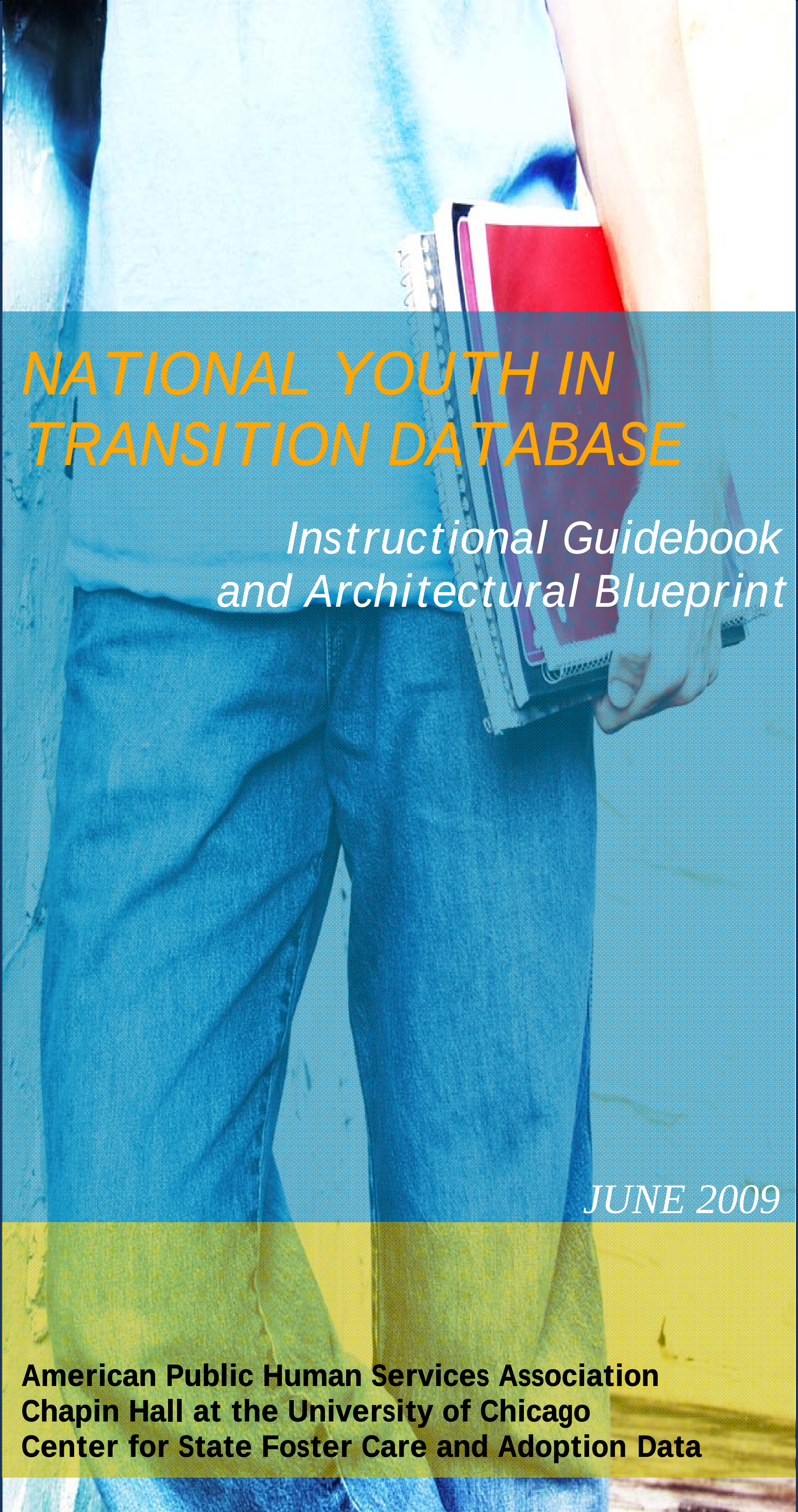

NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE

Instructional Guidebook and Architectural Blueprint

JUNE 2009

American Public Human Services Association
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data

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American Public Human Services Association

The American Public Human Services Association, founded in 1930, is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization of state and local human service agencies and individuals who work in or are interested in public human service programs whose mission is to develop and promote policies and practices that improve the health and well-being of families, children, and adults. APHSA educates Congress, the media, and the general public on social policies and practices and help state and local public human service agencies achieve their desired outcomes in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child care, child support, Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, child welfare, and other program areas and issues that affect families, the elderly and people who are economically disadvantaged.

Association staff, led by an Executive Director, is grouped into departments—Children and Family Services; Communications, Marketing and Membership; Health Services; Legislative Affairs and Organizational Effectiveness. The Office of the Executive Director oversees office management, including budget, finances and human resources

APHSA is respected for leadership in policy development in child welfare, foster care, youth aging out, disability, workforce development, TANF, and Medicaid.

APHSA is a recognized leader in information dissemination and hosts a variety of web sites, including a web site for the Center for Workers with Disabilities. APHSA will provide updates, published materials and general correspondence for the NYTD Initiative.

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Established in 1985, Chapin Hall is an independent, multidisciplinary policy research center whose mission is to build knowledge that improves policies and programs for children and youth, families, and their communities. Its research focuses particularly on the most vulnerable children and youth so that policymakers and practitioners can create programs and institutions that will help them develop into productive adults.

Chapin Hall's research agenda evolves through long-term engagement with public agency directors, government officials, philanthropic and community leaders, and others who turn to Chapin Hall for evidence to help shape their policies and programs. It also develops analytic tools to monitor child and youth outcomes and provide technical assistance to help agencies use their data to improve performance.

Chapin Hall is widely known for its pioneering work linking and analyzing data across human service systems to learn about the children, youth and families they serve and to understand how programs and institutions interact with one another. It also documents and evaluates community-building efforts, including the role of philanthropy in community-building.

Chapin Hall has connections to public policy and child-family research communities, both nationally and internationally. It puts its policy research into the hands of those who can use it in their agencies or communities through frequent online distribution of information as well as a robust publications program and events schedule, including several ongoing conference series.

Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data

The Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data, a partnership between the American Public Human Services Association and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, was established in 2004 to provide child welfare administrators from member states with cutting-edge information technology, data management tools and access to a unique longitudinal database. Together, these can be used to analyze key child welfare outcomes, compare outcomes across jurisdictions, project future service patterns based on historical trends, test the impact of service and policy innovations, monitor progress toward the achievement of performance goals and link financial decision-making to outcome measures.

Guided by an advisory board of state public child welfare administrators, the center is dedicated to bringing the unique perspective of its members to the continually changing needs of state child welfare agencies, and to building their long-term capacity for evidence-based decisions about program investments.

Core funding for the center comes from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The center operates in collaboration with the Jordan Institute for Families at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Center for Social Services Research of the University of California at Berkeley. Technical assistance for subscribers is provided in coordination with APHSA and its affiliate, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators.

Table of Contents

NYTD Initiative Background

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169), which established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, provides states with greater funding and flexibility to prepare foster youth for the transition to adulthood than they previously had under the Title IV-E Independent Living Program. The Act also requires the Administration for Children and Families to create a National Youth in Transition Database that will be used to track the Chafee-funded independent living services that states provide to foster youth as well as the characteristics of the youth who receive those services and to assess each state's performance as measured by foster youth outcomes, including educational attainment, employment, welfare dependency, homelessness, non-marital childbirth, incarceration and high-risk behaviors.

Despite a consensus among advocates, child welfare professionals and researchers about the need for data that could be used to assess the impact of the Chafee Program on outcomes of youth aging out of foster care, if each state develops its own tracking and data collection system, there will be 50 different systems, each state will have to bear all of the costs, and the data that are collected may not be consistent across states. However, if states were given an opportunity to work together, they could reduce the costs that each individual state must bear and develop a uniform tracking and data collection system and their data would be comparable.

Moreover, although the NYTD will provide much-needed information about the outcomes of young people aging out of foster care, the data that states will be required to collect is fairly minimal. If they really want to know how their foster youth are faring and how their provision of Chafee-funded services might be improved, states need to go beyond the data the federal government is requiring them to collect and measure outcomes in greater breadth and depth.

With these ideas in mind, the American Public Human Services Association, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data proposed working with interested states to: (1) assess states' willingness and capacity to develop a collective approach for tracking youth and collecting data; (2) document the "state of states" in terms of current tracking and data collection strategies; (3) develop an architectural blueprint that would assist states in their efforts to comply with the National Youth in Transition Database requirements and (4) design a survey instrument that all states could use that would not only meet, but also exceed, those requirements with respect to outcome measures. The proposal was funded by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Eckerd Foundation.

A National Advisory Committee was established to oversee and provide guidance to the APHSA/Chapin Hall NYTD Initiative. The committee's members included national experts in the field of child welfare and representatives from state child welfare agencies. Thus far, the committee's role has been to:

- Review results from the "state of the states" survey that was conducted as part of the initiative
- Identify priority concerns among the states
- Make recommendations regarding regional or other cross-state collaborations
- Review the instructional guidebook and architectural blueprint

- Identify next steps for assisting states in their efforts to comply with the NYTD requirements

This guidebook/blueprint is a by-product of the APHSA/Chapin Hall NYTD Initiative and the work of the National Advisory Committee.

Overview of NYTD

What do the NYTD regulations require states to do?
The NYTD regulations require states to report four types of information to ACF:

- Information about the services provided to youth
- Information about the characteristics of the youth who receive those services
- Information about the outcomes for youth
- Information about the basic demographic characteristics of the youth for whom service data and/or outcome data are reported

For what populations are states required to report this information?
The NYTD regulations identify three populations that are separate but not mutually exclusive. Together, these three populations comprise the reporting population.

The **served population** includes all youth who received a least one independent living service paid for or provided by the state CFCIP agency during the 6-month reporting period, regardless of their age, foster care status or placement type. Tribal youth, youth involved with the juvenile justice system, youth who receive services through the staff of a group home or child care institution and youth no longer in foster care can all be part of the served population.

Note: An independent living service is provided by the state agency if it is delivered (1) by state agency staff; (2) by an agent of the state, including foster parents and group home or child care institution staff; or (3) pursuant to a contract between the state agency and a public or private provider.

The **baseline population** includes all youth who are in foster care *and* reach their 17th birthday during FFY 2011 or during every third year thereafter (i.e., 2014, 2017, etc.). It also includes youth who have run away from their foster care placement as well as youth who are in the care of another public agency (e.g., in a juvenile justice facility or tribal custody) if that public agency is receiving Title IV–E foster care maintenance payments.

The baseline population excludes youth who are (1) in detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools and facilities primarily for the detention of youth adjudicated delinquent; (2) in the care of a tribal agency unless the tribal agency is receiving Title IV–E foster care maintenance payments; (3) at home but in the care of the state agency (e.g., trial home visit, at-home supervision); and (4) incarcerated, hospitalized or institutionalized in a psychiatric facility.

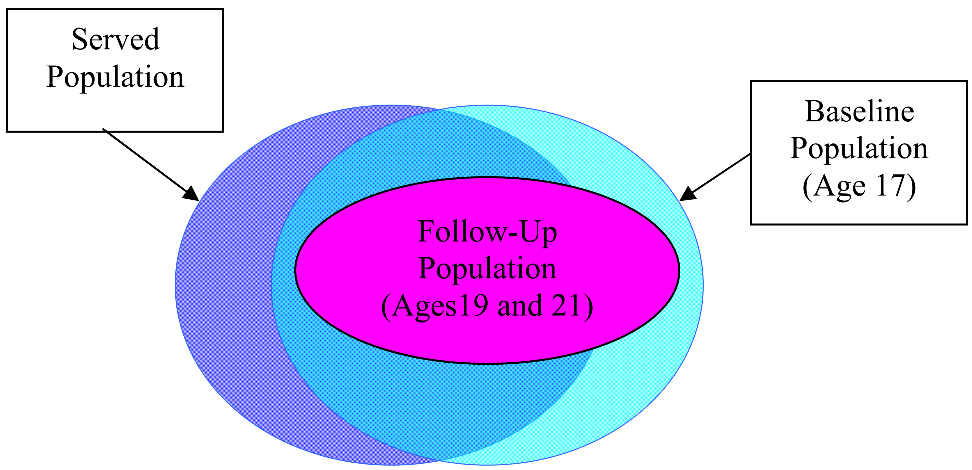
Youth are part of the baseline population regardless of whether they received any independent living services—that is, regardless of whether they are in the served population—and regardless of how long they have been in foster care.

Note: Youth who are not in foster care *on* their 17th birthday are still included in the baseline population if they are in foster care within the 45 days following their 17^{th} birthday during the specified reporting year.

The **follow-up population** is a subgroup of the baseline population. It includes all youth, ages 19 and 21, who provided at least one valid answer to an outcome survey question at age 17.[1] Youth are in the follow-up population regardless of their foster care status at ages 19 or 21 and regardless of whether they received independent living services. Youth who participated in the data collection at age 17 but not at age 19 are part of the follow-up population at age 21.

The relationship among the three populations is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Reporting Populations



[1] As explained below, states may be able to sample from the baseline population that responds to the outcomes survey at age 17.

Examples of overlap and divergence among the reporting populations:

Example	Served Population	Baseline Population	Follow-Up Population
17 years old and received Chafee-funded services in the first report period of 2011	YES	YES	NO
17 years old and did not receive Chafee-funded services in the first report period of 2011	NO	YES	NO
17 years old and received Chafee-funded services in the first report period of 2012	YES	NO	NO
19 years old and received Chafee-funded services in the first report period of 2013	YES	NO	YES
19 years old and did not receive Chafee-funded services in the first report period of 2013	NO	YES	YES
19 years old and received Chafee-funded services in the first report period of 2014	YES	NO	NO

What information are states required to collect and report for youth in all three reporting populations?

- States must collect and report the following information for youth in all three reporting populations.
  - State
  - Report date
  - Record or ID number
  - DOB
  - Sex
  - Race
  - Ethnicity

What information are states required to collect and report for the served population?

- States must collect and report the following demographic information for all youth in the served population.
  - Foster care status
  - Local agency
  - Tribal membership
  - Adjudicated delinquent
  - Last grade completed
  - Special education status
- States must collect and report information about the independent living services and financial assistance paid for or provided by the state agency regardless of (1) the manner in which those services are delivered (e.g., by a foster parent, contracted service provider, other public agency), (2) the age of the youth and (3) whether the youth is in foster care at the time of the service is provided.
  - States must indicate whether youth received any independent living services or financial assistance in each of 14 categories during the reporting period.
  - Independent living needs assessment

- Academic support
- Post-secondary educational support
- Career preparation
- Employment programs or vocational training
- Housing education and home management training
- Budget and financial management
- Health education and risk prevention
- Family support and healthy marriage education
- Mentoring
- Supervised independent living
- Room and board financial assistance
- Education financial assistance
- Other financial assistance

When are states required to collect data for the served population?

- States must collect information about independent living services and financial assistance on an ongoing basis for as long as youth receive services.

What information are states required to collect and report for the baseline and follow-up populations?

- States must report the following information for all youth in the baseline and follow-up populations.
  - Date of outcome collection
  - Outcome reporting status
  - Foster care status
- States must collect and report outcomes in each of six domains for all youth in the baseline and follow-up populations.
  - Financial self-sufficiency
  - Experience with homelessness
  - Educational attainment
  - Positive connections with adults
  - High-risk behavior
  - Access to health insurance
- States must use the survey questions specified by ACF, but can chose the manner in which the survey is administered (e.g., during meetings with an agency caseworker/youth specialist, via a contractor, by phone or via the Internet/e-mail).

When are states required to collect outcome data for the baseline and follow-up populations?

- States must collect outcome data for each youth in the baseline population within 45 days following the youth's 17th birthday, but not before that birthday.
- States must collect outcome data for each youth in the follow-up population within the reporting period of their 19^{th} and 21^{st} birthday regardless of whether they are still in foster care or receiving independent living services.
- States must begin collecting outcome data for a new baseline population of 17-year-olds every three years.

What are the reporting periods?

- The two six-month reporting periods are from October 1 to March 31 and from April 1 to September 30.
- The NYTD will follow the same reporting schedule as AFCARS. States must submit data files for all three reporting populations to ACF on a semi-annual basis within 45 days of the end of each reporting period (i.e., May 15 and November 14).

Are states required to collect outcome data from the entire follow up population at ages 19 and 21?

- States may select a sample from the baseline population who participated in the data collection at age 17 for the follow-up surveys at ages 19 and 21 using simple random sampling procedures unless the state obtains approval from ACF to use another sampling methodology.
- Sample size is determined by a statistical formula included in Appendix C of the regulations
  - If 5,000 or fewer youth participated in the outcome data collection at age 17, the state must calculate the sample size using the formula with the Finite Population Correction (FPC) and increase the resulting number by 30 percent to allow for attrition.
  - If more than 5,000 youth participated in the outcome data collection at age 17 the state must calculate the sample size using the formula without the FPC and increase the resulting number by 30 percent to allow for attrition.
- ACF has not established explicit criteria for determining when states can sample. However, sampling would not appear to be an option if the required sample size (calculated using the statistical formula plus 30 percent to allow for attrition) exceeds the number of youth from whom outcome data were collected at age 17. As indicated by the chart below, this would be the case if data had been collected from fewer than 85 youth.

Number of 17-Year-Olds Providing Baseline Data	Required Sample Size
10	13
25	30
50	55
75	77
80	81
85	84
100	95
250	170
500	229
1000	278
2500	319
5000	335

What is the relationship between the NYTD outcome data and AFCARS data?

- The outcomes data can be used in conjunction with information from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System to tell us more about youth who do not receive independent living services.

- The AFCARS population is somewhat broader than the NYTD reporting population because it includes all children in foster care as well as youth in detention and youth that are at home temporarily.
- It will be possible to analyze the foster care experiences of youth whose outcomes are reported for the NYTD because (1) every youth who is included in the baseline population will also be reported to AFCARS and (2) the youth will be identified in the same way in both databases.

What are the file submission standards with which states must comply?
- States must submit their data on time, in a format that meets ACF specifications and 100 percent error free (i.e., no missing, invalid or internally inconsistent responses). However, the 100 percent error-free criterion applies only to the following data elements: state, report date, record number, date of birth, sex and foster care status.

What are the data standards with which states must comply?
- States must comply with standards related to (1) the error rate, (2) the outcomes universe and (3) participation rates.

What is the error rate standard with which states must comply?
- The data states submit pertaining to race/ethnicity, local agency, tribal membership, delinquency adjudication, education level, and special education status must be 90 percent error free (i.e., free of missing or invalid information and internally inconsistent responses).
- The 90 percent error-free standard also applies to the data elements that measure receipt of independent living services or financial assistance and youth outcomes.

What are the outcomes universe standards for the follow-up population with which states must comply?
- In any FFY during which information for the follow-up population must be submitted, the state must submit a record for every youth in the baseline population who participated in the outcome survey at age 17, and, at a minimum, this record must include a valid response for the outcomes reporting status element (i.e., participated, declined, not in sample, incarcerated, etc.).
- The state must report outcome information for each youth in the follow-up population. A youth will be counted as having participated in the follow-up outcome data collection if the state collected and reported a valid response (i.e., a response option other than ‘‘declined’’ or ‘‘not applicable’’) to any of the outcome-related elements.
- ACF will exclude from the participation rate calculation any youth in the follow-up population who is reported as deceased, incapacitated or incarcerated.

What are the outcome participation rate requirements with which states must comply?
- There is no participation rate requirement for the baseline population.

- The outcome participation rate requirement for youth in the follow-up population who are still in foster care and under the state's age of majority on the date the outcome data are collected is 80 percent. However, no state currently falls into this category.[2]
- The outcome participation rate requirement for youth in the follow-up population who are no longer in foster care (or still in foster care and *not* under the state's age of majority) on the date the outcome data are collected is 60 percent.
- For states that take advantage of the sampling option, the participation rate is calculated based on the required sample size.

What happens once a state submits its NYTD data file to ACF?

- In September 2008, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded ICF Information Technology a contract to design, develop and implement the federal data collection system that will process the state NYTD data submissions.
- ACF will assess each state's file for missing, out-of-range or internally inconsistent data and will determine whether the file is in compliance with the file submission and data standards.
- States whose file is not in compliance will be notified by ACF and will have an opportunity to submit a corrected data file no later than the end of the subsequent reporting period.
- ACF will impose penalties on states that fail to submit a corrected data file that meets the compliance standards and the deadline for re-submission.

What are the NYTD penalties for non-compliance?

- The law requires ACF to impose a penalty of between 1 percent and 5 percent of the state's annual Chafee allotment for the FFY that corresponds to the reporting period in which the state was not in compliance.
- Chafee Education and Training Voucher funds will not be subject to penalties
- The size of the penalty for each reporting period will depend on the standard that was not achieved:
  - 2.5 percent for non-compliance with file submission standards
  - 1.25 percent for non-compliance with the error-free data standard
  - 1.25 percent for non-compliance with the outcome universe standard
  - 0.5 percent for non-compliance with the youth in foster care participation rate standard
  - 0.5 percent for non-compliance with the discharged youth participation rate standard

[2] Youth are in foster care if they meet the 45 CFR 1355.20 *and* are under the state's age of majority. Majority-age youth who receive services or supports from the state agency are *not* in foster care for NYTD purposes.

