

# Transitioning Youth Additional Resources

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<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2005). <i>A report to Congress on adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care: Focus on older children</i>. Washington, DC: Children's Bureau.</p>	<p>This report addresses the achievement of permanency (defined as reunification with the birth family, living with relatives, guardianship, or adoption) for children in foster care, with a special focus on older children. Specifically, the report identifies challenges that hinder permanency, and it presents strategies and promising approaches being undertaken to achieve permanency.</p> <p>The challenges discussed are lack of permanent families, lack of services, inadequate permanency planning, resistance from youth, staff issues, and court and legal issues. The strategies and promising approaches discussed include those pertaining to recruitment of families, pre- and post-placement services, involvement of youth in permanency planning, staff enhancements, court reform, and child welfare system reform.</p>	<p>This is a report prepared pursuant to the Adoption Promotion Act. This report is extraordinarily relevant to the area of reform. It is heavily cited, and it provides a broad range of options for improving the current system.</p> <p><a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/</a></p>
<p>McNaught, K., Onkeles, L., &amp; US Department of Health and Human Services. (2004). <i>Improving outcomes for older youth: What judges and attorneys need to know</i>. Tulsa, OK: National Resource Center for Youth Development.</p>	<p>This is a practitioner's guide for attorneys and judges dealing with youth aging out of foster care. It addresses the practitioner's role; adolescent development issues; relevant federal law; state specific resources; and the well-being of, special considerations for, and special issues pertaining to this particular population. Additionally, it includes checklists to be used by attorneys and judges for quick reference in the courtroom.</p>	<p>Although lengthy, the guide is informative, user-friendly, and set-up for easy reference.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gal4kids.org/">http://www.gal4kids.org/</a></p>
<p>Pokempner, J., &amp; Rosado, L.M. (2003). <i>Dependent youth aging out of foster care in Pennsylvania: A judicial</i></p>	<p>This is a publication by the Juvenile Law Center designed specifically for the judiciary. Its purpose is to aid the court in planning for the needs of youth in the state's care so that the youth can age</p>	<p>The publication is set-up in a question and answer format that is very helpful. Generally, a commonly asked</p>

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<p><i>guide</i>. Philadelphia, PA: Juvenile Law Center.</p>	<p>out of the state's care as self-sufficient, healthy, and productive adults. The underlying idea is that courts must be aware of the age-appropriate needs and milestones that all adolescents experience, as well as the special needs of foster care youth who are making the transition to adulthood.</p> <p>The main topics discussed are (1) the Foster Care Independence Act, (2) teenagers and the Adoption and Safe Families Act, (3) Pennsylvania law affecting older foster youth, (4) the court's obligation to older non-foster youth seeking assistance, (5) health care, (6) education and special education, (7) services for youth with disabilities, (8) services for youth who have children, and (9) benefits that may be obtained as part of a discharge plan.</p>	<p>question is presented in bold, which is followed by a direct answer and a fairly detailed analysis.</p> <p><a href="http://www.jlc.org/">http://www.jlc.org/</a></p>
<p>Frey, L.L., Greenblatt, S.B., &amp; Brown, J. (2005). <i>A call to action: An integrated approach to youth permanency and preparation for adulthood</i>. New Haven: Casey Family Services.</p>	<p>This publication discusses the problem of "aging out" of the foster care system without a permanent family and/or adequate preparation for adulthood. It proposes a holistic and integrated approach that incorporates both permanency and preparation to serving youth in foster care. Specifically, it identifies five guiding principles and six ways to achieve such an approach, as well as the results that should occur when change is taking place.</p> <p>The publication defines "permanency" as having an enduring family relationship that is safe and meant to last a lifetime; offers the legal rights and social status of full family membership; provides for physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and spiritual well-being; and assures lifelong connections to extended family, siblings, other significant adults, family history and traditions, race and ethnic heritage, culture, religion, and language.</p> <p>The publication states that "adequate preparation for adulthood" addresses</p>	<p>This is a call to action.</p> <p><a href="http://www.aecf.org/">http://www.aecf.org/</a></p>

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	<p>questions such as: Has the child had consistent and nurturing parenting that provided the opportunity to develop strong personal values, a solid sense of integrity, a positive sense of self, an extended network of family support, and the capacity to build and maintain healthy relationships? Has there been consistent stability, quality, and opportunity in the child's education over the past 18 years to adequately prepare the child for college or a vocational program? What job opportunities and job skills training has the child had or will need that will prepare him or her to get and keep a job, develop a career path and assure sufficient income? Has the child had the opportunity over time to see the importance and learn the discipline of saving and budgeting money? Has the child had broad exposure and equal access to community experiences and opportunities that will maximize his network of relationships and resources?</p>	
<p>The Pew Charitable Trusts. (2007). <i>Time for reform: Aging out and on their own. Philadelphia, PA.</i></p>	<p>This article draws on findings from focus groups conducted with 54 youths who aged out or expected to age out of foster care. The results describe how the current foster care system fails to provide a permanent family for every child and the consequential problems that ensue for these children. The article concludes with recommendations for public policy reforms that could decrease the number of youth who age out of care each year by improving the federal foster care financing system.</p>	<p>This article is unique because it is written from the perspective of the foster care youth and contains a large amount of first-hand accounts.</p> <p><a href="http://www.pewtrusts.org/">http://www.pewtrusts.org/</a></p>
<p>Samuels, G.M. (2008) <i>A reason, a season, or a lifetime: Relational permanence among young adults with foster care backgrounds.</i> Chicago: Chapin Hall Center for Children at</p>	<p>The underlying premise of this study is that having a permanent supportive relationship with, and feeling connected to, an adult matters in the long- and short-term well-being of youth and young adults. With that in mind, the researchers use data gathered from 29 young adults who had once been in</p>	<p>This is an extraordinarily in-depth study from the University of Chicago.</p> <p><a href="http://www.chapinhall.org/">http://www.chapinhall.org/</a></p>

