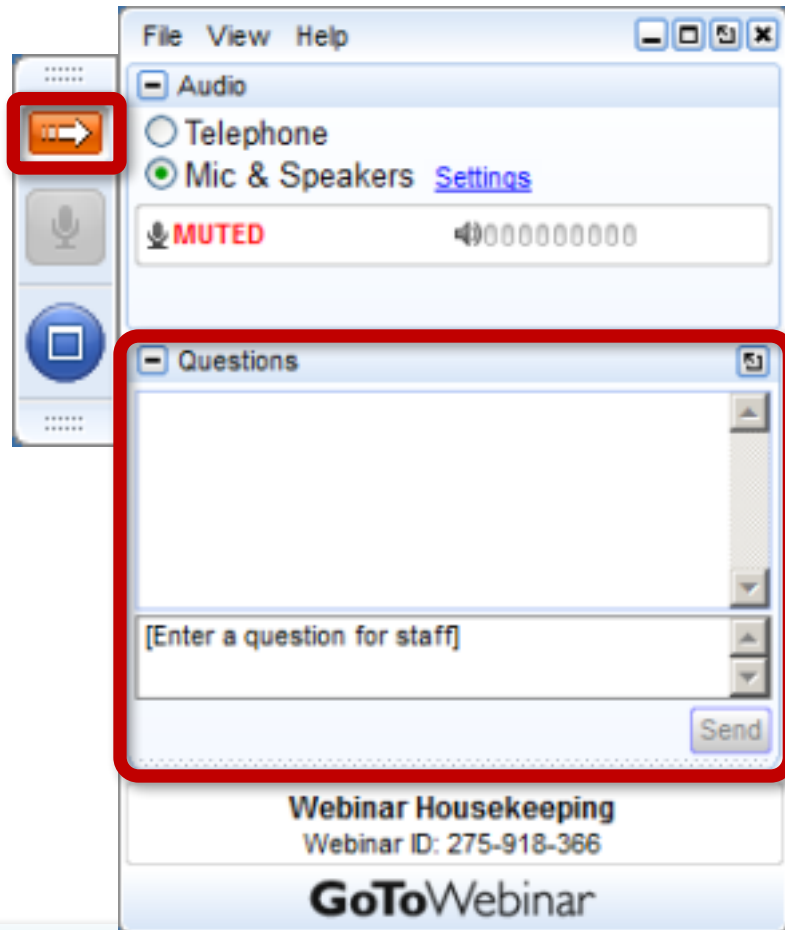


Welcome to the webinar

**National Foster Care Youth and
Alumni Policy Council**

We will begin shortly

Using GoToWebinar



Your Participation

Open and close your control panel

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

Note: Today's presentation is being recorded and will be provided within 2 business days.

The National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council

In Partnership with:



Presenters



Jessica Harris (ME)



Kodi Baughman (IA)



Tamisha Macklin (CO)

Welcome

- We will cover:
 - Brief overview of the Policy Council
 - Homelessness Priority
 - Council work in states
 - What's happening around the country (e.g. 2 sample local programs)
 - *Wrap-up / Q & A*

Introduction

The Council intends to advise by:

- Using their experiences in foster care to identify and inform priorities and offer ideas to improve child welfare policy
- Educating policymakers and other stakeholders about their varied experiences in foster care
- Analyzing effectiveness of programs and policies based on the experiences of youth in foster care

Current Priorities

- Aging Out
- Crossover Youth
- Homelessness
- Mental Health
- Normalcy
- Vulnerability
- Well-Being

<http://nationalpolicyCouncil.org/content/policy-priorities>

Priorities in Development

- Social Capital
- Preventing Entry Into Foster Care

<http://nationalpolicyCouncil.org/content/open-surveys>

Drafting Our Priorities

1. Narrow focus of priority statement
2. Review research
3. Survey constituents
4. Analyze survey responses
5. Brainstorm of recommendation ideas
6. Narrow down
7. First draft
8. Interim drafts, continued review
9. Vote to adopt at in-person meeting

Preventing Homelessness Among Young Adults from Foster Care

Defining Homelessness

An unaccompanied minor or adult without access to consistent housing. This includes living in shelters, on the streets, in car, vacant buildings or couch surfing.

Findings

- Polled 108 alumni of foster care
- 67% of those polled experienced homelessness by age 19

Leading causes of homelessness

- Lack of familial support
- Lack of job or opportunities for employment
- Expensive housing costs
- Unrealistic rental requirements
 - Income
 - rental/credit history
 - upfront cost
- Harsh economic realities

Findings Continued:

Homelessness leads to increased likelihood of:

- hunger
- Unemployment
- depression/anxiety
- drug/alcohol abuse
- domestic violence
- criminal records

Most Expensive Places to Live

Hourly wage necessary to afford a studio/efficiency apartment:

State	Income Needed	Minimum Wage
Texas	\$12.17	\$7.25
New York	\$20.91	\$9.00
California	\$18.88	\$10.00
Indiana	\$10.01	\$7.25
Florida	\$13.44	\$8.05



Priority to Prevent Homelessness

1. Affordable, long-term housing
2. Employment and education opportunities
3. Early planning, saving and financial stability
4. Emergency support

Affordable, long-term housing

- Keep us aware of those options well in advance of our transition planning to help ensure that we are able to pursue them. We would like to be informed about affordable housing at least six months before we exit care.
- Increased access to public housing programs
- Flexibility in time frame for using housing vouchers (18 months at time written)
- Support until age 26
 - Evaluate extended care to ensure our placements keep us off the streets

Employment and education opportunities

- Allow us to have meaningful employment starting at age 16
- Increased independent living skills
- Exploring vocational options other than traditional college

Early planning, saving and financial stability

- We should be encouraged to begin saving by age 14, and we should not be penalized for savings we build up

Emergency support

- Allow us to make mistakes and not loose housing
- Shelters
 - Security and Safety
- Financial Assistance

What's Happening Around the Country

Family Unification Program (FUP)

- Youth at least 18 years old and not more than 24 years old who:
 - Left foster care at age 16 or older or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and
 - Are homeless; or
 - Are at risk of homelessness.
- FUP vouchers used by youth are limited, by statute, to 36 months of housing assistance.

Colorado

Pathways to Success Program

- ▣ The Program started in 2016
 - Five pathways: Housing, Education, Health & Well-being, Employment, Connections
 - Prevention
 - Trauma Informed
 - Youth Driven
 - Strengths-based



Maine Alumni Transitional Grant Program

- Awarded on a first-come, first-served basis (currently serve up to 40 youth at a time)
- The ATGP Navigator will provide postsecondary education support to assist ATGP students in completing their education. (21-27)
- Enrollment in a postsecondary education undergraduate program or technical school certification and demonstrates satisfactory progress



What Next?

Questions?

Thank You

Send questions or feedback to:

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