Nebraska b2i Evaluation
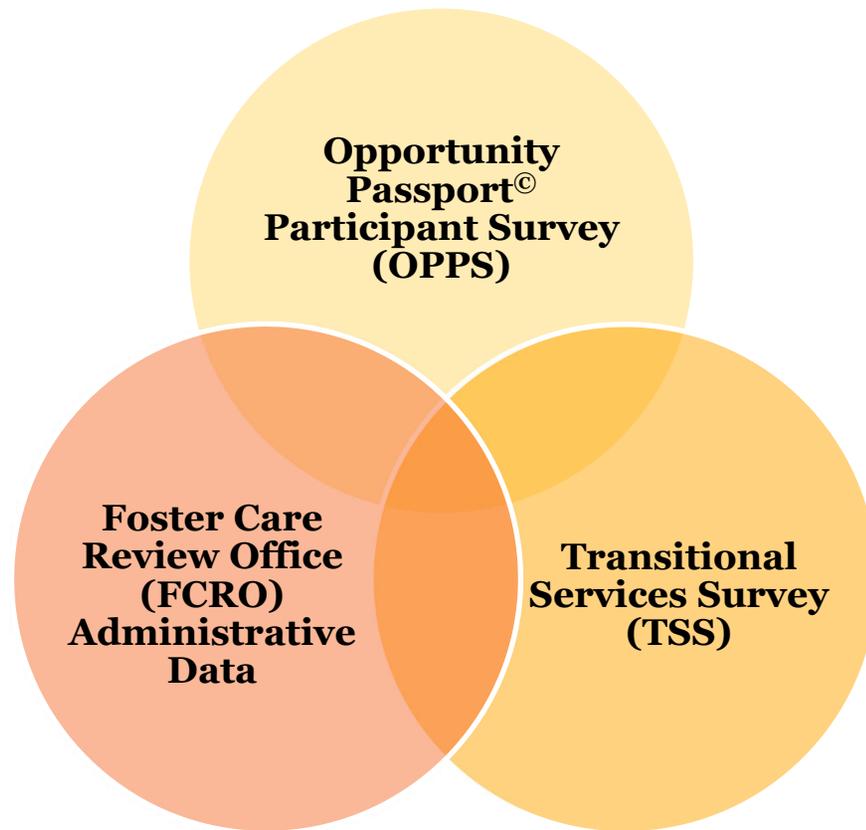
September 30, 2019

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Agenda

1. Data sources

2. Key findings

3. Recommendations

4. Questions

Data Sources

Quantitative Data

Opportunity Passport© Participant Survey (OPPS)

Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) Administrative Data

Transitional Services Survey (TSS)

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Qualitative Data

Focus Group
May 8

+

Interviews
May 9 -24

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Key Findings

Original definition of success was outcomes based

The research team originally defined success using outcomes-based measures, including:

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Educational attainment
- ✓ Financial capability
- ✓ Housing stability
- ✓ Social capital

Young people defined success using less traditional measures

Young people's definitions included attributes other than the outcomes typically used to measure well-being, including:

✓ Setting and working towards goals
✓ Having a positive attitude
✓ Self-advocating
✓ Being involved in the community
✓ Feeling "normal" when spending time with peers without foster care experience

I would say somebody who is successful coming out of [b2i] would be someone who developed goals while they were in the program and achieved those goals. Somebody who came out better than the person they were when they came in.

