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# Pathways to Possibility

Advancing Foster Youth Success in Education

**Presented by Jarod Wilson**  
Vice President of Expansion and Impact

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**Annual Conference**  
**March 11 - 13, 2026**



**Foster Success is a national nonprofit dedicated to ensuring teens and young adults transitioning out of foster care are educated, housed, financially stable, employed, and connected to a reliable support system by their 26th birthday.**



# Impact Areas



**Educational  
SUCCESS**



**Financial  
EMPOWERMENT**



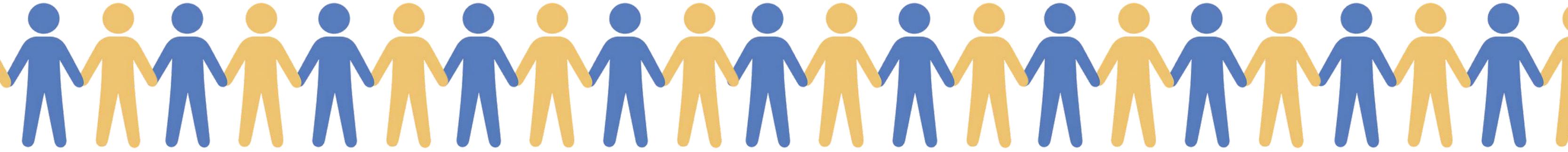
**Workforce  
READINESS**



**Health  
& WELL-BEING**

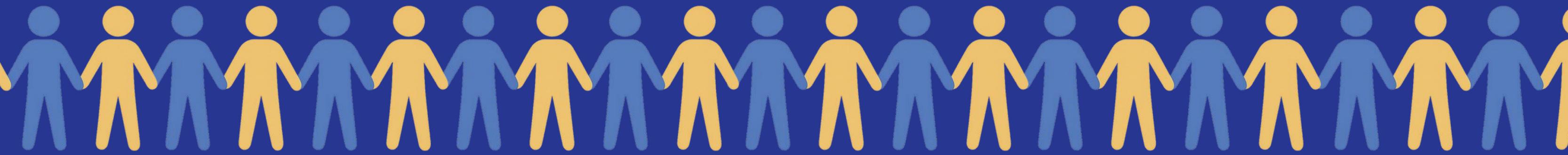


**Youth  
ENGAGEMENT**



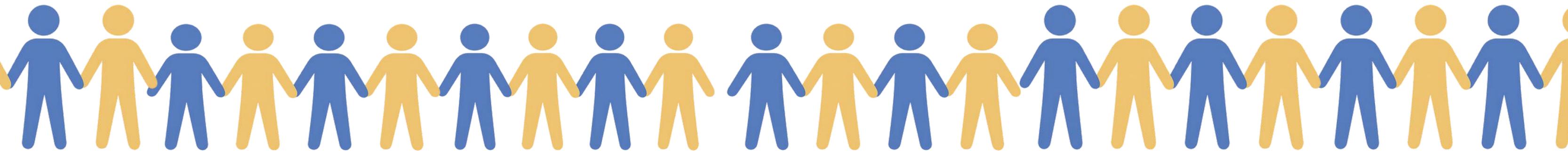


# Educational SUCCESS



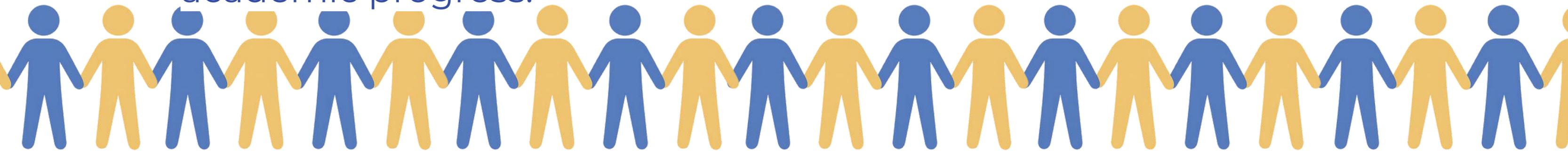
# What is INDIANA EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV) PROGRAM?

