

# NYTD

## What is NYTD?

Pronounced (night~ed), this is the new **National Youth in Transition Database**. NYTD was created by the federal government to collect information about what services are being provided to youth in care, and the outcomes resulting from these services. By doing this, the federal government will be able to measure how effective the foster care system is at helping youth transition. Having this information will also help us make changes where they are needed the most and improve the transition experiences of all foster youth. *This is not an attempt to keep tabs on individual youth who age out of care; it is an attempt to learn general information about foster youth as a whole group.*

## What data will be collected?

Beginning October 1, Maine will begin reporting the independent living services provided to all youth age 15 -21. *These are services and supports provided by caseworkers, youth transition workers, foster parents, agency providers, and through contracts, for the following areas:*

- **independent living needs assessment**
- **academic support**
- **post-secondary educational support**
- **career preparation**
- **employment programs or vocational training**
- **housing education and home management training**
- **budget and financial management**
- **health education and risk prevention**
- **family support and healthy marriage education;**
- **mentoring**
- **supervised independent living**
- **room and board financial assistance**
- **education financial assistance**

Beginning July 1, Caseworkers will survey youth at age 17 about the following outcomes: *(And these youth will complete a similar survey again at ages 19 and 21)*

- **financial self-sufficiency**
- **experience with homelessness**
- **educational attainment**
- **positive adult connections**
- **high-risk behavior**
- **access to health insurance**

## What happens if Maine doesn't collect the data?

Maine will be required to get at least 80% of youth in foster care and at least 60% of youth who have left care to participate in the survey. If Maine does not meet this standard, we can lose a percentage of our annual Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funding.

## Why should youth be involved?

This is your chance to make sure that IL services and outcomes for youth in Maine are counted. Your involvement in NYTD will encourage your peers to participate, positively impact your own life, and ultimately improve services for younger youth in care. By participating and being active with NYTD, you can help change those outcomes. You can be a part of improving the national foster care system and we need your voice to make a difference!

For more information, please contact Dulcey Laberge, Youth Transition Specialist, Office of Child and Family Services, [dulcey.laberge@maine.gov](mailto:dulcey.laberge@maine.gov), or (207) 624-7928.