



Foster Forward

**Outline of Programs & Services for
Children, Youth, and Families**

Foster Forward's mission is to empower lives impacted by foster care. We have an unwavering commitment to support children and youth, families, and the child welfare system as a whole, to grow, connect, improve, and move forward.

Foster Forward is a nationally and locally recognized leader committed to ensuring that all children and youth impacted by foster care have safe, healthy, and nurturing families. We continuously innovate to provide proven programs that engage natural supports and promote healthy development.



Program Snapshot

For more information on any of our programs, please go to www.fosterforward.net.

ASPIRE Initiative

- For ages 14-26 (any youth who spent at least one day in a DCYF placement after age 14)
- Financial education and assistance with setting goals for saving money
- \$100 toward the opening of an Individual Development Account (IDA), and a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$1,000 per year, toward the purchase of such items as cars, education expenses, housing expenses, health expenses, and investments

For more information, please contact: Nadine Lopes at 401.438.3900 ext. 127
nadine.lopes@fosterforward.net

Life Skills

- For ages 16-21 who are in Rhode Island DCYF out-of-home care or who participate in the YESS Aftercare program
- Referral must come from DCYF
- Making Proud Choices Sexual Health curriculum, ASPIRE financial education curriculum, Works Wonders™ career development and employment curriculum.

For more information, please contact: Scott Pereira at 401.438.3900 ext. 116
scott.pereira@fosterforward.net

YESS Aftercare Services (Youth Establishing Self-Sufficiency)

- For ages 18-21, who have been closed to the state's Family Court and DCYF on or after their 18th birthday
- Assistance locating safe and affordable housing, identifying employment, and/or enrolling in an educational program
- Limited funds that help pay for housing and other living expenses (participants become increasingly responsible for their own housing expenses over time)

For more information, please contact: Jessica McCluskey at 401.438.3900 ext. 204
jessica.nievera.mccluskey@fosterforward.net

Real Connections

- For ages 8-21, who are most at risk of aging out of foster care without permanent connections.
- Help connecting to family or important adults that might have been lost during the young person's time in care.
- Connections to community or personal network mentors and support of that relationship toward permanent connections.

For more information, please contact: Kate Bronner at 401.438.3900 ext. 108
kate.bronner@fosterforward.net

Teen Grant

- For ages 16-21 who are in DCYF-sponsored out-of-home care or who participate in the YESS Aftercare program
- Provides grants of up to \$300 per year
- The following are examples of grant requests that have been approved: driver's education classes, music, art, dance, prom expenses and more!

For more information, please contact: Noreen Berthiaume at 401.438.3900 ext. 200
noreen.berthiaume@fosterforward.net

OVER

Youth Enrichment Fund

- For ages birth to 15, who are in an out of home foster care placement.
- Provides grants of up to \$300 per year
- The following are examples of fund requests that have been approved: music or dance lessons, laptops, sports equipment.

For more information, please contact: Noreen Berthiaume at 401.438.3900 ext. 200

noreen.berthiaume@fosterforward.net

Works Wonders™

- For ages 16-21, who are in care or participating in YESS Aftercare Services.
- Career development and employment engagement program that provides 8-10 hours of skills based training
- \$50 completion incentive, potential for 12 weeks of career coaching & paid work-based learning opportunities

For more information, please contact: Bernadette Tavares at 401.438.3900 x 120

bernadette.tavares@fosterforward.net

The Voice Youth Leadership Board

- For youth ages 14 to 25 (any youth who spent at least one day in a DCYF placement after age 14)
- Youth will strengthen leadership and advocacy skills while raising awareness of important issues impacting youth in care.
- Youth will participate in meetings, plan activities, and provide presentations or testimony on issues important to them.