Planning and Preparing for NYTD Implementation

Implementing the NYTD will require a significant amount of planning and preparation on the part of state and local child welfare agencies. To assist states with this process, the APHSA/Chapin Hall NYTD Initiative has developed a checklist of critical questions that must be answered and key decisions that must be made as states move forward with the NYTD implementation.

Project Planning

Project planning begins with the creation of an action plan that outlines all of the steps that will need to be taken if the state is to be in compliance with NYTFD requirements by the start of the first reporting period. The action plan should be created by the project team, which would include all of the key players who will be involved in implementing the NYTD, and should include both a timeline and a budget. Importantly, the plan should not be viewed as set in stone, but rather, as something to be revised and revisited as issues arise and additional information becomes available.

Table 1. Project Planning
Has the state developed an NYTD project plan?
What is the timeline for the project?
What is the budget for the project?
Who are the key players (e.g., independent living coordinator, information system manager) and what are their roles and responsibilities?
If the state has a county-administered system, has it developed a strategy for integrating data collected by the counties into a centralized system?

Relationship Between the NYTD and SACWIS

Federal regulations require states to incorporate their NYTD information collection and reporting activities into their SACWIS if they have elected to build one. States that have been or who are in the process of creating a SACWIS should consider whether any modifications to enhance its functionality are needed to comply with the NYTD requirements and how they will pay for those enhancements.

Table 2. Relationship Between the NYTD and SACWIS
If the state has elected to build a SACWIS, it is operational?
Does the state need to enhance the functionality of its SACWIS to comply with the NYTD requirements?
How is the state paying for those enhancements?
Is the cost of those enhancements allowable (and hence eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement) under an approved APD?
Does the state need to submit an "as needed" APD Update to request developmental funding to cover the cost of those enhancements?
Will development of the state's SACWIS be completed prior to the start of the first NYTD reporting period?
What, if any, contingency plan does the state have in the event that its SACWIS development has not been completed by that date?

Survey Data Collection

Although states are required to use the specific survey questions listed in Appendix B of the Final Rule, they have discretion with respect to other aspects of the data collection. Because the regulations do not prescribe a data collection methodology, states must decide how the survey is to be administered. There are a number of different options to consider.

- Will the survey be self-administered by foster youth or administered to foster youth by someone else?
- Will the survey involve a traditional paper and pencil questionnaire be used or will the questionnaire be computer-aided?
- Will the survey be administered in-person, by mail, over the phone or via the web?

The answers to these questions may depend, at least in part, on whether the child welfare agency will be directly involved in the data collection, for example, by having caseworkers administer the survey to their foster youth, or alternatively whether the data collection will be outsourced to a survey research organization. It is possible that a child welfare agency would collect the survey data from the baseline population of 17-year-olds, who would still be in foster care, but outsource the collection of data from the follow-up populations of 19- and 21-year-olds, most of whom would be former foster youth.[3]

[3] This may change now that the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 will allow states to claim federal reimbursement for Title IV-E eligible foster youth until age 21 beginning in FFY 2011.

Table 3. Survey Data Collection
How will the survey be administered to the *baseline population* at age 17?
How will the survey be administered to the *follow-up population* at ages 19 and 21?
Will the state be directly involved in collecting the survey data from the *baseline population at age 17* or will that data collection be outsourced?
Will the state be directly involved in collecting the survey data from the *follow-up population* at ages 19 and 21 or will that data collection be outsourced?

Sampling

Although states must collect outcome data from the entire baseline population of 17-year-olds, they may sample from the 17-year-olds who participate in the baseline survey rather than survey the entire follow-up population of 19- and 21-year-olds. States can select a simple random sample from the population of 17-year-olds who participate in the baseline survey or seek ACF approval to use another sampling strategy. In either case, states can calculate the minimum required sample size for the follow up population using formulas in Appendix C of the Final Rule.

Table 4. Sampling
Will the state collect follow-up data from the entire population of 19- and 21-year-olds or will it sample from the population of 17-year-olds who participate in the baseline survey?
Will state use simple random sampling or seek ACF approval to use another methodology?
What must the minimum required sample size be for the follow-up population?

Tracking Procedures

Young people who have aged out of foster care are known to be a highly transient population. States whose child welfare agency is collecting the NYTD outcome data themselves will need a way to track the 17-year-olds who complete the baseline survey so that they can be surveyed again at ages 19 and 21, when many if not most will no longer be in foster care.[4] With few exceptions, child welfare agencies have little, if any, experience tracking former foster youth. One option to consider is outsourcing the tracking function. If that is not feasible due to budgetary constraints, states should gather extensive contact information from the 17-year-olds when the baseline survey data are collected (see **Sample Contact Information Questions**, p. 99) and develop a clear protocol for how that contact information should be used (see **Sample Protocol for Tracing and Location**, p. 104). States should also become familiar with the various on-line tracking tools that are available (see **On-Line Resources for Tracing and Location**, p. 105)

[4] Again, this may change as a result of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

Table 5. Tracking Procedures
Will the child welfare agency be directly involved with tracking youth for the follow-up surveys or will that function be outsourced?
If the child welfare agency will be directly involved, what tracking procedures will be used to locate youth for the follow up surveys at ages 19 and 21?
Will the child welfare agency collect extensive contact information from the 17-year-olds when the baseline survey data are collected?
Has a protocol for using this contact information been developed?
What, if any, on-line tracking tools will be used to locate youth for the follow-up surveys?

Achieving Participation Rate Standards

There are no participation rate standards for the baseline population of 17-year-olds. The NYTD regulations specify that states must report outcome data for at least 80 percent of the youth in the follow-up population who are still in foster care (i.e., foster youth participation rate standard) and for at least 60 percent of the youth in the follow-up population who are no longer in foster care (i.e., discharged youth participation rate standard). Because states will be penalized if they fail to achieve these standards, they may want to consider using incentives to increase participation rates.

Table 6. Achieving Participation Rate Standards
How does the state expect to meet the NYTD outcome survey participation rate standards (80 percent of current foster youth and 60 percent of former foster youth)?
Will the state use incentives to increase participation rates?
What will those incentives be and how will they be paid for?

Funding for NYTD Implementation

One factor that is likely to drive at least some of the decisions states make about implementing the NYTD, including whether to outsource any of their tracking or data collection, is cost. No federal funds were set-aside for implementing the NYTD in the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 and no additional federal funds appear to be forthcoming at this time. States may use their Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funds for costs associated with the NYTD implementation, and states that have a SACWIS may be able to claim federal reimbursement at the 50 percent Title IV-E matching rate for some information systems costs if those costs are allowable under an approved Advanced Planning Document (APD).

Table 7. Funding for NYTD Implementation
How much does the state expect to spend on the NYTD implementation?
How does the state plan to pay for implementing the NYTD?
Will the state use some of its Chafee funding?
Will the state be able to claim federal reimbursement for some of its information system costs?
What, if any, other funding sources will the state draw upon to pay for implementing the NYTD?

Role for Youth Advisory Board

An important resource on which states can draw as they move forward with the NYTD implementation is their current and former foster youth. These young people may be in the best position to suggest ways of increasing participation rates and locating youth for the follow-up surveys. States that have a youth advisory board should think about how to involve advisory board members in their NYTD planning. States that do not have a youth advisory board might consider forming one.

Table 8. Role for Youth Advisory Board
Does the state have a youth advisory board?
Will the state involve the youth advisory board in its NYTD planning?
What role will the youth advisory board play in the state's NYTD planning?

Use of NYTD Data

States may want to do more with their NYTD data than submit them semi-annually to ACF. For example, states could use their NYTD data to examine county or regional differences in service provision or youth outcomes. States might also consider becoming a member of the State Center for Foster Care and Adoption Data (if they are not already a member) and share their NYTD data with the Center.[5] This would facilitate advanced analyses of state NYTD data and the use of those data for cross-state comparisons and national projections (see **Role for the State Foster Care and Adoption Data Center,** p. 24).

Table 9. Use of NYTD Data
What, if anything, is the state planning to do with its NYTD data besides reporting them to ACF semi-annually?
Is the state interested in becoming a member of the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data and sharing its NYTD data with the center?

[5] For information about becoming a member of the State Center for Foster Care and Adoption Data, see http://csfcad.chapinhall.org/benefits.html.

IT System Considerations

The NYTD regulations require whatever information technology (IT) system states are using to implement the NYTD to have certain capabilities. States may need to modify their IT system to comply with these requirements.

Table 10. IT System Considerations
Will the IT system automatically generate the NYTD reports semi-annually?
Will the IT system automatically distinguish between served, baseline and follow-up youth?
Will the IT system identify runaway youth and leave their outcome survey data elements blank?
Will the IT system include alerts/notifications to prompt the collection of outcome survey data?
Will the IT system include data on services provided by the state agency, agents of the agency (e.g., foster parents, group homes, child-caring institutions), or contracted providers?

Impact of Fostering Connections

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) will allow states to claim federal reimbursement for the costs of caring for and supervising Title IV-E eligible foster youth until age 21 beginning in fiscal year 2011. Whether states will respond to this legislation by extending foster care remains to be seen and is likely to depend on a variety of factors. However, allowing youth to remain in foster care until age 21 would presumably make it easier to locate youth for the follow-up surveys.

Table 11. Impact of Fostering Connections
Is the state planning to extend foster care until age 21?
What impact might the NYTD participation requirements have on this decision? How might this decision affect the state's NYTD implementation?

Regional/Coordinated Approach

One approach that states have taken to maximize resources while increasing efficiency is to work together toward a common goal. They have done so through informal networks, more formalized partnerships and formal governance structures, and in areas as diverse as tax policy, vehicle registration and emergency preparedness. The implementation of the NYTD presents another opportunity for this type of collaboration.

The APHSA/Chapin Hall NYTD Initiative proposes that states enter into voluntary regional consortia or other collaborative approaches to implement the federal NYTD requirements. We briefly describe how states stand to benefit from taking a more collaborative approach and what this would involve. However, we also recognize that no single model will be effective for all states, and take the position that regardless of the model, any collaboration should be tailored to the unique needs of the states involved.

Potential Benefits

There are several reasons to support the establishment of regional consortia or other collaborative approaches to implement the NYTD.

- **Maximize economies of scale**
  Working together as a group, states can maximize economies of scale, which in turn could lead to significant cost savings. That is, the costs of collecting outcome data from an individual foster youth decreases as the number of foster youth from whom outcome data are being collected increases. This is because the fixed costs of data collection are spread over a larger number of youth. Realizing these economies of scale will be particularly important in the event that states decide to outsource their data collection or other NYTD-related activities.
- **Opportunities for group learning**
  States can learn from the experiences of one another as they develop and revise their plans to implement the NYTD. Each state does not need to repeat the same mistakes. States can share ideas as well as information about "best practices." This can generate cost savings in terms of time and other resources.
- **Sharing expertise**
  Each state brings with it their particular expertise. When states work together, each state benefits not only from its own expertise but also from the expertise of other states.
- **Pooling resources**
  By pooling resources, states may be able to pursue options that individual states could not afford to pursue on their own.
- **Increased response rates**
  One way that states can locate young people for follow-up surveys at ages 19 and 21 is to track them using the state's administrative data. The problem is that young people may move out of state. Assuming that many of these moves will be to neighboring states, then a collaborative approach that includes provisions for cross-state tracking with administrative data could increase response rates or at least help states achieve the required 60 percent.
- **Comparable data**
  States may be interested not only in the outcomes of their own foster youth, but in how the outcomes of their foster youth compare with the outcomes of foster youth in other states—

and particularly other states in the same region. A collaborative approach would facilitate these comparisons by increasing the comparability of the outcome data states collect.

- **Fostering future collaborations**
  Adopting a collaborative approach when it comes to the NYTD implementation could set the stage for future collaborations.

Developing a Collaborative Approach
Developing a regional consortia or other collaborative approach is a multi-phase process.

Phase I
During the first phase, states should clarify their respective interests in pursuing a collaborative approach, consider all of the available options, and decide whether the potential benefits of collaboration are sufficiently compelling. If a decision to move forward with collaboration is made, the participating states must agree upon an organizational structure that will promote group learning, facilitate the sharing of expertise and foster future collaborations.

Phase II
During the second phase, participating states should (1) identify clear and measurable goals and objectives, and (2) develop a work plan that will lead to their achievement. The latter may include ground rules, guiding principles and standard operating procedures with which all of the participating states will comply. It is also essential to clarify the responsibilities of each member state as well as the relationship between the consortia and the state public child welfare agencies. Participating states may wish to engage the services of a third party to manage the group's day-to-day activities.

Phase III
During this final phase, participating states should implement the work plan that was developed. This may involve outsourcing arrangements with a contract agency.

Sample Template for NYTD Regional Consortia

Background

What is the name of the NYTD regional consortium?

Which states are consortium members?

What is the purpose of the consortium?

Goals and Objectives

Ground Rules, Guiding Principles and Standard Operating Procedures

Role Clarification

What are the responsibilities of each consortium member?

What is the relationship between the consortium and the state public child welfare agencies?

Outsourcing of Tracking and Data Collection

Pros and Cons of Outsourcing

There are several factors states might want to consider as they decide whether to outsource some or all of their tracking and data collection.

PROS	CONS
Qualified contractors have the experience needed to collect the survey data and track foster youth after they leave care.	May be costly, particularly if survey data are collected through in-person interviews
Because trained interviewers are accustomed to following interview protocols, every foster youth will be asked the same questions in the same way.	Solicitation process will consume both time and money
Foster youth may be more willing to answer personal questions posed by a trained interviewer than by their caseworker	State child welfare agency will need to monitor and oversee the work of the contractor, including interactions between interviewers and foster youth
Avoids adding to the workload and responsibilities of child welfare workers who are already overburdened with heavy caseloads	Raises concerns about confidentiality and data sharing
Saves time and money that would be needed to train caseworkers to collect the survey data	

Sample Request for Information

States that choose to outsource their tracking and/or data collection will need to solicit proposals from potential contractors. This template is intended to help states get started. States can modify it to reflect their unique needs and circumstances.[6]

The [Name of State] [Name of Public Child Welfare Agency] is seeking information from interested parties regarding implementation of the National Youth in Transition Database.

Background

As part of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169), which established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families was required to develop measures of foster youth outcomes that could be used to assess the performance of state independent living programs. Under the final rule, 45 CFR, Part 1356, which took effective Apr. 28, 2008, states must begin their NYTD data collection in October 2010, and submit their first NYTD data to ACF by May 15, 2011 through their statewide automated child welfare information system. The purpose of this request for information is to determine the feasibility of out-sourcing this effort. The information received in response to this solicitation will be used to develop a request for proposal.

NYTD Outcome Survey Requirements

States must survey every youth who turns 17 years old while in foster care during FY 2011 and in each third fiscal year thereafter. The data must be collected within the first 45 days following the youth's 17th birthday. Those same youths must be surveyed again after they turn 19 and 21 years old even if they are no longer in foster care or receiving independent living services. However, states may select a sample of 17-year-olds from their baseline population to survey at ages 19 and 21.

The survey includes 22 questions that measure youth outcomes across six domains—financial self-sufficiency (9 items), education (3 items), positive connections with adults (1 item), homelessness (1 item), high-risk behavior (4 items) and access to health insurance (4 items). A list of the specific items is provided in Attachment A. The survey data must be collected directly from the youth (and not administrative records) but states can decide which method or combination of methods they want to use (e.g., telephone interviews, face-to-face interviews, Web portals, e-mail).

Under the federal rule, at least 80 percent of youth currently in foster care and at least 60 percent of youth no longer in foster care who meet the selection criteria must participate in the survey. The latter is considerably lower than the response rate achieved by the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (i.e., the Midwest Study), a longitudinal study conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall, and the University of

[6] NAC member Steve Vonderharr from the Minnesota Department of Human Services provided an early version of the template.

Washington's Partners for Our Children, and the University of Wisconsin Survey Center that has been following a sample of 732 young people from Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin as they age out of foster care and transition to adulthood. Baseline data were collected when the youth were 17 or 18 years old and still in foster care. When follow-up data were collected at ages 19 and 21, the response rates were in excess of 80 percent.

States that fail to achieve the required participation rates will be assessed a penalty equal to between 1 and 5 percent of their annual Chafee allotment. States can also be penalized if they do not meet file submission or data standards.

Assumptions

- The state estimates that each year approximately XXX youth will turn 17 years old while in foster care.
- The state will exercise its prerogative to select a sample of these 17-year-olds to survey at ages 19 and 21. Using the sample size formulas in the final rule, approximately XXX 19- and 21-year-olds would need to be surveyed.
- Data collection for the NYTD will not require approval from an Institutional Review Board.
- The state will assist with tracking by establishing data sharing agreements between the vendor and other agencies that may have information about the location of these youth
- The state may impose a penalty equal to the penalty that federal government imposes on the state if the vendor does not attain the required 60 percent participation rate for youth who are no longer in foster care.

Content of the Response

Respondents should address each of the following questions, and are invited to provide additional information as warranted.

1. What experience does your organization have collecting longitudinal data from young adult (ages 18–21) populations?
2. What is most challenging about collecting longitudinal data from young adult populations?
3. What has the response rate been when you have followed young adults longitudinally?
4. What methods of tracking young adults over time have been most effective?
5. What is your best estimate of the per youth survey cost?
6. How might that cost vary depending on the number of youth surveyed or the survey method that is used?
7. What types of incentives has your organization provided to young adults to increase response rates and how much have those incentives cost?
8. What experience does your organization have contracting with state agencies to do this type of work?
9. Is your organization willing to contract with state agencies if a penalty will be assessed for not achieving the required participation rates?

Instructions for Submitting Information

The department prefers electronic submissions, but the information can also be submitted via mail or fax. Submissions that are emailed should include "NYTD-RFI" in the subject line. [Please keep in mind that information transmitted electronically by e-mail is not secure.] Include the name, phone number and e-mail address of the person to contact regarding any questions about the submission.

No acknowledgment of receipt will be provided by the department and respondents are responsible for all costs associated with the preparation and submission of this information. All submissions must be received (not post-marked) **no later than XXX on XXX** and will become public information, according to [state statute] unless they qualify for a specific classification under [state statute]. Late submissions will not be considered.

All submissions as well as questions, concerns or communications regarding this RFI should be addressed to:

Name of child welfare agency representative
Title of child welfare agency representative
Name of child welfare agency
Street address
City, state and zip code
Telephone number
Fax number
E-mail address

Role for the State Foster Care and Adoption Data Center in Implementing NYTD

The State Foster Care and Adoption Data Center is uniquely suited to help states make the most of their NYTD data. The State Data Center maintains the Multistate Foster Care Data archive, a repository of foster care administrative records from various states and counties. These records have been organized into a longitudinal database which State Data Center members can access and analyze. A similar approach could be used to create a consolidated NYTD database.

In addition to submitting their NYTD data to ACF on a semi-annual basis, member states would also provide them to the State Data Center. The NYTD data would be organized into a longitudinal database that would be built upon the same architectural framework that supports the Multistate Foster Care Data archive. Members would be able to access and analyze their data using web-based tools similar to those that the State Data Center has developed. Not only could this consolidated NYTD database help individual states assess their efforts to prepare foster youth for the transition to adulthood, but in addition, it could be used to examine national trends related to youth aging out of foster care and to compare outcomes across states with different policies and programs.

The State Data Center could also serve as an important resource for states as they move forward with NYTD implementation. It could work with states that choose to go beyond the federal requirements and implement the NYTD Plus or states that are interested in pursuing a regional approach to data collection. Moreover, members could draw upon the State Data Center's partnership with Chapin Hall, which has been at the forefront of research on youth aging out of foster care.

Members of the State Data Center's NYTD Team would become part of a professional community working together to guide the development of data-driven policies and practices that lead to improved foster youth outcomes.

NYTD-Related Questions from States and Responses from the Children's Bureau

As we were putting this guidebook together, a number of states began sending us questions about the NYTD requirements. We were able to answer some of the questions ourselves based on two FAQs that the Children's Bureau had distributed. The first was in response to an April 10, 2008 webinar briefing on the National Youth in Transition Database Final Rule.[7] The second was in response to a series of briefings on National Youth in Transition Database regulations which were held July 23–25, 2008[8] Questions we were unable to answer were sent to Miguel Vieyra, our contact at the Children's Bureau.

Question: May the data that is provided to ACF be sent in the same format as is allowed for AFCARS reporting or does ACF expect the state's SACWIS to produce NYTD reports directly?
Question: When will states be given information about the file formatting procedures for transmitting NYTD data?
Answer: We have not made any final decisions about file formatting and transmission procedures for the NYTD. We are working diligently with our contractor to make this information available to states as soon as possible in 2009. States will be afforded the opportunity to submit test files prior to the actual submission of NYTD data in order to ensure proper file format and transmission, and to make any necessary modifications.

Question: Should a state's SACWIS system have the functionality to record responses to the outcome survey questions?
Question: Can a State utilize a non-SACWIS system to collect survey responses from the 17-year old foster youth population (baseline) and report that data to ACF?
Question: Is the data required to be captured in a State's SACWIS system if the State has a SACWIS?
Answer: States that have elected to build a SACWIS must incorporate NYTD information collection and reporting activities, including outcomes, related to children in foster care into their SACWIS system (73 FR 10361). Regulations at 45 CFR 1355.53(b)(3) and (4) as well as policy at ACF-OISM-001 (part IV) direct states to incorporate all case management and service functions for children in foster care into their SACWIS. Specific components of the NYTD that are included in a state's SACWIS are subject to the APD process.

