



NEBRASKA
FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE
Good Life, Great Outcomes

Bridge to Independence (b2i) FY2023 FCRO Data

Presented to the b2i Advisory Committee
on October 31st, 2023

DRAFT



Bridge to Independence Extended Foster Care Program (commonly called b2i)

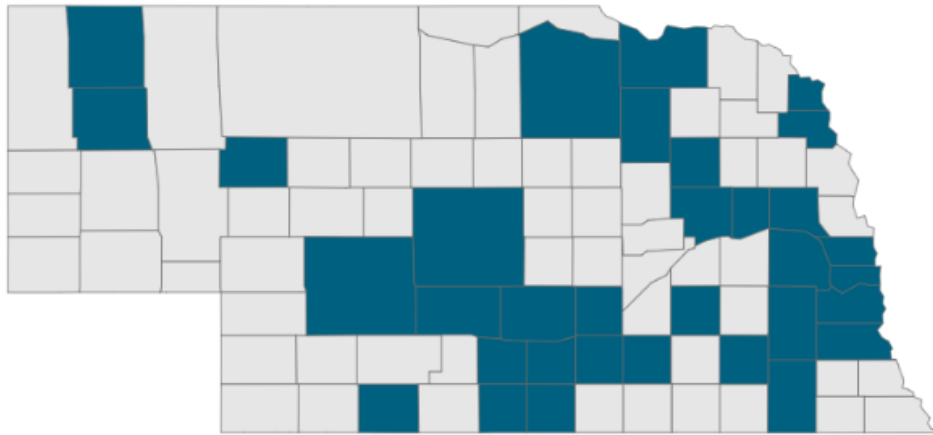
- The Nebraska Bridge to Independence Program (b2i) was designed to provide specific state supports to qualifying young adults ages 19 or 20 who were in foster care and opt to enroll. It is a short-term program that ends supports on the participant's 21st birthday.
- Young adults must meet eligibility criteria related to education and/or employment unless unable to complete due to documented medical conditions.
- They must maintain monthly contact with an independence coordinator who helps them develop and modify their transitional living plan and connects them to available resources, in addition to helping them make progress on their personal goals.

Bridge to Independence Extended Foster Care Program (commonly called b2i) **Case Reviews by FCRO**

- The Foster Care Review Office conducts monthly reviews of a sample of b2i participants.
- Data is collected on specific goals and progress toward each goal the young adult has selected or is working on, as well as some basic demographic information. In addition, overall progress toward independent living is determined by FCRO staff.
- In Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) the FCRO Research Team completed a sample of **199 b2i case reviews.**

Bridge to Independence Extended Foster Care Program (commonly called b2i) **Case Reviews by FCRO Overview**

