

The Achieve Process for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

VISION

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) piloted new ways to support young people transitioning out of foster care with more stable support to thrive in Metro Atlanta.

DFCS engaged Third Sector in January 2020 to launch a cross-agency [collaboration](#) with many departments, community partners, and youth to design and implement a new transition process in DeKalb and Fulton Counties, with a specific focus on supporting parenting or expectant youth in foster care.

What's Unique About the Achieve Process? From 2020-2022, DFCS implemented a more youth-friendly case management model focused on economic mobility and collaboration between *Child Welfare, TANF, Child Care, workforce development (WIOA), housing partners, and peer mentorship programs.*

The Achieve Process was established in DeKalb and Fulton Counties from 20220-2022, and will expand into Henry and Fayette Counties in 2023 for all youth in foster care.



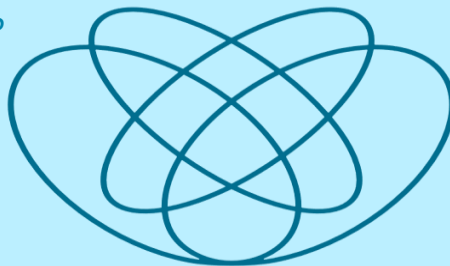
Young people in foster care



Stable transition to adulthood & parenting

What happens while leaving foster care?

Where will we live?




I want us to thrive and be happy

How will I care for myself & family?

How do I secure a good job?



PROCESS PARAMETERS

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| Population Focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16-21 year-old young people in foster care • Are transitioning out of care or contemplating Extended Youth Support Services (EYSS) • Seek education, training, and employment placement support |
| Outcome Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Attainment: High School equivalency & post-secondary enrollment • Employment Training: Work experiences engagement & certification attainment • Employment Placement: Career pathway placement & sustainable wage earned |
| State & County Leads |  <p>Division of Family & Children Services Child Welfare & Office of Family Independence</p> |

WHAT IS ENHANCED TRANSITION PLANNING & CASE MANAGEMENT?


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| <p>✓ Young Parent Engagement Parents and community partners develop “individualized case planning” recommendation to assess barriers to adulthood transitions</p> | <p>✓ Service Navigation Support Staff triage publicly funded programs for young parents to promote informed and consistent case management from DFCS and OFI</p> | <p>✓ Ongoing data feedback loop Established process between DFCS, WorkSource, the GA Policy Lab, and community partners to inform quality and impact of engagement</p> |
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| <p>Comfortable & Positive Transition Meetings The protocols and practices implemented by DFCS staff are proactive and based on near/ long term parent’s needs</p> | <p>Holistic Approach to Services The knowledge and accessibility of DFCS services are specifically designed for young parents related to housing, health, finance, and well-being</p> |
| <p>Prioritizing Community Connections Identification of non-DFCS resources specifically designed for young parents that contribute to emotional, educational, or economic well-being</p> | <p>Emphasis on Culture & Respect The actions and attitudes that shape interactions between staff and young parents are asset-based, youth centered, and holistic</p> |



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

 = Lead Convener

| Department | Unit / Program | Geography |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Dept. of Family & Children Services |  Child Welfare and Foster Care | State & Counties |
| | Office of Family Independence (OFI) | State & Counties |
| | Data Unit | State |
| | Early Childhood Services | State |
| Dept. of Early Care & Learning | Family Support | State |
| Technical College System of Georgia | Office of Workforce Development (WorkSource Georgia and WIOA) | State & Counties, City of Atlanta |
| Community Based Organizations | Amerigroup (Medicaid) | Counties |
| | Covenant House and CHRIS 180 (Housing Navigation & Support) | Counties |
| | Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC) | Counties |
| | Teen Parent Connection (MAAC) | Counties |
| | The Metamorphosis Initiative (peer mentorship) | Counties |
| | United Way | Counties |
| Subject Matter Experts | Youth Advocates Group (Young parents previously in foster care) | Counties |
| | Georgia Policy Labs, GA State Univ. | State |
| Funders | Annie E. Casey Foundation | National |
| | Prudential Foundation | National |



Lead Implementation Team *(alphabetical)*

State DFCS: Candis Jones, Carmen Callaway, Laura Beggs, Lon Roberts

Metro Atlanta: Antoine Roberson (DeKalb DFCS), Carolyn Parker (Region 14 OFI), Delia Hill (DeKalb DFCS), Jerry Kellar (DeKalb DFCS), Karima Scott-Morrow (Fulton DFCS), Lauren Williams (Fulton DFCS)



For more details on the Achieve Process, please contact Lon.Roberts@dhs.ga.gov



SOUTHEAST COHORT ON YOUNG PARENTS & FAMILIES

In 2019 Third Sector worked with the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to identify which of the 8 states in ACF Region 4 could benefit from *Outcomes Orientation technical assistance* to improve self-sufficiency outcomes for young parents and families. Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina were [selected](#) to form the cohort.

Technical assistance, fully funded through philanthropy, is focused on:

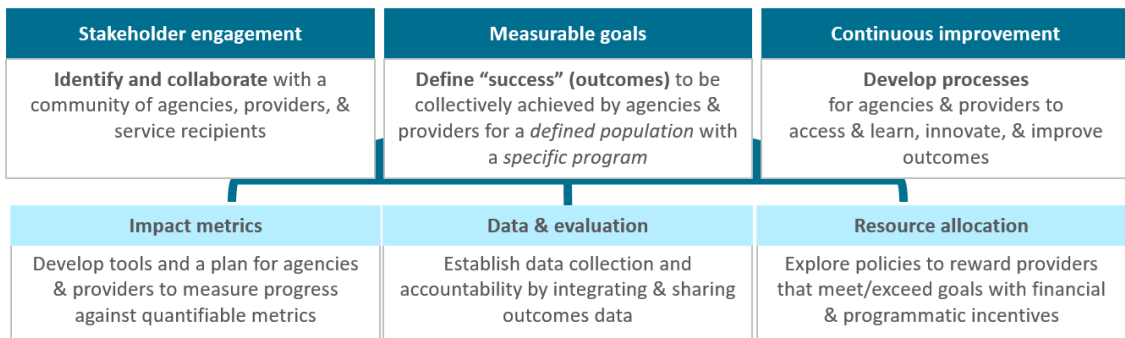
- Improved educational and workforce outcomes for young parents receiving public benefits
- Alignment of multiple programs/funding through cross-agency coordination and data sharing

WHAT IS OUTCOMES FOCUSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (OFTA)?

Social service delivery is serious, complex, and expensive. Governments at all levels are the largest funders of the social sector, spending billions of dollars per year. And yet, this massive universe of funding is often not allocated towards programs that successfully break the cycle of intergenerational poverty or reduce racial inequities.

By adopting OFTA, governments focus on the more impactful changes that result from a program (outcomes), rather than the resources of a program and its activities.

Technical Assistance Focus Areas for Governments to Establish an Outcomes Orientation



ABOUT THIRD SECTOR

Third Sector is a non-profit advisory organization that transforms public systems to advance improved and equitable outcomes. We partner with governments, community-based organizations, and program participants to develop implementation plans that ensure people accessing services from public systems achieve lasting economic mobility and well being. Our “outcomes focused” technical assistance maximizes impact by integrating data, policy, funding, and community insights.

Since 2011, we have worked with +80 communities to deploy over \$850mm of government resources to improve the life outcomes of workforce, education, mental health, justice and family services. When our work is complete, agencies entrusted to use public funds have the systems, tools, capacity and data to do more and do better for their customers and clients.

