



Action Needed: FUND THE TRANSITION CENTERS THAT SERVE YOUTH LEAVING FOSTER CARE!

- Existing centers need funding from DFPS, as current start-up funds are diminishing
- DFPS has requested \$200,000 in one-time funds to open 8 additional centers

A transition center is one location where all services needed by foster youth are available to help them make a successful transition from foster care to independence. There are currently 10 transition centers in Texas.

Transition centers provide quality services to help youth transition out of foster care:

Services may include, but are not limited to:

- Case management
- Employment and housing assistance
- GED classes, test prep, and FAFSA help
- Foster care alumni social activities
- Access to technology including internet and phone services
- Food
- Hygiene products
- Personal needs
- Skill building
- Legal assistance
- A sense of community

Extra services and support are CRITICAL to many foster youth:

- 1 in 4 foster youth will be incarcerated within their first 2 years of leaving the foster care system.
- More than 1 in 5 (22.2%) of former foster youth have experienced homelessness after foster care.
- Half of all foster youth will not have a high school degree by age 19.
- Poverty among foster care alumni is 3 times the national poverty rate.

The bottom line: Transition centers increase the odds of success for foster youth. Foster youth transition programs have been recognized as a promising practice and a valuable resource for improving outcomes for these youth.

Many existing transition centers NEED a stable source of funds to maintain services:

Existing transition centers are supported by a hodgepodge of resources, including funds from the Texas Workforce Commission and Casey Family Programs Foundation. Much of this money is “seed money,” meaning it was awarded to centers to fund their first several years of operation, and it will soon run out. Stable base-funding from the Department of Family and Protective Services would provide transition centers with a safety net that they could rely on, in addition to their continued pursuit of other private and/or public funds.

Texas Network of Youth Services

2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1503 * Austin, Texas 78746 * Ph: (512) 328-6860 * Fax: (512) 328-6863 * info@tnoys.org
www.tnoys.org