



NEBRASKA
FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE
Good Life, Great Outcomes

Bridge to Independence (b2i) CY2025 FCRO Data

Presented to the b2i Advisory Committee
April 28th, 2026

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

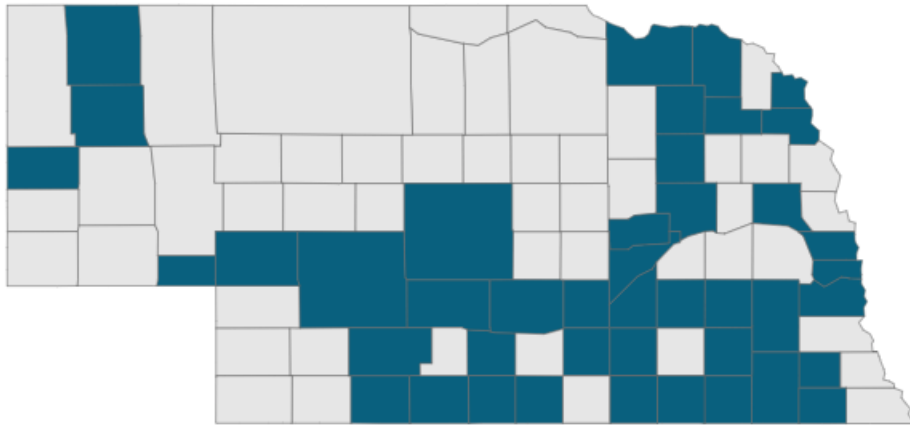
- The Nebraska Bridge to Independence Program (b2i) was designed to provide specific state supports to qualifying young adults ages 19 and 20 who were in foster care and opt to enroll. It is a short-term program that ends supports on the participant's 21st birthday.
- Young adults must meet eligibility criteria related to education and/or employment unless they are unable to complete criteria 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.

B2I Case Reviews by FCRO

- The Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) conducts monthly reviews on a sample of current 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 evaluated by FCRO staff.
- In Calendar Year 2025 (CY2025) the FCRO Research Team completed a sample of **252 b2i case reviews.**