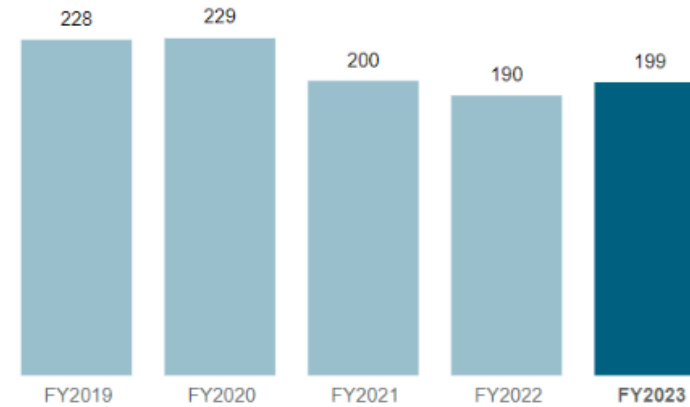
Number of Young Adults by County



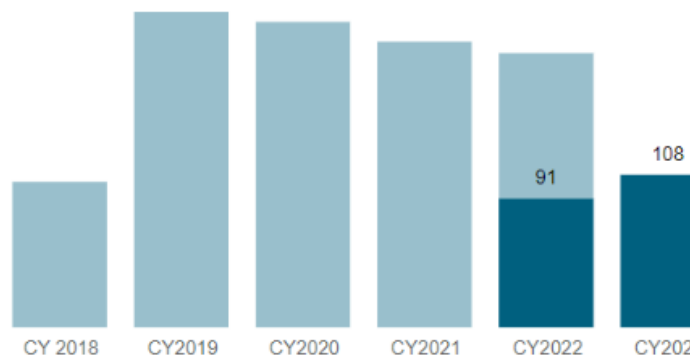
Reviews Completed

199

Reviews by Fiscal Year



Reviews by Calendar Year



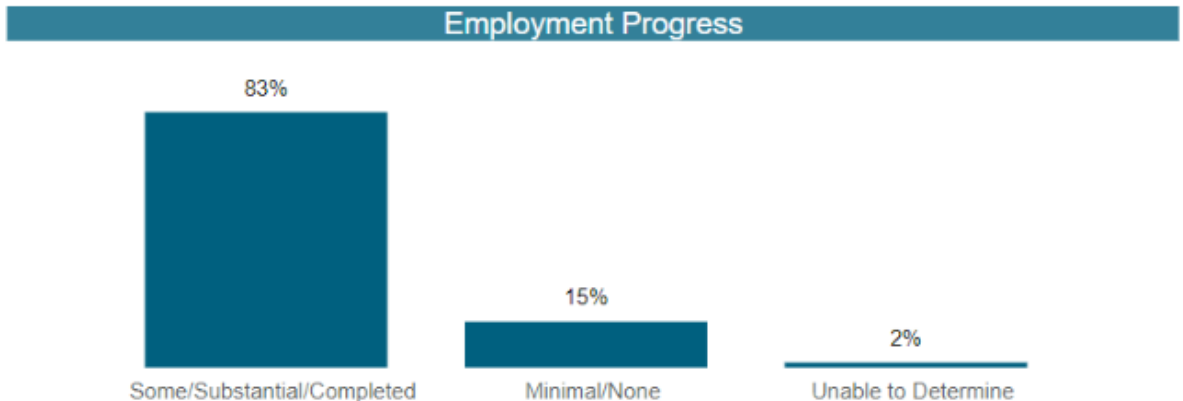
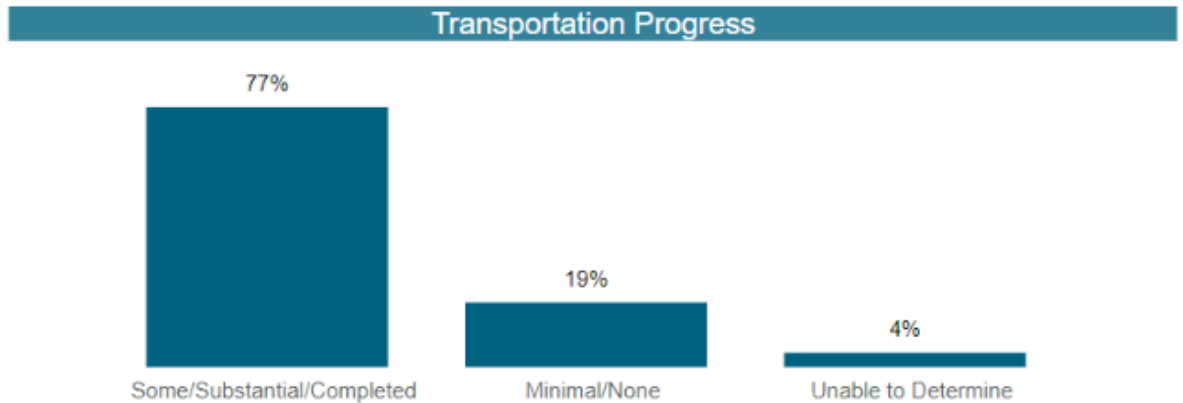
Bridge to Independence: Progress on Goals

The most common goal selected by young adults was **transportation** (95%). Goals in this area may include learning to drive, obtaining a driver's license and insurance, obtaining and maintaining a vehicle, or learning to use public transportation (where available).

- Progress was found for 77% of the young adults, with just over 1/3 (38%) having completed their goal.
- 74% of females were showing progress compared to 78% of the males.
- 80% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 73% for young adults of color.

