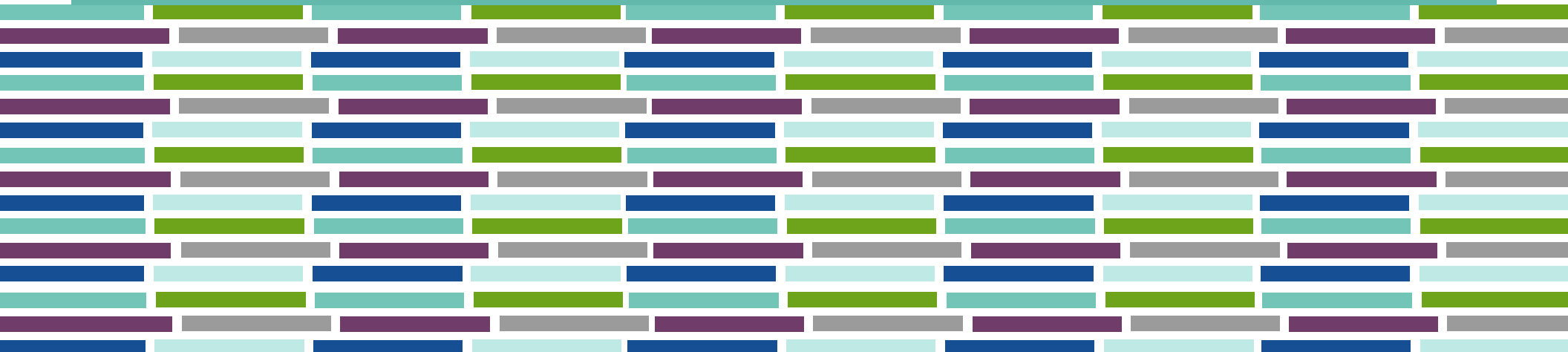




# Employment Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care

March 2017



# Foster Forward's Mission



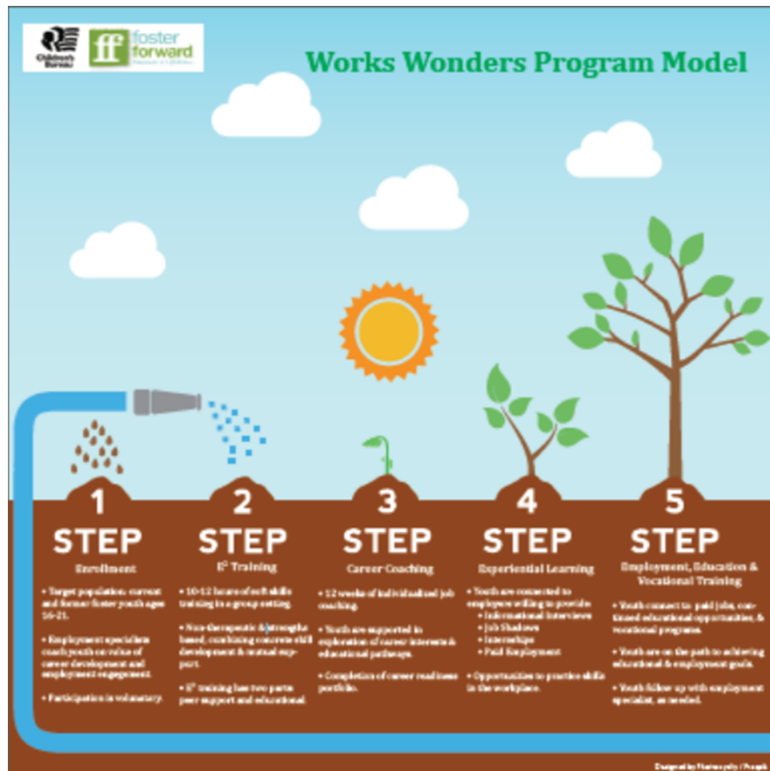
To empower lives impacted by foster care

# The Need

- The biggest predictor of employment success is having a history of work experience.
- According to national NYTD data, about half (49%) of 19 year olds report having no employment-related experiences.

60% of Works Wonders participants never had a work experience.

# The Opportunity



- Partners: DCYF, The Work Place Center at Columbia School of Social Work, & Rhode Island College School of Social Work.
- Works Wonders is funded through state workforce dollars, corporate and local foundations, and community grants.
- Competencies of the National Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative further bolster the economic success of participants.

Foster Forward partnership helps bridge the skills gap

# The Opportunity

Works Wonders:  
Opportunities for Employers through the  
Governor's Work Immersion Program

<b>Time-Limited Work Experience</b>	<b>Temporary Work Experience</b>	<b>Hiring &amp; Retention of PTE/FTE</b>
100% paid by Foster Forward	50% paid by wage reimbursement	100% paid by employer if participant hired beyond 400 hours.
0% paid by Employer	50% paid by Employer	If employee retained for 12 weeks, 25% additional wage reimbursement paid for temporary work experience.
10-20 hours	60-400 hours	
Support services to youth & employer.	Support services to youth & employer.	

- Works Wonders is able to leverage the Governor's Work Immersion Program to assist small businesses.
- Works Wonders is uniquely positioned to overcome process barriers for employers.

Structured to minimize cost (for employers) & strengthen experience

# The Findings

- Works Wonders is serving the youth most in need of career readiness and employment engagement.
- Works Wonders has shown to have impact on four key outcomes: reducing barriers, improving relational competencies, increasing career readiness, and increasing youth in competitive employment.

Developed from the evidence base with demonstrated outcomes

# Next Steps & Recommendations

## Next Steps:

1. Works Wonders has ended its research phase and is now looking to scale up to serve more youth (current capacity is 120 youth per year).
2. Pursuing new grant funding to apply the model to subpopulations, calibrated to their specific barriers (e.g., pregnant & parenting teens).
3. Continue to a test of effectiveness using comparison groups and obtain the evidence to support wider dissemination nationwide.

Scale up and continue to evaluate effectiveness

# Next Steps & Recommendations

## Recommendations:

- Amend WIOA to be more developmentally appropriate for youth who have experienced trauma.
- Continue to support the extension of foster care to age 21 and beyond in all 50 states.

Developmentally appropriate programming that gives youth time.



# Questions?

For more information on Foster Forward or Works Wonders:

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