- ❑ Federally-funded, state-administered program
- ❑ Foster Success is the chosen vendor by the state of Indiana's Department of Child Services (DCS)
- ❑ ETV is for current and former foster youth to attend college or vocational/technical programs
- ❑ Can receive up to \$4000 per academic year. These funds are generally disbursed \$2000 Fall semester, \$1500/\$2000 Spring semester, and \$1000 Summer semester.
- ❑ Aid is not a "stackable" scholarship; does not affect financial aid funds
- ❑ Aid applies to qualified school related expenses
  - ❑ Tuition and fees paid before other requests



# Who is eligible for ETV ?

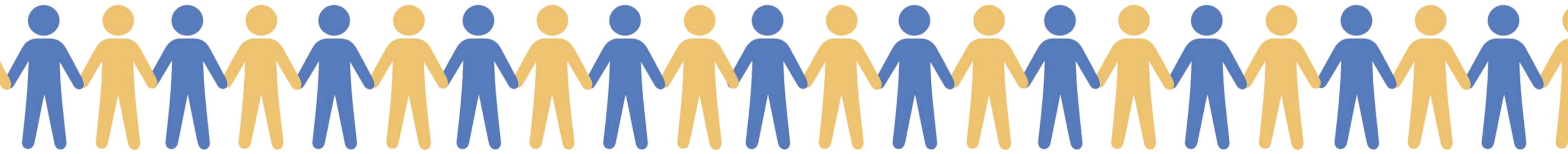
- Foster care will end on and after your 18th birthday.
- Left foster care after your 16th birthday because you were adopted or placed in a kinship guardianship.
- Be under the age of 26
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen
- Be enrolled in a degree, certificate or other accredited program and show that you are making satisfactory academic progress.

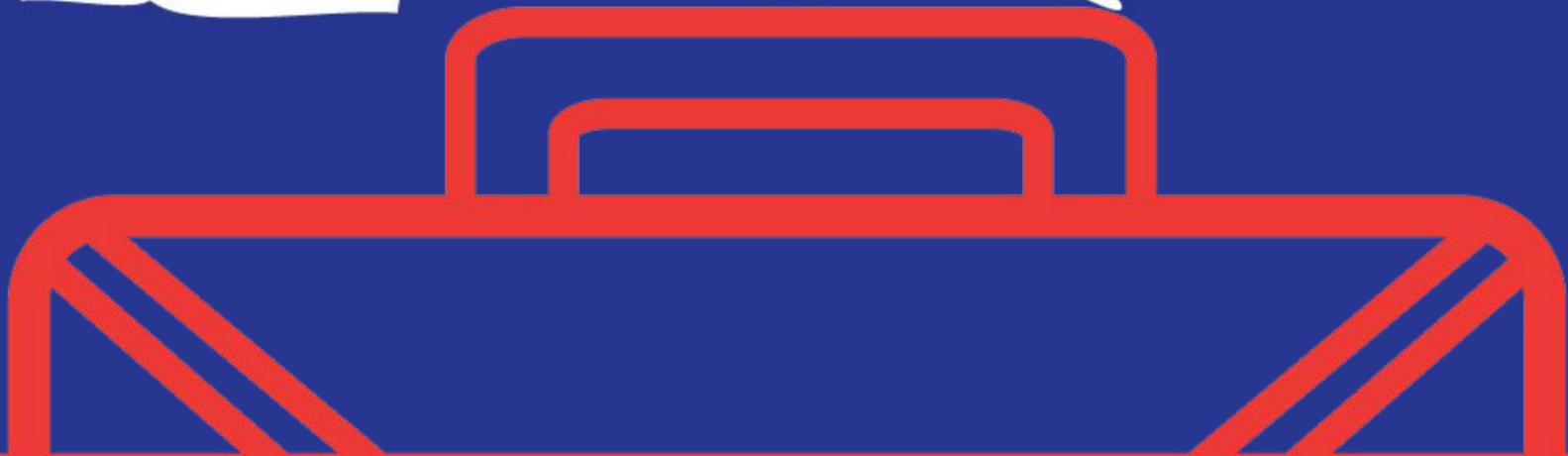


# WHAT DOES ETV COVER?

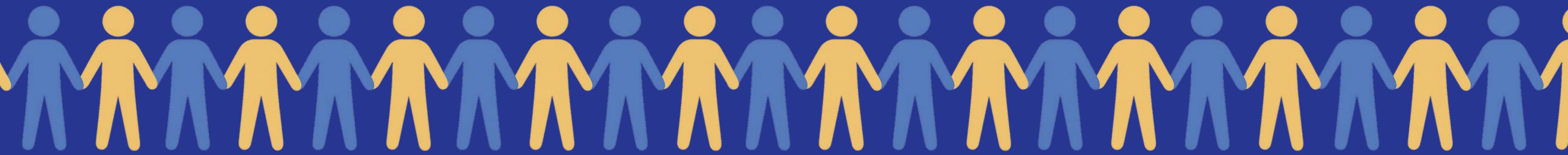
- Tuition and fees
- School supplies and textbooks
- Tutoring
- Housing
- Living expenses

