

# A LOOK AT TRANSITION AGE YOUTH IN KENTUCKY

PAULA SAENZ  
CAMERON GALLOWAY  
TAMARA VEST  
LORRAINE WILBUR



**CHFS**

KENTUCKY  
Cabinet for Health and  
Family Services



Kentucky  
**RISE**  
Resources for Independence  
Success and Empowerment





# KYRISE.KY.GOV

Ky.gov



**KY RISE**  
Kentucky Resources for Independence  
Success & Empowerment

- Home
- Education
- Employment
- Essential Documents
- Health
- Housing
- iFoster
- Help



**KY RISE**  
Kentucky Resources for Independence  
Success & Empowerment



WELCOME TO KY RISE!



Contact Us



VOC-Voices of the  
Commonwealth



NYTD

## Preview Youth Topics



### Aftercare Services

Sometimes we could all use a little extra help in life. The Aftercare Services is a resource for youth who have aged out of foster care. Click here to learn about a variety of services and resources available to eligible youth between the ages of 18-23.



### FAQs

Check out our most asked questions to get answers quickly.



### Resources

Click here to learn about resources available to foster youth in your area.



### Life Skills

Click here to learn skills to handle a variety of challenges and demands you may be faced with in everyday life.



### Rights & Benefits

What are my rights as a foster youth? Click here to find out.

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



# Voices of the Commonwealth

## **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



**CHFS**

KENTUCKY  
Cabinet for Health and  
Family Services

# VOICES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

- 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

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.



**CHFS**

KENTUCKY  
Cabinet for Health and  
Family Services

# FOSTERING SUCCESS

- 4<sup>th</sup> 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



**CHFS**

KENTUCKY  
Cabinet for Health and  
Family Services

# TRANSITIONAL SERVICES - FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Expanding partnership with Workforce Development
- Developing partnership with post-secondary colleges and universities





**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**