Overview of B2I Case Reviews by FCRO

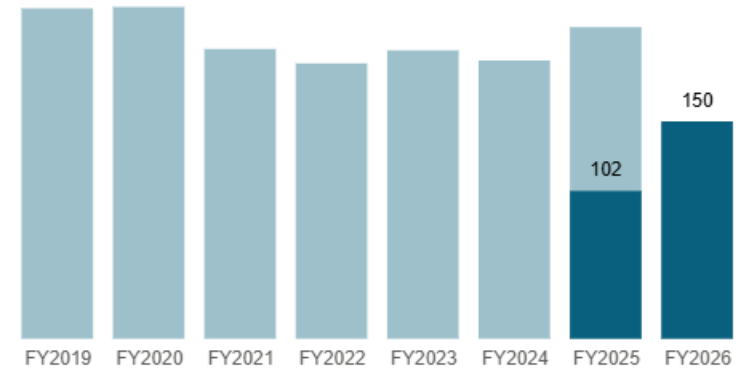
Number of Young Adults by County



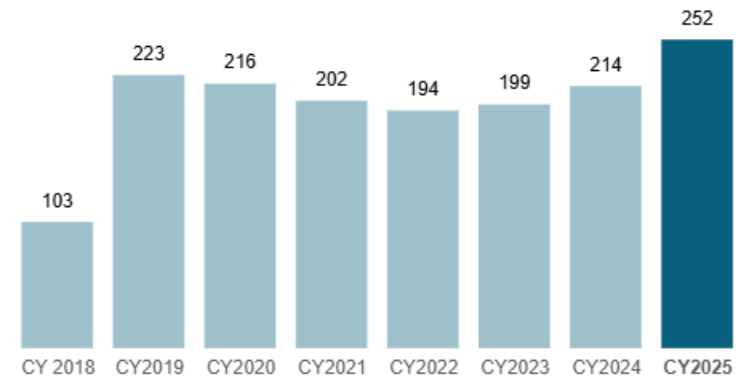
Reviews Completed

252

Reviews by Fiscal Year



Reviews by Calendar Year



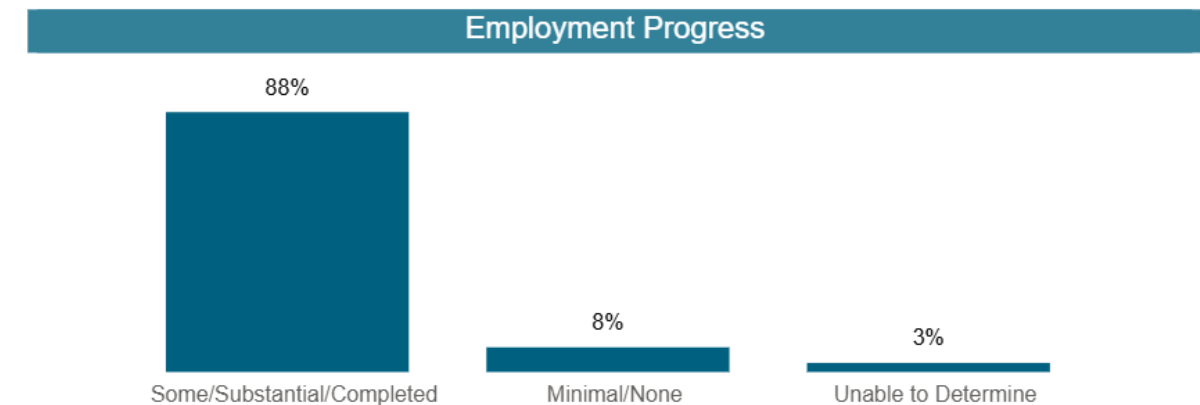
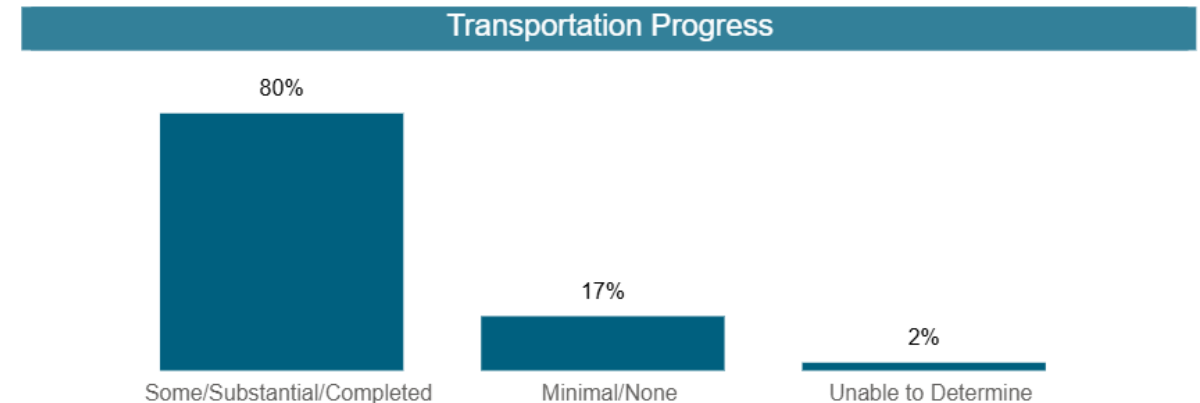
Bridge to Independence: Progress on Goals

The most common goal selected by young adults was **transportation** (95.6%). 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 80% of the young adults, with 45% having completed their goal.
- 81% of females were showing progress compared to 79% of the males.
- 83% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 79% for young adults of color.

Most young adults in the b2i program had an **employment** goal (89.7%).

