



VERMONT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Extended Care for Teens & Young Adults

2/19/2020

My name is Jen Boardman and I work at the Washington County Youth Service Bureau. There, I am the Director of the Youth Development Program (YDP). We contract with the Department for Children and Families to offer YDP services statewide to youth 14-23 years old who have experience in the foster care system. As you can see in our brochure (attached), we have a lot to offer youth! We offer youth-centered, strengths based case management. We have 16 Youth Development Coordinators across the state. We also offer flexible funding, which can be for anything from summer camps, to driver's education, to work clothing, to college textbooks. As long as the funding supports the youth's goals, we are able to help support it. We also are the facilitators of extended foster care agreements, which are a great tool to help youth 18 plus avoid homelessness after exiting the state's custody. Finally, we are committed to offering leadership and advocacy opportunities to youth because youth voice matters.

We have a wealth of strong data to show that our program works. As you can see on the flyer (attached), we have a lot of outcomes we are very proud of. Whether it's helping youth with education, employment, accessing health insurance and supportive adults, or getting them on the road as independent drivers, YDP is rocking it! The problem is, we need more money to serve more youth.

Currently we are only serving about 30% of eligible youth. We are contracted to serve 400 youth per year and we are consistently serving over 500. We are stretching our resources extremely thin in order to do so. We know that youth in foster care have the odds stacked against them, and we know YDP services are effective. Please help us make our program accessible to more youth so that we can make sure all youth with foster care experience have the chance to thrive as they enter into adulthood.

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Supporting youth in foster care



YDP helps youth turn dreams into plans!

YDP BY THE NUMBERS

**NUMBER OF YOUTH
CONTRACTED TO SERVE:**

400

COST PER YOUTH:

\$3,896

CURRENT BUDGET: \$1,558,316

40% Federal (Chafee) and 60% State

**NUMBER OF YOUTH
ACTUALLY SERVED IN 2019:**

529

**PROPOSED BUDGET:
\$2,060,984**

"I am proud of myself for graduating college, but at the same time I know I wouldn't have been there in the first place without YDP. They gave me the financial stability and tools I needed to succeed."

IMPACT OF YDP ON YOUTH



YDP invested \$30,000
to help youth get on the road (licenses,
permits, driver's ed, car insurance, etc.).



84% Are stably housed
Compared to **57%** of national foster youth*

**71% Age 18+ are
employed**

Compared to **43%** of national foster youth 18+*



90%

**Are enrolled in
school or employed**

**97% Are connected to a
supportive adult**

80%

**Age 20+ have a high
school credential**

**99% Have health
insurance**

Compared to **74%** of national foster youth 18+*

**68 youth participated in 520 hours
of training, volunteering, leadership,
and advocacy through YDP.**



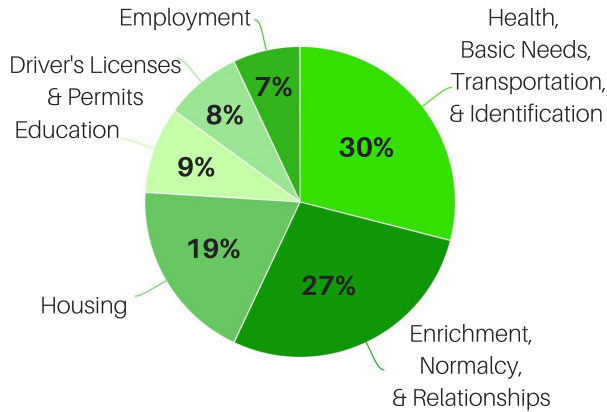
What we do works.

Data Snap Shot

Here is a quick look at data collected from fiscal year 2018. *

In 2018, YDP served 524 youth!

How YDP Funds Helped Support Youth



Youth Engagement

- ★ 64 youth contributed 640 total hours of training, volunteering, leadership, and advocacy.
- ★ There were 42 leadership events, which were attended by 752 people.
- ★ Youth from all 12 DCF districts participated in leadership & advocacy work.

Among Youth Engaged in YDP...

91%	Are enrolled in school or employed
99%	Have health insurance
98%	Are connected to a supportive adult
87%	Have stable housing

*Fiscal year 2018 is July 2017 through June 2018.

Where We're Located

YDP partners with local agencies to reach youth in every corner of the state.



EasterSeals Vermont

Hartford, Middlebury, Rutland, and Springfield



Lamoille Restorative Center

Morrisville



Northeast Kingdom Community Action

Newport



Northeast Kingdom Youth Services

St. Johnsbury



Spectrum Youth and Family Services

Burlington and St. Albans



Sunrise Family Resource Center

Bennington



Washington County Youth Service Bureau

Barre/Montpelier



Youth Services Inc.

Brattleboro

The Youth Development Program is under the administration of the Washington County Youth Service Bureau.

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About YDP

YDP is Vermont's voluntary extended care program for teens & young adults who have experience in the foster care system.

Our Mission & Philosophy

Our mission is to ensure that youth with foster care experience enter adulthood with the necessary support to build productive and fulfilling lives. We believe in providing services that are strength-based and fully driven by youth-identified goals.

Our Work

Case Management

Local Youth Development Coordinators (YDCs) partner with youth to help them set goals, explore personal interests, connect with natural supports, and transition into adulthood successfully.

Financial Resources

Financial resources provide flexible funding to support interests and goals of youth who are engaged in the program.

Extended Foster Care

YDP financially supports foster families and other supportive adults to care for youth beyond the age of 18.

Leadership & Advocacy

Youth are empowered to participate in leadership training and advocate for improvements in the child welfare system and beyond.

How YDP Invests in Youth

Funding and other supports may be available to youth within the following focus areas. By investing in youth, YDP promotes healthier and better-connected young adults, families, and communities.



Education

Support to complete high school and pursue higher education - including college, tech schools, or certificate programs - puts youth on a path towards realizing their professional aspirations.



Transportation

Living in a rural state makes access to reliable transportation a necessity for most youth to attend school, maintain employment, and fully engage with their communities.



Relationships

The most effective indicator of long-term success for youth is having supportive relationships with adults, friends, community members, and siblings who care about them.



Identification

Lack of proper identification can create barriers to education, employment, housing, and transportation. Case managers are able to help youth navigate complicated legal systems and acquire these important documents.



Housing

Having a safe and stable home allows youth to turn their focus towards future goals.



Enrichment & Normalcy

Access to enriching activities helps youth build connections, explore personal interests, engage in healthy risk-taking, build social and emotional skills, and have a more normal adolescent experience.



Employment

Exploring career options and learning how to maintain employment is a key step to building a productive and fulfilling life.



Health & Wellness

Mental and physical health is important for all people and especially those who have experienced trauma.



Basic Needs

Any number of things pose challenges to youth as they work towards their goals. YDP aims to provide support wherever it's needed.