

FIRST PLACE FOR YOUTH

Brief Overview

Who We Are

First Place for Youth helps foster youth build the skills they need to make a successful transition to self-sufficiency and responsible adulthood.

What We Believe In

We believe in the potential of young adults who have been in foster care and that by providing caring, trusting relationships and individualized supports, they can build a foundation for success.

Why We Exist

The state of California has the nation's largest number of young people in foster care and some of the highest costs of living. Many families face systemic barriers to providing for children and many youth land in foster homes that can provide shelter but might not give the stability and sense of belonging that a family can provide.

What We Do

For almost 25 years, we have guided foster youth as they learn to help themselves. We're on their side through good times and bad, providing support and encouragement to reach their full potential in school, work, and life. In 2021, we provided direct services for 1,609 young adults at our California sites and at four partners offering our My First Place program.

How We Do It

Our work combines impactful program innovations, policy and advocacy, and key input from our youth to create conditions for improved housing and employment opportunities, educational achievement, and better systems working on behalf of foster youth.

National Expansion

Based on almost 25 years of evidence and best practices, we are sharing our signature blend of policy and program expertise to change how youth exiting foster care are supported across the country.

We work directly state and county foster care systems to develop policies that remove barriers to success and implement components of the My First Place model into a continuum of care. We have partners in New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Charlotte, and the state of Mississippi.

Our Core Competencies



RELENTLESS PURSUIT
OF EXCELLENCE



STRATEGIC THINKING



INVESTMENT IN OTHERS



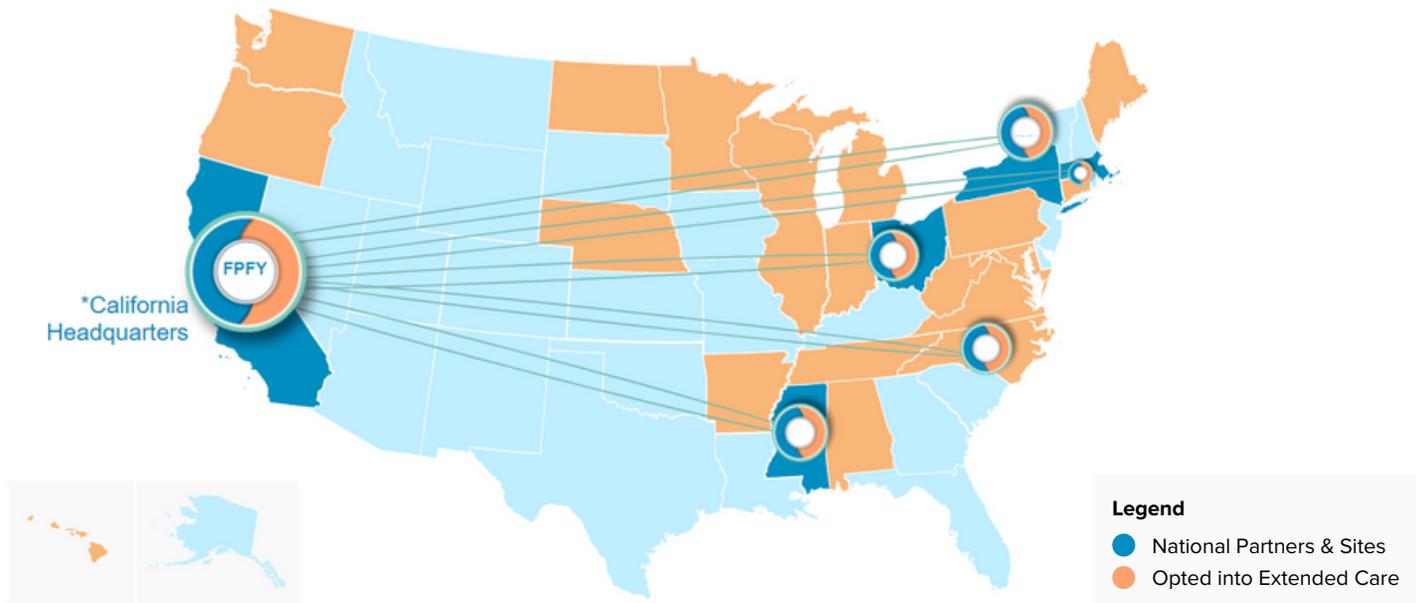
EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION



COURAGE

FIRST PLACE FOR YOUTH

National Sites & Programs



My First Place™



My First Place is a nationally recognized education and employment program that provides housing and life-skills training for young adults as they transition out of foster care. Youth are given a safe place to live to focus on healthy living skills, their education, and employment opportunities with a network of caring adults to help them identify individual pathways to self-sufficient lives. We offer My First Place in six California counties and five states: CA, OH, NY, NC, and MA.



Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP)

In San Francisco and Solano Counties, First Place for Youth provides current and former foster youth (ages 16-21) with essential life skills as they prepare for adulthood. This program offers a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for academic support, career guidance, and community connection.



Mississippi Youth Voice

First Place oversees Mississippi Youth Voice, an initiative that empowers former foster youth to lead statewide advocacy for current and future foster youth, develop leadership skills, and advocate for increased resources for young people transitioning out of foster care.



Opportunity Passport

In Mississippi, First Place for Youth delivers Opportunity Passport,™ a national financial literacy and matched savings program offered by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. This program supports young adults transitioning from foster care to achieve financial independence through money management coaching and education.