- Technology and computer package
- Loans
- Transportation
- Medical expenses and student health insurance
- Child care

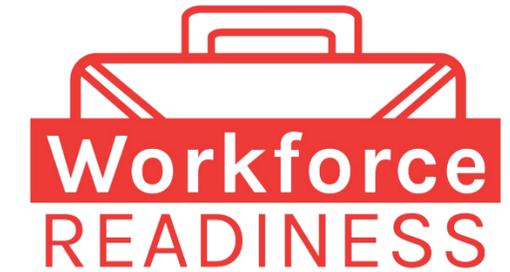




# Workforce READINESS

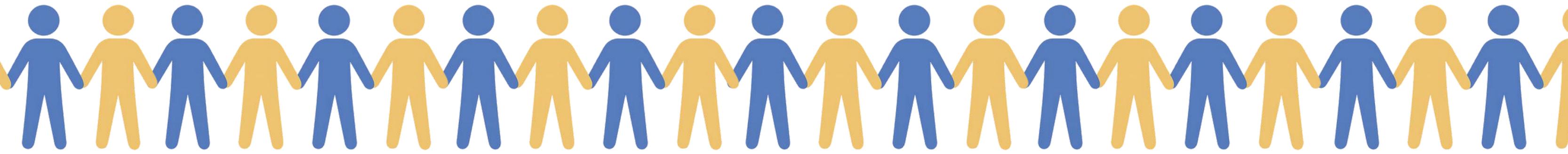


# Works Wonders®

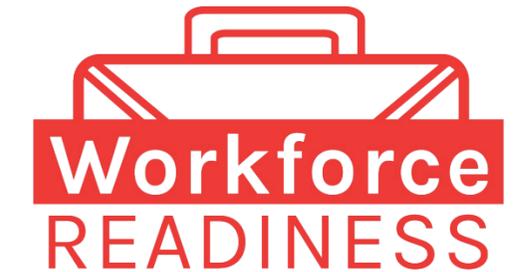


The program supports individuals who need:

- Help finding a job
- Training on the skills needed to get and maintain a job
- A career coach to help practice skills and explore careers
- Paid work experiences or internships in career fields of interest
- Access to High School Equivalency programs
- Access to job training, certification, or college programs

