

**The Nebraska
Foster Care Review Office
B2i Case Review Report**

February 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016



Prepared October 4, 2016

Overview:

Nebraska's Bridge to Independence Program (B2i) was designed to maximize opportunities and supports for the young adult ages 19 and 20 as they transition from foster care to adulthood. DHHS started serving young adults in the B2i program in October of 2014.

The Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) was given the responsibility of oversight by the Legislature to ensure that the program is meeting the needs of young adults who are enrolled in the B2i program. The FCRO began work immediately on the case review tools and development of the process for reviews. Along the way the FCRO consulted with young adults, DHHS, the Children's Commission and B2i committees to ensure that the case review process, data collection tools and data to be collected were aligned with the program's goals.

DHHS Independence Coordinators (ICs) have been working individually with the young adults enrolled in the program since October, 2014. The Young Adult and their IC develop a plan and then work on the goals they have outlined. The IC assists the young adult through "authentic engagement". This ultimately means that the young adult is the decision maker and the IC provides adult counsel and guidance. This ensures that the young adult is taking ownership for their choices and decisions while they have the support of their IC.

Starting in February 2015 the Foster Care Review Office began case reviews with young adults that had been enrolled in the B2i program for at least 4 months, with the goal of reviewing the cases of young adults every 6 months thereafter. All young adults

are reviewed as the YA reaches their 6th month mark, until they age out of the program at 21. Starting in September 2015 the FCRO began second case reviews of those enrolled in the program. As of September 2016 the FCRO has conducted 67 2nd reviews, and 12 3rd reviews.

As part of the case review process, the FCRO Program Coordinator notifies DHHS IC Supervisors and the IC of the young adult's cases that are eligible for review during the next two months. The IC notifies the young adult and a time is scheduled that best accommodates the young adult. The Program Coordinator prepares for the review with the YA by first reviewing NFOCUS and JUSTICE. During the review the Program Coordinator gathers information and insight as to how the program is working from the IC and the YA's perspective.

Initially cases were being reviewed "face to face" in a place of the young adult's choosing. However, conference calls became the standard vehicle for case reviews with the young adult due to scheduling conflicts with the young adult, distance and the need to be flexible in order to meet with the young adult at a time that best met their work and school schedules. It does not appear that the young adult finds the conference call method to be less "friendly", nor do they hold back from participating in a meaningful way in their case review. The final case review report is submitted to the court, the YA's attorney if one has been appointed, the IC, and the YA.

Review Results:

Of the 176 first reviews conducted 166 (94.2%) qualify for the program by being in DHHS custody at the age of 19.

Qualification Reason

	Count	Percent
In DHHS Custody at age 19	166	94.3%
Guardianship after age 16	9	5.1%
Adopted after age 16	1	0.6%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Of the 176 first case reviews:

- There were 119 (67.6%) females and 57 (32.4%) males.
- Race:
 - White 106 (60.2%)
 - Black 39 (22.2%)
 - Other/Unknown 15 (8.5%)
 - American Indian 8 (4.5%)
 - Two or More Races 5 (2.8%)
 - Asian 3 (1.7%)
- Ethnicity:
 - Non-Hispanic 143 (81.3%)
 - Hispanic 29 (16.5%)
 - Unknown 4 (2.3%)
- Service Areas:
 - Eastern 96 (54.5%)
 - Southeast 45 (25.6%)
 - Central 20 (11.4%)
 - Northern 8 (4.5%)
 - Western 7 (4.0%)
- There were 88 (50.0%) living in shared housing, while 26 (14.8%) living in Independent housing.

- Of the population reviewed, 9 were married, 167 were single.
- Of the female population (119), 15 (12.6%) were expecting a child.
- Of the whole population, 43 (24.4%) indicated they were parenting at least one child.
- The eligibility of the young adults at time of entry is:
 - Emp. 80 hours/Month 99
 - Post-Second. Education 61
 - Completing High School 30
 - Special Programs 24
 - Medically or DD Incapable 4**Some had more than one category checked.*
- Almost a third of the population were employed full-time 54 (30.7%), another 50 (28.4%) were working part-time. 52 of the young adults were seeking employment, while 19 (10.8%) were not seeking employment. It must be noted that some of the youth not seeking employment were currently enrolled in school.
- 76 (43.2%) of the population were currently in school. 49 of the 76 were pursuing post-secondary education, 22 were enrolled in high school, and 5 were enrolled in a specialty school.

