Learning financial capability during young adulthood can help ingrain habits of saving, money management and mainstream banking for a lifetime and build a pathway out of poverty and into successful adulthood. Our data show that Opportunity Passport participants have:

1. Higher odds of adequate transportation for school and work (3.0x)
2. Higher odds of reporting stable housing (1.7x)
3. Higher odds of reporting employment with a vehicle (1.7x)
4. Higher odds of reporting being in school (2.7x)

Jim Casey Young Fellows
Young leaders with foster care experience are trained in leadership and advocacy skills and play an integral role in developing our strategies and recommendations for improving child welfare systems.

Adolescent development research
With knowledge of how the adolescent brain matures, young people and adults are equipped to navigate smooth transitions from foster care to adulthood to ensure supportive relationships, well-being and success. Read our report, The Road to Adulthood, to learn more.

Jim Casey Initiative's approach, rooted in adolescent brain research, employs best practices to engage young people in the decisions that shape their lives; apply a racial and ethnic equity lens to reduce system-level disparities; leverage community partnerships to develop resources; use data and evaluation of progress to improve outcomes; and build public will to create better policies that sustain enhancements over time.

The Jim Casey Initiative has official partnerships in 17 states.

For an updated list of sites, please visit www.aecf.org/work/child-welfare/jim-casey-youth-opportunities-initiative/our-work-in-states/
WHO WE ARE

The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative® works to ensure that young people — ages 14 to 26 — in the United States who have spent at least one day in foster care after their 14th birthday have the resources, relationships and opportunities to achieve well-being and success. The Jim Casey Initiative does this by creating opportunities for young people to form permanent family connections, experience stable housing, achieve positive outcomes in education, become economically secure and make informed decisions about when to become parents.

MEASURING SUCCESS

The Jim Casey Initiative uses data to drive its decision making and strategy development, making it a leader in the collection of data from young people who are in or have been in foster care after the age of 14. We closely monitor this data to better understand how young people are faring and what more needs to be done to ensure they are thriving as they transition into adulthood.

WHY WE DO THE WORK

The Jim Casey Initiative advances strategies that aim to break the cycle of poverty for young people and build pathways to long-term stability and financial capability. Through our collective action and engagement with young people, we seek to ensure that they have equitable access to permanent family connections, stable housing, education success, economic security and pregnancy prevention and parenting support when they are exiting foster care. Our goal is to provide those who have experienced foster care with a rock-solid foundation that will propel them toward success and well-being.