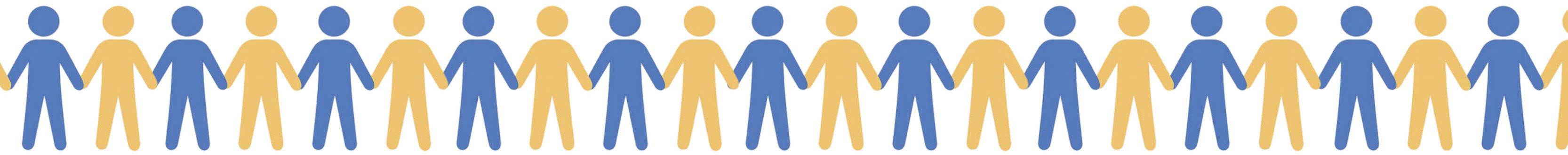


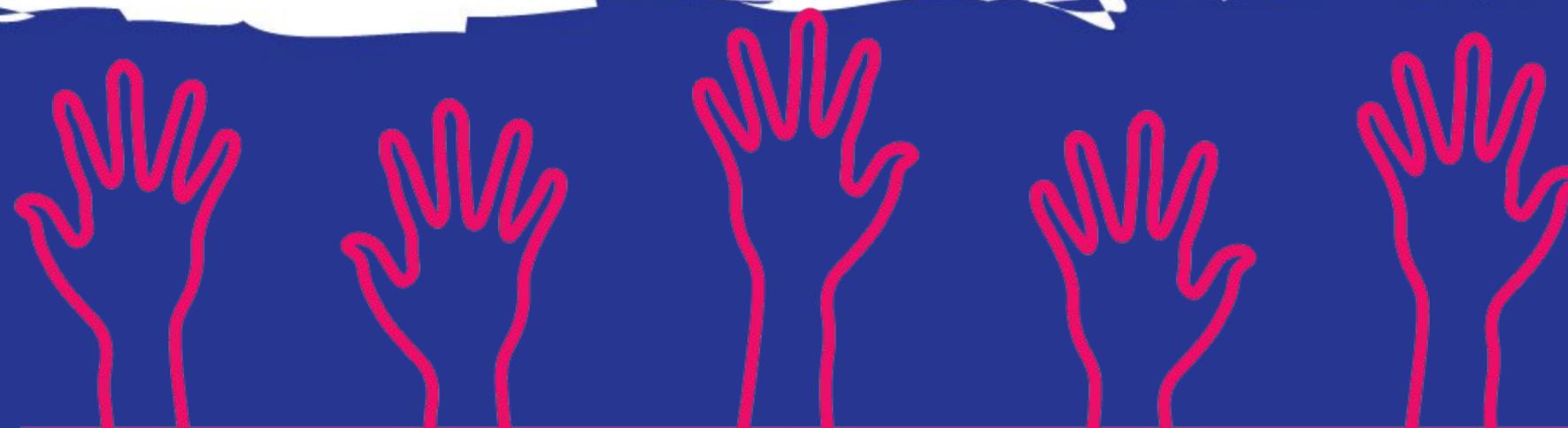
# Career Coaching



The program supports individuals who need:

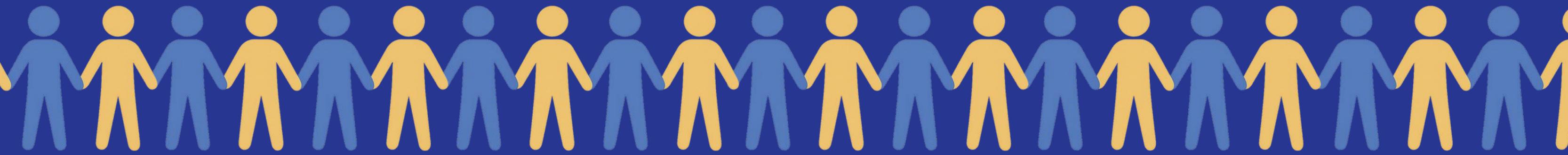
- 1-on-1 career coaching on information and skills needed to get and keep a job
- Connections with employers who are actively hiring
- Access to basic needs support, such as assistance with housing or food security
- Access to high school equivalency programs
- Access to job trainings, certifications, and other workforce learning opportunities





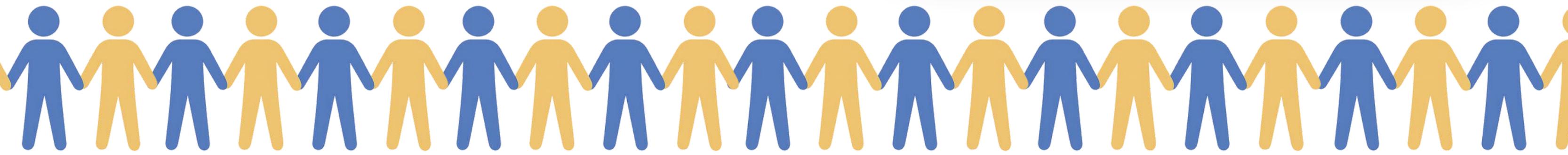
# Youth

ENGAGEMENT



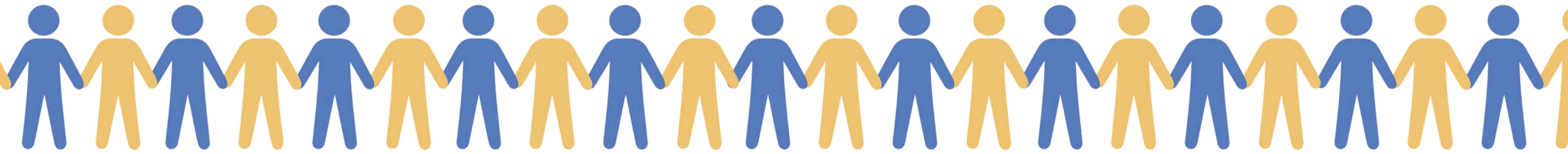
# NYTD

The National Youth in Transition Database, or NYTD, is a tool for tracking services provided to young people transitioning out of foster care in the United States. NYTD helps assess how states are improving youth outcomes through these services. Participants are enrolled at 17 and then complete surveys at 19 and 21. Participants can join the NYTD network, attend events, and engage with their peers.