— **b2i participant**

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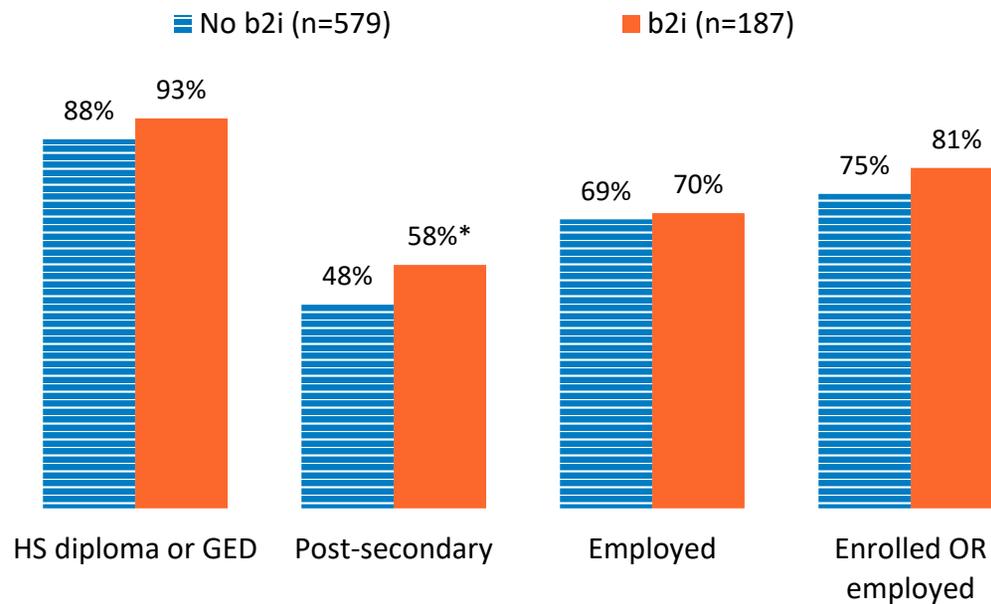# B2i participation is associated with improved outcomes for young people

B2i participants are more likely than their non-b2i peers to:

- ✓ Have some post-secondary education experience
- ✓ Have safe, stable, and affordable housing
- ✓ Be able to cover monthly expenses
- ✓ Have adults to turn to in a crisis or for a loan

Young people who participate in both b2i and in the Opportunity Passport asset matching program through CYI are:

- ✓ More hopeful
- ✓ Have better self-regulation

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Education and employment, by b2i enrollment

Legend: No b2i (n=579) — b2i (n=187)

Category	No b2i	b2i
HS diploma or GED	88%	93%
Post-secondary	48%	58%*
Employed	69%	70%
Enrolled OR employed	75%	81%

Statistically significant difference (p<0.05)

Sources: OPPS data for 19+ from January 1, 2015, through June 20, 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO.

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Safe, stable, and affordable housing, by program involvement

CYI
(n=439) — **73%**

b2i & CYI
(n=89) — **90%***

b2i & CYI
w/ asset matching
(n=123) — **87%***

Statistically significant difference from CYI (p<0.05)

Sources: TSS data from October 2015 through October 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO, and asset matching (Opportunity Passport) flag provided by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

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Covered monthly expenses, by program involvement

CYI
(n=668) — 61%

b2i & CYI
(n=91) — 78%*

b2i & CYI
w/ asset matching
(n=150) — 77%*

Statistically significant difference from CYI (p<0.05)

Sources: TSS data from October 2015 through October 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO, and asset matching flag (Opportunity Passport) provided by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

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Measuring hopefulness

Hope Scale Item	CYI (n=868)	CYI w/ asset matching (n=534)	b2i & CYI (n=131)	b2i & CYI w/ asset matching (n=192)
I am energetically pursuing my goals.	57%	60%	55%	*65%
If I should find myself in a jam, I could think of many ways to get out of it.	54%	59%	*63%	*69%
At this time, I am meeting the goals that I have set for myself.	47%	49%	53%	*56%
Right now, I see myself as being pretty successful.	51%	*56%	53%	*63%
There are lots of ways around any problem that I'm facing.	49%	*54%	58%	*64%
Hope Index (Mean)	**2.68**	***2.89**	**2.87**	***3.22**

Statistically significant difference from those in CYI without asset matching (p<0.05)
Sources: TSS data from October 2015 through October 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO, and asset matching (Opportunity Passport) flag provided by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

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Measuring self-regulation

Self-Regulation Item	CYI (n=868)	CYI w/ asset matching (n=534)	b2i & CYI (n=131)	b2i & CYI w/ asset matching (n=192)
If I think about a situation ahead of time, I can avoid losing my cool.	86%	86%	*92%	86%
I can stop myself when I am going to say something I will regret.	79%	81%	80%	*87%
After leaving a heated argument, I can return and talk to the person I am mad at.	75%	*84%	81%	*85%
I can remove myself from a frustrating situation.	85%	87%	87%	*90%
I value feedback from people about how I handle different tense situations.	84%	*88%	83%	86%
I don't let little things upset me.	65%	*71%	66%	71%
I feel in control of my emotions.	77%	*83%	77%	82%
Self-Regulation Index (Mean)	**5.51**	***5.78**	**5.73**	***5.86**

