

---

# BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## UPDATE

The Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee last met on March 5, 2019. Below is an update on the work of the Committee.

### LB332 DISCUSSION

Members reviewed the proposed LB332 regarding the B2i program and Advisory Committee. During discussion members discussed the complications that arise for Tribal youth who reach the age of majority at age 18 per Tribal law, but are not eligible for the B2i program until 19. The Committee recommended an amendment to LB332 that would extend eligibility for native youth aging out of tribal court proceedings at the age of majority as defined by the tribe. However, in the meeting follow up, it was determined that this change would require an analysis of the fiscal impact of this population expansion. While the recommendation may not be feasible for the current legislative session, the B2i Advisory Committee will continue to examine potential recommendations on the issue for their 2019 report.

### B2I EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Several organizations in Nebraska are working with Child Trends, a nationally renowned non-profit research center, are doing a study to learn more about programs and services in Nebraska that engage young adults who have foster care experience, such as the Bridge to Independence program (b2i). As part of this study, we are asking young people who are currently and formerly engaged in these programs and services join us for a discussion group. The goal of this discussion group is to learn more about how these programs and services are helping young people. This information, combined with other information collected in the study, will be used to help improve programs and services. General information is included below with additional information included as handouts.

### LOCATION OF FOCUS GROUPS

There will be four total focus groups, two in Omaha and two in Columbus.

### SCHEDULING OF FOCUS GROUPS

Each focus group will last for approximately 1.5 hours and will occur in April. We want the scheduling of the focus groups to work for as many young adults as possible, so exact dates and times will be determined after a sample of young people are recruited.

### RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS

Please see attached flyer regarding initial contact and recruitment. The initial sample will be “young people age 19 or older, who were in foster care in 2010 or later, and were in foster care after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.” Within both communities, one focus group will be comprised of youth currently participating in b2i or other extended care activities with the other focus group consisting of youth no longer participating or who never participated in extended care services.

Incentives for participation include an Amazon gift card, meal during the focus group, an additional raffle for those that attend, child care, and reimbursement for travel.

### FOCUS GROUP DOCUMENTS

The workgroup reviewed several documents developed by ChildTrends in preparation for the focus groups. This included a review of the informed consent form and outline for the focus group interviews (see attachment). Several suggestions were made to ensure that the questions reflect some of the program issues and concerns that are difficult to capture through quantitative data.