

EXTENDED SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO 21 IN NEBRASKA

For Youth Ages 18 and Older (OR Youth Whose Cases Have Been Closed to Independent Living)

Nebraska has an opportunity to design a program providing young adults who age out of foster care with extended services and support up to age 21. We would like your input in four key areas: Program Eligibility, Case Management, Housing Options, and Case Oversight. This survey is completely anonymous, so please do not write your name anywhere on it. There are no right or wrong answers – we just want your opinions. The survey should take you about 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be combined with those of all the other youth, put into a report, and shared with policymakers and other professionals who are working on designing this program. **Please keep in mind that none of your answers to these questions are guaranteed to happen.** We want to use your opinions to advocate for how the program could be designed, but nothing is for sure. All of it, some of it, or none of it might actually be implemented in Nebraska.

As you go through this survey, each question box contains a question about how you think this program should look. The question in the gray background will tell you whether to check one answer or as many answers as you would like. The answer options are in the blue background. If you would like to learn more about the answer options, look under each option – you can read about what the option REALLY means (“What it means:”). For even more information, check out the **pros** and **cons** in the white background (“Pros/Cons:”).

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. YOUR VOICE MATTERS!!

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY:

Programs like this are typically created for young adults who “age out” of foster care, but we may want to see if we can include some other groups of young adults. **Young adults who are adopted or who enter a guardianship at age 16 or older will be discussed in the next question.*

Who should be included in the program? (check as many as you would like)

<input type="checkbox"/> Young adults who “age out.” <i>What it means:</i> This would include young adults who are still in foster care when they turn 19.	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth whose cases are closed at age 16 or older to independent living. <i>What it means:</i> This would include young adults who are discharged to independent living (or emancipated) at 16, 17, or 18.	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth who are reunified with their biological or adoptive family at age 16 or older. <i>What it means:</i> This would include young adults who are reunified with their biological (or adoptive) family at age 16, 17, 18, or 19.	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth in the juvenile justice system (due to status offense, delinquency, or dependency). <i>What it means:</i> This would include young adults who are in foster care due to status offense, juvenile delinquency, or dependency - not parental abuse/neglect.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program could provide a “safety net” for young adults needing extra help. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including JUST this group would leave out other groups of young adults who may also need support. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program could provide a “safety net” for young adults needing extra help. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would make the program more expensive, so it may be harder to get people to agree to do it. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults wouldn’t have to choose between going home and getting support after they leave foster care. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would make the program more expensive, so it may be harder to get people to agree to do it. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These young adults may also need help getting on their feet. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It may be harder to get Senators and others to agree to this. 	
Comments? _____				

Programs like this that have been created in other states usually continue adoption/guardianship subsidies (payments) to age 21 for young adults who were adopted or who entered a guardianship at age 16 or older. These young adults also receive Medicaid coverage to age 21.

If it was up to you, where should the monthly subsidies be sent for young adults who are adopted/enter a guardianship at age 16+? (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> The monthly subsidies should go to the adoptive parents/guardians of these young adults so they can continue to provide for their needs. <i>What it means:</i> The adoptive parents or guardians of young adults who were adopted or entered a guardianship at age 16, 17, or 18 would continue to receive a monthly payment from DHHS until the young adult turned 21.	<input type="checkbox"/> The monthly subsidies should be given directly to the young adult, not their adoptive parent/guardian. <i>What it means:</i> Young adults who were adopted or entered a guardianship at age 16, 17, or 18 would receive the monthly payment that used to be provided to their adoptive parent/guardian. This would continue until the young adult turned 21.
<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoptive parents/guardians could continue caring for young adults without having to worry as much about money. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If their parent/ guardian can’t or won’t help them out financially, young adults may not have other financial support available to help them move out on their own. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This could provide these young adults with more housing options, aside from just continuing to live with their adoptive parent/guardian. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If young adults living at home are not responsible with how they spend the subsidy, their parent/guardian may struggle to provide for their needs.
Why or why not? _____	

CASE MANAGEMENT

In this program, the role of case management would be very different from the caseworker children have while in foster care. In this program, a program support person would be responsible for supporting the young adult in a completely young adult-directed way, so the young adult would be able to choose what areas they needed help in. These program support people would need to meet face-to-face with their assigned young adult once a month to check in and make sure the young adult's needs were being met.