Most young adults in the b2i program had an **employment** goal (94%).

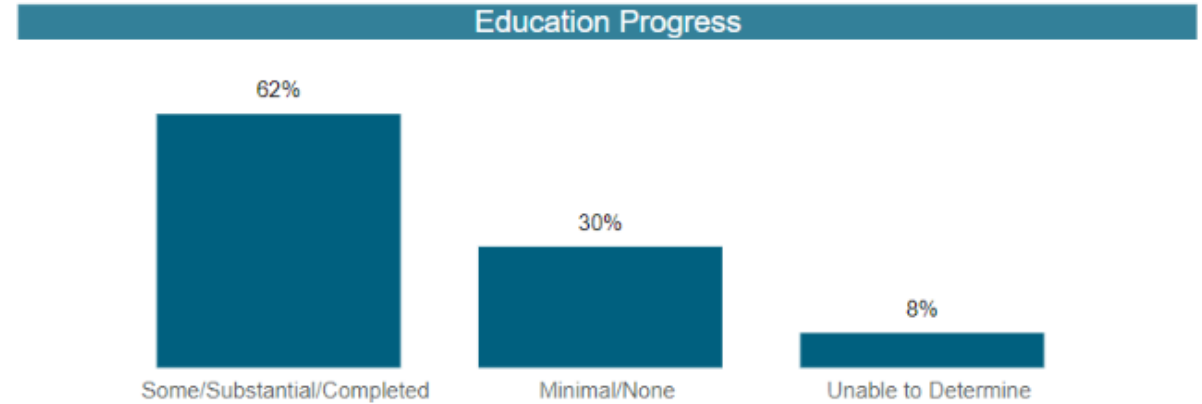
- 83% of those with this goal were making some/substantial progress or had completed their goal.
- 82% of females were showing progress compared to 84% of the males.
- No differences were found between young adults of color and white young adults.



Bridge to Independence: Progress on Goals (Cont.)

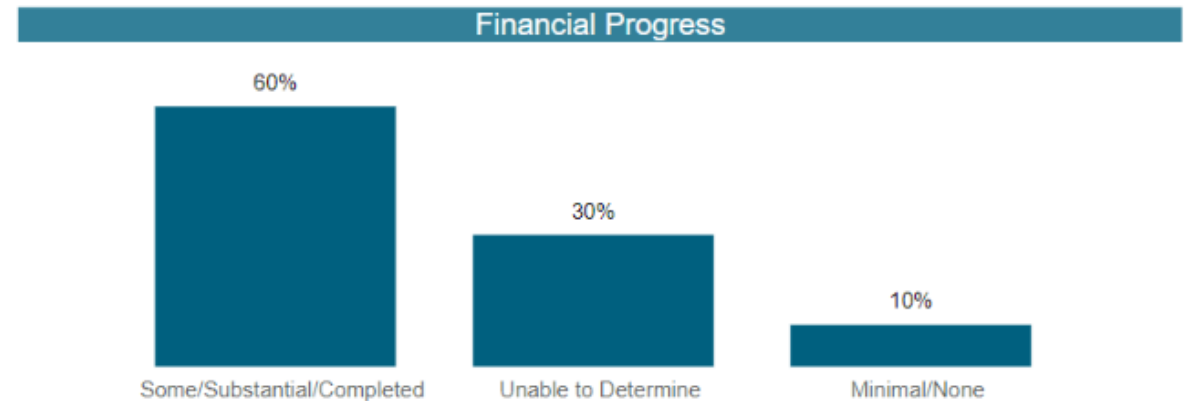
Education is a common goal, selected by 71% of the young adults reviewed.

- 62% with an education goal were making progress.
- 65% of females were showing progress compared to 61% of the males.
- 63% of white young adults were making progress compared to 60% for young adults of color.



Over half of the young adults reviewed (63%) had a goal related to **finance**.

