Program Description

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Act (CFCIA) of 1999 required the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop and implement a data collection system to track independent living services provided to youth, and to develop outcome measures that would be used to assess a state’s performance in operating their Independent Living Programs. On February 26, 2008, the ACF Children’s Bureau published its Final Rule on NYTD in the Federal Register. The final rule outlined the new requirements for states to collect and report data on foster youth. The primary goals of the NYTD program are to obtain data that will help make informed decisions about service provision and improve transition services and outcomes for current and former foster care youth.

The state collects this data in two ways:

**Independent living services** - Delivered to youth who remain in or have exited from foster care until the age of 21, that are paid for or provided by the State agency such as the county, group home, foster family agency, care provider, etc. and include the following:

- Tracking the type and quantity of services in 14 possible categories of services; and
- Tracking specific demographic information about the survey population.
Survey responses of youth measuring six outcomes: financial self-sufficiency, experience with homelessness, educational attainment, positive connections with adults, high-risk behavior, and access to health insurance. The NYTD survey is administered as follows:

- A survey is offered to all youth in foster care within 45 days after their 17th birthdate; youth who participated in the survey are considered the baseline population and become the follow up population at ages 19 and 21.
- A survey is offered to the follow up population at age 19 whether or not still in foster care or exited during a six month period in which the birthdate falls.
- A survey is offered to the follow up population at age 21 whether or not still in foster care or exited during a six month period in which the birthdate falls.

Funding Accessibility

- No additional federal funding is allocated for the NYTD data collection system.
- State matching funds for Chafee Title IV-E were realigned to the counties in 2011.
- A penalty against annual funding allocation may be levied if required minimum participation rates are not met.

Contact Information

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