Review Results Cont....

26 (14.8%) of the young adults indicated that they did not have a copy of their birth certificate at the time of their 1st case review. 2 (2.1%) of the 67 young adults indicated that they did not have a copy of their birth certificate at the time of their 2nd review.

18 (10.2%) of the young adults indicated that they did not have a copy of their social security card at the time of their 1st case review. 5 (7.5%) of the 67 young adults indicated that they did not have a copy of their social security card at the time of their 2nd review.

16 (9.1%) of the young adults indicated that they did not have a driver's license or State ID at the time of their case 1st review. 3 (4.5%) of the 67 young adults indicated that they did not have a driver's license or State ID at the time of their 2nd review.

During the first round of B2i many of the young adults had been out of foster care and on their own prior to enrolling in B2i. Those young adults who were age 20 and almost age 21 had a shorter experience with B2i prior to aging out of the program. Some of those enrolled near 21, aged out before they had a case review. Others were just turning 19 and starting their transition into adulthood and will have the full benefit of B2i until they age out at age 21.

It is the FCRO's intention to continue to examine key data points at the various points of entry to see if the young adults have more or less need of specific services. The FCRO will also examine types of services received from providers while living in certain types of placements.

As this program continues and additional data is gathered from second case reviews we will be better able to analyze the data collected to determine what additional goals are focused on, the appropriateness of the goals based on the needs of the young adult, and the how the young adult is progressing in each goal category.

The goal is that B2i data can be used as a longitudinal approach to measuring the progression of the young adult throughout their time in the B2i program.

For example: stabilization (and sometimes destabilization) of their housing situation; employment; high school completion, and entry into and possible completion of post-secondary education.

It is also envisioned that by looking at areas that the young adult is working on during the ages of 19-20 may lead to the re-examination of the programs and services for youth ages 14 through 18 that are in the foster care system to ensure that those services are developmentally appropriate and aligned with the needs and interests of the youth to better prepare them for their transition to adulthood.

1st Case Review Details

Gender

	Count	Percent
Female	119	67.6%
Male	57	32.4%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Race

	Count	Percent
White	106	60.2%
Black	39	22.2%
Other or Unknown	15	8.5%
American Indian	8	4.5%
Two or More Races	5	2.8%
Asian	3	1.7%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Ethnicity

	Count	Percent
Non-Hispanic	143	81.3%
Hispanic	29	16.5%
Unknown	4	2.3%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Marital Status

	Count	Percent
Single	167	94.9%
Married	9	5.1%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Service Area

	Count	Percent
Eastern	96	54.5%
Southeast	45	25.6%
Central	20	11.4%
Northern	8	4.5%
Western	7	4.0%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Employment Status

	Count	Percent
Full Time	54	30.7%
Seeking	52	29.5%
Part Time	50	28.4%
Not Seeking	19	10.8%
Not Applicable	1	0.6%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Residence

	Count	Percent
Shared Housing	88	50.0%
Independent Housi..	26	14.8%
With Relative	23	13.1%
Dorm/Campus Hou..	10	5.7%
With Parent/Guard..	7	4.0%
Foster Home	6	3.4%
Couch Surfing	5	2.8%
Transitional Housi..	5	2.8%
Other	2	1.1%
Group Home	2	1.1%
Host Homes	1	0.6%
Shelter	1	0.6%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

Eligibility at Entry

Employed 80 Hours a Month	99
Post-Secondary	61
Completed High School	30
Special Programs	24
Incapable	4

Some have more than one eligibility at entry

Pregnant

	Count	Percent
No	104	87.4%
Yes	15	12.6%
Grand Total	119	100.0%

Parenting

	Count	Percent
No	131	74.4%
Yes	43	24.4%
Unable to Determi..	2	1.1%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

IV-E Status

	Count	Percent
No	147	83.5%
Yes	28	15.9%
Unable to Determi..	1	0.6%
Grand Total	176	100.0%

The following data has been filtered to only include 1st reviews between 02/01/2015-09/30/2016