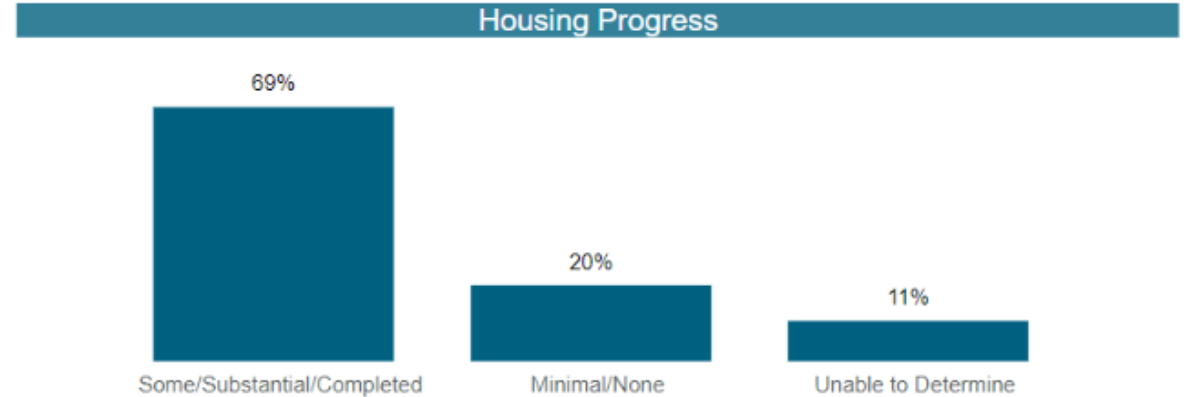
- 60% with a finance goal were making progress.
- 62% of females were showing progress compared to 57% of the males.
- 62% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 57% for young adults of color.



Bridge to Independence: Progress on Goals (Cont.)

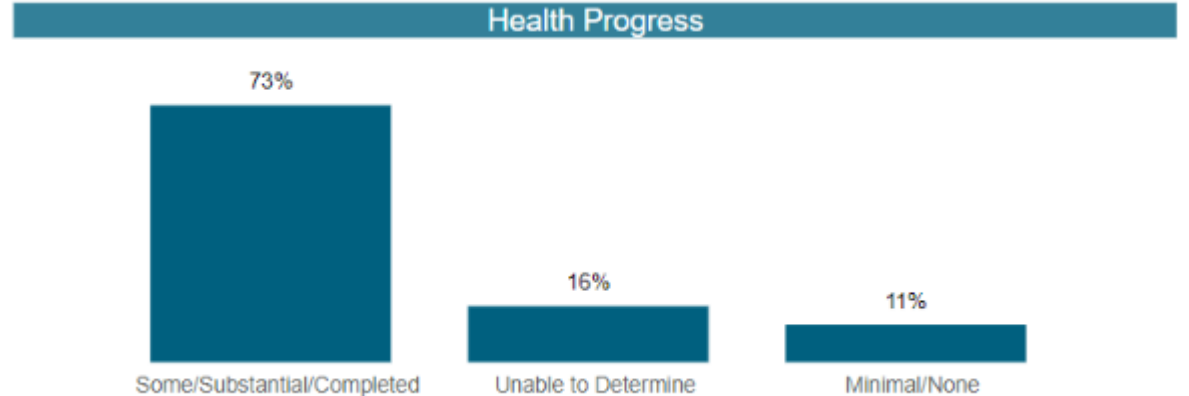
Many (42%) had a goal related to **housing**. Often this related to saving towards having their own apartment or other housing options.

- 69% had made progress towards the goal.
- 73% of females were showing progress compared to 62% of the males.
- 80% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 60% for young adults of color.



A goal related to **health** was selected by 38% of the young adults. Health goals commonly include attending therapy, consistently taking medication, and working to improve their overall wellness.

