



Creating lifelong connections for youth.

## Strategies to Locate and Keep Youth Engaged

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a federal reporting system, established by the 2008 Federal Rule, that collects case level information on youth and the independent living services they receive from state agencies that administer the John H. Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), also referred to as the Independent Living Program (ILP), as well as outcomes information on youth who are in foster care or who have aged out of foster care. Youth are surveyed at age 17 during a specific reporting period, again at age 19, and at age 21.

The following is a list of tools and strategies to use to locate and keep youth engaged in order to increase responses for the NYTD follow-up survey:

1. Reach out via Facebook or other social media
2. Utilize a person locator tool (e.g. CLEAR)
3. Reach out to former foster parents
4. Contact former group home personnel or other staff
5. View contacts listed in youth's Transition Plan, IEP, and other documents
6. Check for Public Assistance (food stamps, SSI, public housing, Medicaid, etc.)
7. Check Criminal Justice System (Incarceration)
8. Call Directory Assistance
9. Mail out birthday cards to maintain ongoing relationships
10. Have quarterly check-ins with youth to keep up to date with forms of contact (emails, Facebook, phone numbers, and addresses)
11. Have an activity or event that will draw youth back to complete follow-up surveys
12. Give youth a calendar that includes dates for future follow-up interviews
13. Help youth add reminders to their phone to call or email staff periodically when contact information changes
14. Remind youth about incentive for completing follow-up survey
15. Send out a newsletter to youth you have surveyed
16. Send a thank you note after completing the survey interview

