



Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Proposed Technical Assistance & Training Strategy

To maximize the impact of the *Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)* provision and maintain an unwavering focus on its core intent, technical assistance (TA) and training modules must be co-designed and delivered by the original authors of the provision and individuals with lived experience. Likewise, NCHCW must be included.

1. Engagement of the Provision Authors: While federal contract compliance is essential, the original intent behind the policy must not be lost in administrative translation. The authors of this provision must be directly involved in the creation of TA materials to:

- Ensure compliance protocols align with the provision's intended outcomes.
- Prevent administrative scope creep or dilution of mandates during implementation.
- Provide direct clarity on legislative or regulatory nuances that standard federal contract administrators might misinterpret.

2. Centering Lived Experience: The most effective trainings historically stem from those who have directly navigated these systems. Relying on leaders with lived experience achieves three critical objectives:

- **Sustaining Urgency:** Focuses training on human impact, preventing the work from becoming a bureaucratic box-checking exercise.
- **Mitigating Conflicts of Interest:** Relying on outside consulting firms or third-party entities that profit from prolonged federal contract compliance can introduce institutional bias. Utilizing individuals with lived experience establishes a neutral, mission-driven training environment.
- **Practical Problem-Solving:** Trainers with lived experience offer unmatched insight into how federal contract complications manifest on the ground, allowing them to provide practical, real-world troubleshooting that traditional contractors cannot.

3. Strategic Integration of the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare: To anchor training components in proven policy design, technical assistance must formally integrate the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare (NCHCW).

As a primary architect and foundational partner of the FYI framework from 2013 to the present, NCHCW brings a unique dual capability to the TA strategy:

- **System Synchronization Expertise:** A decade of experience helping Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and public child welfare agencies (PCWAs) synchronize federal resources and navigate complex contracts without diluting program intent.
- **Alignment with Lived Experience.** Because NCHCW's policy model was built specifically at the behest of and in tandem with young adults who have navigated the child welfare system, utilizing them as a core TA partner ensures that training materials remain true to the initiative's youth-led origins. They serve as a natural bridge—ensuring technical administrative compliance remains strictly accountable to the urgent, real-world needs of the youth being served.