# Indiana Foster Youth Alliance

IFYA's purpose is to empower Indiana's foster youth ages 14-22 to advocate for themselves and communicate their needs and concerns effectively through increased awareness of their rights and responsibilities and increased access to the resources they need to make successful transitions. IFYA members, participants, and leaders work alongside DCS to create systemic change and educate their peers on the resources available to them.

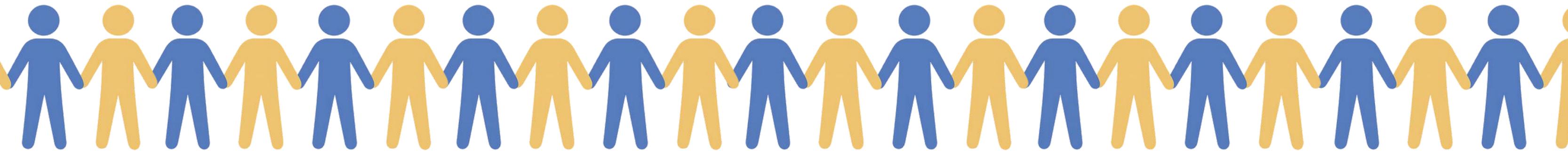


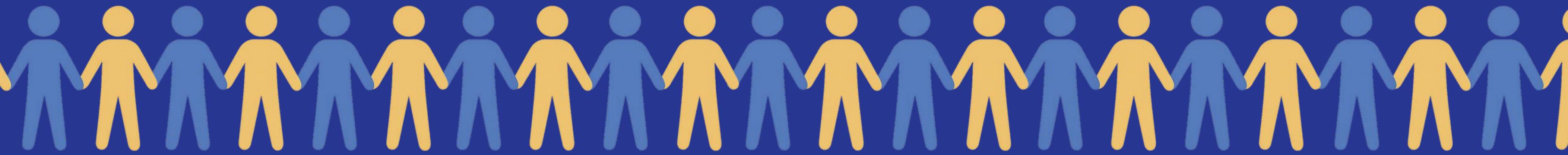
# LEAD Ambassadors

Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy & Development

LEAD Ambassadors are young people with lived experience in foster care committed to improving the lives of their peers who are experiencing or have experienced foster care through advocacy, education, and leadership opportunities.

LEAD Ambassadors have proven skills and receive ongoing training to ensure they are strong advocates and public speakers.





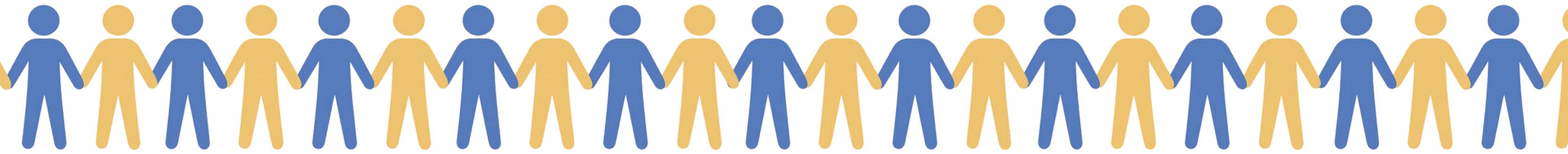
# Online Financial Modules

11 self-guided online modules meant to increase financial awareness, knowledge, and skills.