Who should provide case management services? (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> The same DHHS/NFC caseworker young adults had prior to exiting foster care when possible, or another caseworker from DHHS/NFC, if not. <i>What it means: The same caseworker young adults had while in foster care would continue as their caseworker.</i> <hr/> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person assigned to the young adult's case would already be familiar with the young adult's case. DHHS/NFC have many staff already and are used to providing this type of service. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caseworkers would be serving mostly kids still in foster care and may not know how to handle the cases of young adults. Young adults would have to get a new worker anyway, if their original one was not available. 	<input type="checkbox"/> A new DHHS/NFC support person that specifically serves young adults in this extended services and support to 21 program. <i>What it means: A program support person from DHHS/NFC who <u>only</u> manages cases of people in this program would be assigned to young adults' cases.</i> <hr/> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHHS/NFC already have many staff and are used to providing this type of service. These people would be very familiar with the needs of young adults. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHHS/NFC don't have a program set up like this yet. It might take a while to set this up. Young adults would have to get a new worker. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff from another agency that specializes in serving young adults – <i>not</i> a part of DHHS/NFC (like PALS or Branching Out). <i>What it means: A program support person from another agency (<u>not</u> DHHS or NFC) would manage cases of young adults in this program.</i> <hr/> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These workers already understand the needs of young adults and used to working with them in a young adult-directed way. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It might take a while to hire and train staff. Young adults would have to get a new worker. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Comments? _____

What characteristics are important in a program support person for young adults?

What do you think individuals who provide case management services should be called?

<input type="checkbox"/> Support Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Transition Planning Specialist	<input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative Care Specialist	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ideas: _____ _____
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What should this person's role be? (check as many as you would like)

**They are ALWAYS responsible for transition planning and working to help young adults find permanency. Monthly face-to-face contact with at least this person is required*

<input type="checkbox"/> Organize monthly team meetings of people the young adult wanted to invite. <i>What it means: Program support staff would help young adults set up monthly team meetings of people they wanted to bring (e.g. CASA volunteer, relatives, roommate, etc.).</i> <hr/> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More open communication, so no one is left in the dark. Everyone could make sure they are on the same page. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may take more planning. It may seem more "formal." 	<input type="checkbox"/> Directly help meet young adults' needs. <i>What it means: Program support staff would be responsible for working with young adults to meet their needs – like a PALS or Branching Out worker (e.g. help them write a resume, fill out job applications, find transportation, etc.).</i> <hr/> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults would work mostly with just ONE person. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a program support person didn't know about certain services, the young adult might miss out. Young adults might not learn to do these things on their own. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Connect young adults to services in the community that would help meet young adults' needs. <i>What it means: Program support staff would help young adults find services in the community to meet their needs (e.g. setting young adults up with a PALS or Branching Out worker, finding classes/programs for them, etc.)</i> <hr/> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults would have several people to turn to for help in different areas. Young adults may feel more empowered and able to make things happen for themselves. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This might mean more work for the young adult, as they may have to call or meet with several different people – not just one program support person. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Comments? _____

HOUSING OPTIONS

In this program, the State would continue to provide financial support for the housing costs of young people until the age of 21. DHHS can offer the same placement options that young adults had available to them before they left the traditional foster care system, including relative foster homes, non-relative foster homes, or even college dorms. They can also offer other more age/developmentally-appropriate options, like an apartment (alone or with a roommate) or a room in someone's house. There are also options about how monthly housing stipends (or payments) are handled for young adults living independently (e.g. with a roommate, on their own, with an adult who doesn't have a foster care license, etc.). Some other states give the housing stipend directly to young adults in placements like these, and it is then the young adult's responsibility to pay their housing bills.