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the University of Chicago.	foster care to provide a better understanding of the social support networks among foster care youth. The study identifies a range of relationships in terms of their importance from the perspective of the young person.	
<p>Peters, C., Claussen Bell, K.S., Zinn, A., Goerge, R. M., &amp; Courtney, M. E. (2008). <i>Chapin Hall issue brief: Continuing in foster care beyond age 18: How courts can help</i>. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.</p>	<p>This article discusses a study completed by the University of Chicago (Chapin Hall). Starting with the premise that foster children who stay in care beyond the age of 18 experience more positive outcomes and fewer negative outcomes than those who leave at or around age 18, the researchers attempted to identify the major factors that influence whether young people remain in foster care beyond the age of 18 in the state of Illinois. The study found that, in Illinois, the major factors are: court jurisdiction; level of court advocacy; caseworkers', caregivers', youths', and court personnel's understanding of the law; caseworkers' recommendations; presence of stable and supportive relationships with caring adults; strength of connection to foster parent; ambivalence by youth and adults to extend care; difficulty of attending hearings; and level of guardians ad litem advocacy.</p>	<p>Article relevance is limited because the focus of the study is on the Illinois system and the issues specific to that system. It seems logical however, that many of the issues faced by Illinois are also faced by other states and commonwealths.</p> <p><a href="http://www.chapinhall.org/">http://www.chapinhall.org/</a></p>
<p>Courtney, M. E., Hook, J. L., &amp; Lee, J. S. (2010). <i>Chapin Hall issue brief: Distinct subgroups of former foster youth during young adulthood: Implications for policy and practice</i>. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.</p>	<p>This article uses research to identify four distinct subgroups of former foster youth: accelerated adults (those most likely to have made key transitions), struggling parents (those dominated by parenting responsibilities), emerging adults (those delaying some transition markers while generally avoiding hardship), and troubled or troubling adults (those exhibiting a wide range of psychosocial problems and posing challenges to the broader community). The article takes the position that the respective characteristics and needs of these subgroups call for nuanced approaches and distinct sets of services</p>	<p><a href="http://www.chapinhall.org/">http://www.chapinhall.org/</a></p>

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	<p>while the youth are making the transition to adulthood. It further discusses these distinct sets of services in relation to the benefits provided by the Fostering Connections Act.</p>	
<p>Sanchez, R.M. (2004). <i>Youth perspectives on permanency</i>. California Youth Connection &amp; California Permanency for Youth Project.</p> <p><a href="http://www.senecacenter.org/familyconnectedness">http://www.senecacenter.org/familyconnectedness</a></p>	<p>This document is based on the results of phone interviews with and a focus group of foster youths and former foster youths. It purports to illustrate the youths' ideas, concerns, and hopes about permanency. It addresses issues such as: the foster youth culture, what permanence means to foster youth, barriers to permanency, and ways to empower foster youth to achieve permanency.</p>	<p>Only 25 individuals participated in the phone interviews and only 9 participated in the focus group. Thus, the perspective of this document may not be representative of most foster youth, but information provides a unique perspective.</p>
<p>Maternal and Child Public Health Leadership Training Program. (2009). Youth in transition: Changing tracks to successful adult lives. <i>Northwest Bulletin: Family and Child Health</i>, 23(2), 1-18.</p>	<p>This publication addresses the variety of transitional issues youth face in moving to adulthood. There is a specific focus on children with special health care needs and those in the foster care system.</p>	<p>This document is an entire issue of the <i>Northwest Bulletin: Family and Child Health</i>. It addresses a wide range of information.</p> <p><a href="http://depts.washington.edu/">http://depts.washington.edu/</a></p>
<p>Courtney, M.E. (2007 July 12). <i>Children who age out of the foster care system</i>. Testimony given to Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, Committee on Ways and Means. United States House of Representatives: Washington D.C.</p>	<p>This publication is a short statement listing the findings of a recent study completed by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. Generally, the results of the study indicate that: young people who were once under the jurisdiction of a child welfare agency are having significant difficulties during the transition to adulthood; receipt of independent living services during the transition to adulthood is poor; a majority of the young people would remain in care past age 18 if given the opportunity and doing so appears to convey significant benefits; and there is a need for practitioners and policymakers to focus more on family relations for foster youth.</p>	<p>The report studied youth transitioning out of child welfare services in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gpo.gov/">http://www.gpo.gov/</a></p>