Question: If a state creates an external data base (outside the SACWIS system) for recording and maintaining data and survey information associated with follow-up populations will these data also be required for addition to the SACWIS database?
Answer: These data are not required for addition to SACWIS, but if they are not included with SACWIS, then the developmental costs cannot be allocated to Title IV-E. (Operational costs for the follow-up population would not be allocable to Title IV-E regardless whether included with SACWIS or a separate database).

Question: Can separate data reports come from SACWIS and from external databases?

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[7] http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/systems/nytd/questions.htm
[8] http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/systems/nytd/questions_techassist.htm

Answer: The state cannot submit separate reports/files for each of the populations. The NYTD data must be submitted as a single data file.

Question: How much federal funding is available to states to build the NYTD data system, report the data and conduct the survey?
Answer: There is no additional federal funding set aside for the NYTD. The CFCIP program was created with a mandate for states to collect data, but the statute does not set aside funds for that specific purpose. *A state with a SACWIS must incorporate NYTD information collection and reporting activities related to children in foster care into their SACWIS system and may claim such information system costs as administrative costs under Title IV-E to the extent they are allowable and consistent with a state's APD and cost allocation plan (73 FR 10362).*

Question: If our SACWIS system is operational and we need to develop additional functionality to comply, will the development activity be eligible for enhanced funding or operational funding?
Answer: The cost to enhance a SACWIS to support the NYTD reporting requirements for children in foster care is eligible for Title IV-E funding. The state may submit an As Needed APD to request additional funding. The applicable rate (operational or developmental) will be determined based on the business case presented in the APD.

Question: Do we need an approved APDU before we start working on this project?
Answer: If a state has completed the SACWIS project and the Children's Bureau has closed the APD, a state may enhance the system as an operational expense without submitting an APD if the cost of the system enhancement is less than the thresholds defined at 45 CFR 95.611. If the state has an open APD or is requesting development funding, they should submit an As Needed APD Update as described at 45 CFR 95.605.

Question: Our state is building a new SACWIS, and the proposed time frame for completion is very close to the start date for initial data collection. What steps can we take should the SACWIS not be ready?
Answer: The state should develop contingency plans to capture the information necessary to support NYTD reporting in the absence of an automated system. The cost of these contingency plans can be paid for with CFCIP funds or state funds, but cannot be claimed as SACWIS expenditures.

Question: Can the NYTD survey questions listed in Appendix B of the Final Rule be modified/re-worded as long as they are substantively the same?
Answer: No. We choose to regulate the survey questions to ensure that each youth is provided with standard questions and response options so we can allow for consistency of the data collection nationwide. States must collect information on the youth outcome survey data elements using the survey questions in Appendix B of the NYTD regulation and may not alter these questions in any way. It is allowable, however, for a state to use "youth friendly" language in explaining the survey questions if the youth indicates they are unclear. We anticipate providing technical assistance and further guidance on how states may best administer the survey to youth to minimize non-response bias and measurement error.

Question: Can one service be counted twice if it meets the definition of more than one ILP service definition?
Answer: It is possible that one specific independent living service may be reported in more than one service category. We did not regulate how states should decide on whether to report a service in more than one data element, but strongly suggest that the state consider the primary purpose of the service in deciding whether to report a service for more than one data element. For example, if a youth attends a class that spends an equal time on housing education and home management (data element 26) and on health education and risk prevention (data element 27), then the state could report that the youth received services under both service categories. If a youth attends a class that primarily covers budgeting and financial management (data element 25) but also briefly discusses housing education and home management (data element 27), then we expect that the state will report this service only in the budgeting and financial management category.

Question: Under which service definition would transportation costs fit?
Answer: If a state CFCIP agency pays for or provides financial assistance to a youth for transportation, a state may capture this information in data element 33 (other financial assistance).

Question: Does it matter when the adjudicated delinquents in the served population were adjudicated?
Answer: States report in data element 17 whether or not a youth in the served population has ever been adjudicated delinquent by a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction.
Data element 17 captures information on whether or not a youth in the served population was ever adjudicated as a delinquent by a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction.

For the served population, as long as a youth is receiving an independent living service that is paid for or provided by the state agency in a six-month report period, then the state is required to report to ACF information on those services (45 CFR 1356.81(a) and 1356.82(a)(1)).

Youth in detention, forestry camps, training schools and facilities primarily for the detention of youth adjudicated delinquents are excluded from the baseline population because such youth are not considered to be in foster care (45 CFR 1356.81(b) and 73 FR 10341-10342).

Question: Should states count the services provided to youth who are not in a formal independent living program (e.g., foster parent teaches youth how to do something)?
Answer: Yes. If a foster parent provides academic support as described in data element 21 to assist a youth in completing high school or obtaining a General Equivalency Degree (GED) during the reporting period, a state may indicate YES for data element 21.

We are interested in a state collecting and reporting information on youth who receive an independent living service due to the state agency's commitment of funds or resources to provide the service. Therefore, an independent living service is provided by the state agency if it is delivered by state agency staff or an agent of the state, including a foster parent, group home staff, or child care institution staff. The service is also provided by the state agency if it is provided to the youth pursuant to a contract for such services between the state agency and a provider, public or private agency or any other entity, regardless of whether the contract includes funding for the particular service. Services that are paid for directly or indirectly by the state agency are included as well.

Each state determines what services are included in their Independent Living Program and we have not regulated a minimum timeframe or curriculum-basis for reporting a service to the NYTD. Therefore, to the extent that foster parents, as agents of the state agency, provide training or other services described in the independent living services data elements (data elements 20–33) regardless of whether these services are curriculum-based or simply provided in the home by a foster parent, states may report YES for data elements 20–33 as appropriate.

Data elements 20–33 collect information on independent living services “paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency” during the reporting period regardless of whether these services are paid for with Chafee funds. If a foster parent provides training or other services described in the independent living services data elements (data elements 20–33), regardless of whether the youth receiving these services is considered part of or eligible for the state’s Independent Living Program, then the state may consider that a service provided by the state CFCIP agency.

Question: Can IV-E funds or any other federal funds be used to cover the costs of incentive payments to the youth who complete the surveys? Can Chafee funds be used to cover the costs of incentive payments to the youth who complete the surveys?
Answer: A state may use CFCIP funds for any and all costs associated with implementing the NYTD (73 FR 10361). However, we encourage states to be mindful of guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget titled “Guidance on Agency Survey and Statistical Information Collections.” While this guidance is directed to federal agencies, the same general principles should guide state agencies, as well. In the guidance, the OMB states that incentives are used most appropriately with hard-to-find populations or respondents whose failure to participate would jeopardize the quality of the survey data. The OMB guidelines follow a general conceptual framework that seeks to avoid the use of incentives except when the agency has clearly justified the need for the incentive and has demonstrated positive impacts on response and data quality by using an incentive. The OMB guidance document can be located at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/pmc_survey_guidance_2006.pdf
Incentives for youth participation in NYTD activities are unallowable as they are inconsistent with Title IV-E regulations found at 45 CFR 1356.60.

Question: Should states that allow youth to remain in care until age 21 be meeting the 80 percent or 60 percent participation rate for their 19- and 21-year-olds who are still in care (as defined by the state)? How should the 19- and 21-year-olds be treated by states that allow foster youth to remain in care beyond age 18 with respect to participation rates?
Answer: For NYTD reporting purposes, youth are only considered to be in foster care if they meet the definition in 45 CFR 1355.20, as referenced in section 1356.83(g)(36). This means that they must be children under the state’s age of majority who are under the placement and care responsibility of the state Title IV-B/IV-E agency. We are not aware of any state in which 19- and 21-year-olds are in foster care in accordance with this definition at this time as typically states have defined their age of majority as 18. Therefore, in practical terms states will have to

meet the 60 percent discharged-youth participation rate for the follow-up population (73 FR 10358).

Question: Do states need to ask youth about their race/ethnicity if those data have already been self-reported in their SACWIS?
Answer: We want to reaffirm that self-reporting or self-identification is the preferred method for a state to collect data on race and ethnicity. If this information is not available in a state's child welfare information system (i.e., collected for foster care purposes), the state should first solicit this information from a youth. If the youth is not able to communicate this information because of a severe disability or some other reason, the state should solicit race information from a parent. Once these avenues have been exhausted and these individuals have not been able to provide a response, the state may report the youth race as "unknown."[9]

Question: Do states that have a SACWIS need to incorporate the NYTD survey outcomes data for former foster youth at ages 19 and 21 into their SACWIS system?
Question: Do states that have data for youth still in foster care in their SACWIS, but data for youth who have exited are in an external system, need to report all of their NYTD information in a single file?
Answer: The NYTD report *may but is not required* to be generated by SACWIS. A forthcoming technical bulletin will provide guidance that a State must report all NYTD information in a single file regardless of the number of systems used to collect the data. The State may merge the data produced by the SACWIS with information captured in other systems; however the cost to do this is not a title IV-E expenditure.
Answer: A SACWIS must collect and manage information on case management activities, including the provision of independent living services, related to youth in foster care. ACF is developing further guidance for SACWIS States on collecting NYTD Outcome Survey data on youth in foster care. While it is allowable for a State to use its SACWIS to collect NYTD data for youth not in foster care, the data may also be collected outside of SACWIS.

Question: Does the CB have any regulations regarding consent to participate in the NYTD outcomes survey—particularly for the 17-year-olds? Is parental consent required because they are minors? Obviously it would not be required in cases where there has been a termination of parental rights, but what about other cases?

Question: Can states use a web-based survey application that would interface with their SACWIS so that the data can be uploaded directly into the system? Would this be SACWIS compliant?
Answer: Yes. For example, a State may use Service Oriented Architecture approaches (e.g., web services) to meet the SACWIS requirement to collect and manage survey information for foster care youth (see ACYF-CB-IM-07-03). To ensure specific designs are SACWIS compliant, States with an open Advance Planning Document (APD) should submit their plans and business case to the Children's BureaulDivision of State Systems (CBIDSS) in an As Needed APD. States with a closed APD contemplating NYTD enhancements whose cost will not exceed APD thresholds are *encouraged* to provide a written description of plans to CBIDSS so they can be

[9] See *Federal Register,* Vol. 73, No. 38, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008, Rules and Regulations (p. 10346)

reviewed for SACWIS compliance. State project teams may also discuss alternatives with the CB/DSS analyst responsible for their State.

Question: Would states be able to use IV-E funding to develop a web-based survey application that would interface with their SACWIS so that the data can be uploaded directly into the system? Would the costs of developing a new web-based SACWIS be covered by IV-E funds? Would the operational costs of SACWIS be covered by IV-E funds?
Answer:
If a State has a SACWIS:

- NYTD system development costs for enhancements to support youth in foster care up to the maximum age for title IV -E foster care payments! (regardless of whether children/youth are title IV-E eligible) are charged to title IV-E SACWIS.
- NYTD system operational costs to support youth in foster care up to the maximum age for title IV -E foster care payments! (regardless of whether children/youth are title IV-E eligible) are charged to title IV-E SACWIS.
- NYTD system development and operational costs to support youth not in foster care or in foster care but older than the maximum age for title IV-E foster care payments are charged to Chafee funds and/or State-only funds or any other applicable non-Federal funding source.

If a State does not have a SACWIS (i.e., is a non-SACWIS State):

- All NYTD system development costs are charged to Chafee funds and/or State-only funds or any other applicable non-Federal funding source o All NYTD system operational costs are charged to Chafee funds and/or State only funds or any other applicable non-Federal funding source.
- For more guidance on development and operational costs for SACWIS, please review Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-OI-05 in Section IV: Definitions, which is available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/lawspolicies/policy/pi/200llpiOl05.htm.

Question: Might the answers to some of these questions change if states respond to the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act by extending foster care until age 21?
Answer: If the State elects to extend its title IV-E foster care program to ages 19,20, or 21 per Public Law 110-351, the SACWIS would be required to support the reporting requirements for this population and the activity would be eligible for title IV-E SACWIS funding as approved in the State's Advance Planning Document (APD). If the system does not support a required population, the system would be reclassified as a non-SACWIS.

Question: Can states use the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) to help track and locate youth in the follow-up populations?

NYTD PLUS

Although the NYTD outcome measures will provide much needed information about young people aging out of foster care, they are fairly limited in terms of breadth and depth. Of particular concern is the lack of attention paid to relationships with family members and other supportive adults.[10] If states really want to know how their foster youth are faring and how their provision of Chafee-funded services might be improved, they will need to go beyond the data that the federal government is requiring them to collect.

Given this need, we have developed an enhanced survey instrument that states can use not only meet the federal requirements but also to collect additional information about the experiences of young people across a variety of domains that will help them improve the services and supports they currently provide. We refer to this as the NYTD Plus.

As we were developing the NYTD Plus, we tried to strike a balance between providing states with as much information as they would like to have about the outcomes of their foster youth, on the one hand, and keeping the survey brief enough that young people would complete it. What we ultimately decided was to create two versions. Although both versions include all of the 22 required questions listed in the Final Rule, one is considerably longer than the other.[11] The abbreviated version includes approximately 40 additional "must ask" questions that members of the NYTD Plus NAC workgroup identified as essential. The comprehensive version includes the 40 "must ask" questions plus another 30 questions that provide important but less essential information.

We strongly recommend that states use whichever version of the NYTD Plus they choose in its entirety. This will increase the comparability of data across states. States should also consider how they plan to administer the survey before choosing which version to use. The comprehensive version is too long for a web-based survey and should only be used if the survey is to be administered in person or by phone. By contrast, the abbreviated version is brief enough to be administered via the web.

[10] Only one of the required questions addresses this issue.
[11] These are indicated by a string of three asterisks.

Sample Consent Form to Access Administrative Data

Agreement to Permit the Use of Administrative Data for Tracking and Location

I, _____________________ [print name], authorize **Public Child Welfare Agency** **or Private Vendor with NYTD Contract** to review various kinds of administrative records (e.g., department of motor vehicle records, public assistance records, educational records, child welfare records, unemployment insurance wage records, credit bureau records, vital statistics records, and criminal justice records) that might contain information that could be used to locate and contact me for follow-up interviews when I am 19 and 21 years old. I understand that by signing this agreement I am *voluntarily* authorizing **Public Child Welfare Agency or Private Vendor with NYTD Contract** to review the aforementioned records.

____ ______________

Signature of Foster Youth Date

Sample Contact Information Questions

Now I would like to get some information that will help us contact you in the future.

1. Do you have a nickname or other name that you are commonly known by?
   Yes [Go to Q2]
   No [Go to Q3]
   Don't know
   Refused

2. What is that nickname?

3. What is your middle name?

4. What is your current address?
   Street address:
   City:
   State:
   Zipcode:

5. Do you currently have plans to move?
   Yes [Go to Q2]
   No [Go to Q3]
   Don't know
   Refused

6. What will your new address be? (Collect as much information as possible)
   Street address:
   City:
   State:
   Zipcode:

7. What is your telephone/cell phone number?

8. What is the email address you check most often? (CONFIRM EMAIL ADDRESS)

Additional Contact Questions Long Version

Next, I would like ask you some questions about the names, addresses and telephone numbers of people who might know how to get in touch with you when we want to interview you again in two years. We will only use this information to help us find you. We will not ask these people for any other information about you and we will not share any of what you told us today or in the past with them.

1. Would you be willing to provide this information?
   Yes [Go to Q2]
   No [Go to End]
   Don't know
   Refused

2. Do you know your biological mother's name?
   Yes [Go to Q3]
   No [Go to Q8]
   Don't know
   Refused

3. What is your biological mother's full name?

4. Do you know where biological your mother lives?
   Yes [Go to Q5]
   No [Go to Q6]
   Don't know
   Refused

5. What is your mother's current full address?

6. Do you know your mother's telephone number?
   Yes [Go to Q7]
   No [Go to Q8]
   Don't know
   Refused

7. What is your mother's telephone number?

8. Do you know your biological father's name?
   Yes [Go to Q9]
   No [Go to Q14]
   Don't know
   Refused

9. What is your biological father's full name?

10. Do you know where your biological father lives?
    Yes [Go to Q10]
    No [Go to Q11]
    Don't know
    Refused

11. What is your father's current full address?

12. Do you know your father's telephone number?
    Yes [Go to Q12]
    No [Go to Q13]
    Don't know
    Refused

13. What is your father's telephone number?

14. Do you have any brothers or sisters?
    Yes [Go to Q14]
    No [Go to Q17]
    Don't know
    Refused

15. What is the name of the brother or sister you are closest to?

16. What is brother’s or sister's current full address?

17. What is brother’s or sister's telephone number?

18. Are you currently living with a foster parent?
    Yes [Go to Q19]
    No [Go to Q22]
    Don't know
    Refused

19. What is your foster parent’s name?

20. What is your foster parent's current full address?

21. What is your foster parent's current telephone number?

22. Are you still in contact with any former foster parents?
    Yes [Go to Q23]
    No [Go to Q26]
    Don't know
    Refused

23. What is the name of the former foster parent you are closest to?

24. What is your former foster parent's current full address?

25. What is your former foster parent's current telephone number?

26. Are there any adult relatives, other than your parents or siblings, with whom you still have regular contact?
Yes [Go to Q27]
No [Go to Q30]
Don't know
Refused

27. What is the name of the adult relative you are you closest to?

28. What is the adult relative's current full address?

29. What is the adult relative's telephone number?

30. What is the full name of your best friend?

31. What is your best friend's home address?

32. What is your best friend's telephone number?

33. Where do you plan to live once you leave foster care?

34. Do you plan to join the armed forces?
Yes [Go to Q35]
No [Go to Q36]
Don't know
Refused

35. Which branch of the armed forces do you plan to join?

36. May we ask your case/social/foster care worker for the names, addresses and phone numbers of people like your parents, relatives or foster parents who may know where to find you two years from now? We will only ask these people for information to help find you. We will not ask them any other questions about you or share anything you have told us with them.
Yes
No
Don't know
Refused

SAMPLE PROTOCOL FOR TRACKING AND LOCATION[12]

- Phase I
  - Search for updated address and telephone number using on-line tools
  - Mail request for updated contact information to last known address
- Phase II
  - Attempt to contact youth directly at last known address or telephone number
  - Attempt to contact youth indirectly using address and telephone numbers for biological parents, former foster parents, other caregivers, caseworkers, siblings, other relatives or friends
    - Pursue former foster parents and/or former foster siblings first because they often maintain contact with youth or know someone who does.
    - Mother and other relatives (i.e., grandparents or aunts/uncles) have proven to be the next most helpful. Siblings and father tend to be less helpful because they are often difficult to locate.
    - Contact former caseworkers or other agency staff almost as a last resort. They may have heard that a youth is in the military, in school, in a correctional facility, etc.
    - Friends have traditionally yielded very little useful information and are very difficult to locate.
    - Contacts that may be relevant in some cases—spouse (or former spouse), personal acquaintance, neighbor (or former neighbor), co-worker (or former co-worker), service provider or other "professional," current occupant of former address, U.S. Post Office branch, public school district office
- Phase III:
  - After multiple attempts to contact youth using existing information have failed
    - Search web sites for correctional facilities and social service agencies
    - Send faxes or other information to "gatekeepers" with the potential to provide information about youth's location
    - Search web sites like "MySpace" or "FaceBook" because registered users will have an e-mail address

Other Recommendations
- Continue to search until all options have been exhausted
- Use all tracking tools to search for youth directly before attempting to search for other contacts
- New on-line resources are constantly being introduced
- Online "web-based" tools may need to be used in combination (e.g., one source may provide an address and another may provide the phone number)
- Individuals listed as "contacts" may also need to be traced so cases may require multiple levels of tracking
- Maintain a "hotline" so that interviewers in the field can call tracking staff directly

[12] This sample protocol is based on information provided by Robert Breen, UWSC Tracking and Locating Supervisor.

ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR TRACKING AND LOCATION[13]

- **Prison Inmate Locator links for all U.S. states:** *http://www.ancestorhunt.com/prison_search.htm*
- **Federal Prison Inmate Locator:** *http://www.bop.gov/iloc2/LocateInmate.jsp*
- **VINELINK:** This new national web site makes it possible to do a "standardized" inmate search that includes prisons in almost all 50 states rather than checking each state's inmate locator web site individually *https://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do*
- **National Center for State Courts:** *http://www.ncsconline.org/D_KIS/info_court_web_sites.html*

Fee for Service Resources

- **LEXISNEXIS LOCATER SERVICE:** Electronic locator service on the internet boasting a comprehensive collection of databases drawn from more than 36,000 individual sources. *http://www.nexis.com/research*
- **LOCATE-PLUS:** Electronic locator service on the Internet with databases that include searchable and cross-referenced public information on approximately 98 percent of the U.S. adult population. *https://www.locateplus.com/welcome.asp*
- **ID PLUS - DIRECTORYNET**: Electronic directory assistance service on the internet, updated daily, that provides telephone and address information for US and Canada.
- *http://directorynet.com/*

Free Resources

- **SWITCHBOARD.COM:** One of the most updated "white pages" Internet sites with directory assistance information. *http://www.switchboard.com/*
- **NETSCAPE WHITEPAGES**: "White pages" Internet site with comprehensive database of international telephone and address information
- *http://wp.netscape.com/netcenter/whitepages.html*
- *http://www.infospace.com/info.netctr/index_int.htm*
- **ULTIMATE WHITEPAGES**: "White pages" Internet site *http://www.theultimates.com/white/*
- **ZABASEARCH:** People search and public information search engine
- *http://www.zabasearch.com/*
- **GOOGLE-SEARCH**: Comprehensive Internet search engine.
- *http://www.google.com/*
- **ASK.COM:** Comprehensive Internet search engine.
- *http://www.ask.com/#subject:ask|pg:1*
- **SSN DEATH INDEX SEARCH**: Internet web site allows the user to search Social Security Death Index files. *http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/*

[13] This resource list was provided by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center.