What housing situations should be included as options for young adults to choose from? (check as many as you would like)

<input type="checkbox"/> Licensed non-relative foster home	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensed relative/family friend foster home	<input type="checkbox"/> Group home/ institutional care <i>(This would <u>only</u> be for young adults needing extra care due to a medical condition/developmental disability or who are transitioning from their group home to another placement [e.g. if a youth is at Boystown and close to graduation, they can stay until they graduate if they want to])</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Apartments run by an agency that provides young adults with supportive services (e.g. Jacob's Place)	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting a room in a house	<input type="checkbox"/> Host home <i>(young adults live with an adult who offers a room, meals, some limited support)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> College dorm/ university housing	<input type="checkbox"/> House/ apartment <i>(alone or with a roommate)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlicensed relative's/ family friend's home	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-state housing <i>(e.g. Council Bluffs, out-of-state university)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Living with a significant other	<input type="checkbox"/> Parental home <i>(the home the young adult was removed from)</i>
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Comments/other options that should be included: _____

If a young adult is living independently (with a roommate, on their own, with an adult who doesn't have a foster care license, etc.), what rules/guidelines should there be to approve the young adult's housing? (check as many as you would like)

<input type="checkbox"/> Program support person does a walk-through of the home before the young adult moves in. <i>What it means: A program support person would check the home before the young adult moved in to make sure it was safe and appropriate.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing must meet health and safety standards. <i>What it means: There are general guidelines about what makes a home "safe" (no asbestos, mold, roaches, broken appliances, etc.), so young adults' housing would also have to meet these guidelines.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No drugs or underage drinking allowed in the home. <i>What it means: Homes young adults are living in must be drug free, and no one under age 21 can drink alcohol there.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____ _____ _____
Pros: • This would help make sure that young adults are living in safe environments. Cons: • This may slow down the moving process. • It could be awkward if the young adult doesn't want his/her roommates to know he/she was in foster care.	Pros: • This would help make sure that young adults are living in safe environments. Cons: • This would mean that someone (probably the program support person) would have to do a walk-through of the home.	Pros: • This would help make sure that young adults are living in safe, healthy environments. Cons: • This might cause problems if a young adult's roommate uses drugs or keeps alcohol in the home without the young adult's knowledge.	

How should housing stipends (or payments) be handled for young adults living independently? (check as many as you would like)


**Because of federal rules, these options would not apply for licensed foster homes, adoptive/guardianship homes, or group homes*

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire stipend should be given directly to the adult responsible for paying the bills. <i>What it means: DHHS would send the monthly housing stipend to the adult responsible for paying the bills (care provider, adult whose name is on the lease, etc.). That person would use it to pay bills, provide the young adult with food/clothing, etc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The stipend should be provided directly to the young adult. <i>What it means: DHHS would send the monthly housing stipend directly to the young adult, so the young adult would be responsible for rent, bills, food, etc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The "rent" portion should be given directly to whoever is responsible for the bills. Any leftover money should be given to the young adult. <i>What it means: DHHS would send part of the money directly to the adult responsible for the bills. The leftover amount would be sent to the young adult.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The young adult, program support person, and person responsible for the bills should sit down monthly to plan where the money will go. <i>What it means: There would be a monthly meeting of the young adult, program support person and person responsible for the bills to talk about where the money should go.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Some combination of the options (check those you think should be included). Young adults should get a choice. <i>What it means: Young adults would be given a choice of how the monthly housing stipend could be handled. They would be able to choose the option best for them.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____ _____ _____
Pros: • Young adults' bills would be paid. • This would take the burden off of the young adult. Cons: • This would give the young adult less control over how the money was spent. • This may not work for those living with a roommate their own age.	Pros: • This would allow young adults more control over how their money is spent. Cons: • If young adults are not careful in how they spend the money, they could end up in trouble.	Pros: • Young adults' bills would be paid. • Young adults would have some control over the extra money. Cons: • This might not help young adults learn to budget and control their spending on their own.	Pros: • Young adults' bills would be paid. • Everyone would be on the same page about how the money is used. Cons: • If the young adult disagreed with the others about where the money should go, it might cause problems (e.g. between the young adult and the adult they are living with).	Pros: • This would allow young adults to choose what best fits their needs. Different people have different needs. Cons: • The program support person might disagree with the young adult about which option is best.	

CASE OVERSIGHT

Reviews every 6 months are required. This can be either: a) two case reviews each year to make sure things are going well for the young adult, or b) one permanency review and one case review each year, to also put a focus on permanency. Annual permanency reviews of young adults' cases help make sure program support people are working to finalize a permanency plan (continue working to connect the young adult with permanent, lifelong support systems) and that young adults are getting everything they need. The options for who does this review are pretty open: it could be as formal as a hearing in front of a judge in a courtroom or as informal as a meeting with some other oversight group in a conference room or at the young adult's home, like the Foster Care Review Board or another person from the court (not the judge).