Statistically significant difference from those in CYI without asset matching (p<0.05)
Sources: TSS data from October 2015 through October 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO, and asset matching (Opportunity Passport) flag provided by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

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Participants reported a positive relationship with their independence coordinator

- Independence coordinators (IC) primarily support young people by helping them identify and access resources.
- B2i participants reported their IC supported them with goals, including the following:
  - ✓ Staying in contact with biological family
  - ✓ Budgeting
  - ✓ Obtaining a driver's license
  - ✓ Signing up for post-secondary schooling (including securing funding)
  - ✓ Improving credit

> She helped from the time I was 19 to the time I was 21, so having that person who is there consistently that knows all your needs and knows what you need, I think that's the best part—and creating that relationship with them.
>
> **—b2i participant**

However, young people may lose a valuable adult connection after exiting b2i

Percent of respondents who report having an unrelated adult to whom they can always turn to for support, by b2i enrollment status

No b2i
(n=579) — 61%

Currently enrolled in
b2i
(n=163) — 73%*

Exited b2i
(n=79) — 66%

Statistically significant difference from No b2i (p<0.05)

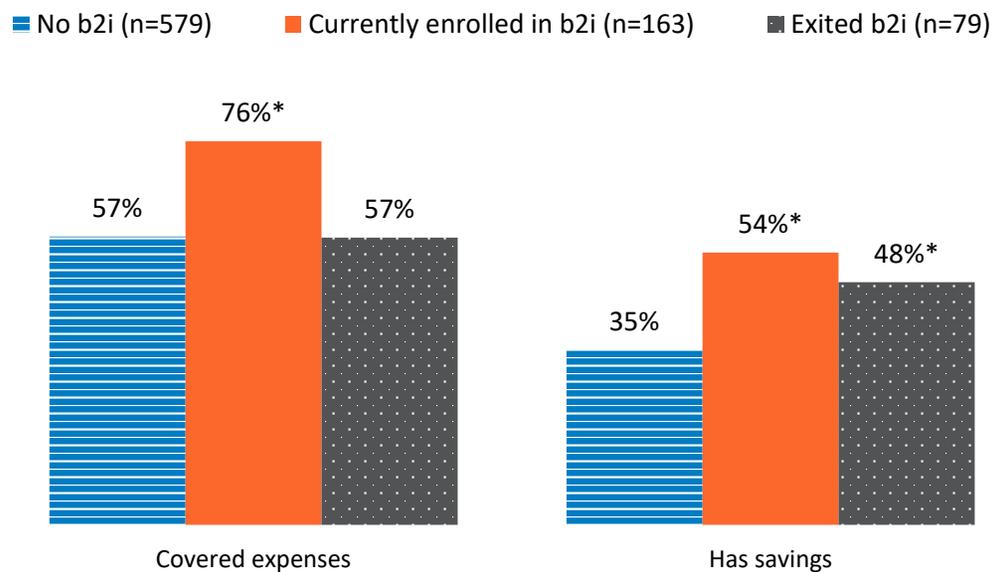*Sources: OPPS data for 19+ from January 1, 2015, through June 20, 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO.*

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Monthly stipend allows for financial security while working toward goals

- For many, the stipend prevents the stress that can come from worrying about expenses and allows them to focus their energy on other concerns, such as school or parenting.
- However, several participants had trouble managing their money when they first began to receive the stipend.
- Former participants also expressed difficulty in adjusting to no longer receiving the stipend after exiting b2i.

I think the financial support helped me a lot to get to where I am today. I didn't have parental support, so it wasn't like I could ask for money. Who am I gonna ask? My friend, who's also struggling in school? … I can't believe how incredibly lucky I was to have that.

— **b2i participant**

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Current b2i participants are more likely than young people without b2i experience to cover expenses and have savings

■ No b2i (n=579)　　■ Currently enrolled in b2i (n=163)　　■ Exited b2i (n=79)

57%　76%*　57%

35%　54%*　48%*

Covered expenses　　　　Has savings

Statistically significant difference from those without b2i experience (p<0.05)

Sources: OPPS data for 19+ from January 1, 2015, through June 20, 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO.