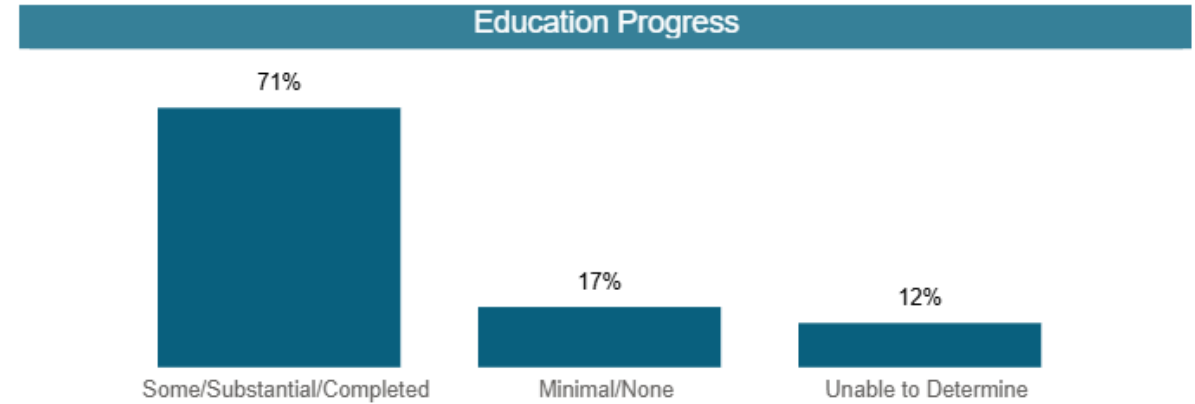
- 88% of those with this goal were making progress on their goal, with 74% of those having completed their employment goal.
- 86% of females were showing progress compared to 92% of the males.
- 94% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 85% for young adults of color.



Bridge to Independence: Progress on Goals (Cont.)

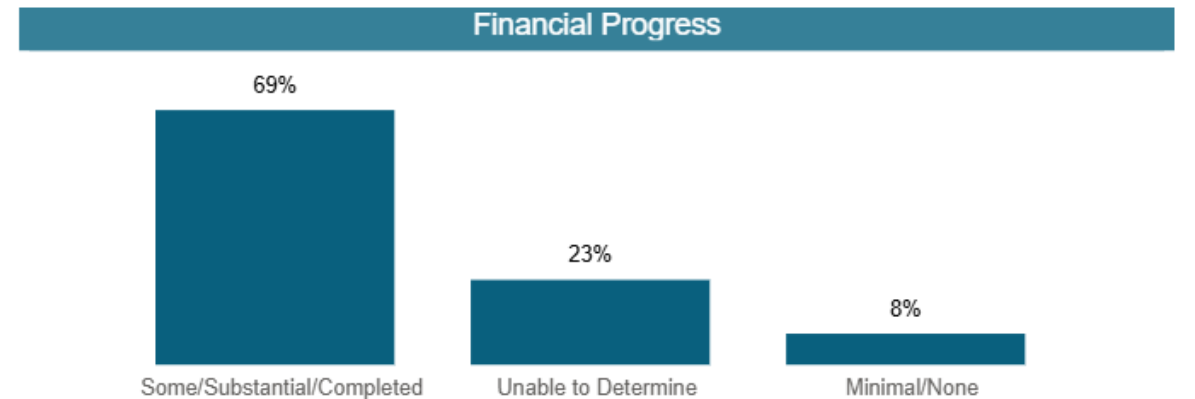
Education is a common goal, selected by 71.8% of the young adults reviewed.

- 71% with an education goal were making progress.
- 73% of females were showing progress compared to 68% of the males.
- 79% of white young adults were making progress compared to 66% for young adults of color.



Over half of the young adults reviewed (71.0%) had a goal related to **finance**.

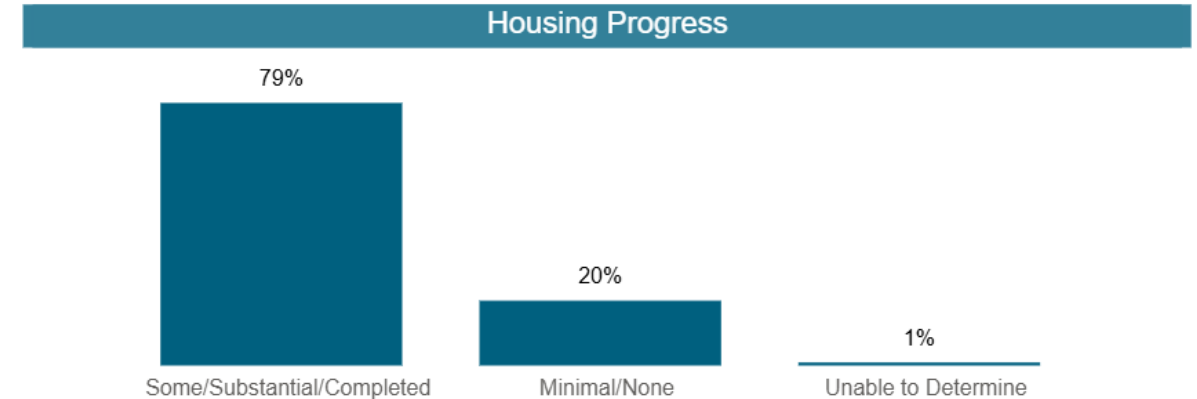
- 69% with a finance goal were making progress.
- 69% of females were showing progress compared to 69% of the males.
- 67% of white young adults were making progress compared to 70% for young adults of color.