**Keep in mind that the court is the only entity that can order DHHS/NFC to do something.*

How should annual permanency reviews be structured? (check one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> A young adult-directed annual review in front of a judge. (Remember that the purpose would be to make sure DHHS/ NFC is meeting the young adult's needs – <u>not</u> to order the young adult to do things.) <i>What it means:</i> There would be an annual review in front of a judge to make sure the program support person is working to find permanent connections for the young adult. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges are used to holding reviews. Judges know what DHHS/NFC can and should do to help young adults. Judges can order DHHS/NFC to provide a service or pay for something that would help the young adult. Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Going to court can be intimidating and may bring up old memories of bad experiences. Reviews would have to occur during the day. This may be hard for young adults who work or attend classes during the day. 	<input type="checkbox"/> An annual review in front of some other court-related person/group outside of the courtroom. (The purpose would be to make sure DHHS/NFC is meeting the young adult's needs.) <i>What it means:</i> There would be an annual meeting involving someone appointed by the court (not a judge). This meeting could take place outside of the courthouse. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They could still get a court order requiring DHHS/NFC to provide a service or pay for something that would help the young adult. Young adults wouldn't have to go see a judge in court. Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There isn't a system set up for this yet, so it would take some time to organize it and figure things out. 	<input type="checkbox"/> An annual review in front of some other administrative body with the option of coming to court if needed. <i>What it means:</i> There would be an annual meeting involving a group from some other organization (e.g. the Foster Care Review Board, the Mediation Center), with the option of coming to court if something was going wrong in the case. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults wouldn't have to go see a judge in court. Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group wouldn't be able to order DHHS/NFC to do something to help the young adult. If something went wrong in their case, young adults would have to go to the court. This may be confusing and difficult. 	<input type="checkbox"/> There shouldn't be annual permanency reviews. Instead, there should be two case reviews each year. <i>(Note: Program support people would still be working to find permanent connections for young adults.)</i> <div style="text-align: center;">  Why? </div> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Comments? _____			

There will also be regular case reviews to make sure things are going well and young adults are getting everything they need. Again, the options for who does this review are pretty open: it could be as formal as a hearing in front of a judge in a courtroom or as informal as a meeting with some other oversight group in a conference room or at the young adult's home, like the Foster Care Review Board or another person from the court (not the judge).

**Remember, there could be either: a) two case reviews each year, or b) one case review and one permanency review each year.*

How should case reviews be structured? (check one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> A young adult-directed annual review in front of a judge. (Remember that the purpose would be to make sure DHHS/ NFC is meeting the young adult's needs – <u>not</u> to order the young adult to do things.) <i>What it means:</i> There would be an annual review in front of a judge to make sure the program support person is working to find permanent connections for the young adult. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges are used to holding reviews Judges can order DHHS/NFC to provide a service or pay for something that would help the young adult. Judges know what DHHS/NFC can and should do to help young adults. Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Going to court can be intimidating and may bring up old memories of bad experiences. Reviews would have to occur during the day. This may be hard for young adults who work or attend classes during the day. 	<input type="checkbox"/> An annual review in front of some other court-related person/group outside of the courtroom. (The purpose would be to make sure DHHS/NFC is meeting the young adult's needs.) <i>What it means:</i> There would be an annual meeting involving someone appointed by the court (not a judge). This meeting could take place outside of the courthouse. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This person or group would still be able to get a court order requiring DHHS/NFC to provide a service or pay for something that would help the young adult. Young adults wouldn't have to go see a judge in court. Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There isn't a system set up for this yet, so it would take some time to organize it and figure things out. 	<input type="checkbox"/> An annual review in front of some other administrative body with the option of coming to court if needed. <i>What it means:</i> There would be an annual meeting involving a group from some other organization (e.g. the Foster Care Review Board, the Mediation Center), with the option of coming to court if something was going wrong in the case. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults wouldn't have to go see a judge in court. Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group wouldn't be able to order DHHS/NFC to do something to help the young adult. If something went wrong in their case, young adults would have to go to the court. This may be confusing and difficult.
Comments? _____		

