

Research with the Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub

Project Summary

The [Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub](#) (TAY-Hub) is seeking written letters of interest for applied research that can support the development of improved policies and practices for young people living in or exiting foster care placements.

Scope of Work

We are interested in funding both quantitative and qualitative research studies conducted with California populations. Topics of interest related to transition-age youth include: the distinct needs and experiences of youth of color, parenting, housing, behavioral health, income support, youth with disabilities, education, and justice system involvement, among others. For example, studies may address the following questions:

- Education: What factors are associated with success in secondary and post-secondary education among young people who lived in foster care?
- Social support: What do we know about the social connections of young people transitioning from care? Is the nature of their social support tied to later outcomes?
- Behavioral health: What kinds of services do young people with behavioral health needs receive as they transition to adulthood? How effective are those services?
- Complex needs: How many young people aging out of care experience one or more disabling conditions? How are disabling conditions associated with outcomes? Are young people able to access services for persons with disabilities?
- Two-generations: What are needs and experiences of young people who are parents as they transition to adulthood?
- Housing: The extension of foster care created new living arrangements. To what extent do these settings meet the needs of young adults living in care?
- Experience with public systems: To what extent do young people transitioning to adulthood rely on systems of support outside of the child welfare system (e.g., CalFresh, SSI, housing assistance)? What are their patterns of public benefit program utilization? How does service utilization differ for young people who are eligible for extended foster care compared to TAY who are ineligible (i.e., a young person who lived in foster care but was not in care on their 18th birthday)?
- County context: How do the California county context and operation of county public child welfare and allied systems influence services young people receive during the transition to adulthood?
- Disparities in service receipt and outcomes by race, ethnicity, and gender: How are race, ethnicity, and gender associated with youths' receipt of child welfare services and services provided by allied public systems? How are race, ethnicity, and gender associated with youths' outcomes during the transition to adulthood? What factors drive observed disparities?

Studies may leverage data from the [California Child Welfare Indicators Project](#) or [CalYOUTH surveys](#). IRB permissions and California Department of Social Services approval for data access will be required.

Contractor Requirements

We expect to offer several awards that may vary in size. Analyses that leverage existing data are anticipated to be lower in cost (ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000). Studies that involve primary data collection can range from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

We prefer to offer the awards in the form of contracts, personal service agreements, or honoraria but we are able to accommodate grants made through an institution (which may also affect the size of the grant). We plan to prioritize the inclusion of researchers who have lived experience in foster care and those from communities of color. The award period ranges from April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Funded projects will be expected to present the findings of their research at a convening held in Summer 2024.

Proposal Components

Interested individuals and organizations are asked to submit a letter of interest so we can assess the overall fit of the proposal with the purposes of the small grant program and provide feedback to potential grantees. The letter of interest should include:

- contact information including, name, phone number, email address, organization;
- research proposal summary (about one page);
- brief statement of expertise (one page or less) including a description of experience conducting child welfare services research (resume or curriculum vitae strongly encouraged); and
- sample publication resulting from previous research or relevant work, if available.

If the letter of interest leads to an invitation to submit a full proposal, we will also request:

- 5-page research proposal;
- project timeline; and
- detailed projected budget.

Proposals received by the submission deadline will be assessed on the following criteria:

- proposal content and completeness;
- experience and qualifications;
- past performance on similar projects (evidenced by examples/references); and
- cost of overall project.

Important Dates:

Letter of Interest Due Date: January 31, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. PST

Research Proposal Due Date: February 28, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. PST

Anticipated Award Date: March 31, 2023

Anticipated Total Available FY 2023-24 Funding: \$300,000

Submit Proposals to: Andrea.Eastman@berkeley.edu

Issuance of the RFP does not obligate TAY-Hub to award a contract, nor is the TAY-Hub liable for any costs incurred by the proposer in the preparation and submittal of proposals for the subject work. The TAY-Hub retains the right to award all or parts of this contract to several bidders, to not select any bidders, and/or to re-solicit proposals.