



# Life after Foster Care

## Navigating independence & Support systems



01

Nearly 40% of these youth had experienced at least one night of homelessness since aging out. In contrast, an estimated 2% of all children in the United States are homeless each year. To illustrate the local impact, a one-night count of homeless youth in Nebraska revealed that 51% of the 267 young people experiencing homelessness on January 25th had been in the foster care system.

02

There is less than a 3% chance for children who have aged out of foster care to earn a college degree at any point in their life. Supporting these young adults in pursuing a higher education will help them maintain long term employment and financial stability.



03

About 25% of children who age out of the foster care system still suffer from the direct effects of PTSD. Foster kids are four times more likely than other children to attempt suicide. Creating supports for youth and young adults managing long term mental health issues would be incredibly beneficial to their long term success in their community.



04

All youth ages 16 or older in Nebraska's foster care system are required to have a written transition plan. Addressing the needs of youth both before they age out (with adequate and comprehensive transition plans) and after (with extended services and support) has great potential to ensure that foster care alumni enter adulthood with the knowledge and skills necessary to avoid homelessness.

