

EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Making 'Aging Out' a Thing of the Past

Extended Foster Care provides youth a better path to success in life.

Youth who transition from foster care without the needed network of support experience very poor outcomes at a much higher rate than their peers in the general population.

- 20%** will become homeless after age 18.
- 58%** will graduate high school by age 19.
- <3%** will earn a college degree by age 25.
- 50%** are employed at the age of 24.
- 25%** will be involved in the justice system within two years.
- 71%** of young women will be pregnant by 21.

151

Youth "Aged Out" of Foster Care in Louisiana in 2018

YOUTH IN EXTENDED FOSTER CARE



More Likely to Graduate



More Likely Employed



More Self-Sufficient



Better Parenting Capacity



More Permanent Connections



Every \$1 invested in youth in extended foster care brings \$1.35 back to the state.

*Washington State study



Lower public assistance costs



Lower criminal justice costs



Lower unemployment

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

2018 PROGRAM

- Reached age 18 while in foster care on or after June 1, 2018; and
- Not yet reached age 21; and
- Enrolled in high school or an equivalency program.

Eligibility ends at 21 or graduation, whichever occurs first.

EXPANDED PROGRAM (2019)

- Reach age 18 while in foster care; and
- Not yet reached age 21; and
- Meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Enrolled in a post-secondary vocational or educational program;
 - Enrolled in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - Employed at least 80 hours per month; OR
 - Have a medical condition that renders the young adult incapable of engaging in any of these activities.

No child deserves to have their destiny sealed by the circumstances beyond their control.

Jarvis, former foster youth
Testimony before the Louisiana Select
Committee on Women and Children,
May 2017

**Louisiana joins 28 other states
in extending foster care to age 21.**

THE MODEL

- ✓ Evidence-based
- ✓ Small caseloads
- ✓ Extensive training

YVLifeSet

- ✓ Frequent contact with youth, including at least one in-person visit per week
- ✓ Regular clinical consultation with a Youth Villages consultant



Worked with Annie E. Casey Foundation to survey programs in other states and find the best model.

Received a 3-year grant to implement the program.