

Improve extended foster care so that it provides the supportive services that youth and young adults need to heal and succeed in young adulthood

Encourage and incentivize agencies to collaborate with youth and young adults to raise awareness about the benefits of extended foster care and other programs that support successful transitions to adulthood

Guide and incentivize states to design more effective extended services and programs that young people will want to utilize

- Elevate the focus on permanency planning
- Ensure young people have safe and appropriate living settings
- Ensure youth and young adult involvement in case planning
- Train and support caseworkers to develop specialized skills in supporting young adults

Eliminate barriers to extended foster care programs

- Make all youth who have not achieved permanency by age 18 categorically eligible
- Eliminate outdated income eligibility requirements to rebalance the federal state partnership

Support and protect the rights of youth in foster care, including young parents' rights to their own children, through high-quality legal representation and other avenues

THE CASE FOR REFORM

- To date, 33 states—including D.C., Puerto Rico and nine tribes—provide extended foster care programs that are federally reimbursable.
- Despite the availability of federal reimbursement for extended foster care, participation is low. Nationally about 1 in five youth who leave foster care at age 18 are utilizing extended foster care programs a year later.
- Youth who participate in extended foster care, especially youth of color, have improved outcomes including: increased high school completion and enrollment in higher education; improved employment; and improved earnings and savings.