Former b2i participants reported mixed results on housing measures

Safe, stable, and affordable housing, by b2i enrollment status

No b2i
(n=390) — 72%

Currently enrolled in b2i
(n=125) — 82%*

Exited b2i
(n=51) — 92%*

Homeless or couch surfing in the past six months, by b2i enrollment status

No b2i
(n=390) — 48%

Currently enrolled in b2i
(n=115) — 39%*

Exited b2i
(n=68) — 49%

Statistically significant difference from those without b2i experience (p<0.05)

Sources: OPPS data for 19+ from January 1, 2015, through June 20, 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO.
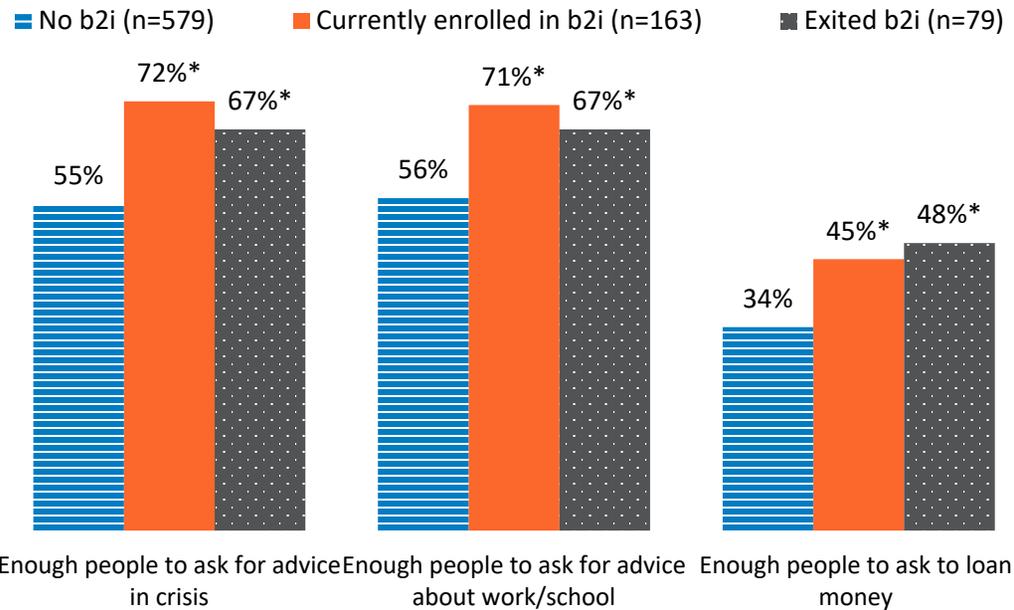
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KM13   Any reason to add something about what you think the issue is--measurement limitation (not collecting at all points in time)?
Karin Malm, 9/24/2019

B2i participants were more likely to report having people to turn to for advice or a loan

■ No b2i (n=579)   ■ Currently enrolled in b2i (n=163)   ▦ Exited b2i (n=79)

Category	No b2i	Currently enrolled	Exited
Enough people to ask for advice in crisis	55%	72%*	67%*
Enough people to ask for advice about work/school	56%	71%*	67%*
Enough people to ask to loan money	34%	45%*	48%*

Statistically significant difference from those without b2i experience (p<0.05)

Sources: OPPS data for 19+ from January 1, 2015, through June 20, 2018. B2i flag provided by FCRO.

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Participants preparing to leave b2i expressed concern about covering their expenses

- Some current b2i participants worry about transportation or housing when no longer receiving the program stipend.
- Even with concerns, those participants report coordinators were helping them plan for the transition.
- Several report a more formal transition process would be helpful.
- Several report a gradual reduction of the stipend over the last few months would give time to adjust finances.

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B2i participants' experiences with case management at young ages varied

- Some participants report not receiving b2i information until the last month or so before aging out, they did note caseworkers helped quickly connect them to the program.
- Participants did not uniformly report that their caseworker was the first or most informative source of information about b2i.
- Several participants report initial reservations about having an independence coordinator because of their previous experiences in foster care.

