

# Risks Facing Youth Transitioning Out of Care

*Youth who are currently or who have recently transitioned out of the child welfare system are more at risk for negative adverse experiences than their peers, and COVID-19 has only amplified existing issues. Increasing protective factors while youth are in care and after they have aged out will contribute to more positive life outcomes.*

## Foster Long-Term Connection.



Increase access to programs for youth that last after they have aged out of care, such as mentoring, mental health, and financial support programs.

## Ease Access to Services.

Eliminate criteria barriers for receiving mental health support, housing support, and platforms for connection such as technology.



## Ease Access to Cultural Programs.

Increase availability of culturally appropriate workers, placements, and programs while youth are in care and after they have transitioned out of care.



## Allow Youth to Choose Their Family.

Allow separated siblings to interact in a non-clinical environment. Allow non-blood related long-term mentors to have visitor rights. Remove barriers to having animal companionship while in care, especially in regard to finding housing that allows pets.

## Support Youth-Centred Decision Making.

Include youth in the conversation when decisions are being made about them.



## Invest in Interests, Talents, and Strengths

Take genuine interest in the passions and talents the youth possesses. Provide opportunities to participate in those activities to increase confidence.



## Increase Age Limit

Advocate for increasing the age at which youth age out of care so they may leave their homes more prepared like their peers not from care.

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