A LOOK AT TRANSITION AGE YOUTH IN KENTUCKY

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Resources for Independence Success and Empowerment
Kentucky’s one stop shop for transition age foster youth, foster parents, and other stakeholders to access information about the array of resources and services available to current and former foster youth.
TRANSITIONAL SERVICES - NEW INITIATIVES

• Car insurance and driver’s education funding
• LYFT curriculum
• New and improved program for youth on extended commitment
  ❖ Skills for self-sufficiency
  ❖ Savings account
  ❖ Stable housing
  ❖ Post-secondary education
  ❖ Permanent connections
• Expanded aftercare services
Mission statement:
The Voices of the Commonwealth Leadership Council exists to educate foster youth about the options, resources and services available to them while striving to advocate for positive change within the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s foster care system.
VOICES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

• Comprised of current and former foster youth 16 - 23
• Currently has 15 members across the state
• Role includes:
   Advocacy for changes to policy and legislation
   Training and recruitment of foster parents
   Educating and empowering foster youth
   Planning regional events
   Work with Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) leadership on policy development
VOICES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

- Youth Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) meetings
- Foster parent pre-service trainings
- Targeted recruitment workgroup
- Transition age workgroup
- Family First Prevention Services Act regional convenings
- National Chafee grantee meeting
Second phase of transformation workgroups

Continue to support the regional youth CQI meetings across the state

Continue to improve and recruit high quality foster homes

Continue to empower foster youth to be their own best advocates

Continue to advocate for change in policy and legislation

Continue to educate the public around the needs of foster youth

Continue to partner with DCBS on policy development
Fostering Success is a 10-week workforce development initiative sponsored by DCBS that provides current and former foster youth the opportunity to participate in a paid internship while receiving professional development and career planning support.
FOSTERING SUCCESS

- 4th year
- 118 youth applied
- 82 youth participated
- Job coach
- Financial literacy and soft skills training
- Strengths + interests = internship
- DCBS offices across the state
- 85 private and public partners
FOSTERING SUCCESS

- Goodwill industries
- Boys and Girls Club
- Salvation Army
- Shadeland Remodeling
- Kentucky Kingdom
- Catholic Charities
- Southern Recycling, LLC
- RADIT Builders Log Structures
- Midas
- Community Action Council
- Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities
- Kentucky Center for Assisted Living
- Northern Bluegrass Chamber of Commerce
TRANSITIONAL SERVICES - FUTURE INITIATIVES

• Expanding partnership with Workforce Development
• Developing partnership with post-secondary colleges and universities
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?