

AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Everyday teenage experiences—going to a friend's house, taking a school trip, participating in sports or other after school activities, working a part-time job, and learning to drive—are critical growth opportunities that help youth develop interests, acquire skills, and build supportive relationships.

However, youth in foster care find themselves without the support of a stable family and are often denied the chance to participate in these activities essential for a successful transition to adulthood.

THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR PEERS TO:



Drop out of school or not pursue a degree



Experience homelessness



Become unemployed



Be involved in the justice system

WHAT'S THE COST?

FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON THAT AGES OUT OF FOSTER CARE, COMMUNITIES PAY AN AVERAGE OF

\$300,000

IN SOCIAL COSTS LIKE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, INCARCERATION, AND LOST WAGES OVER THAT PERSON'S LIFETIME. WITH 100 YOUNG PEOPLE AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE EACH YEAR, NEW MEXICANS ARE PAYING

\$30 MILLION.*

WE HAVE A SOLUTION!

NEW MEXICO CAN JOIN THE 26 STATES THAT RECEIVE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND FOSTER CARE BEYOND 18.



YOUNG PEOPLE MUST EXPERIENCE AGE-APPROPRIATE EXPERIENCES WHILE IN FOSTER CARE.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? SEE OTHER SIDE.

* "COST AVOIDANCE: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR INVESTING IN YOUTH AGING OUT OF CARE," JIM CASEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE, 2013.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

At the 2019 New Mexico Legislative Session, NMCAN will support young people to advocate for opportunities to ensure those aging out of foster care are better prepared for the transition to adulthood.

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

EXTENDED CARE WILL ALLOW YOUNG PEOPLE TO OPT INTO AGE-APPROPRIATE SUPPORTS UNTIL AGE 21, INCLUDING CASE MANAGEMENT, LIVING STIPENDS, AND COURT REVIEW.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT ACROSS THE STATE WILL ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND WELL-BEING.

THE TUITION WAIVER LAW ALREADY PROVIDES YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SPENT TIME IN FOSTER CARE AFTER AGE 14 FREE TUITION TO STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THOSE WHO WERE PLACED IN A PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP AFTER AGE 14 SHOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE.



THE BENEFITS

BY EXTENDING CARE, AND ENACTING REFORMS TO THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, WE WILL SEE THE BENEFITS OF MORE YOUNG PEOPLE:

Connecting to caring families, adults, and networks



With life skills to achieve personal goals



Employed and succeeding in their careers



Completing high school and college/vocational school



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