For more information, please contact: Gernani Yutob, Jr. at 401.438.3900 ext. 102

gernani.yutobjr@fosterforward.net

ASPIRING Young Leaders

- For ages 14 to 21 (any youth who spent at least one day in a DCYF placement after age 14)
- 3 day training on leadership, communication, advocacy, strategic sharing and relationship building
- Candidates should be mature, responsible, respectful and demonstrate leadership potential

For more information, please contact: Victoria Ferrara at 401.438.3900 ext. 105

victoria.ferrara@fosterforward.net

NYTD

- Automatic referral from RICHIST when youth turns 17 while in an out of home DCYF placement during a federal baseline year
- Federally required surveys conducted at age 17, 19, and 21 with additional surveys conducted at ages 18 and 20
- \$25 American Express gift card completion incentive

For more information, please contact: Gernani Yutob, Jr. at 401.438.3900 ext. 102

gernani.yutobjr@fosterforward.net

Family Support Program

- Outreach, engagement and material resources for kinship and non-relative DCYF foster families statewide
- Cribs and beds for kinship caregivers; clothes needed for placement for kinship and DCYF caregivers
- Foster parent mentors, peer support groups, family activities, and respite exchange

For more information, please contact: Diana Holmes at 401.438.3000 ext. 203

diana.holmes@fosterforward.net

30 Days to Family®

- Intense short-term intervention that aims to place children with relatives within 30 days of entering care
- Must meet all of the following: be between ages 0-17 at time of intake; referral received within 24 hours of entry into foster care; no approved or identified relative or kinship placement options; can be safely placed in the community within 30 days.

For more information, please contact: Lorette Dussault at 401.438.3900 ext. 101

lorette.dussault@fosterforward.net



The ASPIRE Initiative

Program Description:

The ASPIRE Initiative empowers youth who are currently or formerly in foster care to get on the path to economic self-sufficiency through financial literacy training, assistance in accessing employment and education services, and support in saving toward, purchasing, and sustaining durable assets.

Youth begin their participation in ASPIRE with an eight-hour, classroom based, comprehensive financial literacy training, with a curriculum tailored to the unique needs of youth in foster care. Youth are assisted with setting savings goals and opening an Individual Development Account (IDA) with Citizens Bank.

Who is Eligible?

Youth ages 14-26 who have spent at least one day after their 14th birthday in an out-of-home DCYF placement.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth?

Youth are provided with \$100 to “seed” or open an account and are matched dollar for dollar up to \$1,000 per year toward the purchase of assets (such as: cars, education expenses, housing expenses, health expenses, and investments. Youth can also receive \$40 in April and October for completing our OPPS Survey.

What are the Program Requirements?

Youth will need to have a valid State Identification Card, a Driver’s License, or a Passport to begin the financial literacy portion of the program.

Youth must be able to open a Citizens Bank IDA savings account in order to enroll and actively participate in this program. (A valid government issued I.D. is required to open a bank account.) Youth need to be regularly saving money toward achieving their savings and asset purchase goals. Youth must also notify program staff of any changes in contact information.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Anyone can refer a young person to the program. The Referral form is available on-line at www.fosterforward.net. Go to the programs tab and click on the ASPIRE program. We can also fax or email the form to you. The completed referral can then be faxed to 401-438-3901 or emailed to aspire@fosterforward.net. Once received, the youth will be sent a welcome letter along with information on upcoming financial literacy trainings.

Key Program Staff:

Nadine Lopes, Youth Engagement Specialist

401-438-3900 x127

nadine.lopes@fosterforward.net

This program is supported, in part, by the Consolidated Youth Services contract with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. Part of Consolidated Youth Services (CYS), ASPIRE is one of an array of services designed to ensure the successful transition of young people from the Rhode Island foster care system to adulthood.

Life Skills

Program Description:

The Life Skills Program begins with the completion of a Holistic Youth Assessment (HYA) that consists of youth, key adults, and CYS staff discussing the youths' strengths and needs. The Holistic Youth Assessment utilizes the strengths-based Casey Life Skills Program Assessment tools and results in the generation of a score report that is electronically transmitted to the DCYF social case worker, the youth, and CYS staff.

The input from youth, the consultation with the DCYF worker, and the results of the score report allow CYS staff to develop an individually tailored Life Skills Program. Youth will attend classes in sexual health (called Making Proud Choices), financial education (ASPIRE), and workforce development (Works Wonders) provided through CYS. CYS staff will work with the DCYF worker to identify services within the community for other "domains" or areas that were identified as needing improvement.

Life Skills Program classes will be conducted in geographically diverse places around the state and at the CYS building in East Providence on a regularly scheduled basis.

Who is Eligible?

Any youth upon their 16th birthday, or any youth who enters care after their 16th birthday.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth?

Youth receive thorough and useful learning experiences through the Life Skills Program and information from the Holistic Youth Assessment can be used to inform their transition plans.

