



# Linkages & TAY/NMD: Making the Connection

Roxanne Stephens, MSW

DEC 1 2022

## AGENDA:

Purpose

Introductions

CWDA & Linkages Partnership

TAY/NMD Population Defined

Linkages 2.0 Role

Tabletop Activity

Large Group Discussion

Conclusion



# Purpose:



## Together we will:

**Engage** in open dialog about how Linkages can help the TAY/NMD Population, as they transition away from the child welfare system and towards independence....

To **identify** the shared resources between CalWORKs & Child Welfare and find ways to support one another through this specialized Linkages component.



## **Introductions:**

- Pair up with someone you don't know
- Exchange names, programs, positions
- Discuss how your county currently supports TAY/NMDs
- Briefly write one activity on the post-it
- Tell all of us and provide your post-it



A group of diverse professionals in a meeting. In the foreground, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue patterned shirt, has his back to the camera. Another man in a light blue shirt is placing his hand on the first man's shoulder. In the background, several other people are smiling and engaged in conversation.

# BACKGROUND:

---

CWDA approached CFPIC with a request to find ways that Linkages that help foster youth and young adults.

CFPIC reached out to the CWDA TAY Subcommittee and various counties to explore ideas about how a TAY component of Linkages might help support the overall statewide effort to support this population.

A draft framework was created for sharing at this convening.

Future: Create a Linkages TAY/NMD workgroup.



## Target Population & Services Defined:

**TAY** (Transitional Aged Youth): dependent foster youth between ages 13 and 18, receive support through....

**ILP:** (Independent Living Program) focused on preparing youth for adulthood

**NMD** (Non-Minor Dependents): former foster youth between ages 18 and 21, remain active in the CWS and receive support through....

**EFC:** (Extended Foster Care) program with case management & employment/training services.



# OBJECTIVES

- Create a Safety Net for transitioning youth and young adults.
- Help youth navigate the transition from foster care to the real world.
- Support NMDs 21+ in their continued transition to adulthood to navigate the “real world.”
- Encourage strong partnerships between CWS and CalWORKs, focusing on youth in ILP (Independent Living Program) and EFC (Extended Foster Care).

---

Linkages 2.0 : *A prevention-based iteration of  
an earlier Linkages model*





## Prevention Focus:



Linkages TAY/NMD's primary focus is to ensure that these youth and young adults prevent generational trauma related to abuse and neglect, so that they will transition out of the child welfare system with:

- Supports and skills they need to create safe and stable homes of their own,
- Experience healthy, nurturing relationships, and
- Live in supported environments so they can thrive.

# Overall Goal

Improve CWS and  
CalWORKs/Eligibility collaboration  
to support the TAY and NMD  
population in California so that....

All youth and young adults  
transition from foster care into  
adulthood with the skills &  
knowledge needed to access  
benefits and resources.

## What can we do?

---

- Build upon and leverage existing supports (rather than creating new ones)
- Ensure all NMDs (not just the NMD who are also parents) access all available supports
- TAY/NMD learn about all benefits potentially available to them
- Ensure TAY/NMD know how to access/apply for benefits, such as SNAP, Medi-Cal, etc
- Employ specialty case managers knowledgeable on all benefits, whenever possible
- Employment/benefits rep attend all CFT meetings, whenever possible
- Ensure a TAY/NMD representative attend all Linkages coordinator team meetings



# Best Practice Ideas

## TABLETOP ACTIVITY:

At your tables, review the “TAY & NMDs Best Practice Ideas” handout

1. Review the categories of support
2. Select one or two categories that Linkages can best support
3. Consider the category & Identify ways Linkages might support TAY/NMDs.
4. What challenges/barriers have you experienced?

## Large Group Discussion:

- What types of support would counties use to meet the overall goal?
- How could a statewide Linkage TAY/NMDs work group help?





Call to action:  
Seeking interested people for  
Linkages TAY/NMD Task Group



arigatō

Thanks rav todot

spasibo  
dank u

grazie

merci

gracias

xie xie

obr

**Thank you**

Roxanne Stephens, MSW

roxigs123@gmail.com