Power to Change the Future

What is the survey:
The federal government requires all states to collect information on youth in or leaving foster care. NYTD surveys are being requested in all States to collect information on how youth leaving foster care are doing and how resources are used.

Who Completes Survey:
All youth, aged 14-23, who receive services through their involvement with the state complete one survey. Some youth in foster care who are turning age 17 during certain federal fiscal years complete a separate survey. This 17-year-old group is referred to as the Baseline Group. A portion of those 17-year-olds will be randomly chosen to complete a survey again at ages 19 and 21. In the event the youth is one of the randomly selected 17-year-olds, someone will contact them when they turn 19 and again when they turn 21 to complete the additional surveys.

How Will Information be Used:
Data will be used to evaluate and improve programs that help foster youth become independent adults.

Benefits of Participation:
Completing the NYTD survey allows the youth to use their experience to improve the future for other foster youth. The state must have a certain level of participation and compliance with the survey in order to not lose federal money that funds youth programs and services. Each year the state must keep up with some 17-year-old youths so they can be surveyed again at ages 19 and 21. In order to assist with locating these youth there will be a yearly reunion for the Baseline Group.

Survey Is Voluntary:
The youth's participation is voluntary and there will be no penalty to them if they choose not to participate. While completing the survey, the youth may decline to respond to any questions they do not want to answer.

Confidentiality:
The youth's name and personal information will not be released outside the department in a way that will identify them. The information will be compiled into a data report based on all the youth responses to the surveys.

Youth Can Stay Connected:
The youth are being asked to contact their local DCFS office each time their contact information (address, phone number, email) changes. They are given the name, phone number, and address of the local office to contact.

Check out the Youth Link at DCFS
www.dcfs.louisiana.gov/YouthLink

National Youth in Transition Database
Information for Caregivers About the Survey

More Information:
Contact Christy Tate, DCFS NYTD Liaison at (phone) 225-342-4447 or (email) Christy.Tate@La.Gov.

Contact Us
We want to you to keep in touch so that you can be invited back each year and assist you when you need it!

You can keep in touch, or receive additional information by contacting:

The Independent Living Provider in your area.
Contact information can be found under the Resources section of this brochure

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
www.dcfsl.gov/YouthLink
Youth.Link@LA.GOV

NYTD Events, information, & surveys
Christy Tate (225) 342-5676
Youth.Link@LA.GOV

For Independent Living Services
Contact your local case manager (if you have one), your Independent Living Provider, or email: Youth.Link@LA.GOV

www.dcfsl.gov/YouthLink

Resources for Youth Information and Services Brochure
LYLAC Program

• LYLAC provides a platform to current and former foster care youth ages 16 to 21
• LYLAC representatives advocate for change, share their experiences and serve on boards that influence policy
• Each region has a board that meets monthly
• The Statewide board meets quarterly
• For more information or to become a member, contact Elizabeth Anthon at (225) 342-3936 or Youth.Link@LA.GOV

ETV Program

Educational Training Vouchers

Educational Training Vouchers provide financial assistance for post-secondary educational or vocational programs.

Youth can apply through the financial aid office, at their chosen learning programs.

To find out more go to: www.osfa.state.la.us
Click on LOSFA Programs or call LA Office of Student Financial Aid. (225) 219-7708

Criteria for ETV Program:
• Enroll in an accredited post-secondary educational or vocational program and maintain a 2.0 GPA or satisfactory progress
• Foster youth ages 16 and up likely to remain in foster care in DCFS or OJJ custody until age 18
• Former foster care youth who aged out of foster care at age 18 with DCFS or OJJ, who are not yet 21
• Youth who were in OJJ custody had to be eligible for Title IV-E funded services prior to turning 18.
• Youth adopted from foster care or those entering a guardianship subsidy arrangement with DCFS after attaining the age of 16 but prior to turning 18.
• Youth participating in the ETV Program at 21 are eligible until 23 (must be continuously enrolled making satisfactory progress)
• Youth from out-of-state who meet same criteria.
(318) 255-3717 or angie.thomas@lmch.org

NYTD

NYTD is comprised of youth in each state.

The NYTD survey allows you to give input about your experience and the services you received and change the future for foster youth!!

Some 17 year olds will be randomly chosen to complete a survey again at ages 19 and 21.

If you are one of the randomly selected 17 year olds, someone will contact you when you turn 19 and again when you turn 21 to complete the additional survey.

Resources

• www.dcfsl.gov/YouthLink
  Department of Children and Family Service - Youth Link

• www.fosterclub.com
  Foster Club

• www.nilausa.org
  National Independent Living Association

• www.1800runaway.org or 1-800-RUNAWAY
  National Runaway Safeline

• www.dhh.louisiana.gov
  Department of Health and Hospitals: info. on Medicaid

• www.lhc.la.gov
  Louisiana Housing Corporation Link

• nsteens.org
  Internet Safety for Teens/Youth

• www.careeronestop.org
  Career Choice and Planning Resources

• www.knowhow2go.org
  Continuing Education Resources post High-school

• www.studentaid.ed.gov
  Federal Student Aid and Post Secondary Education Resources