[My independence coordinator] was a person who was put into my life as someone who is helping me succeed, so I shouldn't see [them] as an enemy. That can be a problem coming from the foster care system. Even throughout some of my cases, I felt I wasn't being advocated for properly, so I felt my needs weren't being addressed all the time.

— **b2i participant**

Recommendations

Recommendations

- Staff and agencies should work to ensure that young people are prepared for b2i prior to enrollment.
- B2i participants need more support and guidance to prepare for exiting the program.
  - ➢ Require savings accounts
  - ➢ Leverage Opportunity Passport
  - ➢ Provide timely information
  - ➢ Taper off the stipend
- Future examination of program success must reflect participant definitions of success in b2i.
- Data on participants' knowledge, perceptions, and outcomes should be collected at different stages of the program.

Questions?
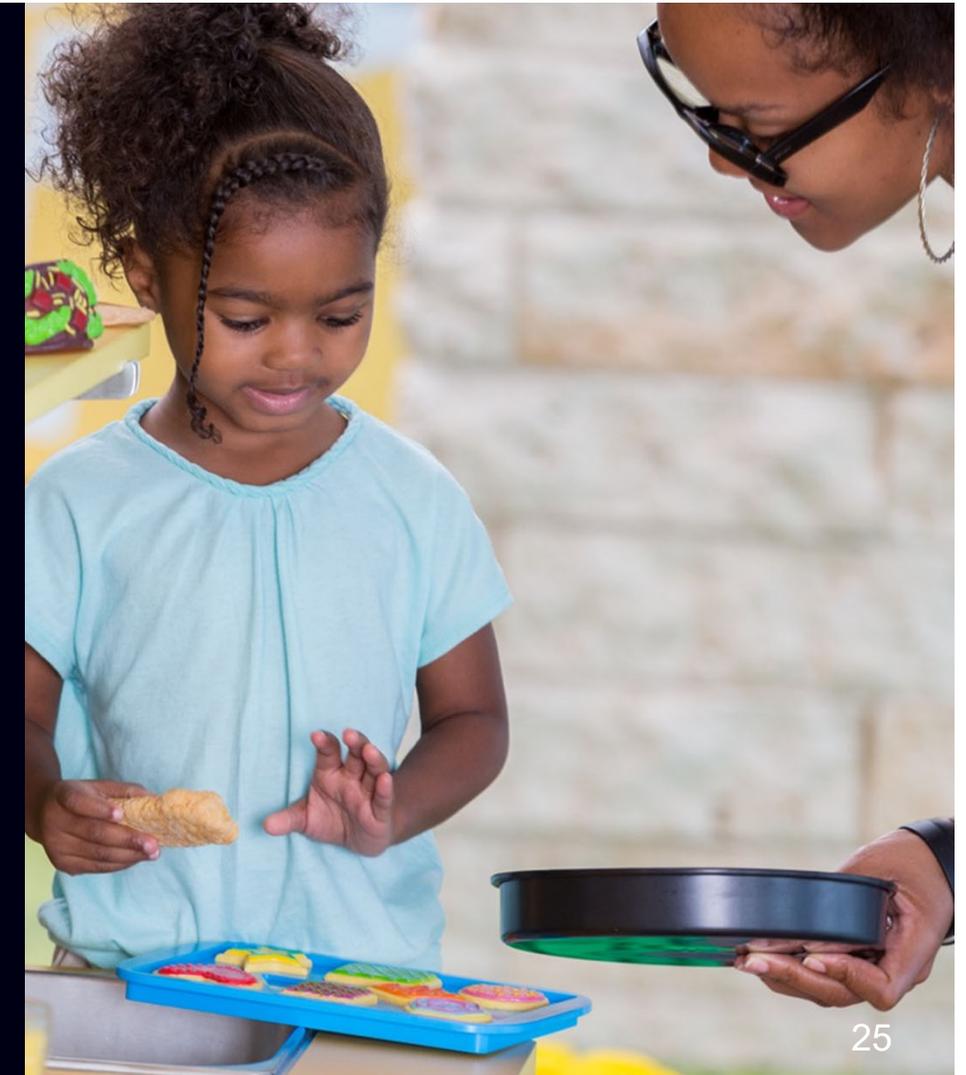
Thank you!

- www.childtrends.org

- ksepulveda@childtrends.org