Bridge to Independence: Progress on Goals (Cont.)

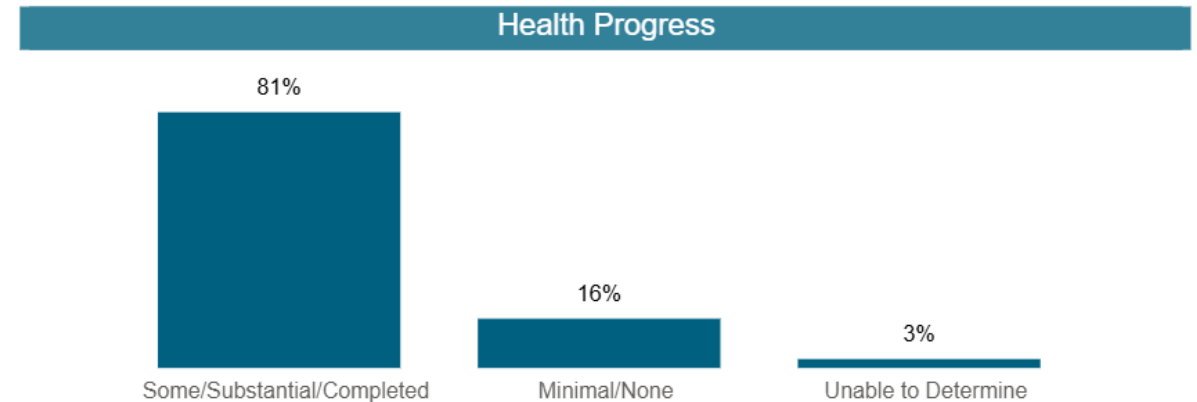
Less than half (42.5%) had a goal related to **housing**. Often this related to saving towards having their own apartment or other housing options.

- 79% had made progress towards their goal, with 55% having completed their goal.
- 84% of females were showing progress compared to 72% of the males.
- 83% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 76% for young adults of color.



A goal related to **health** was selected by 27.8% of the young adults. Health goals commonly include attending therapy, consistently taking medication, and working to improve their overall wellness.

- 81% had made progress towards their health goal.
- 88% of females were showing progress compared to 54% of the males.
- 97% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 69% for young adults of color.



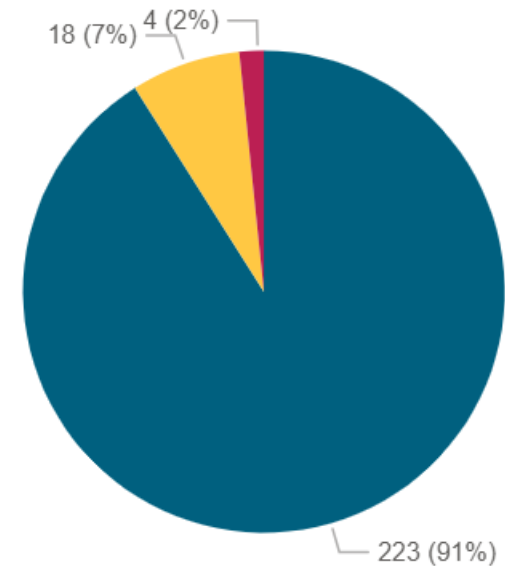
Bridge to Independence: Overall Progress

The FCRO considers a 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 (91%) of the reviewed b2i participants were making progress to "independent living".
- 91% of females were showing progress compared to 91% of the males.
- 96% of white young adults were showing progress compared to 88% for young adults of color.