Should young adults have a client-directed attorney to advocate for them at permanency/case reviews? (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – every young adult should get a client-directed attorney. <i>What it means: An attorney would be assigned to go with young adults to reviews. Their role would be to advocate for the young adult’s wishes and goals (NOT like a Guardian ad Litem, who advocates for children’s best interests).</i> <p align="center">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorneys know the foster care system and what DHHS/NFC can and should do for youth. • Attorneys could be a big help if something goes wrong in the case. <p align="center">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would make the program more expensive, so it may be harder to get people to agree to do it. 	<input type="checkbox"/> It depends on the case – young adults should be able to request a client-directed attorney if they need one. <i>What it means: Only young adults who ask for an attorney would get one for their reviews. The attorney’s role would be to advocate for the young adult’s wishes and goals (NOT like a Guardian ad Litem, who advocates for children’s best interests).</i> <p align="center">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would allow young adult who want an attorney to get one, but it would not require all young adult to have an attorney. • Attorneys know the foster care system and what DHHS/NFC can and should do for youth. • Attorneys could be a big help if something goes wrong in the case. <p align="center">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young adults may forget or not know that they can request an attorney, so those whose needs aren’t being met may not get help. 	<input type="checkbox"/> No – they should have someone else there as a support system. (Note: Young adults could bring other people to these reviews, even if they had an assigned attorney) <i>What it means: Young adults would find someone else to come with them to reviews as a support system, like their CASA worker, a peer, an adult friend/mentor, or a staff member from Project Everlast/PALS/Branching Out.</i> <p align="center">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young adults would be able to choose someone they were comfortable with to be their primary source of support in these reviews. <p align="center">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some young adults may not be able to find someone to come with them. • These people probably won’t know as much about what DHHS/NFC should be doing to help young adults in the program. • Their voice may not hold as much weight as an attorney’s would.
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Comments? _____

OTHER QUESTIONS:

These other questions will help us learn more about the need for a program like this, what it’s official name should be, and how we should share your answers with policymakers and other professionals.

Did you apply for the Former Ward program? (check the one that best fits your situation, then follow the arrow)

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. After I aged out, I applied for Former Ward <p align="center">↓</p> <p align="center"><i>What happened?</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I was accepted. <p align="center">↓</p> <p>Are you still in the program?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </div> <p align="center"><i>Why not?</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I was not accepted. <p align="center">↓</p> <p align="center"><i>Why not?</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> No. After I left the foster care system, I did NOT apply for Former Ward. <p align="center">↓</p> <p align="center"><i>Why not?</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I was not eligible - I didn't meet the program's requirements. <p align="center"><i>Why not?</i> (e.g. I reunified with my family, I entered a guardianship, I did not apply before I aged out, etc.)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I didn't know about it. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I didn't think I needed it. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I didn't want to have to deal with the state anymore. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> I haven't left the foster care system yet. I am still in foster care. <p align="center">↓</p> <p align="center"><i>Do you plan to apply for Former Ward when you do leave foster care?</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> No. <p align="center">↓</p> <p align="center"><i>Why not?</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I don't think I need it. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I don't want to deal with the state anymore. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not eligible - I don't meet the program's requirements. <p align="center"><i>Why not?</i> (e.g. I reunified with my family, I entered a guardianship, I did not apply before I aged out, etc.)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> </div> </div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know what the Former Ward program is.
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Comments? _____

The Former Ward program in Nebraska currently provides assistance to college-bound young adults who age out of foster care until they turn 21. Here are the main differences between the Former Ward program, which is already offered, and the extended services and support to 21 program, which has not yet been created:

Former Ward	Extended Services and Support to 21
<p>Services provided to young adults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Medicaid coverage ★ Monthly payments of \$352 to help with living expenses and tuition 	<p>Services provided to young adults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Medicaid coverage ★ Year-round housing support (monthly payments of \$520 is one option that has been discussed) ★ Young adult-directed case management ★ Continued adoption/guardianship subsidies for young adults who were adopted or who entered a guardianship at age 16 or older
<p>Requirements young adults must meet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Apply <i>before</i> their case closes ★ Be continuously attending school (e.g. college, high school, vocational program) unless a temporary mental or physical issue prevents it (a doctor's note is required). If young adults do not take summer classes, they will not receive the monthly payment over the summer. 	<p>Requirements young adults must meet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Sign up for the program any time before they turn 21 (young adults can even re-enter if they were once signed up and then left the program) ★ Be <u>either</u> attending school, working 80 hours per month, participating in a program to find a job (like a job training program or applying for jobs at a job training center), <u>or</u> be unable to do any of these things due to a medical condition. ★ Meet once a month with a program support person ★ Participate in reviews every 6 months, which could be either: a) two case reviews each year, or b) one permanency review and one case review each year