\$100 completion stipend

These online courses focus on:

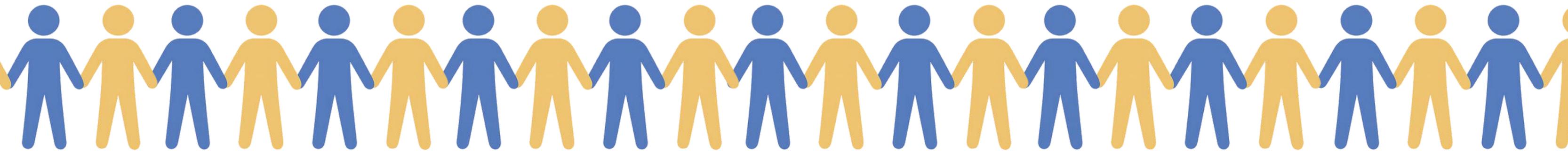
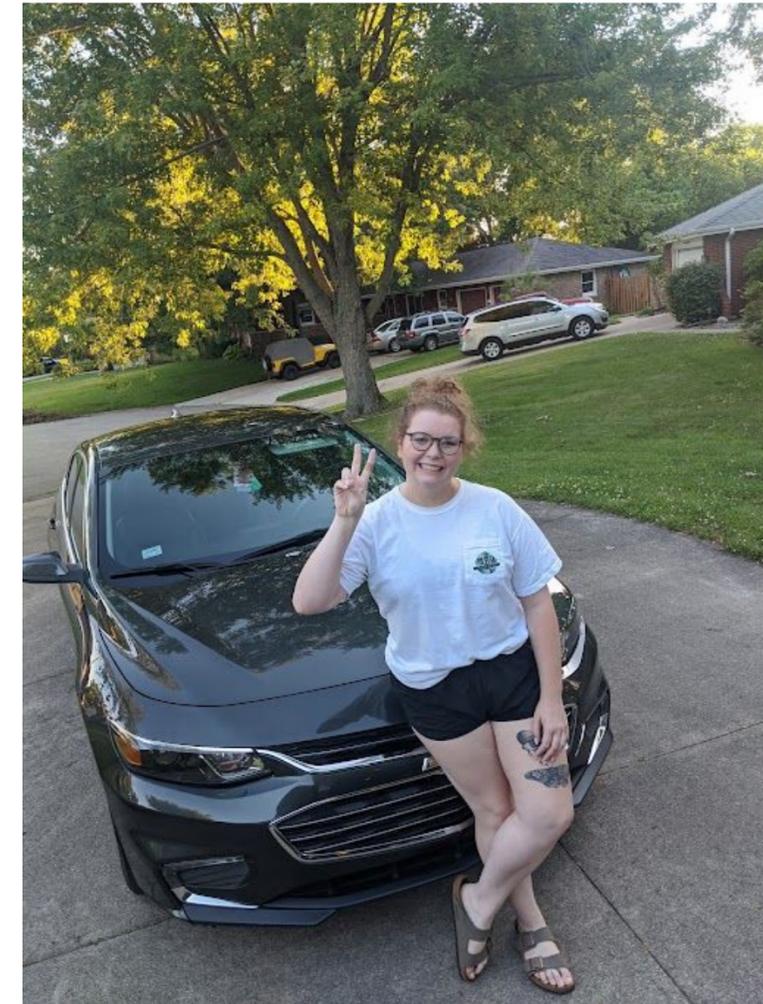
- Consumer Skills
- Smart Money Habits
- Budgeting
- Checking Accounts
- Savings Accounts
- Credit & Debit Basics
- Education ROI
- Education & Financial Aid
- Exploring Jobs & Careers
- Beginning Employment
- Insurance Basics



# Opportunity Passport

Opportunity Passport™ helps young adults who have experienced foster care learn how to manage their finances and save. You'll dive into financial education, grow your savings, and access matched savings funds.

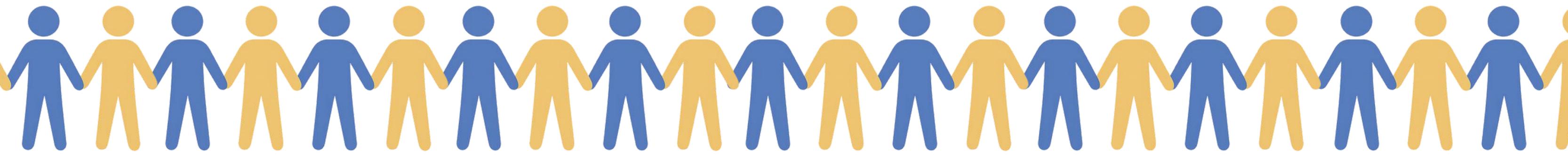
This multi-year program provides extensive financial education and an opportunity for us to match your savings up to \$3,500 for approved assets.