INFO-USA PHONE DISCS: CD-ROMs containing over 85 million residential and 15 million business listings across the United States—These CD-ROMs are an electronic telephone book library, updated every three months, offering the ability to search by name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, county, geographic location or metropolitan statistical area.

ELECTRONIC LIBRARY ACCESS: Direct access to reference and research materials, including a global network of newspaper, magazine, and journal databases, encyclopedias, dictionaries and a wide variety of other reference collections

EDGE/TRANS UNION CREDIT COMMANDER: Windows software providing link to a nation-wide network of credit bureau databases

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE: Used when contact information hasn't been obtained using any Internet sources

PROPERTY TAX RECORDS: Most states maintain online databases of tax records, but "accessibility" of these records varies greatly from state to state.

"**NETR Public Records Online Directory**" is an Internet web site that provides a workable starting point to begin the search, but it is usually necessary to call the offices of tax assessors, recorders, and clerks for the municipality being searched
http://www.netronline.com/public_records.htm

ACCURINT *(http://www.accurint.com/)*

- This subsidiary of LexisNexis pulls information from the same databases and records used by NEXIS.com with the exception that ACCURINT does not provide access to the vast library of journals, press releases and publications

INSIGHT-AMERICA *(http://www.insightamerica.com/)*

- Owned by "Acxiom," INSIGHT-AMERICA is the current major competitor to LexisNexis in the field of public record retrieval and locating tools. LexisNexis and Acxiom both draw information from the same public and private information with LexisNexis actually providing access to a larger number of sources.

Caution: The following websites are owned and operated by the same individual(s), but use different domain names and corporate/company identifications and logos to give the appearance of a competitive marketplace of services. The draw information from sources that are available without charge elsewhere on the Internet, repackage the free data and charge a fee for their services.

WEBSTIGATE *(http://www.webstigate.com/);*
INVESTIGATE-1-2-3 *(http://www.investigate123.com/);*
NET-DETECTIVE *(http://www.netdetective-online.net/index.html);*
COMPLETE-DETECTIVE *(http://www.completedetective.com/);*
INSTANT-DETECTIVE *(http://www.instantdetective.com/index.php);*
SEARCH-DETECTIVE *(http://www.search-detective.net/)*

APPENDICES

Appendix A

NYTD National Advisory Committee

Don Winstead (Chair)
Deputy Secretary
Florida Department of Children and Families

Carrie Anthony
Chief, Child Welfare Policy, Child Placement Section
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

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Tamara Cordova
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Mike Coulson
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Susan Mitchell-Herzfeld
Director of Evaluation and Research
New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Lane Simpson
Independent Living Director
Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Stanley Schneider
President and Chief Executive Officer
Metis Associates

Susan Smith
Director, Data Advocacy
Casey Family Programs

Jane V. Soltis
Vice President Programs
Eckerd Family Foundation

Gary Stangler
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Steve Vonderharr
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Appendix B

State of the States Survey Executive Summary

Background

As part of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169), which established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, the Administration for Children and Families is required to develop a data collection system, the National Youth in Transition Database, that will be used to track the independent living services that states provide to foster youth and to assess each state's performance as measured by foster youth outcomes. The American Public Human Services Association, together with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data, received funding from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Eckerd Foundation to (1) assist states in their efforts to comply with the NYTD requirements and (2) to work with states to develop a comprehensive data collection and tracking system that will provide comparable data across states, including data beyond what states are required to collect.

To facilitate that process, APHSA and Chapin Hall conducted a web-based survey of state public child welfare agencies to determine what data states are currently collecting about the characteristics of their current and former foster youth, the services those youth receive and the outcomes of those youth across a number of domains. The survey was also intended to learn more about the challenges states are likely to face in their efforts to comply with the NYTD requirements and areas in which they are likely to need assistance.

Methodology

A web-based survey was constructed that covered eight domains:

- Basic information about the state's child welfare system and its SACWIS;
- Sharing of data with and linking of data from other state, local or private agencies;
- Collection of data about the characteristics of current and former foster youth;
- Collection of data about independent living services provided to current and former foster youth;
- Collection of data about the outcomes of current and former foster youth;
- How data are collected and the purposes for which they are used;
- Challenges or barriers to complying with the NYTD requirements that states are likely to face; and
- Technical assistance states need to comply with NYTD requirements.

An e-mail that included a link to the survey was sent to members of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators who were asked to complete the survey or forward the link to the most appropriate staff member. The survey was completed by 42 state child welfare agencies plus the child welfare agency for the District of Columbia.

Results in Brief

- Two-thirds of the state child welfare agencies that participated in the survey are in states that have state-supervised and state-administered child welfare systems.

- A majority of these state child welfare agencies have fully operationally Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems.

- Nearly 75 percent of these state child welfare agencies share data with other state, local or private agencies. However, less than half are able to link their data to data from other agencies.

- State child welfare agencies are most likely to be collecting outcome data on educational attainment. In fact, this is the only outcome about which a majority of these state child welfare agencies collect outcome data for both current and former foster youth.

- State child welfare agencies are most likely to be collecting outcome data from current foster youth who are 16 or 17 years old and from former foster youth who are 18 and 19 years old.

- State child welfare agencies are most likely to collect data about both current and former foster youth through in-person interviews and from private agencies.

- State child welfare agencies use the data they collect about current and former foster youth to meet reporting requirements and monitor agency performance.

- The most common challenge state child welfare agencies are likely to face in their efforts to comply with the NYTD requirements is locating youth for follow up surveys at ages 19 and 21.

- Almost all of the state child welfare agencies expressed an interest in strategies that will help them locate youth in the follow-up populations.

Appendix C

State of the States Survey Instrument

The American Public Human Services Association, together with Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago and the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data, received funding from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Eckerd Foundation (1) to assist states in their efforts to comply with the National Youth in Transition Database requirements and (2) to work with states to develop a comprehensive data collection and tracking system that will provide comparable data across states beyond the federal requirements.

The purpose of this survey is to gather information about what states are currently doing or planning to do to track the independent living services that foster youth receive and to measure their outcomes. This information will help us as we begin to formulate a strategy for moving forward. The survey takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete. If you begin the survey but cannot complete it, Survey Monkey will allow you to exit and resume where you left off. To do this, however, your web browser must be enabled to accept cookies. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

1. Please provide the following contact information.
Name of person completing survey: ______________________________
Position/Title of person completing survey: ______________________________
Agency: ______________________________
State: ______________________________
Phone Number: ______________________________
Fax Number: ______________________________
E-mail Address: ______________________________

2. How would you describe your state's child welfare system? Is it state supervised and county administered, state supervised and state administered or something else?

- ❑ State supervised and county administered
- ❑ State supervised and state administered
- ❑ Something else (Please specify)

3. How would you describe your state's SACWIS system?

- ❑ Fully operational
- ❑ In development
- ❑ State has elected to use a non-SACWIS model

4. Has your state completed an Advanced Planning Document (APD)?

- ❑ **Yes**
- ❑ **No**

5. Does your agency share data with data belonging to other state, local or private agencies? By data, we mean electronic or computerized records for individual children or youth.

- ❑ Yes
- ❑ No

6. Please specify the other state, local or private agencies with which your agency shares data. (Please use commas to separate agency names)

Other State Agencies (e.g., welfare agency) ___________________________________

Local Agencies (e.g., city/county agencies) ____________________________________

Private Agencies (e.g., Catholic Charities) ____________________________________

7. Are your agency's SACWIS or child welfare information management system's data linked to data from other state, local or private agencies? Again, by data, we mean electronic or computerized records for individual children or youth.

❑ Yes
❑ No

8. Please specify the other state, local or private agencies to which your agency's SACWIS or child welfare information management system's data are linked.
(Please use commas to separate agency names)

Other State Agencies (e.g., welfare agency) ___________________________________

Local Agencies (e.g., city/county agencies) _____________________________________

Private Agencies (e.g., Catholic Charities) ______________________________________

9. How many children and youth are currently under the care and supervision of your state's child welfare agency?

Number of children and youth in state care: ________________________________

10. How many of these children and youth are:

14 or 15 years old? ________________________________

16 or 17 years old? ________________________________

18 or 19 years old? ________________________________

20 or 21 years old? ________________________________

11. How many foster youth "aged out" of your state's child welfare system? By "aging out," we mean foster youth being discharged from state care not because they had achieved permanency (i.e., reunification, adoption, legal guardianship) but because they had reached (or were about to reach) the age of majority.

In 2006? ________________________________

In 2007? ________________________________

Questions 12 through 19 deal with information about **FOSTER YOUTH WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN STATE CARE.**

12. What information does your agency have about the characteristics of foster youth who are currently in state care? (Select all that apply)

- ❑ Date of birth
- ❑ Sex
- ❑ Race
- ❑ Ethnicity
- ❑ Tribal membership
- ❑ Type of placement
- ❑ Length of placement
- ❑ School enrollment/educational attainment
- ❑ Incarceration/detention
- ❑ Employment status
- ❑ Other (please specify)

13. What information does your agency collect about the independent living services foster youth receive while they are in state care? (Select all that apply)

- ❑ Type of services received
- ❑ Frequency of service receipt
- ❑ Service provider
- ❑ Other (please specify)

14. At what ages does your agency measure the following outcomes? Please remember that we are only asking about foster youth who are currently in state care. (Select all that apply)

	Ages 14/15	Ages 16/17	Ages 18/19	Ages 20/21	Not Measured
Employment	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Educational attainment	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Homelessness	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Connection to an adult	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Incarceration	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Substance abuse	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Birth of child(ren)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Marriage	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Health insurance	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

15. For what percentage of the foster youth in each age group does your agency collect outcome data? Please remember that we are asking only about foster youth who currently in state care.

	0%	1% to 24%	25% to 49%	50% to 74%	75% to 99%	100%
14 or 15 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
16 or 17 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
18 or 19 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
20 or 21 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

16. How does your agency determine the percentage of foster youth in each of these age groups whose outcomes will be measured?

	Outcome data are collected for all youth in this age group.	Outcome data are collected for a random sample of youth in this age group.	Outcome data are collected for a non-random sample of youth in this age group.
14 or 15 years old	❑	❑	❑
16 or 17 years old	❑	❑	❑
18 or 19 years old	❑	❑	❑
20 or 21 years old	❑	❑	❑

17. How does your agency collect data about the outcomes of foster youth who are currently in state care? (Select all that apply)

❑ Telephone interview with the youth
❑ In-person interview with the youth
❑ Data provided by other state agencies
❑ Data provided by local agencies
❑ Data provided by private agencies
❑ Other (please specify)

18. In what format is each type of data stored? (Select all that apply)

	Data about characteristics of foster youth	Data about services provided to foster youth	Data about outcomes of foster youth
Excel spreadsheet	❑	❑	❑
Access database	❑	❑	❑
SACWIS system	❑	❑	❑
Case files/paper records	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑

19. How does your agency use each type of data it collects about foster youth who are currently in state care? (Select all that apply)

	Data about characteristics of foster youth	Data about services provided to foster youth	Data about outcomes of foster youth
Meet federal reporting requirements	❑	❑	❑
Meet state reporting requirements	❑	❑	❑
Monitor agency performance or service provision	❑	❑	❑
Assess program outcomes	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑

Questions 20 through 29 deal with information about **Former Foster Youth Who Aged Out of Care.**

20. What information does your agency have about the characteristics of former foster youth who aged out of care? (Select all that apply)

❑ Date of birth
❑ Sex
❑ Race
❑ Ethnicity
❑ Tribal membership
❑ School enrollment/educational attainment
❑ Incarceration
❑ Employment status
❑ Other (please specify)

21. What information does your agency collect about the independent living services former foster youth receive after they have aged out of care? (Select all that apply)

❑ Type of services received
❑ Frequency of service receipt
❑ Service provider
❑ Other (please specify)

22. Which of the following outcomes does your agency measure and at what age(s) are those data collected? Please remember that we are only asking about former foster youth who aged out of care. (Select all that apply)

	Ages 14 / 15	Ages 16 / 17	Ages 18 / 19	Ages 20 / 21	Not Measured
Employment	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Educational attainment	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Homelessness	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Connection to an adult	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Incarceration	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Substance abuse	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Birth of child(ren)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Marriage	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Health insurance	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other □	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

23. For what percentage of the former foster youth in each age group does your agency collect outcome data? Please remember that we are asking only about former foster youth who aged out of care.

	0%	1% to 24%	25% to 49%	50% to 74%	75% to 99%	100%
14 or 15 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
16 or 17 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
18 or 19 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
20 or 21 years old	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

24. How does your agency determine the percentage of former foster youth in each of these age groups whose outcomes will be measured?

	Outcome data are collected for all youth in this age group.	Outcome data are collected for a random sample of youth in this age group.	Outcome data are collected for a non-random sample of youth in this age group.
16 or 17 years old	❑	❑	❑
18 or 19 years old	❑	❑	❑
20 or 21 years old	❑	❑	❑

25. How does your agency collect data about the outcomes of former foster youth who aged out of care?
(Select all that apply)

- ❑ Telephone interview with the youth
- ❑ In-person interview with the youth
- ❑ Data provided by other state agencies
- ❑ Data provided by local agencies
- ❑ Data provided by private agencies
- ❑ Other (please specify)

26. In what format is each type of data stored? (Select all that apply)

	Data about characteristics of foster youth	Data about services provided to foster youth	Data about outcomes of foster youth
Excel spreadsheet	❑	❑	❑
Access database	❑	❑	❑
SACWIS system	❑	❑	❑
Case files/paper records	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑

27. How does your agency use each type of data it collects about former foster youth who aged out of care? (Select all that apply)

	Data about characteristics of foster youth	Data about services provided to foster youth	Data about outcomes of foster youth
Meet federal reporting requirements	❑	❑	❑
Meet state reporting requirements	❑	❑	❑
Monitor agency performance or service provision	❑	❑	❑
Assess program outcomes	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑

28. Which of the following does your state use to contact former foster youth who aged out of care? (Select all that apply)

- ❑ Mail
- ❑ Telephone
- ❑ E-mail
- ❑ Other (please specify)

29. Which of the following strategies does your state use to locate former foster youth after they have aged out of care? (Select all that apply)

- ❑ Contact former foster parents
- ❑ Contact biological family members
- ❑ Access driver's license records
- ❑ Access immigration records
- ❑ Access public assistance records
- ❑ Access other social service records
- ❑ Access employment records
- ❑ Access school records
- ❑ Access legal records
- ❑ Other (please specify)

The next few questions are about challenges or barriers to complying with the National Youth in Transition Database requirements that your state may face.

30. Which of the following are challenges or barriers to complying with the NYTD requirements that your state is likely to face? (Select all that apply)

- ❑ Updating SACWIS and adding new data elements
- ❑ Securing additional funds to modify SACWIS
- ❑ Locating/tracking youth for follow-up surveys at ages 19 and 21
- ❑ Securing additional funds to locate and track youth

31. Please describe any challenges or barriers to complying with NYTD requirements not listed above that your state is likely to face.

32. What type of assistance could APHSA/Chapin Hall provide that would help your state comply with the NYTD requirements? (Select all that apply)

- ❑ Developing strategies to locate/track youth
- ❑ Maintaining a centralized database for storing NYTD data
- ❑ Assistance with data analysis
- ❑ Technical assistance needed to modify SACWIS and add new elements

33. Please describe any assistance not listed above that APHSA/Chapin Hall could provide to help your state comply with the NYTD requirements.

34. Please provide any additional comments regarding the National Youth in Transition Database.

Appendix D

NYTD Plus Abbreviated Version for Baseline Population

(Note: * indicates required NYTD questions)**

EMPLOYMENT

***Q1. Currently are you employed full-time?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q2. Currently are you employed part-time?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q1 = YES OR Q2 = YES THEN GO TO Q3
ELSE IF Q1 ≠ YES AND Q2 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q5

Q3. What is your hourly pay?

$______________
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q4. For how long have you been working at this job or for this employer?
- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q8

Q5. Have you ever had a job for which you were paid?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q5 = YES THEN GO TO Q6
ELSE IF Q5 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q8

Q6. Have you had a job for which you were paid at any time during the past year?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q6 = YES THEN GO TO Q7
ELSE IF Q6 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q8

Q7. What is the longest period of time for which you worked without interruption at any job/for any employer?

- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q8. In the past year, did you complete an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training, either paid or unpaid?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

***Q9. Currently are you receiving social security payments (Supplemental Security Income (SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or dependents' payments)?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q10. Currently are you using a scholarship, grant, stipend, student loan, voucher, or other type of educational financial aid to cover any educational expenses?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q11. Currently are you receiving any periodic and/or significant financial resources or support from another source not previously indicated and excluding paid employment?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q12. Currently are you receiving ongoing welfare payments from the government [or name of the State's welfare program] to support your basic needs?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q13. Currently are you receiving public food assistance?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q14. Currently are you receiving any sort of housing assistance from the government, such as living in public housing or receiving a housing voucher?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q15. Do you currently have an open bank account, such as a checking or savings account?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

EDUCATION

***Q16. What is the highest educational degree or certification that you have received?
- ○ High school diploma/GED
- ○ Vocational certificate
- ○ Vocational license
- ○ Associate's degree
- ○ Bachelor's degree
- ○ Higher degree
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined

IF Q16 = “NONE OF THE ABOVE” THEN GO TO Q19
IF Q16 = “VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE” OR Q16 = “VOCATIONAL LICENSE” THEN GO TO Q17A
IF Q16 = “HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED” OR Q16 = “ASSOCIATES DEGREE” OR Q16 = “BACHELORS DEGREE” OR Q16 = “HIGHER DEGREE” THEN GO TO Q17B

Q17A. Do you have a high school diploma or GED?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q17A = YES THEN GO TO Q17B
IF Q17A ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q19

Q17B. Which of the following best describes your high school diploma?
- ○ I have a regular high school diploma
- ○ I have a GED or high school equivalency diploma
- ○ I have a certificate of completion
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q18. Have you completed one or more years of college?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q19. Currently are you enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, post-high school vocational training, or college?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q19 = YES THEN GO TO Q20
ELSE IF Q19 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q22

Q20. In what type of school or educational program are you currently enrolled?

- ○ Regular high school
- ○ GED program
- ○ Vocational school
- ○ Community, junior or two year college
- ○ Four-year college or university
- ○ Graduate or professional school
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q20 = "VOCATIONAL SCHOOL" OR "2-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "4-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL" THEN GO TO Q21 ELSE GO TO Q24

Q21. How are you paying for your education? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Scholarships/fellowships/grants
- ○ Student loans
- ○ Earnings from employment
- ○ Savings
- ○ Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- ○ Other assistance from a child welfare agency or independent living program
- ○ Assistance from family or friends (including spouse/partner and birth, foster parents or adoptive parents)
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q24

Q22. Are there any barriers that are preventing you from continuing your education?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q22 = YES THEN GO TO Q23
ELSE IF Q22 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q24

Q23. What is the <u>biggest</u> barrier preventing you from continuing your education?

