

Foster Youth

Foster care

aged out of the foster care system without a permanent placement. Economically, former foster youth also fall behind their non-foster youth peers. Annually

Foster care is a system in which a minor has been placed into a ward, group home (residential child care community or treatment centre), or private home of a state-certified caregiver, referred to as a "foster parent", or with a family member approved by the state. The placement of a "foster child" is normally arranged through the government or a social service agency. The institution, group home, or foster parent is compensated for expenses unless with a family member. Any adult who has spent time in care can be described as a "care leaver", especially in European countries.

The state, via the family court and child protective services agency, stand in loco parentis to the minor, making all legal decisions while the foster parent is responsible for the day-to-day care of the minor.

Scholars and activists have expressed concerns about the efficacy of foster care services provided by non-government organisations. Specifically, this pertains to poor retention rates of social workers. Poor retention rates are attributed to being overworked in an emotionally draining field that offers minimal monetary compensation. The lack of professionals pursuing a degree in social work coupled with poor retention rates in the field has led to a shortage of social workers and created large caseloads for those who choose to work and stay in the field. The efficacy of caseworker retention also affects the overall ability to care for clients. Low staffing leads to data limitations that infringe on caseworkers' ability to adequately serve clients and their families.

Foster care is correlated with a range of negative outcomes compared to the general population. Children in foster care have a high rate of ill health, particularly psychiatric conditions such as anxiety, depression, and eating disorders. One third of foster children in a US study reported abuse from a foster parent or other adult in the foster home. Nearly half of foster children in the US become homeless when they reach the age of 18, and the poverty rate is three times higher among foster care alumni than in the general population.

Tiffany Haddish

focuses on the welfare of foster youth, for her Suitcase Drive for Foster Youth, where she collected suitcases in which foster youth can keep their belongings

Tiffany Sara Cornilia Haddish (born December 3, 1979) is an American stand-up comedian and actress. Her breakthrough came in with a leading role in the comedy film *Girls Trip* (2017), which earned her several accolades and was included on *The New Yorker's* list of the best film performances of the 21st century. She was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *Time* magazine in 2018, and *The Hollywood Reporter* listed her among the 100 most powerful people in entertainment in both 2018 and 2019.

After guest-starring on several television series and a lead role on a cable drama, Haddish gained prominence for her roles in the NBC sitcom *The Carmichael Show* (2015–2017), the TBS series *The Last O.G.* (2018–2020), the Hulu series *Solar Opposites* (2020–present), and the Apple TV+ comedy series *The Afterparty* (2022–2023), portraying Detective Danner. She also executive produced and voiced *Tuca* in the Netflix/Adult Swim animated series *Tuca & Bertie* (2019–2022). Haddish also starred in films such as *Keanu* (2016), *Night School* (2018), *Nobody's Fool* (2018), *The Kitchen* (2019), *Like a Boss* (2020), and *Here Today* (2021).

She won a Primetime Emmy Award for hosting a Saturday Night Live episode (2017) and published a memoir, *The Last Black Unicorn* (2017). She also released the album *Black Mitzvah* in 2019, for which she won the Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album, making her the second African-American woman to win this prize after Whoopi Goldberg in 1986.

Transitional age youth

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Transitional age youth (alternatively: TAY, Transition Aged Youth, Transition-Age Youth, Transitional Age Youth, Transitioning Youth, Transitional Youth, and Youth in Transition) can reference both a developmental period and be a descriptor regarding eligibility for certain services. While there are variations in definitions, the age ranges do consistently overlap and include late adolescence (15–16 years of age) to early adulthood (24–26 years). This range is considered a critical period in human development characterized by several changes socially, environmentally, and cognitively. During this time, individuals can experience changes in their social roles and function, family and peer supports, exposure to substance use, educational and vocational programs, as well as changes in healthcare providers from pediatric to adult settings.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

seven initiatives: Catholic sisters, Refugees, Safe Water, Foster Youth, Opportunity Youth, Early Childhood Development, and Homelessness, as well as

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation is an American non-profit charitable foundation, established in 1944 by hotel entrepreneur Conrad Hilton. It remained relatively small until his death on January 3, 1979, when it was named the principal beneficiary of his estate. In 2007, Conrad's son, Barron Hilton announced that he would leave about 97% of his fortune to a charitable remainder unitrust which names the foundation as the remainder beneficiary.

Nancy Mace

that foster youth activist and children's advocate James McIntyre threatened and physically assaulted her during a handshake at a foster care youth advocacy

Nancy Ruth Mace (born December 4, 1977) is an American politician who has served as the U.S. representative for South Carolina's 1st congressional district since 2021. A member of the Republican Party, she previously served in the South Carolina General Assembly from 2018 to 2020. Her congressional district covers a six-county area that includes Charleston.

In 1999, Mace became the first woman to graduate from the Corps of Cadets program at the Citadel Military College of South Carolina, which was led at the time by her father, Emory Mace, the commandant of Cadets. From 2018 to 2020, she represented the 99th district in the South Carolina House of Representatives, covering Hanahan, northeast Mount Pleasant, and Daniel Island. In 2020, Mace was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, defeating incumbent Democrat Joe Cunningham and becoming the first Republican woman elected to Congress from South Carolina. She was re-elected in 2022 and 2024. In August 2025, Mace announced her candidacy for Governor of South Carolina in 2026.