# Credit Build

Through 1:1 financial coaching, this program helps youth establish and build credit scores through guided savings. This program is meant to accelerate an individual's credit score and break those barriers towards getting approved for car loans, apartments, cell phone plans, and more.

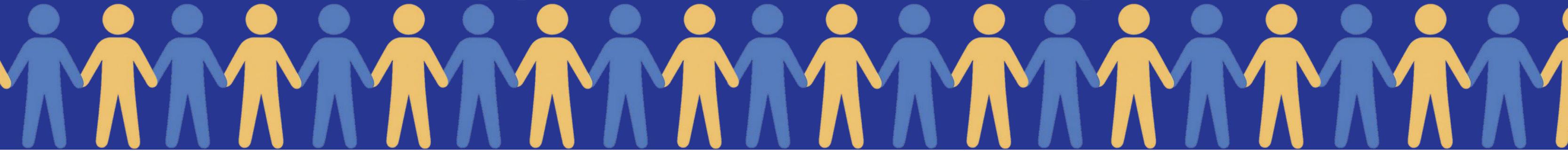
**Participants see an  
average increase of  
488 points!**





**Health**

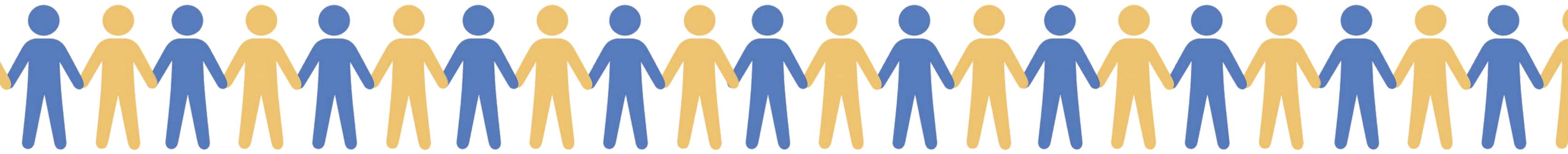
**& WELL-BEING**



# Basic Needs

The Foster Success Basic Needs program supports young people as they navigate the transition to adulthood.

- Provides 1:1 referrals and real connections to community resources
- Can support in Housing, Financial Support, Food, Hygiene Items, Transportation, Medical & Health Needs, and Self-Advocacy.
- Work is guided by the needs of the young people
- Can provide up to \$500 in immediate financial support for housing, utilities, transportation, medical expenses or child care
- Access to a basic needs hygiene pantry.

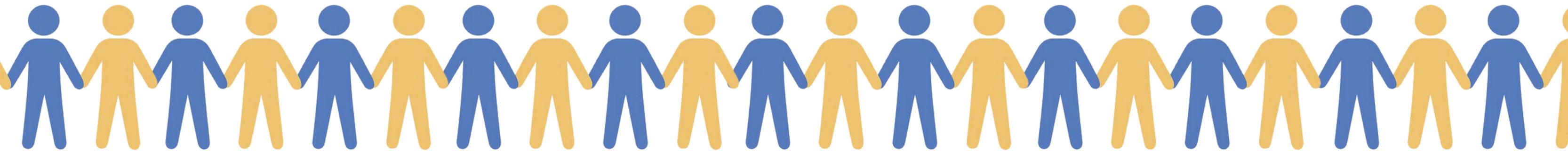


# Mental Health Acceptance, Promotion & Support (M.A.P.S.)

This unique program works to connect participants to continuous mental health services, while providing up to 8 free therapy sessions in the meantime!

## Eligibility:

- Be between 18 and 25 years old
- Have spent at least one day in foster care in Indiana at or after the age of 14
- Not already connected to a mental health provider
- Seeking to be enrolled in consistent mental health services