Youth receive information and can be referred to other Consolidated Youth Services at the time of Assessment to facilitate their use of all that is available to them.

Youth receive a \$100 stipend for completing all components (ASPIRE financial education, Works Wonders and Making Proud Choices).

What are the Program Requirements?

Youth must complete all components identified by the assessment in order to receive their stipend.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Referrals are made by the DCYF Worker via a RICHIST semi-automatic referral upon the youth's 16th birthday.

Key Program Staff:

Scott Pereira, Youth Engagement Specialist

401-438-3900 x116

scott.pereira@fosterforward.net

This program is supported through a Consolidated Youth Services contract with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. The Transitional Education Program is one of many services designed to ensure the successful transition of young people from the Rhode Island foster care system to adulthood.

YESS Aftercare Services

Program Description:

YESS is a voluntary program that provides services and supports that are individually tailored to meet the needs of the young adult. Young adults are assisted in identifying and utilizing applicable community-based resources with the goal of having each young adult ready to live independently before or by their 21st birthday.

Who is Eligible?

Youth/Young adults ages 18–21 who have been closed to the Family Court and DCYF and for whom the Department has determined there are no other viable permanency options for the youth.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth?

The young adults are provided limited management supports (6–8 hours per month), as well as assistance with establishing a budget and a Self-Sufficiency plan. Self-Sufficiency staff will help youth locate safe and affordable housing, assist the individual in how to identify a good employment match, and help them enroll in school and the Higher Education Program.

Youth may be provided housing expenses which is based on individual identified housing expense costs and is paid directly to them. With minimal exceptions, youth are expected to have a roommate. It is the expectation that as the young adults progress in skills and age they will become increasingly responsible for their housing expenses.

What are the Program Requirements?

The YESS model requires participants:

- Secure housing that is safe and affordable, with roommates;
- Attend school and/or maintain employment based on Self-Sufficiency contract;
- Meet regularly with YESS Self-Sufficiency (and/or partner agency) staff;
- Establish a personal budget, inclusive of a savings plan.
- Be responsible for making certain that their rents and living expense payments remain current.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

The potential participant or their primary DCYF social worker may make a referral to YESS. To be effective, referrals should be made six months prior to the youth's 18th birthday or their anticipated closure date in Family Court, whichever date comes later. Referrals are online at www.fosterforward.net. The referral form is an online interactive form that upon completion will be sent to staff via an email.

Key Program Staff:

Jessica Nievera- McCluskey, YESS Services Coordinator

401-438-3900 x204

jessica.nievera.mccluskey@fosterforward.net

This program is supported through a Consolidated Youth Services contract with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. The YESS Program is one of many services designed to ensure the successful transition of young people from the Rhode Island foster care system to adulthood.

Real Connections

Program Description:

The goal of the Real Connections program is to ensure that all youth leave state care with positive, permanent adult connections and options for a successful future. Through collaboration with DCYF and community agencies, Real Connections works to identify adult connections for teens that are vulnerable to "aging out" of state care without positive, consistent adults to rely on. We believe that relationships with caring adults are central to a young person's ability to transition successfully into adulthood.

Real Connections staff support youth and their care providers in identifying adults from their existing network that have the potential to become positive, life long supports. We do this by using three methods: Eco Mapping, Record Mining, and Seneca Search.

Real Connections employs a mentoring model to strengthen those relationships that are not immediate placement options but **may become** placement resources and can provide long term support. The program searches beyond immediate family members to identify extended family and "fictive kin," which could include coaches, teachers, neighbors and the other valuable community resources that are too often overlooked.

If no adult connection from within the youth's own network can be identified youth are then matched with a mentor from the community. All identified adult connections undergo a 5-hour mentor training and are supported for a minimum of a year.

Who is Eligible?

Youth ages 8-21 most in danger of aging out of care without a permanent adult support.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth?

Through this voluntary program, young people will be able to cultivate a positive relationship with an adult and work toward achieving specific goals that they identify (such as applying for college or finding a job).

The mentor/mentee relationship is supported to help youth achieve permanency.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Referrals can come from DCYF staff, permanency support team consultations, foster parents, community providers, and CYS staff. Youth may also choose to self-refer.