Progress to Independent Living

● Yes ● No ● Unable to Determine



Bridge to Independence: Overall Progress Factors

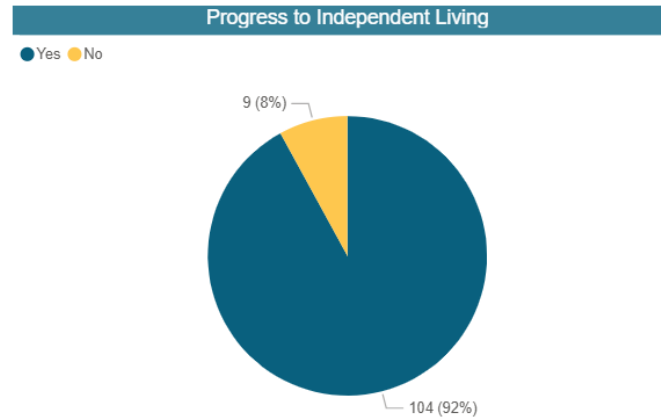
More **removals** may slightly decrease the likelihood of making progress as a young adult.

- 92% of the young adults who had been in care only once were making overall progress as compared to 89% in the 2 or more times in care category.

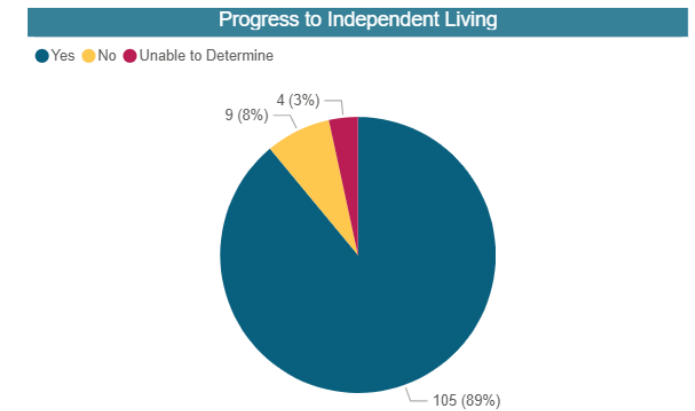
The more **placement disruptions** the young adult had experienced in childhood, the less likely they were to be making progress toward independence.

- 95% of young adults who had fewer than four placements were making progress compared to 89% of those with four or more out-of-home placements during their childhood.

