



Vision:

All young people leaving foster care will make successful transitions to adulthood.

Mission:

To connect the people, systems, and resources necessary to assist young people impacted by the foster care system in making successful transitions to adulthood.

EmpowerMENT

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About us

The Georgia Youth Opportunities Initiative is a collaborative effort between public, private, and nonprofit organizations, working to improve outcomes for youth transitioning out of foster care. Services are provided to youth ranging in age from 14-24 targeting improvements in the following areas: permanency, employment, education, housing, personal and community engagement, and physical and mental health.

Started in 2002 as the Metro Atlanta Youth Opportunities Initiative (MAYOI), as a pilot program of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, GYOI is currently expanding state wide.

Program Components

Community Partnership Group is a public/private, and youth/adult partnership group working on a state-wide level to leverage resources and community support for youth aging out of care. The group creates door openers to help youth connect through permanent relationships with caring adults in local communities.

Door Openers are connections and relationships that assist youth in aging out of care successfully. This could mean health care, insurance, education in making large purchases, access to needed items, etc.

EmpowerMENT is youth-led, youth-focused and tailored towards training and empowering one youth to influence and change the way policy is written and administered through the eyes of youth. EmpowerMENT's motto is, "nothing about us without us."

Individual Development Accounts are for youth age 14-21 and are administered by the state. Participants receive financial education training and are able to have their savings matched up to \$1,000 to put towards the purchase of an asset such as a car, computer, housing or other needs.

Opportunities for Youth

- Training
- Peer Support
- Savings
- Access to Door Openers
- Input to the systems affecting them

How adult supporters can get involved

- **GET YOUTH INVOLVED**
- Help identify door openers youth need
- Link concerned community members, or "champions" with the GYOI
- Tell people about the Georgia Youth Opportunities Initiative