Karen Bass

and placed in foster care. Starting in May 2012, the Caucus began hosting an annual Foster Youth Shadow Day, during which foster youth come to Washington

Karen Ruth Bass (; born October 3, 1953) is an American politician who has served as the 43rd mayor of Los Angeles since 2022. A member of the Democratic Party, Bass previously served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2011 to 2022 and in the California State Assembly from 2004 to 2010, serving as speaker during her final Assembly term.

After attending San Diego State University and California State University, Dominguez Hills, Bass worked as a physician assistant and community organizer, before being elected to represent California's 47th State Assembly district in 2004. In 2008, she was elected to serve as the 67th speaker of the California State Assembly, becoming the first African-American woman in United States history to serve as a speaker of a state legislative body.

Bass was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010. She represented California's 33rd congressional district during her first term; redistribution of districts moved her to 37th district in 2012. She chaired the Congressional Black Caucus during the 116th Congress. After winning the 2022 Los Angeles mayoral election, Bass became the first woman to serve as mayor of Los Angeles.

Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute

and unique perspectives of children and youth in foster care." To date, there are 234 alumni of the Foster Youth Internship Program. A coalition of national

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is an American non-partisan, non-profit organization "dedicated to raising awareness about the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving families and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right to a family." CCAI was founded in 2001 by advocates of children in the U.S. and around the world in need of families. CCAI seeks to support Congress' Adoption Caucus, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, through educating and informing its members on adoption, foster care, and child welfare issues. Additionally, CCAI serves as a resource for Members of Congress and their staff through the offering of information, resources, and opportunities to engage in adoption and foster care programs year-round. This is done through congressional briefings, leadership training programs, educational trips, and other notable programs. The Institute's work is entirely funded by donations and gifts from organizations and individuals. Kate McLean currently serves as the Executive Director of CCAI.

Aging out

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Aging out is American popular culture vernacular used to describe any time a youth leaves a formal system of care designed to provide services below a certain age level. The age at which a child “ages out” of foster care in the United States varies by state, and is usually between the ages of 18 and 21. Foster youth can choose to participate in extended foster care or not.

There are a variety of applications of the phrase throughout the youth development field. In respect to foster care, aging out is the process of a youth transitioning from the formal control of the foster care system towards independent living. It is used to describe anytime a foster youth leaves the varying factors of foster care, including home, school and financial systems. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services defines "aging out" as when a person applies for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status as a child but turns 21 before being approved.

Keith Hefner

New Youth Connections), written by New York City teens, and Represent (formerly known as Foster Care Youth United or FCYU), by and for foster youth. He

Keith Hefner is the founder and executive director of Youth Communication, an influential nonprofit organization publishing magazines and books by and for youth. The magazines are YCteen (formerly known as New Youth Connections), written by New York City teens, and Represent (formerly known as Foster Care Youth United or FCYU), by and for foster youth. He is also a founder of Youth Liberation of Ann Arbor, a youth rights organization in Michigan.

Foster care in the United States

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Foster care is the term used for a system in which a minor who has been made a ward or a non-minor, typically aged 18–21, who volunteers for placement, is placed in a relative placement, a non-related extended family (NREFM) placement, a community family home, an institution, or a group home (residential child care community, residential treatment center, etc.). Relative, NREFM, and community caregivers certified by the state are typically referred to as "foster parents," "kin caregivers," "resource parents," or other local terms. The placement of the child is usually arranged through state or county social services. The institution, group home, or caregiver is reimbursed for the expenses related to caring for the child. The state via the family court and child protection agency stand in loco parentis to the minor, making all legal decisions, while the caregiver is responsible for the day-to-day care of the minor. Even while their child is in Care, typically birth parents retain Education and Medical rights and the right to contact with their child unless parental rights are terminated by the Court.

In the United States, foster home licensing requirements vary from state to state but are generally overseen by each state's Department of Child Protective Services or Human Services. In some states, counties have this responsibility, often in coordination with non-profit Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). Each state's services are monitored by the federal Department of Health and Human Services through reviews such as Child and Family Services Reviews, Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, and Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System Assessment Reviews.

The foster parent licensing process is often similar or simultaneous to the process to become licensed to adopt. It requires preparation classes as well as an application process. The application varies but may include: minimum age; verification that income is sufficient to meet expenses; a criminal record check at local, state, and federal levels, including fingerprinting and ensuring no prior record of violent crimes or child abuse or neglect; a reference from a doctor to ensure that all household members are free from diseases that a child could contract and are in sufficient health to parent a child; and letters of reference from an employer and others who know them.

Another option for placements are Residential Child Care Communities or, in case of severe behavioral or mental challenges, Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs). The focus of treatment in such facilities is often to prepare the child for a return to a foster home, to an adoptive home, or to the birth parents when applicable; however, some children also stay in long-term care. The effectiveness of these facilities is often questioned, but considerable benefits of these types of care have been found as well. There are some children in foster care who may be difficult to place in permanent homes through the normal adoption process. These children are often said to require "special-needs adoption." In this context, "special needs" can include situations where children have specific chronic medical problems, mental health issues, behavioral problems, and/or learning disabilities. In some cases, sibling groups and older children qualify as "special needs." Governments offer a variety of incentives and services to facilitate this class of adoptions.

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