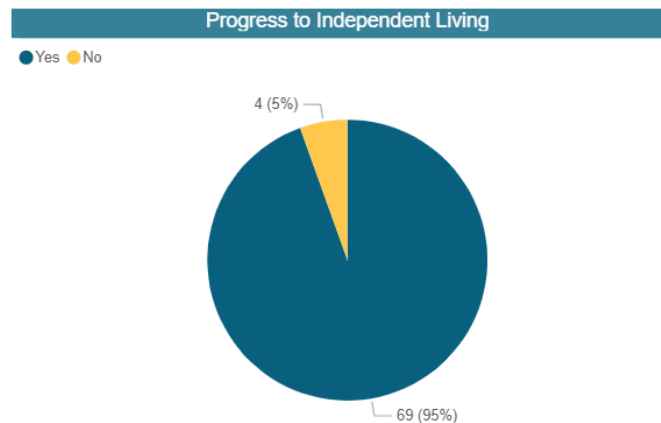
1 Time in Care as a Minor



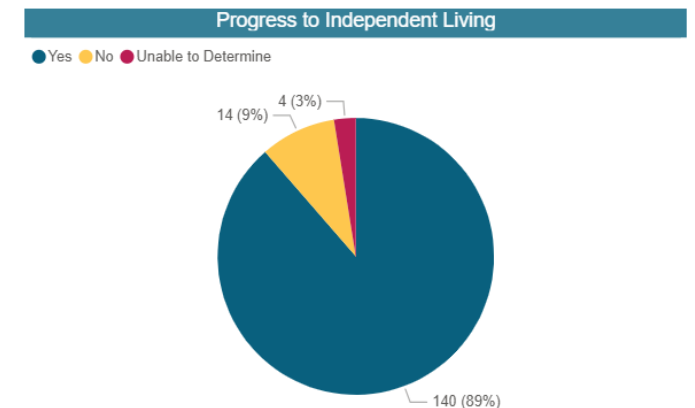
2 or More Times in Care as a Minor



1 to 3 Placements as a Minor



4 or More Placements as a Minor



Key Influencers on Progress

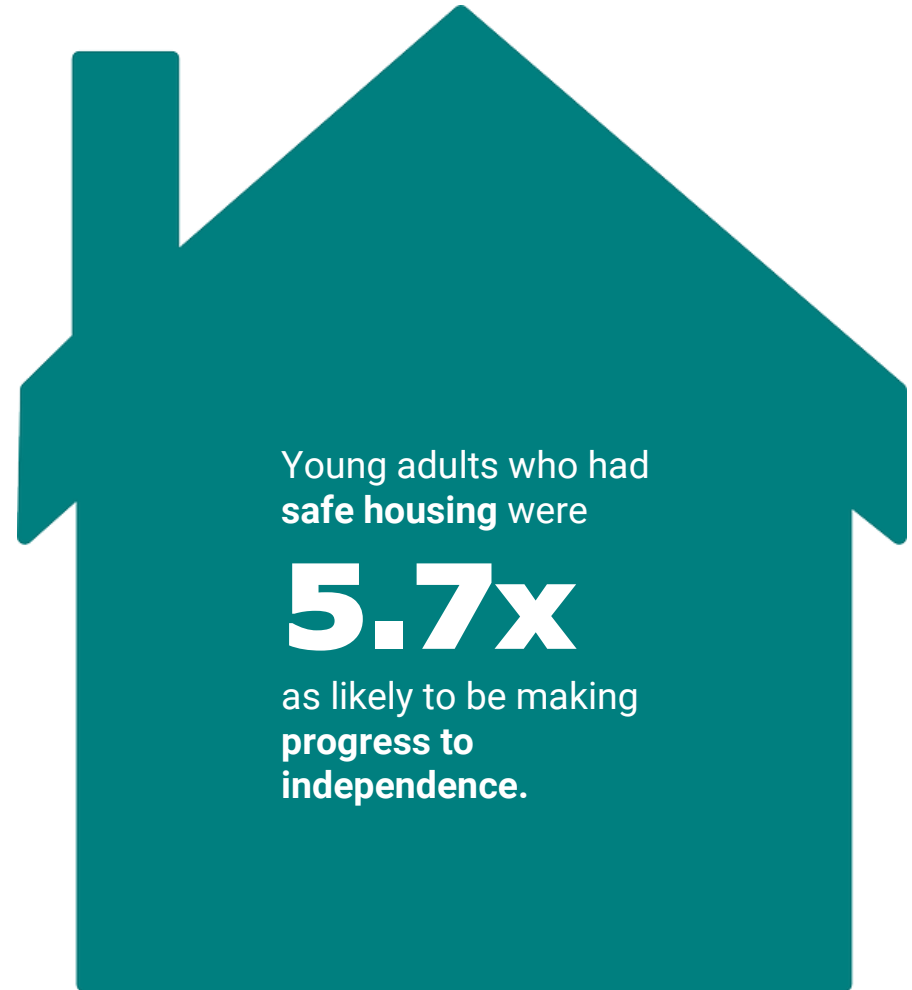


Young adults **without a reliable support system** were

5.3x as likely to have a **health goal**.

When young adults had **4 or more times missing from care** as a minor in out-of-home care,

they were **6.3x** as likely to **not be making progress on their health goal**.



Young adults who had **safe housing** were

5.7x
as likely to be making **progress to independence**.

In Summary

- During Calendar Year 2025, the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) completed 252 case reviews on young adults participating in the b2i program.
- The most frequently selected goals were Transportation (95.6%), Employment (89.7%), Education (71.8%), Finance (71.0%), Housing (42.5%), and Health (27.8%).
- Females tended to be making more progress on transportation, education, housing, and health goals.
- White young adults tended to be making more progress on goals than young adults of color.
- However, young adults of color tended to be making more progress on financial goals.
- Overall, 91.0% of young adults were making progress to “independent living”; with more progress seen for those who had only one removal from their home as a minor and those with fewer placement changes while in out-of-home care.
- Young adults without a reliable support system were 5 times as likely to have a health goal.
- When b2i participants had 4 or more times missing from their out-of-home care placement as a minor, they were 6 times as likely to not be making progress on their health goal.
- Young adults who had safe housing were nearly 6 times as likely to be making progress on independent living.

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