- ○ I have no way to pay for school
- ○ I need to work full time
- ○ I have child care responsibilities
- ○ I don't have transportation
- ○ I have been discouraged by significant others
- ○ I have academic difficulties
- ○ Other (specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

***Q24. Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q25. Do you currently have a close relationship with any members of your biological family?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q25 = YES GO TO Q26
IF Q25 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q28

Q26. With which members of your biological family do you currently have a close relationship? **Select all that apply**

- ○ Mother
- ○ Father
- ○ Sibling
- ○ Aunt/uncle
- ○ Grandparent/great grandparent
- ○ Cousin
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q27. How much has been done **since you have been in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationships with the biological family members to whom you feel close?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q28. Do you currently have a relationship that is trusting, supportive, and unconditional with at least one adult who will always be there for you?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q28 = YES GO TO Q29
IF Q28 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q33

Q29. Which of the following best describes the adult with whom you have the <u>closest</u> trusting, supportive, and unconditional relationship? **Select only one.**

- ○ Birth parent
- ○ Adoptive parent
- ○ Spouse/partner
- ○ Sibling
- ○ Aunt/uncle
- ○ Grandparent/great grandparent
- ○ Cousin
- ○ Legal guardian
- ○ Foster parent (or former foster parent)
- ○ Current or former case worker, social worker, or independent living program staff
- ○ Teacher or coach
- ○ Mentor (Big Brother/Big Sister, other volunteer or informal mentor)
- ○ Someone from church or faith-based community
- ○ Parent of a friend
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q30. What can you count on this person to do? **Select all that apply.**
I can count on him or her…

- ○ To talk with me about my problems.
- ○ To give me advice.
- ○ To provide me with a place to live
- ○ To help me find a job
- ○ To help if I am sick.
- ○ To help me pay for my education.
- ○ To help me manage my money.
- ○ To help with care for my children
- ○ To help me feel good about myself
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q31. Did you know this person before you entered foster care?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q32. How much has been done **since you have been in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationship with this person?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationship with this person.
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

HOUSING

Q33. Which best describes your current living situation? **Select only one.**

- ○ I am living in my own apartment, house, or trailer
- ○ I am living with birth or adoptive parents
- ○ I am living with a spouse/partner
- ○ I am living with other family members
- ○ I am living with former foster parents
- ○ I am living with friends or a roommate
- ○ I am living in a foster home
- ○ I am living in a group care setting (including a group home or residential care facility
- ○ I am living in a college dormitory or residence hall
- ○ I am living in military barracks
- ○ I am living in a hospital or in a treatment center for mental health or substance abuse problems
- ○ I am in detention, jail, prison or another correctional facility
- ○ I am couch surfing or moving from house to house
- ○ I am homeless (and living in a shelter, in a hotel/motel room, on the street, in a car or other vehicle, in an abandoned building, or at a camping ground)
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q34. Do you pay for your housing?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q34 = YES THEN GO TO Q35
ELSE IF Q34 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q36

Q35. After paying for your housing, do you still have enough for your other living expenses such as food, transportation, or utilities?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q36. Can you stay where you are living now as long as you want to?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q37. Have you ever been homeless?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q38. Have you ever couch surfed or moved from house to house because you didn't have a permanent place to stay?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

RISKY BEHAVIORS

***Q39. Have you ever referred yourself or has someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q40. Have you ever been arrested?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q41. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q41 = YES THEN GO TO Q42
IF Q41 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q43

Q42. For what type(s) of crime were you convicted? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Violent crimes (e.g., rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault or robbery).
- ○ Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft, or motor vehicle theft).
- ○ Drug-related crime (e.g., selling or possessing illegal drugs)
- ○ Other (Please specify____________________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q43. Have you ever been confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility, in connection with allegedly committing a crime?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q44. Have you ever given birth or fathered any children that were born?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q44 = YES THEN GO TO Q45
ELSE IF Q44 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q46

***Q45. Were you married to the child's other parent at the time each child was born?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

***Q46. Currently are you on Medicaid [or name of the State's medical assistance program under title XIX]?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q47. Currently do you have health insurance, other than Medicaid?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q47 = YES THEN GO TO Q48
IF Q47 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q49

Q48. Which of the following best describes the source of your health insurance coverage?

- ○ I am covered by my parents' insurance.
- ○ I am covered by my spouse's insurance.
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my employer provides
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my school provides
- ○ I am covered by private insurance that I purchase myself.
- ○ I am covered by my state's children's health insurance program (SCHIP).
- ○ Other (specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q49. Does your health insurance include coverage for medical services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q50. Does your health insurance include coverage for mental health services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q51. Does your health insurance include coverage for prescription drugs?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

Q52. Does your health insurance include coverage for dental services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q53. Are you currently receiving treatment for an alcohol or substance abuse problem?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q54. Are you currently receiving counseling for a psychological or emotional problem?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

OTHER

Q55. Do you have a reliable means of transportation to school and/or work?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q56. Which of the following documents do you currently have in your possession?

- ○ Social Security card
- ○ Birth certificate
- ○ Proof of citizenship or residency (Green card)
- ○ Proof of immunization
- ○ Driver's license
- ○ Other state identification
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q57. How would you describe the role that you have played in the development of your independent living plan [or however the state refers to the ILP]?

- ○ I led the development of my independent living plan.
- ○ I was involved in the development of my independent living plan but did NOT lead it
- ○ I was NOT involved in the development of my independent living plan
- ○ I am not aware of my independent living plan
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Appendix E

NYTD Plus Abbreviated Version for Follow-Up Population

(Note: * indicates required NYTD questions)**

EMPLOYMENT

***Q1. Currently are you employed full-time?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q2. Currently are you employed part-time?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q1 = YES OR Q2 = YES THEN GO TO Q3
ELSE IF Q1 ≠ YES AND Q2 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q5

Q3. What is your hourly pay?
$______________
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q4. For how long have you been working at this job or for this employer?
- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q8

Q5. Have you ever had a job for which you were paid?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q5 = YES THEN GO TO Q6
ELSE IF Q5 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q8

Q6. Have you had a job for which you were paid at any time during the past year?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q6 = YES THEN GO TO Q7
ELSE IF Q6 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q8

Q7. What is the longest period of time for which you worked without interruption at any job or for any employer?

- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q8. In the past year, did you complete an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training, either paid or unpaid?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

***Q9. Currently are you receiving social security payments (Supplemental Security Income (SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or dependents' payments)?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q10. Currently are you using a scholarship, grant, stipend, student loan, voucher, or other type of educational financial aid to cover any educational expenses?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q11. Currently are you receiving any periodic and/or significant financial resources or support from another source not previously indicated and excluding paid employment?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q12. Currently are you receiving ongoing welfare payments from the government [or name of the State's welfare program] to support your basic needs?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q13. Currently are you receiving public food assistance?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q14. Currently are you receiving any sort of housing assistance from the government, such as living in public housing or receiving a housing voucher?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q15. Do you currently have an open bank account, such as a checking or savings account?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

EDUCATION

***Q16. What is the highest educational degree or certification that you have received?

- ○ High school diploma/GED
- ○ Vocational certificate
- ○ Vocational license
- ○ Associate's degree
- ○ Bachelor's degree
- ○ Higher degree
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined

IF Q16 = “NONE OF THE ABOVE” THEN GO TO Q19
IF Q16 = “VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE” OR Q16 = “VOCATIONAL LICENSE” THEN GO TO Q17A
IF Q16 = “HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED” OR Q16 = “ASSOCIATES DEGREE” OR Q16 = “BACHELORS DEGREE” OR Q16 = “HIGHER DEGREE” THEN GO TO Q17B

Q17A. Do you have a high school diploma or GED?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q17A = YES THEN GO TO Q17B
IF Q17A ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q19

Q17B. Which of the following best describes your high school diploma?

- ○ I have a regular high school diploma
- ○ I have a GED or high school equivalency diploma
- ○ I have a certificate of completion
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q18. Have you completed one or more years of college?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q19. Currently are you enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, post-high school vocational training, or college?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q19 = YES THEN GO TO Q20
ELSE IF Q19 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q22

Q20. In what type of school or educational program are you currently enrolled?

- ○ Regular high school
- ○ GED program
- ○ Vocational school
- ○ Community, junior or two year college
- ○ Four-year college or university
- ○ Graduate or professional school
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q20 = "VOCATIONAL SCHOOL" OR "2-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "4-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL" THEN GO TO Q21 ELSE GO TO Q24

Q21. How are you paying for your education? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Scholarships/fellowships/grants
- ○ Student loans
- ○ Earnings from employment
- ○ Savings
- ○ Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- ○ Other assistance from a child welfare agency or independent living program
- ○ Assistance from family or friends (including spouse/partner and birth, foster parents or adoptive parents)
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q24

Q22. Are there any barriers that are preventing you from continuing your education?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q22 = YES THEN GO TO Q23
ELSE IF Q22 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q24

Q23. What is the <u>biggest</u> barrier preventing you from continuing your education?

- I have no way to pay for school
- I need to work full time
- I have child care responsibilities
- I don't have transportation
- I have been discouraged by significant others
- I have academic difficulties
- Other (specify)
- Declined
- Do not know

PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

***Q24. Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support?

- Yes
- No
- Declined

Q25. Do you currently have a close relationship with any members of your biological family?

- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

IF Q25 = YES GO TO Q26
IF Q25 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q27

Q26. With which members of your biological family do you currently have a close relationship? **Select all that apply.**

- Mother
- Father
- Sibling
- Aunt/uncle
- Grandparent/great grandparent
- Cousin
- Other (Please specify_________________)
- Declined
- Do not know

Q27. How much has been done **since you have been in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationships with the biological family members to whom you feel close?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q28. Do you currently have a relationship that is trusting, supportive, and unconditional with at least one adult who will always be there for you?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q28 = YES GO TO Q29
IF Q28 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q33

Q29. Which of the following best describes the adult with whom you have the closest trusting, supportive, and unconditional relationship? **Select only one.**

- ○ Birth parent
- ○ Adoptive parent
- ○ Spouse/partner
- ○ Sibling
- ○ Aunt/uncle
- ○ Grandparent/great grandparent
- ○ Cousin
- ○ Legal guardian
- ○ Foster parent (or former foster parent)
- ○ Current or former case worker, social worker, or independent living program staff
- ○ Teacher or coach
- ○ Mentor (Big Brother/Big Sister, other volunteer or informal mentor)
- ○ Someone from church or faith-based community
- ○ Parent of a friend
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q30. What can you count on this person to do? **Select all that apply.**

I can count on him or her…

- ○ To talk with me about my problems.
- ○ To give me advice.
- ○ To provide me with a place to live
- ○ To help me find a job
- ○ To help if I am sick.
- ○ To help me pay for my education.
- ○ To help me manage my money.
- ○ To help with care for my children
- ○ To help me feel good about myself
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q31. Did you know this person <u>before</u> you entered foster care?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q32. How much was done **while you were in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationship with this person?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationship with this person.
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ I did not know this person until after I exited foster care.
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

HOUSING

Q33. Which best describes your current living situation? **Select only one.**

- ○ I am living in my own apartment, house, or trailer
- ○ I am living with birth or adoptive parents
- ○ I am living with a spouse/partner
- ○ I am living with other family members
- ○ I am living with former foster parents
- ○ I am living with friends or a roommate
- ○ I am living in a foster home
- ○ I am living in a group care setting (including a group home or residential care facility
- ○ I am living in a college dormitory or residence hall
- ○ I am living in military barracks
- ○ I am living in a hospital or in a treatment center for mental health or substance abuse problems
- ○ I am in detention, jail, prison or another correctional facility
- ○ I am couch surfing or moving from house to house
- ○ I am homeless (and living in a shelter, in a hotel/motel room, on the street, in a car or other vehicle, in an abandoned building, or at a camping ground)
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q34. Do you pay for your housing?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q34 = YES THEN GO TO Q35
ELSE IF Q34 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q36

Q35. After paying for your housing, do you still have enough for your other living expenses such as food, transportation, or utilities?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q36. Can you stay where you are living now as long as you want to?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q37. In the past two years, were you homeless at any time?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q38. Have you couch surfed or moved from house to house because you didn't have a permanent place to stay at any time during the past two years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

RISKY BEHAVIORS

***Q39. In the past two years, did you refer yourself, or had someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q40. Have you been arrested during the past two years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q41. Have you been convicted of a crime during the past two years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q41 = YES THEN GO TO Q42
IF Q41 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q43

Q42. For what type(s) of crime were you convicted during the past two years?
Select all that apply.

- ○ Violent crimes (e.g., rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault or robbery).
- ○ Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft, or motor vehicle theft).
- ○ Drug-related crime (e.g., selling or possessing illegal drugs)
- ○ Other (Please specify____________________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q43. In the past two years, were you confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility, in connection with allegedly committing a crime?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q44. In the past two years, did you give birth to or father any children that were born?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q44 = YES THEN GO TO Q45
ELSE IF Q44 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q46

***Q45. Were you married to the child's other parent at the time each child was born?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

***Q46. Currently are you on Medicaid [or name of the State's medical assistance program under title XIX]?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q47. Currently do you have health insurance, other than Medicaid?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q47 = YES THEN GO TO Q48
IF Q47 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q49

Q48. Which of the following best describes the source of your health insurance coverage?

- ○ I am covered by my parents' insurance.
- ○ I am covered by my spouse's insurance.
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my employer provides
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my school provides
- ○ I am covered by private insurance that I purchase myself.
- ○ I am covered by my state's children's health insurance program (SCHIP).
- ○ Other (specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q49. Does your health insurance include coverage for medical services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q50. Does your health insurance include coverage for mental health services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q51. Does your health insurance include coverage for prescription drugs?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

Q52. Does your health insurance include coverage for dental services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q53. Are you currently receiving treatment for an alcohol or substance abuse problem?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q54. Are you currently receiving counseling for a psychological or emotional problem?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

OTHER

Q55. Do you have a reliable means of transportation to school and/or work?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q56. Are you still in foster care?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q56 = YES THEN GO TO Q57
ELSE IF Q56 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q58

Q57. Which of the following documents do you currently have in your possession?
- ○ Social Security card
- ○ Birth certificate
- ○ Proof of citizenship or residency (Green card)
- ○ Proof of immunization
- ○ Driver's license
- ○ Other state identification
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q59

Q58. Which of the following documents did you have in your possession when you exited foster care?

- ○ Social Security card
- ○ Birth certificate
- ○ Proof of citizenship or residency (Green card)
- ○ Proof of immunization
- ○ Driver's license
- ○ Other state identification
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q59. How would you describe the role that you have played in the development of your independent living plan [or however the state refers to the ILP]?

- ○ I led the development of my independent living plan.
- ○ I was involved in the development of my independent living plan but did NOT lead it
- ○ I was NOT involved in the development of my independent living plan
- ○ I are not aware of my independent living plan
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q60. How adequate was your independent living/transition plan when it came to addressing the following needs:

	Very	Somewhat	Barely	Not at all	Don't know	Declined
A. Stable housing						
B. Health care						
C. Education or training						
D. Employment						
E. Developing relationships with individuals who could be potential sources of support						
F. Developing relationships with organizations that could be potential sources of support						

Appendix F

NYTD Plus Full Version for Baseline Population

(Note: * indicates required NYTD questions)**

EMPLOYMENT

***Q1. Currently are you employed full-time?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q2. Currently are you employed part-time?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q1 = YES OR Q2 = YES THEN GO TO Q3
ELSE IF Q1 ≠ YES AND Q2 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q6

Q3. What is your hourly pay?
$______________
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q4. On average, how many hours do you work per week? ____________
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q5. For how long have you been working at this job or for this employer?
- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q13

Q6**.** Have you ever had a job for which you were paid?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q6 = YES THEN GO TO Q8
ELSE IF Q6 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q7

Q7**.** Have you had a job for which you were paid at any time during the past year?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q7 = YES THEN GO TO Q8
ELSE IF Q7 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q9

Q8. What is the longest period of time for which you worked without interruption at any job/for any employer?

- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q9. Have you been doing anything to find a job during the past month?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q9 = YES THEN GO TO Q10
ELSE IF Q9 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q13

Q10. Which of the following have you done to find a job during the past month?
Select all that apply.

- ○ Contacted employers
- ○ Contacted employment agency
- ○ Contacted friends or relatives
- ○ Contacted school/university employment center
- ○ Sent out resumes
- ○ Filled out job applications
- ○ Searched/responded to help wanted ads
- ○ Had a job interview
- ○ Attended job training programs
- ○ Other [please specify]
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q11. For how long have you been looking for work?
- ○ Less than 1 month
- ○ At least 1 month but less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ 12 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q12. Are you currently looking for full time work (at least 35 hours per week) or part time work (less than 35 hours per week)?
- ○ Full-time
- ○ Part-time
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q13. In the past year, did you complete an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training, either paid or unpaid?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

***Q14. Currently are you receiving social security payments (Supplemental Security Income (SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or dependents' payments)?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q15. Currently are you using a scholarship, grant, stipend, student loan, voucher, or other type of educational financial aid to cover any educational expenses?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q16. Currently are you receiving any periodic and/or significant financial resources or support from another source not previously indicated and excluding paid employment?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q17. Currently are you receiving ongoing welfare payments from the government [or name of the State's welfare program] to support your basic needs?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q18. Currently are you receiving public food assistance?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q19. Currently are you receiving any sort of housing assistance from the government, such as living in public housing or receiving a housing voucher?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q20. Do you currently have an open bank account, such as a checking or savings account?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

EDUCATION

***Q21. What is the highest educational degree or certification that you have received?

- ○ High school diploma/GED
- ○ Vocational certificate
- ○ Vocational license
- ○ Associate's degree
- ○ Bachelor's degree
- ○ Higher degree
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined

IF Q21 = "NONE OF THE ABOVE" THEN GO TO Q22B
IF Q21 = "VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE" OR Q21 = "VOCATIONAL LICENSE" THEN GO TO Q23A
IF Q21 = "HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED" OR Q21 = "ASSOCIATES DEGREE" OR Q21 = "BACHELORS DEGREE" OR Q21 = "HIGHER DEGREE" THEN GO TO Q23

Q22A. Do you have a high school diploma or GED?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q22A = YES THEN GO TO Q23
IF Q22A ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q22B

Q22B. Which of the following best describes the highest grade you have completed? (If you are currently enrolled in school, do not include the grade that you are in.)

- ○ 8th grade or less
- ○ 9th grade
- ○ 10th grade
- ○ 11th grade
- ○ 12th grade
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q25

Q23. Which of the following best describes your high school diploma?

- ○ You have a regular high school diploma
- ○ You have a GED or high school equivalency diploma
- ○ You have a certificate of completion
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q24. Have you completed one or more years of college?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q25. Currently are you enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, post-high school vocational training, or college?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q25 = YES THEN GO TO Q26
ELSE IF Q25 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q29

Q26. Are you currently enrolled in school full-time or part-time?

- ○ Full-time
- ○ Part-time
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q27. In what type of school or educational program are you currently enrolled?

- ○ Regular high school
- ○ GED program
- ○ Vocational school
- ○ Community, junior or two year college
- ○ Four-year college or university
- ○ Graduate or professional school
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q27 = "VOCATIONAL SCHOOL" OR "2-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "4-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL" THEN GO TO Q28 ELSE GO TO Q31

Q28. How are you paying for your education? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Scholarships/fellowships/grants
- ○ Student loans
- ○ Earnings from employment
- ○ Savings
- ○ Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- ○ Other assistance from a child welfare agency or independent living program
- ○ Assistance from family or friends (including spouse/partner and birth, foster parents or adoptive parents)
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q31

Q29. Are there any barriers that are preventing you from continuing your education?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q29 = YES THEN GO TO Q30
ELSE IF Q29 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q31

Q30. What is the <u>biggest</u> barrier preventing you from continuing your education?

- I have no way to pay for school
- I need to work full time
- I have child care responsibilities
- I don't have transportation
- I have been discouraged by significant others
- I have academic difficulties
- Other (specify)
- Declined
- Do not know

Q31. Which, if any, of the following are you currently a member of? **Select all that apply.**

- Armed Forces/Military
- Americorps
- Job Corps
- Youth Build
- None of the above
- Declined
- Do not know

PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

***Q32. Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support?

- Yes
- No
- Declined

Q33. Do you currently have a close relationship with any members of your biological family?

- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

IF Q33 = YES GO TO Q34
IF Q33 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q36

Q34. With which members of your biological family do you currently have a close relationship? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Mother
- ○ Father
- ○ Sibling
- ○ Aunt/uncle
- ○ Grandparent/great grandparent
- ○ Cousin
- ○ Other (Please specify_________________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q35. How much has been done **since you have been in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationships with the biological family members to whom you feel close?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q36. Do you currently have a relationship that is trusting, supportive, and unconditional with at least one adult who will always be there for you?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q36 = YES GO TO Q37
IF Q36 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q41

Q37. Which of the following best describes the adult with whom you have the closest trusting, supportive, and unconditional relationship? **Select only one.**

- ○ Birth parent
- ○ Adoptive parent
- ○ Spouse/partner
- ○ Sibling
- ○ Aunt/uncle
- ○ Grandparent/great grandparent
- ○ Cousin
- ○ Legal guardian
- ○ Foster parent (or former foster parent)
- ○ Current or former case worker, social worker, or independent living program staff
- ○ Teacher or coach
- ○ Mentor (Big Brother/Big Sister, other volunteer or informal mentor)
- ○ Someone from church or faith-based community
- ○ Parent of a friend
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q38. What can you count on this person to do? **Select all that apply.**
I can count on him or her…

- ○ To talk with me about my problems.
- ○ To give me advice.
- ○ To provide me with a place to live
- ○ To help me find a job
- ○ To help if I am sick.
- ○ To help me pay for my education.
- ○ To help me manage my money.
- ○ To help with care for my children
- ○ To help me feel good about myself
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q39. Did you know this person before you entered foster care?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q40. How much has been done **since you have been in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationship with this person?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationship with this person.
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

HOUSING

Q41. Which <u>best</u> describes your current living situation? **Select only one.**

- ○ I am living in my own apartment, house, or trailer
- ○ I am living with birth or adoptive parents
- ○ I am living with a spouse/partner
- ○ I am living with other family members
- ○ I am living with former foster parents
- ○ I am living with friends or a roommate
- ○ I am living in a foster home
- ○ I am living in a group care setting (including a group home or residential care facility
- ○ I am living in a college dormitory or residence hall
- ○ I am living in military barracks
- ○ I am living in a hospital or in a treatment center for mental health or substance abuse problems
- ○ I am in detention, jail, prison or another correctional facility
- ○ I am couch surfing or moving from house to house
- ○ I am homeless (and living in a shelter, in a hotel/motel room, on the street, in a car or other vehicle, in an abandoned building, or at a camping ground)
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q42. How many other people currently live with you? Please include anyone who usually lives with you but is temporarily away.