To refer a young person, go to www.fosterforward.net to print the application. You can either provide the application to the youth or help them to complete it and then fax it to Kate Bronner, Program Coordinator at 438-3901 or 55 South Brow Street, East Providence, RI

Key Program Staff:

Kate Bronner, 401-438-3900 x 108, kate.bronner@fosterforward.net

Alexandra Rothstein, 401-438-3900 x111, alexandra.rothstein@fosterforward.net

Michelle Lockwood, 401-438-3900 x123, michelle.lockwood@fosterforward.net

This program is supported, in part, through a Consolidated Youth Services contract with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. The Real Connections Program is one of many services designed to ensure the successful transition of young people from the Rhode Island foster care system to adulthood. Real Connections is also supported through the generous support of the Rhode Island Foundation and The Sinclair Family Foundation.



Teen Grant/Youth Enrichment Fund

Program Description:

The Teen Grant/Youth Enrichment Fund provides supplemental money to youth and children in order to enhance their sense of normalcy, self-esteem, independence, skills and knowledge.

Likely to be approved: Driving Lessons/Education classes; Music/Art/Dance Lessons; Sports Equipment/Camp; School/Club Activities, Prom Expenses; Computers; Furniture, etc. **Less likely to be approved:** Personal Electronics (cell phones, DVD players,); Clothing; Rent. Applications requesting funding for things likely to be considered 'presents or gifts' are much less likely to be approved.

Who is Eligible?

Teen Grant: Youth ages 16-21 who are in an out of home DCYF placement or who are participants in the YESS program.

Youth Enrichment Fund: Children ages birth to 15 who are in an out of home DCYF placement.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth and Children?

Youth and children are eligible to apply for grants for up to \$300.00 per year to purchase items or experience activities.

What are the requirements?

Youth/Foster Parents need to research their requests fully. For example, "I want a computer to help me with my school work", isn't sufficient. The youth should have a particular computer in mind, the cost of the computer, where it will be purchased, and how s/he will pay any remaining costs (if any). In cases where musical instruments, etc. are requested, previous lessons or a mentor should be identified to show that the youth will be able to fully utilize the item requested.

All applicants must provide proof of use, by way of receipts, within 15 days of purchase. Those who do not return receipts will forfeit the ability to apply for future Teen Grants/Youth Enrichment.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Applications can be found at www.fosterforward.net under the "Programs" tab. The Teen Grant must be filled out completely by the young person and Youth Enrichment by the foster parent.

Key Program Staff:

Noreen Berthiaume, Family & Youth Benefits Manager

401-438-3900 x 200

noreen.berthiaume@fosterforward.net

The Teen Grant is supported through a Consolidated Youth Services contract with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. The Teen Grant Program is one of many services designed to ensure the successful transition of young people from the Rhode Island foster care system to adulthood. Youth Enrichment is supported through funds raised at Foster Forward's Annual Gala.

Works Wonders™

Program Description:

Works Wonders™ is an evidence supported career development and employment engagement program that provides 8-10 hours of skills based training, 12 weeks of one-on-one career coaching, and paid work-based learning opportunities. An Employment Specialist works with youth to explore their career interests, build a Career/Ed Plan, build foundational skills, and then put those skills to use in the real world.

Who is Eligible?

Youth ages 16-21 who are in care or youth participating in the voluntary aftercare service, YESS.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth?

- 8-10 hours of skills E² training
- \$50 completion incentive
- 12 weeks one-on-one career coaching
- Career portfolio development
- Paid work-based learning opportunities, such as internships, job shadows, and informational interviews.
- Assistance with obtaining and maintaining jobs.

What are the requirements?

Youth must complete the E² Training and be meeting with their Employment Specialist in order to be eligible for the paid work experiences.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Youth who are still in care, receive the Works Wonders™ E² Training through the Department of Children, Youth and Families Life Skills Program managed by Foster Forward. There is not currently capacity to serve in care youth with the one-on-one career coaching and work-based opportunities.

Youth who are preparing to age-out or participating in YESS can self-refer or be referred by their case worker by contacting the Program Coordinator.

Key Program Staff:

Bernadette Tavares, Works Wonders Program Coordinator
401-438-3900 x 120

bernadette.tavares@fosterforward.net

The Voice

Program Description:

The Voice is a youth leadership and advocacy board run by and for young people working together for positive change in the foster care system. The Voice identifies important issues impacting youth in foster care and works to raise awareness about them. Members have the opportunity develop leadership skills, to write and deliver testimony at the Statehouse, participate in meetings related to child welfare issues, and present at local and national conferences.

