,719 per child per year.
- ^{xliii} Center for Public Policy Priorities. “Policy Page: New Federal Foster Care Legislation: What it Means for Texas.” November 3, 2008. Available online at <http://www.cppp.org/files/4/newfostercare.pdf>.
- ^{xliv} Courtney, Mark E., Dworsky, Amy, Peters, Clark M., Pollak, Harold. “California’s Fostering Connections to Success Act and the Costs and Benefits of Extending Foster Care to 21” Partners for Our Children, University of Washington, Chapin Hall Center for Children Chapin Hall, 2009. Available at: <http://www.chapinhall.org/research/brief/extending-foster-care-age-21-weighing-costs-government-against-benefits-youth>
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- ^{xlvi} “The Opportunity Passport: Building Assets for Youth Aging out of Foster Care” Findings from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative, June 2009
- ^{xlvii} Gray, Aracelis. “Connected by 25: Financing Asset-Building and Financial Education Programs for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care.” Connected By 25 and The Finance Project. April 2007
- ^{xlviii} “The Opportunity Passport: Building Assets for Youth Aging out of Foster Care” Findings from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative, June 2009
- ^{xlix} Lifeworks 2008 Annual Report <http://www.lifeworksaustin.org/site/c.jqLSIXOBKpF/b.1504613/k.B698/News.htm>
- ^l DFPS Transitional Living Services Program Description http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Transitional_Living/default.asp
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- ^{liv} Transitional Planning and Circles of Support. http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Transitional_Living/forms.asp#planning
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- ^{lvi} “Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care” Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA www.casey.org
- ^{lvii} Permanency Pact <http://transition.fosterclub.com/article/permanency-pact>
- ^{lviii} Interview with Gaye Vopat, Statewide Preparation for Adult Living Specialist, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. October 9, 2009.
- ^{lix} Interview with Gaye Vopat, Statewide Preparation for Adult Living Specialist, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. October 9, 2009.
- ^{lx} Center for Public Policy Priorities. “Policy Page: New Federal Foster Care Legislation: What it Means for Texas.” November 3, 2008. Available online at <http://www.cppp.org/files/4/newfostercare.pdf>.
- ^{lxi} “The Opportunity Passport: Building Assets for Youth Aging out of Foster Care” Findings from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative, June 2009
- ^{lxii} Savings for Education, Entrepreneurship, and Down payment (SEED) Demonstration Project Survey, <http://www.illinoisassetbuilding.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/csaoverview-final.pdf>, page 8.
- ^{lxiii} As an example the estimated annual budget for Lifeworks Youth Resource Center in Austin is \$200,000. They served 360 former foster youth in 2008.
- ^{lxiv} Travis County CPS Board: Youth Aging Out Subcommittee, Report for the Commissioner’s Court. April 17, 2008. Available online at http://www.co.travis.tx.us/commissioners_court/agendas/2008/04/vs080415.asp#work_session
- ^{lxv} For more information on the National Youth in Transition Database, see Federal Register 45 CFR Part 1356, Vol 73, No. 38. February 26, 2008.

^{lxvi} HB 1912, Improving Transition Services for Youth Leaving Foster Care. 81st Texas Legislative Session. Available online at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB1912>