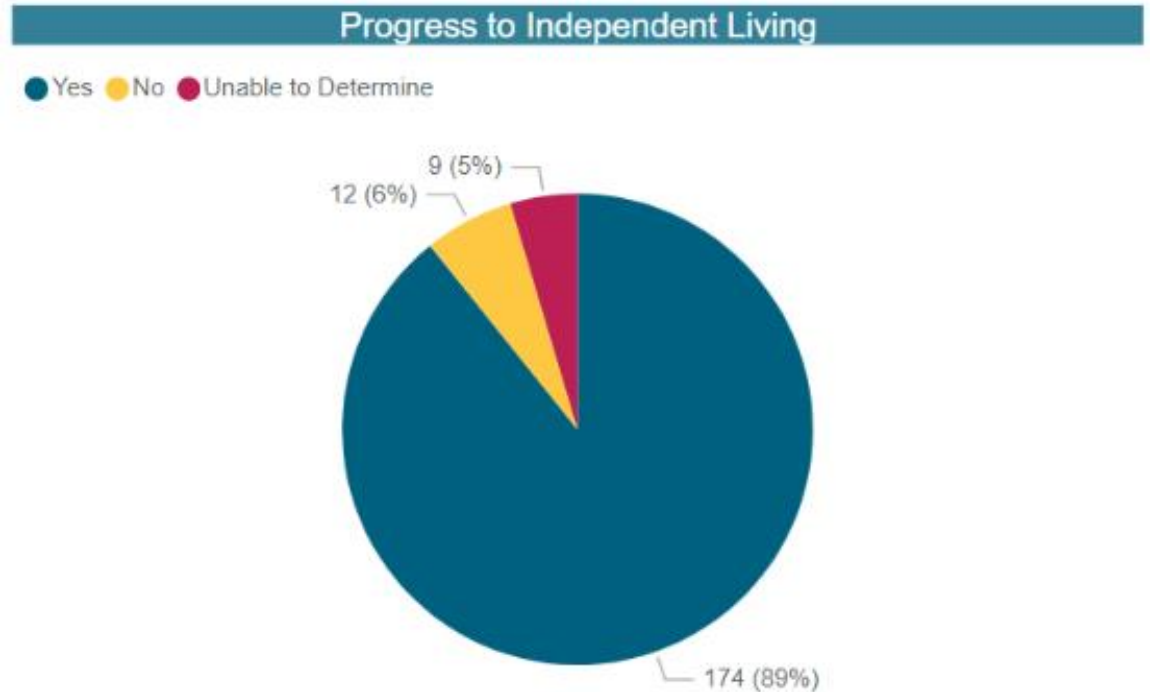
- 73% had made progress towards the goal.
- 72% of females were showing progress compared to 74% of the males.
- 73% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 74% for young adults of color.



Bridge to Independence: Progress on Goals (Cont.)

The FCRO considers b2i participant's goals and progress levels for each aspect of skill building and support when determining the young adult's **overall progress** in the program.

- Most (89%) of the reviewed b2i participants were making progress to "independent living".
- 91% of females were showing progress compared to 88% of the males.
- 90% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 88% for young adults of color.



Bridge to Independence: Overall Progress Factors

More **removals** may decrease the likelihood of making progress.

- 93% of the young adults who had been in care only once were making overall progress as compared to 86% in the 2 or more times in care category.

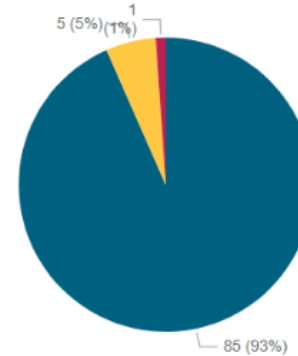
The more **disruptions** the young adult had experienced in childhood, the less likely they were to be making progress toward independence.

- 95% of young adults who had fewer than four placements were making progress compared to 87% of those with four or more out-of-home placements during their childhood.