For those young people who cannot make a solid commitment to the biweekly meetings of the group but wish to contribute their voice to the board, there will be an open meeting for anyone to attend once per month.

Who is Eligible?

Youth ages 14-25 who have spent at least one day after their 14th birthday in an out of home DCYF foster care placement. Ideal candidates should be responsible, respectful, and demonstrate strong leadership potential.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth and Children?

Young people will strengthen leadership and advocacy skills while getting to know a great group of people. They will come to understand how to work with a diverse group of personalities. They will have their voice heard and be taken seriously by professionals in the foster care system. Young people will also have a chance to educate the community regarding foster care and to raise up issues of other young people who are not at the table to help affect change and promote success.

What are the requirements?

Young people must complete an application, participate on an informal phone interview, and then participate in an interview with the board to assess their readiness for the youth board. Young people are expected to attend the board meetings on a regular basis (every other week) and treat their membership like a job. Young people must possess the appropriate level of maturity and be interested in utilizing their leadership skills.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Applications are available at www.fosterforward.net on the “programs & initiatives” tab. Once the application is received, the young person will be contacted to have a brief/informal phone interview with the Adult Supporter for the Voice. After the phone interview, the young person will be asked to participate in an in person interview with the members of The Voice. Upon conclusion of the interview, the young person will be notified of their acceptance.

Key Program Staff:

Gernani Yutob, Jr., Adult Supporter

401-438-3900 x 102

gernani.yutobjr@fosterforward.net

The Voice leadership board is supported, in part, through a Consolidated Youth Services Contract with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. It is also supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation/Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and Santander Bank.



ASPIRING Young Leaders Program

Program Description:

The ASPIRING Young Leaders Program (AYLP) was built locally in Rhode Island as part of the ASPIRE Initiative to mirror the youth leadership training provided by The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. This leadership program will build upon the strengths of youth who have experienced foster care and empower young leaders across the state to succeed.

Young Leaders will participate in a three day leadership program, developing skills in: Communication, Strategic Sharing, Relationship/Team Building, Self-Advocacy.

Who is Eligible?

Youth ages 14-21 who have spent at least one day after their 14th birthday in an out of home DCYF foster care placement. Ideal candidates should be responsible, respectful, and demonstrate strong leadership potential. AYLP runs once annually with a maximum of twenty young people in each class.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth and Children?

After completing the ASPIRING Young Leaders Program, participants will have the opportunity to participate in advocacy and program development opportunities, including presenting at conferences, conducting trainings, sitting on advisory committees and working to empower other youth while participating on The Voice youth leadership board.

What are the requirements?

Young people must complete an application and participate in a 20 minute phone interview to assess their readiness for the program. After phone interviews are conducted applicants will be informed of their acceptances (not everyone is chosen). Young people are expected to attend the training in its entirety, all 3 days. Young people must possess the appropriate level of maturity and be interested in developing leadership skills.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Youth interested in attending this training must complete the AYLP application by the specified deadline in any given year. Applications can be found at www.fosterforward.net under the "Programs" tab.

Key Program Staff:

Gernani Yutob, Jr., Youth Engagement Specialist
401-438-3900 x 102
gernani.yutobjr@fosterforward.net

Victoria Ferrara, Youth Services Coordinator
401-438-3900 x105
victoria.ferrara@fosterforward.net

This program is supported by funds from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Santander Bank and the Foster Forward Annual Gala.



National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

Program Description:

Beginning October 1, 2010, the Federal Government required all states to gather information from youth about their foster care experiences and the independent living services they received.

The data collected will be viewed as an overall group, with each youth's individual answers kept confidential. Results will be sent to the Federal Government for inclusion in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) to improve services and supports for youth in foster care.

The data we collect will provide DCYF with more accurate information about what happens to foster youth after they leave care so that we can tailor services more effectively to ensure positive outcomes for youth.

Who is Eligible?

Youth will be asked to participate as soon as they turn 17 (called the baseline survey), and again when they turn 18, 19, 20 and 21 (follow-up surveys). The initial survey must be completed within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday.

What are the Direct Benefits to Youth?

Youth are given an opportunity to have their voice heard about their experiences they had while in DCYF care to help improve services and supports for all youth.