____

- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q43. In how many different places have you lived during the past twelve months? Please include the place in which you are currently living.

____

- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q44. Do you feel safe inside your home?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q45. Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q46. Do you pay for your housing?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q46 = YES THEN GO TO Q47
ELSE IF Q46 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q48

Q47. After paying for your housing, do you still have enough for your other living expenses such as food, transportation, or utilities?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q48. Can you stay where you are living now as long as you want to?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q49. Have you ever been homeless?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q50. How many times were you homeless?

____
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q51. What is the longest period of period of homelessness you experienced?
- ○ One night
- ○ More than one night but less than one week
- ○ At least one week but less than one month
- ○ At least one month but less than three months
- ○ At least three months but less than six months
- ○ At least six months but less than 1 year
- ○ At least one year
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q52. Have you ever couch surfed or moved from house to house because you didn't have a permanent place to stay?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

RISKY BEHAVIORS

***Q53. Have you ever referred yourself or has someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q54. Have you ever been arrested?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q55. Have you been convicted of a crime?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q55 = YES THEN GO TO Q56
IF Q55 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q57

Q56. For what type(s) of crime were you convicted? **Select all that apply.**
- ○ Violent crimes (e.g., rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault or robbery).
- ○ Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft, or motor vehicle theft).
- ○ Drug-related crime (e.g., selling or possessing illegal drugs)
- ○ Other (Please specify____________________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q57. Have you ever been confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility, in connection with allegedly committing a crime?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q58. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q58 = YES THEN GO TO Q59
ELSE IF Q58 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q63

Q59. On how many of these occasions did you or your partner use a condom?
- ○ None
- ○ Some
- ○ Half
- ○ All
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q60. On how many of these occasions did you or your partner use some other form of birth control?
- ○ None
- ○ Some
- ○ Half
- ○ All
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q61. Have you ever given birth or fathered any children that were born?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q61 = YES THEN GO TO Q62
ELSE IF Q61 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q63

***Q62. Were you married to the child's other parent at the time each child was born?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

***Q63. Currently are you on Medicaid [or name of the State's medical assistance program under title XIX]?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q64. Currently do you have health insurance, other than Medicaid?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q64 = YES THEN GO TO Q65
IF Q64 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q66

Q65. Which of the following best describes the source of your health insurance coverage?
- ○ I am covered by my parents' insurance.
- ○ I am covered by my spouse's insurance.
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my employer provides
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my school provides
- ○ I am covered by private insurance that I purchase myself.
- ○ I am covered by my state's children's health insurance program (SCHIP).
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q66. Does your health insurance include coverage for medical services?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q67. Does your health insurance include coverage for mental health services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q68. Does your health insurance include coverage for prescription drugs?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

Q69. Does your health insurance include coverage for dental services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q70. Has there ever been a time during the past two years when you did not get medical care for a physical health problem that you thought you needed?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q70 = YES THEN GO TO Q71
ELSE IF Q70 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q72

Q71. What prevented you from getting medical care for a physical health problem when you thought you needed it? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ I didn't know where to go
- ○ I did not have transportation
- ○ I did not have anybody to go with me
- ○ My parent or guardian would not go with me
- ○ I did not want others to know about my problem
- ○ No appointments were available
- ○ Hours were inconvenient
- ○ I were afraid of what the mental health care professional would say or do
- ○ I thought the problem would go away
- ○ I didn't want to talk about the problem
- ○ It cost too much or I couldn't pay
- ○ I did not have insurance
- ○ I could not afford to miss work
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Don't know
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q72. Has there ever been a time during the past two years when you did not get treatment for a mental health problem that you thought you needed?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q72 = YES THEN GO TO Q73
ELSE IF Q72 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q74

Q73. What prevented you from getting treatment for a mental health problem when you thought you needed it? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ I didn't know where to go
- ○ I did not have transportation
- ○ I did not have anybody to go with me
- ○ My parent or guardian would not go with me
- ○ I did not want others to know about my problem
- ○ No appointments were available
- ○ Hours were inconvenient
- ○ I were afraid of what the mental health care professional would say or do
- ○ I thought the problem would go away
- ○ I didn't want to talk about the problem
- ○ It cost too much or I couldn't pay
- ○ I did not have insurance
- ○ I could not afford to miss work
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q74. Has there ever been a time during the past two years when you did not get dental care that you thought you needed?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q74 = YES THEN GO TO Q75
ELSE IF Q74 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q76

Q75. What prevented you from getting dental care when you thought you needed it?
Select all that apply.
- ○ I didn't know where to go
- ○ I did not have transportation
- ○ I did not have anybody to go with me
- ○ My parent or guardian would not go with me
- ○ I did not want others to know about my problem
- ○ No appointments were available
- ○ Hours were inconvenient
- ○ I were afraid of what the mental health care professional would say or do
- ○ I thought the problem would go away
- ○ I didn't want to talk about the problem
- ○ It cost too much or I couldn't pay
- ○ I did not have insurance
- ○ I could not afford to miss work
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q76. When did you last have a physical examination by a doctor, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or other health care professional?
- ○ Less than a year ago
- ○ 1 to 2 years ago
- ○ More than 2 years ago
- ○ Never
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q77. When did you last have a dental examination by a dentist or hygienist?
- ○ Less than a year ago
- ○ 1 to 2 years ago
- ○ More than 2 years ago
- ○ Never
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q78. How many times have you visited an emergency room for medical care during the past two years?

____
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q79. How many times have you been hospitalized-that is, admitted to the hospital for at least one night- during the past two years?

____

- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q79 = 0 THEN GO TO Q81

Q80. What was the main reason for your most recent hospitalization?

- ○ Illness
- ○ Injury or accident
- ○ Alcohol or other drug problem
- ○ Emotional or mental health problem
- ○ Pregnancy-related
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q81. Are you currently receiving treatment for an alcohol or substance abuse problem?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q82. Are you currently receiving counseling for a psychological or emotional problem?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q83. Were you prescribed medication for a psychological or emotional problem during the past two years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q84. Have you been hospitalized because you were experiencing emotional, psychological or mental health problems during the past two years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q85. Have you received family planning counseling or services during the past two years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

OTHER

Q86. Do you have a reliable means of transportation to school and/or work?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q87. Which of the following documents do you currently have in your possession?

- ○ Social Security card
- ○ Birth certificate
- ○ Proof of citizenship or residency (Green card)
- ○ Proof of immunization
- ○ Driver's license
- ○ Other state identification
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q88. How would you describe the role that you have played in the development of your independent living plan [or however the state refers to the ILP]?

- ○ I led the development of my independent living plan.
- ○ I was involved in the development of my independent living plan but did NOT lead it
- ○ I was NOT involved in the development of my independent living plan
- ○ I am not aware of my independent living plan
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Appendix G

NYTD Plus Full Version for Follow-Up Population

(Note: * indicates required NYTD questions)**

EMPLOYMENT

***Q1. Currently are you employed full-time?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q2. Currently are you employed part-time?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q1 = YES OR Q2 = YES THEN GO TO Q3
ELSE IF Q1 ≠ YES AND Q2 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q6

Q3. What is your hourly pay?

$______________

- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q4. On average, how many hours do you work per week? ____________

- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q5. For how long have you been working at this job or for this employer?

- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q13

Q6. Have you ever had a job for which you were paid?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q6 = YES THEN GO TO Q8
ELSE IF Q6 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q7

Q7. Have you had a job for which you were paid at any time during the past year?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q7 = YES THEN GO TO Q8
ELSE IF Q7 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q9

Q8. What is the longest period of time for which you worked without interruption at any job/for any employer?
- ○ Less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- ○ 24 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q9. Have you been doing anything to find a job during the past month?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q9 = YES THEN GO TO Q10
ELSE IF Q9 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q13

Q10. Which of the following have you done to find a job during the past month?
Select all that apply.
- ○ Contacted employers
- ○ Contacted employment agency
- ○ Contacted friends or relatives
- ○ Contacted school/university employment center
- ○ Sent out resumes
- ○ Filled out job applications
- ○ Searched/responded to help wanted ads
- ○ Had a job interview
- ○ Attended job training programs
- ○ Other [please specify]
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q11. For how long have you been looking for work?
- ○ Less than 1 month
- ○ At least 1 month but less than 3 months
- ○ At least 3 months but less than 6 months
- ○ At least 6 months but less than 9 months
- ○ At least 9 months but less than 12 months
- ○ 12 months or more
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q12. Are you currently looking for full time work (at least 35 hours per week) or part time work (less than 35 hours per week)?
- ○ Full-time
- ○ Part-time
- ○ Either
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q13. In the past year, did you complete an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training, either paid or unpaid?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

***Q14. Currently are you receiving social security payments (Supplemental Security Income (SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or dependents' payments)?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q15. Currently are you using a scholarship, grant, stipend, student loan, voucher, or other type of educational financial aid to cover any educational expenses?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q16. Currently are you receiving any periodic and/or significant financial resources or support from another source not previously indicated and excluding paid employment?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q17. Currently are you receiving ongoing welfare payments from the government [or name of the State's welfare program] to support your basic needs?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q18. Currently are you receiving public food assistance?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

***Q19. Currently are you receiving any sort of housing assistance from the government, such as living in public housing or receiving a housing voucher?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q20. Do you currently have an open bank account, such as a checking or savings account?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

EDUCATION

***Q21. What is the highest educational degree or certification that you have received?
- ○ High school diploma/GED
- ○ Vocational certificate
- ○ Vocational license
- ○ Associate's degree
- ○ Bachelor's degree
- ○ Higher degree
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined

IF Q21 = "NONE OF THE ABOVE" THEN GO TO Q22B
IF Q21 = "VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE" OR Q21 = "VOCATIONAL LICENSE" THEN GO TO Q23A
IF Q21 = "HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED" OR Q21 = "ASSOCIATES DEGREE" OR Q21 = "BACHELORS DEGREE" OR Q21 = "HIGHER DEGREE" THEN GO TO Q23

Q22A. Do you have a high school diploma or GED?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q22A = YES THEN GO TO Q23
IF Q22A ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q22B

Q22B. Which of the following best describes the highest grade you have completed? (If you are currently enrolled in school, do not include the grade that you are in.)

- 8th grade or less
- 9th grade
- 10th grade
- 11th grade
- 12th grade
- Declined
- Do not know

GO TO Q25

Q23. Which of the following best describes your high school diploma?

- I have a regular high school diploma
- I have a GED or high school equivalency diploma
- I have a certificate of completion
- Declined
- Do not know

Q24. Have you completed one or more years of college?

- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

***Q25. Currently are you enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, post-high school vocational training, or college?

- Yes
- No
- Declined

IF Q25 = YES THEN GO TO Q26
ELSE IF Q25 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q29

Q26. Are you currently enrolled in school full-time or part-time?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Declined
- Do not know

Q27. In what type of school or educational program are you currently enrolled?

- ○ Regular high school
- ○ GED program
- ○ Vocational school
- ○ Community, junior or two year college
- ○ Four-year college or university
- ○ Graduate or professional school
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q27 = "VOCATIONAL SCHOOL" OR "2-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "4-YEAR COLLEGE" OR "GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL" THEN GO TO Q28 ELSE GO TO Q31

Q28. How are you paying for your education? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Scholarships/fellowships/grants
- ○ Student loans
- ○ Earnings from employment
- ○ Savings
- ○ Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- ○ Other assistance from a child welfare agency or independent living program
- ○ Assistance from family or friends (including spouse/partner and birth, foster parents or adoptive parents)
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

GO TO Q31

Q29. Are there any barriers that are preventing you from continuing your education?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q29 = YES THEN GO TO Q30
ELSE IF Q29 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q31

Q30. What is the <u>biggest</u> barrier preventing you from continuing your education?

- ○ I have no way to pay for school
- ○ I need to work full time
- ○ I have child care responsibilities
- ○ I don't have transportation
- ○ I have been discouraged by significant others
- ○ I have academic difficulties
- ○ Other (specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q31. Which, if any, of the following are you currently a member of? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Armed Forces/Military
- ○ Americorps
- ○ Job Corps
- ○ Youth Build
- ○ None of the above
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

***Q32. Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q33. Do you currently have a close relationship with any members of your biological family?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q33 = YES GO TO Q34
IF Q33 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q36

Q34. With which members of your biological family do you currently have a close relationship? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ Mother
- ○ Father
- ○ Sibling
- ○ Aunt/uncle
- ○ Grandparent/great grandparent
- ○ Cousin
- ○ Other (Please specify_________________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q35. How much has been done **since you have been in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationships with the biological family members to whom you feel close?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with these family members
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q36. Do you currently have a relationship that is trusting, supportive, and unconditional with at least one adult who will always be there for you?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q36 = YES GO TO Q37
IF Q36 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q41

Q37. Which of the following best describes the adult with whom you have the closest trusting, supportive, and unconditional relationship? **Select only one.**

- ○ Birth parent
- ○ Adoptive parent
- ○ Spouse/partner
- ○ Sibling
- ○ Aunt/uncle
- ○ Grandparent/great grandparent
- ○ Cousin
- ○ Legal guardian
- ○ Foster parent (or former foster parent)
- ○ Current or former case worker, social worker, or independent living program staff
- ○ Teacher or coach
- ○ Mentor (Big Brother/Big Sister, other volunteer or informal mentor)
- ○ Someone from church or faith-based community
- ○ Parent of a friend
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q38. What can you count on this person to do? **Select all that apply.**

I can count on him or her…

- ○ To talk with me about my problems.
- ○ To give me advice.
- ○ To provide me with a place to live
- ○ To help me find a job
- ○ To help if I am sick.
- ○ To help me pay for my education.
- ○ To help me manage my money.
- ○ To help with care for my children
- ○ To help me feel good about myself.
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q39. Did you know this person before you entered foster care?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q40. How much was done **while you were in foster care** to help you maintain or strengthen your relationship with this person?

- ○ A lot was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ Some but not enough was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationship with this person.
- ○ Nothing was done to help me maintain or strengthen my relationships with this person.
- ○ I did not know this person until after I exited foster care.
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

HOUSING

Q41. Which best describes your current living situation? **Select only one.**

- ○ I am living in my own apartment, house, or trailer
- ○ I am living with birth or adoptive parents
- ○ I am living with a spouse/partner
- ○ I am living with other family members
- ○ I am living with former foster parents
- ○ I am living with friends or a roommate
- ○ I am living in a foster home
- ○ I am living in a group care setting (including a group home or residential care facility
- ○ I am living in a college dormitory or residence hall
- ○ I am living in military barracks
- ○ I am living in a hospital or in a treatment center for mental health or substance abuse problems
- ○ I am in detention, jail, prison or another correctional facility
- ○ I am couch surfing or moving from house to house
- ○ I am homeless (and living in a shelter, in a hotel/motel room, on the street, in a car or other vehicle, in an abandoned building, or at a camping ground)
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q42. How many other people currently live with you? Please include anyone who usually lives with you but is temporarily away.

____

- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q43. In how many different places have you lived during the past twelve months? Please include the place in which you are currently living.

____

- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q44. Do you feel safe inside your home?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q45. Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q46. Do you pay for your housing?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q46 = YES THEN GO TO Q47
ELSE IF Q46 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q48

Q47. After paying for your housing, do you still have enough for your other living expenses such as food, transportation, or utilities?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q48. Can you stay where you are living now as long as you want to?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q49. In the past two years, were you homeless at any time?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

Q50. How many times were you homeless during the past two years?

____
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q51. What is the longest period of period of homelessness you experienced during the past two years?
- ○ One night
- ○ More than one night but less than one week
- ○ At least one week but less than one month
- ○ At least one month but less than three months
- ○ At least three months but less than six months
- ○ At least six months but less than 1 year
- ○ At least one year
- ○ Don't know
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q52. Have you ever couch surfed or moved from house to house during the past two years because you didn't have a permanent place to stay?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

RISKY BEHAVIORS

***Q53. In the past two years, did you referred yourself or had someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q54. Have you been arrested during the past two years?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q55. Have you been convicted of a crime during the past two years?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q55 = YES THEN GO TO Q56
IF Q55 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q57

Q56. For what type(s) of crime were you convicted during the past two years?
Select all that apply.
- ○ Violent crimes (e.g., rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault or robbery).
- ○ Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft, or motor vehicle theft).
- ○ Drug-related crime (e.g., selling or possessing illegal drugs)
- ○ Other (Please specify____________________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q57. In the past two years, were you confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility, in connection with allegedly committing a crime?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q58. Have you had sexual intercourse during the past two years?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q58 = YES THEN GO TO Q59
ELSE IF Q58 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q63

Q59. On how many of these occasions did you or your partner use a condom?
- ○ None
- ○ Some
- ○ Half
- ○ All
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q60. On how many of these occasions did you or your partner use some other form of birth control?
- ○ None
- ○ Some
- ○ Half
- ○ All
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q61. In the past two years, did you give birth to or father any children that were born?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

IF Q61 = YES THEN GO TO Q62
ELSE IF Q61 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q63

***Q62. Were you married to the child's other parent at the time each child was born?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

***Q63. Currently are you on Medicaid [or name of the State's medical assistance program under title XIX]?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q64. Currently do you have health insurance, other than Medicaid?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q64 = YES THEN GO TO Q65
IF Q64 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q66

Q65. Which of the following best describes the source of your health insurance coverage?
- ○ I am covered by my parents' insurance.
- ○ I am covered by my spouse's insurance.
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my employer provides
- ○ I am covered by insurance that my school provides
- ○ I am covered by private insurance that I purchase myself.
- ○ I am covered by my state's children's health insurance program (SCHIP).
- ○ Other (specify)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

***Q66. Does your health insurance include coverage for medical services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q67. Does your health insurance include coverage for mental health services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

***Q68. Does your health insurance include coverage for prescription drugs?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Not applicable

Q69. Does your health insurance include coverage for dental services?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q70. Has there ever been a time during the past two years when you did not get medical care for a physical health problem that you thought you needed?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q70 = YES THEN GO TO Q71
ELSE IF Q70 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q72

Q71. What prevented you from getting medical care for a physical health problem when you thought you needed it? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ I didn't know where to go
- ○ I did not have transportation
- ○ I did not have anybody to go with me
- ○ My parent or guardian would not go with me
- ○ I did not want others to know about my problem
- ○ No appointments were available
- ○ Hours were inconvenient
- ○ I were afraid of what the mental health care professional would say or do
- ○ I thought the problem would go away
- ○ I didn't want to talk about the problem
- ○ It cost too much or I couldn't pay
- ○ I did not have insurance
- ○ I could not afford to miss work
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q72. Has there ever been a time during the past two years when you did not get treatment for a mental health problem that you thought you needed?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q72 = YES THEN GO TO Q73
ELSE IF Q72 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q74

Q73. What prevented you from getting treatment for a mental health problem when you thought you needed it? **Select all that apply.**

- ○ I didn't know where to go
- ○ I did not have transportation
- ○ I did not have anybody to go with me
- ○ My parent or guardian would not go with me
- ○ I did not want others to know about my problem
- ○ No appointments were available
- ○ Hours were inconvenient
- ○ I were afraid of what the mental health care professional would say or do
- ○ I thought the problem would go away
- ○ I didn't want to talk about the problem
- ○ It cost too much or I couldn't pay
- ○ I did not have insurance
- ○ I could not afford to miss work
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q74. Has there ever been a time during the past two years when you did not get dental care that you thought you needed?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

IF Q74 = YES THEN GO TO Q75
ELSE IF Q74 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q76

Q75. What prevented you from getting dental care when you thought you needed it?
Select all that apply.
- ○ I didn't know where to go
- ○ I did not have transportation
- ○ I did not have anybody to go with me
- ○ My parent or guardian would not go with me
- ○ I did not want others to know about my problem
- ○ No appointments were available
- ○ Hours were inconvenient
- ○ I were afraid of what the mental health care professional would say or do
- ○ I thought the problem would go away
- ○ I didn't want to talk about the problem
- ○ It cost too much or I couldn't pay
- ○ I did not have insurance
- ○ I could not afford to miss work
- ○ Other (Please specify________)
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q76. When did you last have a physical examination by a doctor, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or other health care professional?
- ○ Less than a year ago
- ○ 1 to 2 years ago
- ○ More than 2 years ago
- ○ Never
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q77. When did you last have a dental examination by a dentist or hygienist?
- ○ Less than a year ago
- ○ 1 to 2 years ago
- ○ More than 2 years ago
- ○ Never
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q78. How many times have you visited an emergency room for medical care during the past two years?

____
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q79. How many times have you been hospitalized-that is, admitted to the hospital for at least one night- during the past two years?

____
- Declined
- Do not know

IF Q79 = 0 THEN GO TO Q81

Q80. What was the main reason for your most recent hospitalization?
- Illness
- Injury or accident
- Alcohol or other drug problem
- Emotional or mental health problem
- Pregnancy-related
- Other (Please specify________)
- Declined
- Do not know

Q81. Are you currently receiving treatment for an alcohol or substance abuse problem?
- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

Q82. Are you currently receiving counseling for a psychological or emotional problem?
- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

Q83. Were you prescribed medication for a psychological or emotional problem during the past two years?
- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

Q84. Have you been hospitalized because you were experiencing emotional, psychological or mental health problems during the past two years?
- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

Q85. Have you received family planning counseling or services during the past two years?

- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

OTHER

Q86. Do you have a reliable means of transportation to school and/or work?

- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

Q87. Are you still in foster care?

- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Do not know

IF Q87 = YES THEN GO TO Q88
ELSE IF Q87 ≠ YES THEN GO TO Q89

Q88. Which of the following documents do you currently have in your possession?

- Social Security card
- Birth certificate
- Proof of citizenship or residency (Green card)
- Proof of immunization
- Driver's license
- Other state identification
- Declined
- Do not know

GO TO Q90

Q89. Which of the following documents did you have in your possession when you exited foster care?

- ○ Social Security card
- ○ Birth certificate
- ○ Proof of citizenship or residency (Green card)
- ○ Proof of immunization
- ○ Driver's license
- ○ Other state identification
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q90. How would you describe the role that you have played in the development of your independent living plan [or however the state refers to the ILP]?

- ○ I led the development of my independent living plan.
- ○ I was involved in the development of my independent living plan but did NOT lead it
- ○ I was NOT involved in the development of my independent living plan
- ○ I am not aware of my independent living plan
- ○ Declined
- ○ Do not know

Q91. How adequate was your independent living/transition plan when it came to addressing the following needs:

	Very	Somewhat	Barely	Not at all	Don't know	Declined
A. Stable housing						
B. Health care						
C. Education or training						
D. Employment						
E. Developing relationships with individuals who could be potential sources of support						
F. Developing relationships with organizations that could be potential sources of support						

Appendix H

Contractor Responses to Query

We sent queries to a number of survey research organizations asking if they would be interested in working with states on NYTD implementation. Seven responded affirmatively:

University of Wisconsin Survey Center	Madison, WI
National Opinion Research Center	Chicago, IL
Orphan Foundation of America	Sterling, VA
Wilder Research	St. Paul, MN
The Improve Group	Mendota Heights, MN
MGT of America, Inc.	Tallahassee, FL Austin, TX Olympia, WA Sacramento, CA
Xtria	Vienna, VA

What follows is the information that each of these organizations provided about how they would work with states to implement the NYTD.

Note: This appendix is meant to be illustrative rather than exhaustive. We are not endorsing any of these organizations. Nor should other similar organizations be excluded from consideration.

UWSC
www.uwsc.wisc.edu

UW Survey Center

February 9, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I am contacting you to begin a discussion about how the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC) can assist your state's child welfare agencies comply with the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requirements. The UWSC has considerable experience collecting data from young people making the transition from foster care to adulthood (summarized below) and welcomes this opportunity to help states with their NYTD planning and implementation..

What is the UWSC?
The University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been conducting surveys since it was founded in 1987. It was originally established to serve both the instructional and research needs of faculty on the UW-Madison campus, but has grown to serve a wide-range of clients including state and federal government, non-profit organizations, and others. The UW Survey Center conducts about $750,000 in survey research work for state agencies each year, primarily in Wisconsin.

With a staff of professionally trained interviewers, the UWSC completes thousands of interviews each year using a variety of survey techniques. These include Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) surveys, mail surveys (using CATI data entry techniques), Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) surveys, Computer Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI) and audio-CASI, Internet web surveys using Perl Hypertext Preproccesor (PHP). The size of our projects varies widely, with samples ranging from as small as 100 to as large as 18,000. We have achieved consistently high response rates across all type of survey methodologies.

What services can we offer?
UWSC could help states with their NYTD planning and implementation in a variety of ways. These include:

- Data collection.
- Consultation and interviewer training.
- Sample management (including tracking and location)
- Technical assistance.
- Data entry
- Developing or refining additional questions to measure outcomes of interest to your state.

What are the challenges that NYTD presents?
We recognize that the NYTD presents several major challenges:

1. It is an unfunded mandate and the cost of collecting these data with the required response rates is significant.
2. Tracking and locating this population will be difficult, especially at ages 19 and 21 when most youth will have aged out of foster care.
3. Variation across states with respect to:

- Number of youth who will need to complete the questionnaire
- Age until which youth can remain in foster care
- Quality of state data resources to help track and locate youth over time

What experience does the UWSC have collecting data from transitioning foster youth?
UWSC has conducted all four rounds of data collection for the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (the "Midwest Study") since its inception in 2002. This longitudinal study has been following young people from Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa as they aged out of foster care and transitioned to adulthood. Baseline data were collected from 732 respondents when they were 17 or 18 years old and still wards of the state. UWSC attempted to re-interview all of these respondents at ages 19 and 21 and achieved response rates of 83% and 81%, respectively. The fourth round of data collection is currently underway and UWSC is on track to achieve a response rate of at least 80%. Overall more than 2,400 90-minute interviews have been conducted. This is very similar to what your state will be required to do for the NYTD.

One of the reasons the UWSC has been able to achieve such high response rates with this difficult-to-reach population is that we have a first-rate Tracking and Locating Department. Tracking protocols are drawn up individually for each project and Tracking and Locating Department staff uses a variety of state-of-the-art locating tools, which include nation-wide credit bureau databases, fee-for-service locater websites (e.g., LexisNexis and Directory Net), professional web-based information resources, and other "hands-on" investigative research methods to obtain telephone numbers and/or addresses.

We have also used a number of innovative methods to increase sample retention. At each wave of data collection, UWSC collects contact information from respondents for friends and family who might know their whereabouts in the future. Contact mailings are sent to respondents between rounds of data collection, and we have maintained a toll-free number that respondents can call with updated contact information. Participants receive an incentive payment each time they are interviewed. Over time, this incentive payment has increased from $25 to $35. Respondents have also been provided with token incentives at each interview, such as magnets, pens, flashlights, and key chains with the study's toll-free number. These strategies are consistent with the published survey research literature on incentives and response rates with low-income and other hard-to-reach populations.

How much will this cost?
This will be hard to estimate until we develop a formal plan: know how many states will be involved, and how many interviews need to be completed. The cost per completed interview for the Midwest Study has ranged from about $400 to $750, and the average has increased with each successive interview. This includes approximately $50–60 per respondent for all of the mailings and token incentives. It also includes the costs of the extensive tracing required to conduct follow-up interviews with respondents who are frequently transient, homeless, or incarcerated, who have hard-to-trace cell phone numbers, and who may not have a credit record report.

There are several reasons why collecting data for the NYTD would not cost this much. First, the Midwest Study survey instrument was very long with complicated GO patterns that require a lot of computer programming. Your survey instrument will almost certainly be much shorter and far less complex. Second, the vast majority of interviews were conducted in-person and respondents were scattered across three states. This meant a significant amount of travel time was involved. For the NYTD, we may want to try a mixed mode approach, collecting data from as many youth as possible using less expensive methods (e.g., mail or web), and turning to more expensive methods (e.g., telephone or in-person interviews) only if youth do not respond to our earlier efforts. The feasibility of these options will depend upon several factors including: the type of questions and complexity of the survey instrument, the expected literacy of respondents, and the availability of reliable contact information and state data resources.

What are our goals?
Given the challenges NYTD presents as well as the services we can offer, our goals are to:

- Make this data collection effort as affordable as possible by using the most cost-effective survey methods
- Achieve the required participation rates
- Save money with the economies of scale offered by coordinating efforts across multiple states and using a single instrument
- Provide options that involve a division of labor (i.e., UWSC could provide some services but not others)

What is the next step?
If you are interested in finding out more about collaborating with UWSC and other states, please fill out the attached form and FAX to John Stevenson @ 608-262-8432. Knowing who is interested will help me understand how much economy of scale we can achieve, and estimate per state costs.

Thank you!

John Stevenson
Associate Director
University of Wisconsin Survey Center
1800 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726
Tel.: (608)262-9032
Fax: (608)262-8432
www.uwsc.wisc.edu

UWSC

www.uwsc.wisc.edu

Interested in a Multi-State Collaboration for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)?

To: **John Stevenson, Associate Director UWSC**
Fax: **608-262-8432**
From:

Name: ______________________________

Agency ______________________________

State: ______________________________

Phone:______________________________

Email: ______________________________

1. **How many 17-year-old foster youth will your state need to interview in Year 1?** ____________

2. **Knowing that at this time you are not committing to anything, how interested would your state be in each of the following:** (Circle One)

Yes	No	Having UWSC do all of the data collection
Yes	No	Having UWSC provide consultation and interviewer training
Yes	No	Having UWSC assist with tracking and locating foster youth
Yes	No	Having UWSC enter survey data into an electronic database
Yes	No	Having UWSC develop or refine questions to measure additional outcomes of interest to your state.

Something else? Please tell us more:

3. **Anything else you would like to tell me about your state's unique situation?**

For more information about the UW Survey Center, contact John Stevenson at 608-262-9032 stevenso@ssc.wisc.edu or see www.uwsc.wisc.edu.

NORC at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) is pleased to assist states in complying with and implementing the National Youth in Transition Database Initiative. NORC, a social science research institution focused exclusively on research in the public interest, has a research and administrative staff of 400 individuals, more than 300 telephone interviewing stations in Chicago, and a national field interviewer force of more than 600. (NORC's research activities support the aims of governments, university faculty investigators, and private foundations in such topical areas as education, economics, health and mental health. As a federal contractor, NORC has implemented an extensive security program to protect all aspects of computer and data security and is compliant with federal regulations.)

Relevant Experience

The activities required to implement the NYTD are the same as those NORC employed to conduct the Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (Chafee) and other important longitudinal surveys such as National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997 cohort (NLSY97) that NORC has conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for over 29 years. These activities include sampling and sample retention, tracking and locating, questionnaire design and development, training interviewers and locating staff, locating respondents, exporting and delivering data. For the Chafee project, NORC used an experimental design to assess the outcomes on foster youth of four independent living programs in California and Massachusetts. NORC conducted baseline and two annual follow-up surveys with 1400 foster youth. The response rates for the baseline interviews were over 90 percent with retention rates of more than 85 percent for each follow-up survey. Key factors to explain the project's success are: professional training of interviewers and locators, state-of the art tracking systems, and developing and maintaining relationships with state and county agencies.

NYTD Costs

Recognizing that individual states may have different requirements for selecting a service provider, we have developed a series of cost models that reflect a variety of services and numbers of youth in the state. The cost models tell an important message: states can achieve cost savings and quality data by working together in a coordinated and collaborative way. Our models include systems development and set-up in the baseline year and assume that locating costs will increase for each successive follow up survey. NORC is interested in talking to state representatives about a range of services that are available, including but not limited to consultation, training, locating, data collection, and data delivery, as well as a package of *All NYTD Services*. The Tables below present examples of estimated costs for NORC to provide all services to plan and implement the NYTD for one state and ten states. Services include working with the state to obtain youth samples, locating, interim contact with youths, web and follow-up telephone surveys and data delivery.

Table 1: **One State with 350 youth**

	Total Estimated Cost	Estimated Cost Per Youth
Baseline (age 17)	$247,000	$705
First Follow up (age 19)	$186,000	$530
Second Follow up (age 21)	$211,000	$600

Table 2: **10 States with 350 youth in each state**

	Total Estimated Cost Per State	Estimated Cost Per Youth
Baseline (age 17)	$54,300	$155
First Follow up (age 19)	$76,900	$220
Second Follow up (age 21)	$102,000	$290

Contact Information

NORC welcomes questions and inquiries from state representatives. Please call:

Michelle Ernst, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist
312-759-4223
or e-mail at Ernst-Michelle@norc.org.

Information about NORC is available at www.norc.org

Orphan Foundation of America

21351 Gentry Drive, Suite 130, Sterling, VA 20166

571-203-0270 · www.orphan.org

The NYTD Data Collection Partnership Program

Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) is proud to offer states the NYTD Data Collection Partnership Program. Its goal is to make data collection accessible and affordable to as many states as possible. OFA takes into consideration states' vision as well as their existing infrastructure, staff strengths and the fiscal resources they can allocate to design and implement a successful NYTD program. Working in partnership with OFA not only reduces the development and administrative costs, but leverages OFA's expertise and resources so states succeed in NYTD collection. OFA is offering two options based on the expressed needs of states

Option A: Relationship Building and Data Collection

Not only does this option support data collection, it also supports the relationships needed to ensure continued youth participation in the program.

- Secure 24hour online access to the NYTD Survey
- Online help with survey questions will be available for youth who need assistance
- Transfer of data to the state SACWIS or other data system
- Real time reports showing youth outreach and survey completion
- OFA will establish ongoing supportive relationships by using youth friendly technology, including a social networking platform and text messaging
- Incentives may be used as necessary to increase completion rates of subsequent surveys for youth ages 19 and 21
- Outcomes will improve as youth receive ongoing transition support services

OFA will bring its experience in teaching independent living skills, mentoring and supporting education and workforce development to its NYTD work.

Option B: Data Collection Only

This option provides the survey tool and allows states to utilize their own state and county DSS workers and contract agencies to maintain contact with young people.

- Secure 24hour online access to the NYTD Survey
- Transfer of data to the state SACWIS or other data system
- Monthly reports showing survey completion

Security First

OFA's sophisticated data collection system includes secure online applications and surveys. Our servers are hosted in a Tier 1 data center and our software applications use SSL certificates to ensure all communications are secure end-to-end.

Orphan Foundation of America

21351 Gentry Drive, Suite 130, Sterling, VA 20166

571-203-0270 · www.orphan.org

About Orphan Foundation of America

OFA has 30 years of experience working with the target population—youth aging out of foster care. During that time OFA has consistently provided a community of positive support to help former foster youth attend and succeed in postsecondary programs and enter the workforce with the life skills and self-esteem necessary to be happy, productive and successful adults. Since 2003–2004 OFA has administered ETV Programs for several states and is currently processing 9,200 applications annually across all OFA programs and awarding approximately 25% of all federal ETV funding. The nine states working with OFA have live, real-time demographic data at their fingertips as well a complete accounting of ETV funding, student progress and outcomes. OFA will bring its commitment to serving the NYTD target population and experience working with states to the development of a successful public–private partnership to launch NYTD

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Orphan Foundation of America
21351 Gentry Drive, Suite 130, Sterling, VA 20166
571-203-0270 · www.orphan.org

NYTD Budget

Year One: Oct 1, 2009 – Sept 30, 2010
.75% of the State Chafee budget
Development costs include technology and infrastructure, and are the same for Options A and B.
- Develop a state program plan with timelines, roles and responsibilities, and protocols for the secure transfer of data between OFA's database and the state system (SACWIS or other)
- Educate statewide staff on NYTD goals and requirements
- Work with the youth advisory board and stakeholders such as the foster parent association and contract agencies to engage them in the process
- Design, develop and launch the survey database

Year Two: Oct 1, 2010 – Sept 30, 2011
Option A – 2% of the State Chafee budget
- Survey all eligible 17-year-olds
- Transfer the data on designated dates to comply with NYTD requirements
- Engage and form relationships with young people
- Continue to work with DSS staff and other stakeholders on NYTD and youth engagement

Option B – 1% of the State Chafee budget
- Provide online tool to survey all eligible 17-year-olds
- Transfer the data on designated dates to comply with NYTD requirements

Year Three: Oct 1, 2011 – Sept 30, 2012
Option A – 2.5% of the State Chafee budget
Option B – 1 % of the State Chafee budget
All services remain the same, but the number of youth may double

Year Four: Oct 1, 2012 – Sept 30, 2013

Option A – 3% of the State Chafee budget
- Survey all eligible 17 -year-olds
- Survey 19-year-olds – first follow up survey
- Transfer the data on designated dates to comply with NYTD requirements
- Engage and form relationships with young people surveyed in years 2, 3 and 4
- Continue to work with DSS staff and other stakeholders on NYTD and youth engagement

Option B – 1.5% the State Chafee budget
- Provide survey tool for all eligible youth, ages 17 and 19
- Transfer the data on designated dates to comply with NYTD requirements

Wilder Research
451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-280-2700
www.wilder.org

Response to the Request for Information about National Youth in Transition Follow-up Activities

Prepared by: Michelle Decker Gerrard and Greg Owen

Background

Wilder Research, a division of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in Saint Paul, is one of the nation's largest nonprofit research and evaluation groups dedicated to the field of human services. The mission of Wilder Research is to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities through human services research. We currently conduct research for more than 100 nonprofit and government organizations whose sphere of influence ranges from the neighborhood to the national or international level. Research clients include government agencies, direct service providers, policy-making boards, foundations, and community groups. Our primary services include consultation and technical assistance, process and outcome evaluations, community and multi-site studies, social trend and demographic studies, demonstration studies, and dissemination of research findings.

The more than 90 staff members of Wilder Research are highly experienced and committed to research and evaluation that is useful, culturally competent, cost-effective, and respectful of individual dignity and confidentiality. Staff members have extensive experience conducting evaluations of local, state, and national service programs and demonstration projects. Our major activities include:

- Planning research and evaluation projects, including using client and stakeholder input to develop logic models and evaluation plans;
- Creating evaluation designs and developing data collection instruments;
- Collecting data using multiple methods, such as face to face interviews, self report surveys, direct observation, on-line surveys, telephone surveys, file reviews, and focus groups;
- Providing research method training and consultations;
- Conducting community needs assessments; and
- Disseminating "best practices" knowledge through the production of reports, research summaries, conference briefings, and workshop presentations.

Wilder Research employs on-site professional data collection, technical services, project coordinators, and interviewers, all of whom are extensively trained. Several of our permanent staff members are bilingual and we regularly hire temporary or on-call bilingual survey interviewers to help with particular research projects. Our staff is cross-trained in a wide variety of data collection techniques including focus groups, face-to-face, and telephone interviews, as well as gathering administrative and other relevant secondary data.

Information about Wilder Research, as well as copies of our recent research summaries and reports can be found on our web site: http://www.wilderresearch.org.

Experience collecting longitudinal data from young adult (ages 18–21) populations

Wilder Research has done several longitudinal studies as well as dozens of follow-up studies with varying age groups. The following are two examples:

The Homecoming Project (2003–2008). The Homecoming Project began in 2003 as a 5-year Federal demonstration project to increase efforts to recruit permanent families for teenagers with the overall goal of increasing the number of adoptions of adolescents under state guardianship in Minnesota. The target population was adolescents ages 13 to 17 whose parents' rights had been terminated by the courts at least one year prior to referral to The Homecoming Project and who had a permanency plan of adoption.

Wilder Research conducted the process and outcome evaluation for this project. In addition to collecting extensive data on youth participating in Homecoming Project services, Wilder staff collected data on a comparison group of youth who met the same eligibility criteria, but who were not receiving project services. Wilder collected administrative (state adoption and SSIS data) on 100 Homecoming youth and 165 comparison group youth. Wilder also did baseline (2004–2005), 2-year follow-up (2006-2008), and 3-year follow-up (2008) telephone interviews with youth ages 13 to 21 in both groups.

Evaluation of the Casey Family Programs scholarship programs (2005-2006). Casey Family Programs, a Seattle-based national operating foundation that serves children, youth, and families in the child welfare system, also operates several scholarship programs open to youth transitioning out of foster care. The project included multiple data collection approaches including key informant interviews, online surveys with students, staff, and mentors, telephone interviews with students, and a benchmarking analysis.

Response rate in surveying young adult subjects of follow-up studies

The Homecoming Project:

- Of the 62 eligible Homecoming youth (ages 13-17), baseline interviews were completed with 53 (85%).

- Of the 53 Homecoming youth eligible for a follow-up study (ages 15-21), 43 (81%) were interviewed after approximately two-years, and 41 (77%) were interviewed a year later.

- Of the 170 comparison youth selected and eligible for the study (ages 13-17), 121 were interviewed at baseline (72%). However, five of these youth were referred to The Homecoming Project. Their baseline responses are included in the Homecoming analysis. Thus, the overall number of comparison group youth at baseline is 165, and the number of completed interviews was 116 (70%).

- Of the 116 comparison youth eligible for a follow-up study (ages 15-20), 94 (81%) were interviewed after approximately two-years, and 73 (63%) were interviewed a year later.

Estimates of per subject cost for performing follow-up research

In many instances, the ability to pursue multiple attempts to reach people, often to reach multiple source people, is a very helpful component of the process of tracking each youth each time. The more difficult the population is to reach, the more important it will be to have adequate resources to allow for multiple contact attempts.

More discussion would need to take place to adequately predict the per subject cost. Based on our experiences with other difficult to reach populations, we would estimate that the cost would be between $125-$200 per youth on the survey years (plus incentives), and $25-50 per youth on the non-survey years (to maintain some tracking procedures).

Experience contracting with government agencies to track and survey recipients of the public social service system

Wilder Research has extensive experience using various state information systems. In Minnesota, we have used the state's Social Service Information System (SSIS) database, as well as the state's employment database (workforce information and wage detail), welfare database, and other state information systems for administrative data with regard to several of our projects. In most cases, we work with state staff to download appropriate information from these massive data sources. We used the social services database (SSIS) and the adoption database information for The Homecoming Project.