Would you rather participate in an extended services and support program (like the one discussed in this survey) or the current Former Ward program that is already offered? (check one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> An extended services and support program. ↓ <i>Why?</i> _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> The Former Ward program. ↓ <i>Why?</i> _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I probably wouldn't participate in either program. ↓ <i>Why?</i> _____ _____

If this extended services and support to 21 program is created, what do you think should happen with the Former Ward program? (check one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Former Ward program wouldn't be needed if Nebraska had a program like this. <i>In other words: The extended services and support to 21 program would replace the Former Ward program.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The Former Ward program would still be useful for some young adults – it works well like it is now. <i>In other words: Young adults could choose between signing up for the Former Ward program (which offers less support but has fewer expectations) or the extended services and support to 21 program (which offers more support but has more expectations). The Former Ward program would be kept as it is.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The Former Ward program would still be useful for some young adults, but some of the rules of Former Ward should be changed (e.g. youth must apply before exiting care, older youth who are adopted or who enter a guardianship are not included in the program, etc.). <i>In other words: Young adults could choose between signing up for the extended services and support to 21 program or the Former Ward program. However, the Former Ward program needs to be changed to include more young adults.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program offers more services and support than Former Ward and includes more young adults (more than just those who are going to school). • ALL young adults would get the same amount of services and support. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different people need different levels of assistance. Keeping the Former Ward program would provide young adults with options. • Some young adults may need only a little financial assistance, so they may not want to sign up for a program like this. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would give young adults a choice between two programs. <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young adults may choose to sign up for the Former Ward program even if they do need the extra support offered by the extended services and support program. Because of this, they may be more likely to struggle. • Young adults who do not meet requirements of the Former Ward program (e.g. youth must be attending school) would not have a choice – they would only be eligible for the extended services and support to 21 program. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would give young adults a choice between the two programs. • This would change some of the rules of the Former Ward program so more young adults would be eligible (and able to sign up). <p style="text-align: center;">Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young adults may choose to sign up for the Former Ward program even if they do need the extra support offered by the extended services and support program. Because of this, they may be more likely to struggle. <p><i>What parts of the former ward program do you think need to be changed?</i></p> _____ _____
<p>Comments? _____</p>		

Do you have any ideas for a young adult-friendly name for this extended services and support program?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Extended Services and Support to 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Support to 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ideas: _____ _____

We're compiling all of your responses into a report for Senators, judges, and other professionals who work with older youth in foster care. How do you think we should share this information? (check as many as you would like) <i>*Remember that this survey is anonymous, so nobody will know what answers you specifically put.</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Hold a press conference where professionals and youth would speak to the media about the report and why more assistance is needed to help youth aging out of foster care.	<input type="checkbox"/> Organize a "youth lobby day," where youth would take copies of the report to the State Capital and hand deliver them to Senators, giving them an opportunity to share some of the struggles youth aging out experience.	<input type="checkbox"/> Organize a rally at the State Capital, where youth and other people would gather with signs and banners to raise awareness about the report and the need to provide more assistance to youth aging out of foster care.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ideas: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I would not like to help share this information.

Now, here are a couple questions to help us learn more about YOU! 😊

How old are you?	_____
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What city do you live in?	_____
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Are you still in the foster care system?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No ↓ <i>How did you exit the system?</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure
	<input type="checkbox"/> I aged out or was discharged to Independent Living ↓ <i>At what age?</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I reunified with my family	<input type="checkbox"/> I was adopted	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____	

Where did you get this survey? (If you're not sure how to answer this, ask your Youth Advisor or whoever gave you this survey)			
<input type="checkbox"/> From my Project Everlast Youth Advisor (at a council meeting, just hanging out at their office, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> At a focus group organized by Project Everlast	<input type="checkbox"/> At the Project Everlast Summer Convening	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere else: _____ _____

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about anything in this survey?
_____ _____ _____

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR VOICE!!!

We couldn't do it without each of you. ☺

**If you have questions or want to talk more about anything discussed in this survey,
you may contact Amy West from Nebraska Appleseed at:**

awest@neappleseed.org

or

#402-438-8853

Thank You!
☺