Youth will receive a \$25 AMEX gift card upon completion of the survey.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

Youth do not apply or get referred. They are eligible based on their age. RICHIST will provide CYS staff with the list of eligible youth. Youth will only be contacted to complete the follow-up survey if they completed the baseline at 17.

Key Program Staff:

Gernani Yutob, Jr., Youth Engagement Specialist
401-438-3900 x 102
gernani.yutobjr@fosterforward.net

This program is supported through a Consolidated Youth Services contract with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. NYTD is one of many services designed to ensure the successful transition of young people from the Rhode Island foster care system to adulthood.



Family Support Program

Program Description:

The Family Support Program offers supports for kinship and nonrelative DCYF foster families statewide. Families will receive immediate response to material resource needs including cribs and beds for kinship caregivers and short term supplies and clothes needed to accept placement for both kinship and DCYF foster parents. Foster family outreach and engagement will be provided by Kinship Navigators for kinship families and DCYF foster parent mentors to navigate system benefits (SNAP, WIC, daycare, etc), run peer support groups and coordinate family activities and respite exchange.

Family Support also offers statewide events including the Halloween Costume giveaway, the Holiday Gifts Campaign with toy distribution through Hasbro and Foster Parent Appreciation Month activities.

Who is Eligible?:

All DCYF relative and nonrelative caregivers are eligible for services through this program. Therapeutic foster families will be included in all statewide events.

What are the Direct Benefits to Families?

Many families will be effectively served through Kinship Navigation where they will receive assistance in accessing system benefits and be connected to peer support groups. New families may receive monthly peer-based mentoring during the first year of their fostering experience and a smaller number of families who require more intensive case management support will be assigned to one of two case managers. Cribs and beds will be available for up to 100 kinship families. Families will receive services as frequently as needed during the business day and some evenings with an after-hours phone line 800.655.7787.

Case management Services will be provided for up to 50 families at a time based on need and reevaluated every 90 days. Cases will be open for six months but may be extended for up to a year based on need.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

DCYF will provide real time notice through RICHIST for new relative caregivers and new placements with all nonrelative caregivers. Initial contact will be made with the client within one business day of referral for kinship caregivers and within one week of referral for nonrelative caregivers. Anyone is welcome to contact our staff on behalf of a family who needs assistance, and families may contact us directly for support.

Key Program Staff:

Diana Holmes, Family Support Coordinator
401-438-3900 x 203 diana.holmes@fosterforward.net

The Family Support Program is funded through the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

30 Days to Family®

Program Description:

30 Days to Family® is an intense and short-term intervention that searches for and aims to place children with safe and appropriate relatives within 30 days of entering foster care. The concentrated efforts and low caseloads of *30 Days to Family®* is designed to make placement with relatives possible, while also aiming to support the family so placement stability is maintained.

This is an evidence-informed program which has proven to be a highly successful (70% success rate) as implemented in St. Louis.

Who is Eligible?

A client is eligible for services if **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

- 1) He or she is between the ages of 0-17 at the time of intake
- 2) He or she has entered or re-entered the foster care system (i.e. has been taken into protective custody) and a referral is received within 24 hours or prior to the initial court hearing
- 3) He or she has no approved identified relative or kinship options for placement
- 4) He or she can be safely placed in the community within 30 days.

Two 30 Day's to Family® Support Specialists work with 2 youth per month, 48 youth are served per year.

What are the Direct Benefits to a Child/Young Person?

Children and youth will be placed in a relative foster home within 30 days of entering foster care. Children and youth will be able to maintain connection to family, will be able to maintain cultural and familial customs, and are more likely to not experience disruption in placement.

Upon successful placement with a relative, our Family Support Program staff will work with the new foster family to ensure maintenance of the placement.

What is the Referral/Application Process?

DCYF must refer the child/youth within 24 hours of the child/youth being placed in the foster care system, or prior to the initial court hearing. Referrals come through the Central Referral Unit or other designated court or DCYF departments. All above eligibility requirements must be met in order to refer to this program.

Key Program Staff:

Lorette Dussault, Supervisor, 401-438-3900 x 101, lorette.dussault@fosterforward.net

Barbara Ann Whitman, 401-438-3900 x 110, barbaraann.whitman@fosterforward.net

Vanessa Brache, 401-438-3900 x 209, vanessa.brache@fosterforward.net