1 Time in Care as a Child

Progress to Independent Living

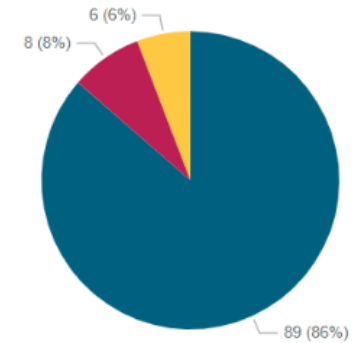
● Yes ● No ● Unable to Determine



2 or More Times in Care as a Child

Progress to Independent Living

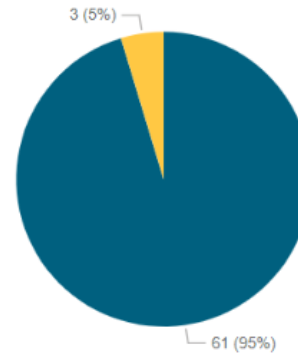
● Yes ● Unable to Determine ● No



1 to 3 Placements as a Child

Progress to Independent Living

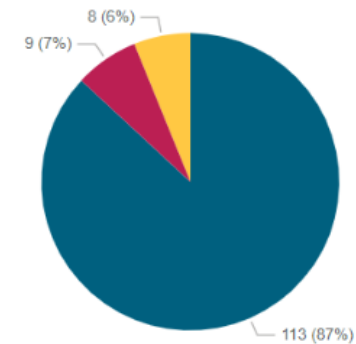
● Yes ● No



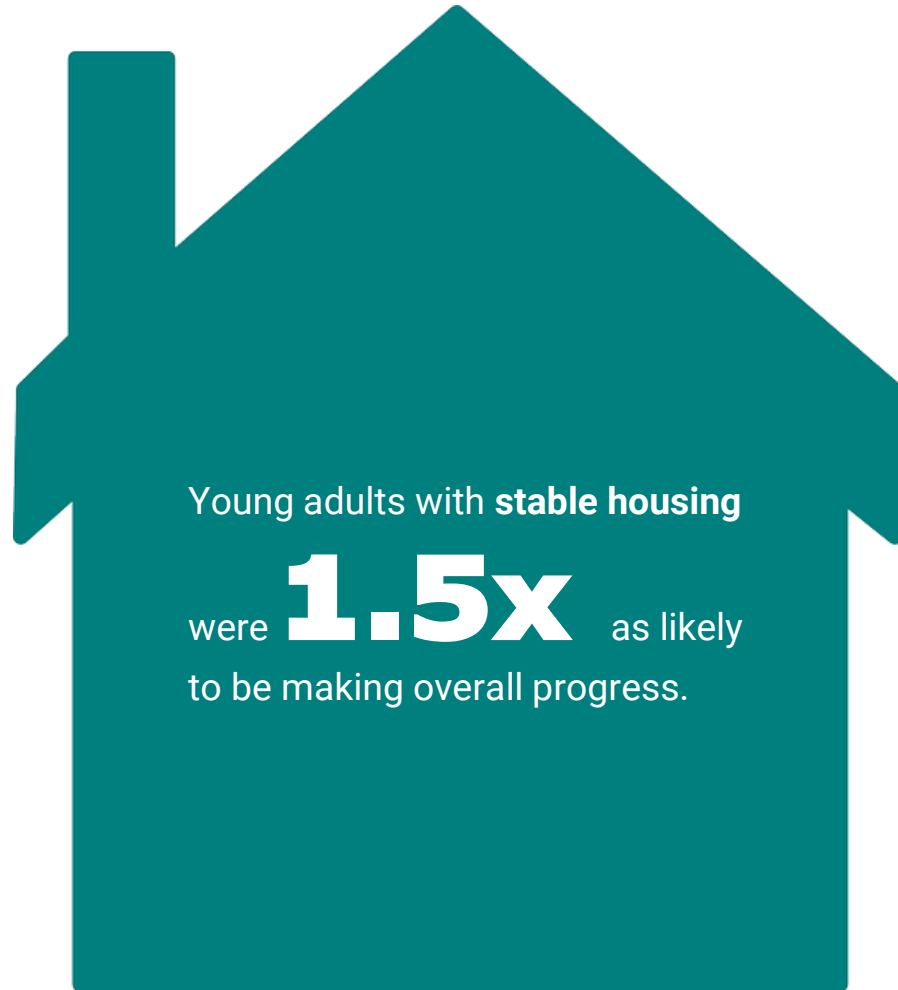
4 or More Placements as a Child

Progress to Independent Living

● Yes ● Unable to Determine ● No



Key Influencers on Progress



Young adults who had **4 or more occurrences of missing** from their out-of-home placement as a minor were

8.1x as likely to have unstable housing.

When housing was found to be unstable, young adults were

11.4x as likely to not have a reliable support system.

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