

FOSTERING FUTURES for VIRGINIA'S YOUTH

SUPPORT THE "FOSTERING FUTURES" TRANSITION SERVICES FOR YOUTH WHO "AGE OUT" OF FOSTER CARE



Rank = 50th of 50 states

Virginia ranks worst in the country! Virginia has the highest rate of youth who leave the foster care system without being adopted. Hundreds of Virginia youth age out of foster care every year – including 514 in 2015.

Fostering Futures is a smart investment in youth that will build a strong workforce and healthier communities. With support to age 21, youth who age out are twice as likely to be employed or in school at age 19, twice as likely to finish college by 21, have better employment outcomes, and are more likely to have health insurance.



It's proven to work! 31 states including the District of Columbia have all opted into the Fostering Connections and had better educational, employment, housing, and other human service outcomes for their youth.

It costs us more if we don't take action!

The cost of "doing nothing" for youth aging out is \$300,000* per youth, meaning the 514 Virginia youth who aged out in 2015 cost the state and taxpayers \$154 million for expenses such as homelessness, unemployment services, and healthcare, plus lost tax revenue and criminal justice costs.*

**\$154
MILLION**



*estimate of Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

FAST FACTS

TEENS WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE AND ARE UP AGAINST GRIM STATISTICS.

- 42%** will drop out of high school
- 25%** will be involved with the justice system within 2 years
- 20%** will be homeless after age 18
- 71%** of girls will become pregnant by age 21

BY the NUMBERS

\$154.2 MILLION

state and taxpayer cost of youth who aged out of Virginia foster care in 2015

\$3.8 MILLION

new, additional IV-E funds that Virginia can draw down from Federal Fostering Connections Act

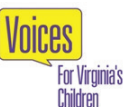
5,375

youth who aged out of Virginia's foster care system between 2008 and 2015

Sources: Council on Virginia's Future, vaperforms.virginia.gov/indicators/healthfamily/fosterCare.php (1/13/15) and vaperforms.virginia.gov/indicators/healthfamily/adoption.php (7/20/15). "The Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth," Chapin Hall, University of Chicago, 2011. Various states' legislative websites. Kids Count Data Center, The Annie E. Casey Foundation. "Cost Avoidance: The Business Case for Investing in Youth Aging Out of Care," Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, 2013. Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (Chapin Hall Center for Children 2005, Casey Family Programs 1998, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago 2005).



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