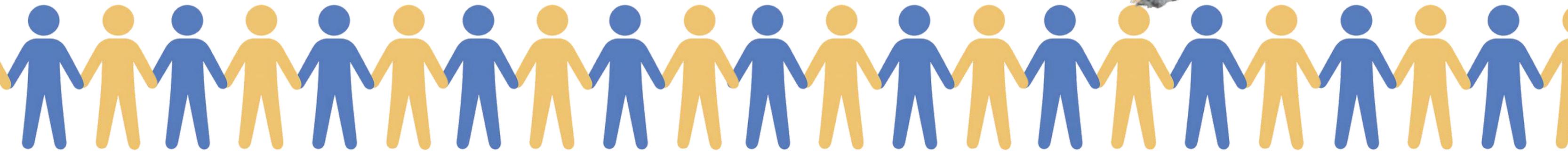


# Vital Documents

Provides logistical and financial support in obtaining key vital documents

Examples of Various Documents Covered

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Health Insurance Cards/Info
- Previous Medical Records
- Immunizations
- Medications- dose & name
- Pharmacies
- Family Histories
- Diplomas
- Passports
- Citizenship Documents



# Insuring Foster Youth Trust Fund

The Insuring Foster Youth Trust Fund was designed to ensure foster youth have equitable access to obtaining their driver's license and car insurance coverage.

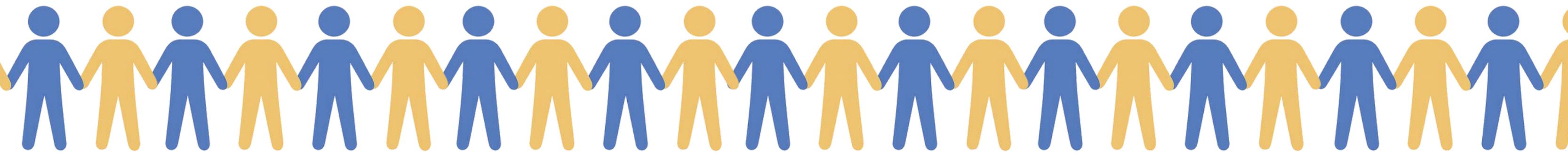
The fund is available to cover:

- 44 hours of supervised driving hours provided by an approved driver's education agency AND/OR
- Up to 80% of the cost of a 6-month car insurance policy

The Insuring Foster Youth Trust Fund will assist youth as needed and is subject to available funding.

Eligibility:

- At least sixteen (15) years of age;
- Not more than twenty-three (23) years of age; and
- Who is:
  - Adjudicated a child in need of services (CHINS)
  - Aged out of foster care at 18

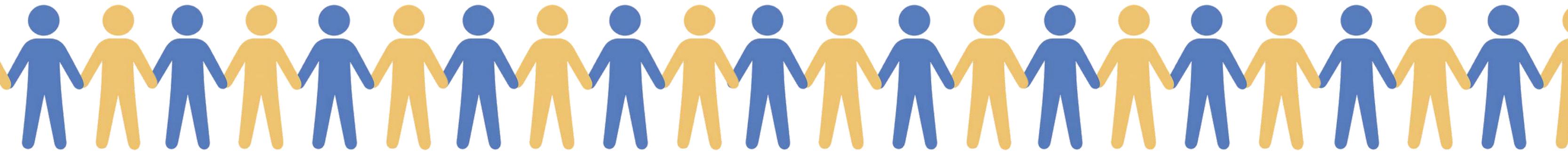


# Indiana State Park Passes

Young adults in foster care will be able to access a free Indiana State Parks pass.

## Eligibility:

- At least sixteen (16) years of age;
- Not more than twenty-three (23) years of age; and
- Who is:
  - Adjudicated a child in need of services (CHINS)
  - An older youth in the DCS collaborative care extended foster care program; or
  - A participant in voluntary older youth services

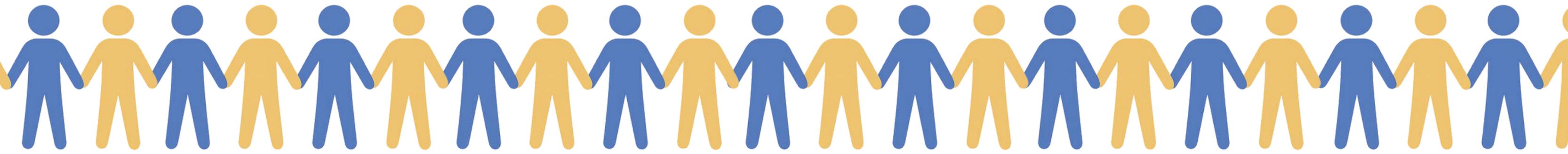


**THANK  
YOU!**

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**Thank you!**



**Stronger Together:**  
**Resilience Through Community**