We are excited about the possibility of working on the NYTD project. Please let us know if you have any questions. You can contact Michelle Gerrard at mich@wilder.org or Greg Owen at greg@wilder.org or (651) 280-2700.

theImproveGroup

The Improve Group is pleased to present this response to your request for information regarding the collection of states' data on outcomes of youth who are currently in foster care or who have exited the foster care system. With our extensive experience in child welfare, at-risk youth programs and human services, we are confident that we could provide the expertise in data collection and reporting required for states study, as required for the new federal data collection system, National Youth in Transition Database

We are interested in working with any state to (1) assist in their efforts to comply with the NYTD requirements and (2) to work with them to develop a comprehensive data collection and tracking system that will provide comparable data across states, including data beyond what states are required to collect. We have previously worked in: Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Colorado and California.

Organization's history and mission

The Improve Group is a highly-qualified and experienced consulting organization providing survey, evaluation, research, strategic planning, and facilitation services. Founded in 2000 by Leah Goldstein Moses, the Improve Group serves public, educational and non-profit agencies in the State of Minnesota and across the country. We are certified as a woman-owned, targeted group business by the state of Minnesota.

We are currently working with over twenty clients (some with multiple projects). Our clients range in size from very large national organizations like Girl Scouts USA, which serves nearly 4 million girls through 300 councils, to State agencies like the Minnesota Department of Human Services (evaluating the Waiver Review program in 87 counties), to small, local, volunteer-driven nonprofit organizations like City House. What unifies these diverse clients is a desire to learn, use data to answer questions, and continually build and improve services. What our clients appreciate in working with the Improve Group is our creativity, insight, enthusiasm and commitment to quality. We take ideas and lessons away from each of our projects, and have worked on over 100 projects. We listen to the needs of each client and develop an approach best suited to them.

Contact Information

Leah Goldstein Moses, President and CEO
The Improve Group
877-467-7847 Ext. 801
Leah@theimprovegroup.com

Services provided by the Improve Group

The Improve Group successfully works in collaboration with governmental, non-profit, and community-based organizations around the U.S., providing timely, relevant and useful evaluative information. We excel at all phases of evaluation, including designing evaluation plans, creating innovative methodologies, analyzing data, writing reports, presenting results and planning services based on findings, and take time to develop relationships with our clients so that we can fully understand their values, goals and needs. Our strengths include:

- Rapid, accurate cycle from data collection to analysis to interpretation to results;
- Managing complex, mixed-method, multi-site projects;
- Working with diverse populations and multiple age groups;
- Designing valid studies including protocol and instrument development;
- Building group consensus and engaging stakeholders;
- Setting priorities and establishing a focus for research;
- Collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data through surveys, interviews and focus groups; and
- Reporting to a variety of audiences through reports, presentations, workshops, websites, trainings, blogs and brochures.

With respect to the NYTD implementation, the Improve Group is able to offer the services below to any state to assist in their efforts to develop a comprehensive data collection and tracking system in compliance with the NYTD requirements.

1. Design data collection instruments based on federal standards that are also responsive to local or state interests.
2. Prepare a research plan that is independently reviewed for its protection of human subjects by an Institutional Review Board;
3. Develop and administer a consent procedure;
4. Create sampling and incentive strategies that respond to the characteristics of the population and are effective in achieving statistically valid response rates;
5. Administer surveys and incentive programs through in-person phone, paper, internet or email responses;
6. Record, secure and track respondents and responses in databases that meet federal data privacy and security standards;
7. Analyze data using frequencies, longitudinal analysis, statistical comparisons across groups, and ANOVA and other analyses that explore causality/relationships between data
8. Summarize data for monthly, quarterly or annual reports
9. Create a secure, web-based, real-time snapshot of results for states to access data at any time.

Cost Estimates

The costs of administering surveys will vary greatly depending on what services states contract with us to conduct and which services they intend to do themselves. For example, if they have developed the survey, sampling, incentive, consent and follow-up procedure, and simply need a consultant to survey youth from a provided contact list, the costs per survey will be much lower than if instead they would like the consultant to do much of the development and administration. However, the table below estimates costs for administering several different types of surveys.

Table A: Survey Administration Cost Estimates

Survey type	Per-survey cost estimates for a 10-minute survey (includes initial contact, follow-up, completion, and data entry and coding)	
	Under 500 surveys	**Over 500 surveys**
In-person (excludes travel time)	$15	$12
Paper (with scan-enabled forms – includes postage and printing)	$4	$3
Telephone	$12	$10
Web-based	$2	$1

Hourly rates. Our cost estimates are based on our hourly rates, which include all of our direct, indirect, fringe and overhead expenses with the exception of travel outside of the Twin Cities seven-county metro area, contracted services (i.e., translation) and large printing projects. We have used several affordable printing services and always obtain approval for any costs outside of the hourly services prior to incurring any expenses.

We are committed to working with each state to develop the best approach for their data collection, analysis and reporting needs. We will make adjustments along the way as needed, and will provide helpful insights about data integrity and management in balance with cost-effectiveness. Our hourly rates are described in the following table.

Table B: Improve Group Hourly Rates

Staff Name/Title	Project Role	Hourly Rate
Leah Goldstein Moses, Evaluation Team Leader	Oversight, quality control, management, report writing	$125
Elizabeth Radel Freeman, Project Manager	Daily management, coordination, developing all deliverables, report writing	$110
Analysts	Data collection and analysis (i.e., survey administration, phone interviews, statistical and qualitative analysis); scheduling, formatting, printing	$90
Support staff	Proof and format documents, help in scheduling, organize data	$80
Interns	Prepare background materials, clean data, assist in scheduling	$35

This is a list of current and former projects that involved (a) survey design, (b) survey administration and analysis, (c) work with young-adult populations, and/or (d) work with vulnerable/hard-to-reach populations

Aeon Homes, Evaluation for Bush Foundation (2008) [a,d]

Alameda County Board of Education, Development of county-wide academic assessment (2009) [a,c]

Artspace, Inc. Development of community study for development planning (2009) [a,b]

Austin (MN) Public School District, Community engagement and strategic plan (2007) [a,b,c,e]

Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago, IL, Evaluation design and coaching (2007-08) [a,b]

City House, Evaluation design and coaching (2007) [a,b,d]

City of Plymouth, MN, Annual transit service evaluation (2001-04) [a,b,d]

City of St. Paul, MN, Needs assessment (2007) [a,b]

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington County, Community engagement (2003) [d] *and* Needs assessment for strategic plan (2009) [a,b,c,d]

Dakota County, Evaluation of federal housing initiative (2007-09) [c]

Eden Prairie Schools, Evaluation of Classrooms of the Future technology initiative (2008-2009) [a,b,c,]

Girl Scout Council of Greater Minneapolis, Research and program development suggestions (2005) [a,b,c]

Girl Scouts of the USA, Four separate evaluations of federal- and foundation-funded initiatives (2005) [a,b,c,d]

Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, Evaluation of Healthy Communities grant (2007) [a]

Greater Twin Cities United Way, Evaluation of Service Through Technology initiatives (2001-02) [a]

Hennepin South Services Collaborative, Needs assessment and strategic plan (2001-02) [a,b,c,d]

HIRED, Inc., Evaluation of juvenile delinquency initiative (2004-05) [a,b,c,d]

Hispanic Scholarship Fund, San Francisco, CA, Multiple evaluation projects (2007-08) [a,b,c,d]

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Strategic plan and environmental scan (2008) [a,b]

La Oportunidad, Evaluation design, training and implementation (2000-02) [a,b,c,d]

Lutheran Social Services, Evaluation of education and housing collaborative (2007-08) [a,b,c,d]

Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, Evaluation design and implementation of several initiatives (2008-09) [a,b]

Minneapolis Urban League, Organizational assessment (2008-2009) [a,b,c,d]

Minnesota Dept. of Corrections, Two evaluations of pre- and post-release programs (2007-09) [a,b,c,d]

Minnesota Dept. of Education, Statewide evaluation of charter schools; statewide analysis of services to students with emotional/behavior disorders (2001-02; 2005) [a,b,c,d]

Minnesota Dept. of Human Services, Statewide evaluation of community based services (2006-10) [a,b]

Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor, Pre-K and technology use evaluations (2000-01) [c]

MRVED, Evaluation of Enhancing Education Through Technology grant (2008-09) [a,b]

LCTN, Evaluation of Enhancing Education Through Technology grant (2008-09) [a,b]

Minnesota State Arts Board, Statewide needs assessment (2008) [a,b,d]

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Evaluation of bioscience initiative (2008) [a]

Minnesota Women's Press, Needs assessment and audience research (2003) [a,b]

Montalvo Arts Ctr/Downtown College Prep Aca. (San Jose, CA) Program evaluation (2007-09) [a,b,c]

National Youth Leadership Council, Strategic plan (2007) [a,b]

New Foundations, Program evaluation (2008) [d]

Nonprofits Assistance Fund, Evaluation design and implementation (2007-08) [a,b,]

NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, Evaluation design (2004) [a]

Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council, Community research and facilitation, (2007) [d,]

Northwest MN Council of Collaboratives, Evaluation of federal Safe Schools grant (2003-06) [a,b,c,d]

Performing Arts Workshop, San Francisco, Evaluation of multiple federal grants (2005-2013) [a,b,c.d,]

Perpich Center for Arts Education, Evaluation of federal grant (2007-09) [a,b]

Federal consortia, Federally-funded research on collaboration (2004-06) [a,b]

Sojourner Truth Academy, Annual evaluation report for MN Dept. of Education (2002-05)

Spring Lake Park School District 16, Evaluations of federal Safe Schools grant and Small Learning Communities grant (2002-06) [a,b,c,d]

SRFC – Roseville, White Bear Lake, North St. Paul and Mounds View school districts, Evaluation of federal Safe Schools grant (2008) [a,b,c,d]

White Earth Tribal Court, White Earth, MN, Evaluation of federal grant (2007-08) [a,b,c,d]

MGT of America, Inc. (MGT)

MGT of America, Inc. (MGT), a national research and management consulting firm specializing in the continuous improvement of pre-K through 20 education systems is pleased to submit information pertaining to the implementation of a new federal rule 45 CFR, Part 1356. The new rule effective April 28, 2008 requires states to collect longitudinal data on the outcomes of foster youth who are aging out of or who have exited foster care. Based on our successful experience in providing similar services collecting longitudinal data, we are confident we can assist your state in this process. Our capabilities and experiences are directly relevant to the federal ruling and will provide the highest services possible.

Firm Background

Founded and incorporated in 1974 in Tallahassee, Florida, MGT now operates regional offices in California, Texas, and Washington. The firm's staff of over 140 professionals is highly experienced in the evaluation of state and federal programs and brings a wealth of knowledge and depth of understanding to all our client engagements. Our goal is to deliver the high-quality and cost-effective services our clients expect and deserve. To date, we have successfully managed more than 3,600 client engagements in every state and in several foreign countries in the seven major practice divisions listed below:

- Program Evaluation
- K-12 Education
- Higher Education
- Administrative and Educational Technology
- Human Resources
- State and Local Government
- Disparity

As an employee-owned firm, MGT is both motivated and capable of performing long-term, complex research and evaluations. To assist our clients in the quest for accountability at a reasonable cost, we use innovative technology tools to advance data collection and analysis. Internet-based data management tools are typically employed to facilitate the collection, analysis, and dissemination of critical qualitative and quantitative information so that local education agencies can make timely, data-driven decisions. As part of the methodology for this federal ruling, MGT would use a number of Internet-based data collection and management tools to simplify information gathering and to ease project management burdens.

We invite you to browse our Web site at **www.MGTofAmerica.com** and experience firsthand our program evaluation capability.

Why MGT?

MGT extensive experience in collecting longitudinal data has earned a national reputation for outstanding research. MGT offers excellent credentials that set us apart from our competitors in the following key areas:

- Extensive knowledge and experience in longitudinal research, data entry procedures, database management, and data analysis.
- Experience in leveraging existing state administrative databases including education, workforce participation and social services as a means to efficiently provide performance outcome data.
- Managing databases and work processes to increase effectiveness, accuracy, efficiency, and high response rates.
- Hands-on experience with federal and state education policy issues, rigorous research design, standards design, statewide implementation planning, and follow-up assessment.
- Preparing, designing, and conducting large-scale surveys for a broad range of public agencies, including Children and Family Services.
- Development of protocols for telephone interviews, focus groups, and point-of-service interviews to gather all requested information and training others to develop these skills
- Use of our comprehensive technology resources to support our client's objectives, including the development of web-based surveys and comprehensive methods needed to conduct longitudinal studies.

Experience of Key Personnel

MGT offers a veteran team of professionals to assist in implementing this new data collection system. Consistent with the objectives of the federal ruling and overarching goals of the State, we offer a staffing design that will ensure the integrity of the evaluation. MGT has the expertise on staff to meet the qualifications need for conducting longitudinal studies of youth populations.

Dr. Christy Hovanetz Lassila. Dr. Hovanetz Lassila is the Director of Program Evaluation for MGT. Prior to working for MGT Dr. Hovanetz Lassila served as the Assistant Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Education and Assistant Deputy Commissioner at the Florida Department of Education. She has worked in education policy for the state of Florida since 1999 serving as the Director of Evaluation and Reporting, Director of Reading First and a Policy Analyst for the Governor. Dr. Hovanetz Lassila has extensive experience in the design, development, and use of longitudinal data bases while working at state departments of education.

Mr. Jay Pfeiffer. Mr. Pfeiffer has over 35 years of experience in education at the state level, most recently as the Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research, and Measurement at the Florida Department of Education. He developed and administered the highly regarded Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program which uses state administrative data to provide follow-up data on educational and employment outcomes on a variety of education, job training, and social service programs in Florida. This system is used by Florida's Department of Children and Families to meet some of the performance measurement requirements of the Chafee Act. He has garnered several awards for this program including from the National Alliance of Business, the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, and

Florida Tax Watch. In addition to state government experience, Mr. Pfeiffer has been a consultant for various states and federal agencies in performance measurement, data collection, and information systems.

Mr. Jeremy Billington. Mr. Billington's proficiencies include a variety of market research methodologies and extensive range of software, including Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Access, and SPSS. His methodological expertise focuses on survey design, conducting qualitative and quantitative research, statistical analysis, and qualitative analysis of data. Mr. Billington possesses strong project management, organizational, and analytical skills. He has collected massive amounts of data and is experienced in database management, and report writing. Mr. Billington is the leader of a National Youth Gang Survey conducted by National Youth Gang Center, Institute for Intergovernmental Research, Florida. MGT has assisted with the database management and collection of survey data for the annual National Youth Gang Survey since 2000. The survey includes over 2,500 law enforcement agencies across the United States. Mr. Billington has also been a team member in the data collection efforts on a project to conduct a six-year longitudinal evaluation of the impacts of preschool special education for the New York State Department of Education. MGT tracked and compared the academic and developmental progress of more than 10,000 students with disabilities, of which half of these students received special education services while in preschool.

Based on our experience, we have developed an estimated budget for services provided between August 2010 and October 2015. In our detailed work plan we have identified a comprehensive approach to ensure that our consultation services are responsive to short- and long-term needs. To be successful in tracking young adult subjects over five years and obtaining survey data from them MGT proposes to conduct these services for a fixed cost of **$63,445, plus a per youth expenditure of $52 per year**. The estimated price assumes that MGT will provide a mailing address, toll-free telephone and fax number.

Interstate collaboration would result in significant cost savings per state. Since adding states would minimally impact the fixed costs, these costs would be distributed among the states resulting in significant savings per state.

The cost estimate includes all estimated professional fees and expenses such as telephone, facsimile, and photocopies over the length of the project. A detailed summary of costs for tracking 100 youth for five years is provided in **Exhibit 1** below. Travel expenses are not included in the summary below. However, the budget may be amended if travel is deemed beneficial to the project.

EXHIBIT 1: SUMMARY OF PROJECTED COSTS

Tasks	Partner In Charge	Project Director	Technical Advisor	Web Programmer	Quality Assurance	Cost Per Task
Task 1.0: Conduct project start-up activities	$3,280	$1,680	$1,440	$320	$0	$6,720
Task 2.0: Develop web based data collection tool and provide toll-free telephone and facsimile numbers	$205	$1,050	$180	$12,800	$0	$14,235
Task 3.0: Establish orientation schedule	$205	$1,680	$180	$2,560	$640	$5,265
Task 4.0: Conduct interviews and follow-up phone calls.	$205	$10,500	$0	$3,200	$260 Per Youth	$13,905 + $260 Per Youth
Task 5.0: Develop outcome measures to assess performance in programs.	$3,280	$4,200	$7,200	$640	$160	$15,480
Task 6.0: Submit data and conduct follow-up activities.	$3,280	$1,680	$1,440	$1,280	$160	$7,840
5 Year Subtotal	$10,455	$20,790	$10,440	$20,800	$960	**$63,445**
Cost Per Year	$2,091	$4,158	$2,088	$4,160	$192	**$12,689 + $52 Per Youth**
Billing Rate	$180	$130	$170	$150	$60	
Cost Per Youth						**$250**
Office Expenses Per Youth (phone, copies, and fax)						**$10**
Number of Youth						**100**
Total Cost of Youth						**$26,000**
TOTAL COST FOR FIVE YEARS (August 2010–October 2015)						**$89,445**

MGT has consistently exceeded client expectations and will approach this project in the same manner. MGT is prepared to absorb any financial penalties associated with not achieving a response rate of 60 percent, but is extremely confident that a 60 percent response rate will not only be achieved but exceeded. We recognize this represents a significant investment, and are prepared to negotiate a final proposed budget. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of our proposal, please do not hesitate to contact **Jeremy Billington** at (850) 219-4316 or Jeremy_Billington@MGTofAmerica.com or **Dr. Christy Hovanetz Lassila**, Director of Program Evaluation, at (850) 219-4331 or Christy_Hovanetz@MGTofAmerica.com.

XTRIA, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Furmanite Worldwide which provides a broad portfolio of services through its Government Solutions Division (GSD) located in the Washington, D.C., metro area. Xtria's GSD serves federal, international, as well as state and local entities in the areas of: strategic consulting, research and program solutions, risk management, information technology, and logistics management. Xtria has a 20-year track record of success in project management including:

- Program and Policy Research, Evaluation, and Benchmarking
- Technical Assistance in Information Management Systems
- Website Design, Development, and Management
- Cross-System Information Sharing and Collaborative Planning

Legacy Program Service Areas

XTRIA's legacy program services include comprehensive information, research, and technical solutions focusing on child welfare, adoption, foster care, child support, educational development, and early childhood development. In recent years XTRIA has expanded its focus to the arenas of juvenile justice and criminal justice programs as well as cross- systems collaboration and planning among human services providers.

Research, Policy, and Technology Services

XTRIA research staff has experience in a comprehensive array of data collection methodologies and analytical approaches and includes trained social workers, psychologists and sociologists. XTRIA researchers are skilled in original and secondary analysis, gap analysis, program evaluation, and benchmarking.

Empirically based decision making is core to Xtria's philosophy of client service. Well designed research is at the basis of our efforts to facilitate the realization of goals and objectives that are measurable and cost-effective. Xtria designs and conducts research involving quantitative and qualitative data collection methodologies:

- Literature reviews and syntheses
- On-line annotated bibliographies and databases
- Meta-analysis
- Survey design and administration
- Sampling
- Target group profile development and tracking

- Instrument development and testing
- Personal interviews
- Focus group facilitation
- Content analysis
- Secondary analysis of large aggregate data sets
- Statistical analysis
- Report writing

XTRIA's Information Research and Technology Unit includes IT professionals and content experts who can provide technical assistance on reporting/information management and systems planning as well as research and evaluation support on issues of concern to professional service providers and policy makers.

Our Information Technology staff provides comprehensive information and technical solutions that help local community, state, and federal government organizations become more efficient and competitive by leveraging the latest technologies in web-based applications and data infrastructure. In the area of child welfare, XTRIA Technical Assistance staff works with federal staff to assist states, and counties with the SACWIS, AFCARS, and NCANDS reporting/ information systems. Xtria staff was integrally involved with the development of the AFCARS system and are currently working with Children's Bureau staff to accommodate the relationship of the NYTD to the SACWIS systems. Our staff has also worked with the CFSR review process.

XTRIA has designed and developed several federal web-sites in compliance with Federal Web, ADA, and Section 508 standards. We remain current on new and emerging technologies. Services include document preparation for posting; confirmation of final materials, conversion to html, ensuring that narratives and data tables are written and formatted for compliance and that data are properly entered to databases.

XTRIA

XTRIA and the States' National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Initiatives

XTRIA is well equipped to assist states with their NYTD initiatives. Our extensive experience in the child welfare service area includes child welfare services and programs, federal compliance requirements, reporting/information management systems, and the provision of technical assistance, training, and analysis to support states in meeting federal NYTD objectives.

Our Technical Assistance staff can train states in the use of existent software that will enhance their case management capabilities and allow for easy integration of NYTD data elements such as youth profiles, services, and outcomes. XTRIA's Information Technology staff will also work with states to provide an interface between these data elements and their SACWIS or Legacy system.

XTRIA will work with state staff to meet each state's needs whether assisting with baseline data collection, tracking, or follow-up data collection and analysis. Our researchers have experience with data collection methodologies that will ensure the best return rate for all youth including those who are difficult to locate for follow-up data collection. XTRIA can also help each state to identify and collect additional information specific to the state on best practice, improved planning, and policy making. Additional information on XTRIA can be accessed at our web site: www.xtria.com. Please also feel free to contact Dr. Michele Davis at mdavis@xtria.com or at 703-484-8704.

APHSA
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