

# How to Talk about NYTD with 17-year-old Young Adults

A guide for IL Coordinators and other partners

Refer to the following language as suggestions on how to discuss the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey opportunity with 17-year-olds eligible to complete it. You know your youth best, so feel free to adapt your approach and explanations according to their personality, needs, or current situation. For further guidance on NYTD, please visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/ys/nytd> or <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/reporting-systems/nytd>.

- So, how are you doing? Really, how are you doing?
- We are asking all youth who are placed in out-of-home care (like, foster homes, group homes, residential care centers, some placements with relatives) on their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday or soon after their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday to take a survey. This is called National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey and has questions about important areas like school, your support system, etc. It's an opportunity for you to share.
- The survey does not ask about your parents or your family. It doesn't ask why you went into out-of-home care. The main categories it asks about are employment, school, housing, and finances.
- **All survey information is confidential and will be combined with the answers from other young people around the state and country and reviewed as a whole.** Your personal information will not be studied separately.
- The responses you give will become part of a nationwide information gathering project centered on youth who are or were in out-of-home care. Your responses are looked at in combination with those from other youth from across the country who are or were in out-of-home care to get a better idea of how child welfare can improve services. Specific to Wisconsin, the state Department of Children and Families also uses the results to impact its policies and programming.
- We know that it is hard for young adults to be in out-of-home care. As part of your transition to adulthood, you may qualify for independent living services. The Department of Children and Families wants to ensure that young people eligible for independent living services receive them. The surveys help tell the Department what it should do more of, less of, or differently to make services better.
- An office called the University of Wisconsin Survey Center is responsible for the survey. They will contact you directly about completing the survey, if they have not already done so. Do not be surprised if you get a phone call or email from them!
- I will work with you to access the survey and can help you complete it. **However, the answers must be your own; I cannot do it for you.** We want to know about your experience. The UW Survey Center provides every person eligible to take the survey with their own online link to complete it. If you want help accessing that link or working through the survey, we can set up a time to work on it together.
- **The UW Survey Center will contact you again when you are 19 and 21 to ask you to fill out another survey like this one.** These surveys let us know how youth who were in out-of-home care do as young adults. The 19- and 21-year-old survey results are reviewed just like the 17-year-old survey results and are used to inform policies and programs in much the same way.
- **I would also like to use this opportunity to** update the contact information I have for other people close to you (e.g. significant other, family member, close friend) in case your contact information changes and contacting them is the best way to reach you for future surveys or services.
- One last thing – **if you complete the survey on time, the UW Survey Center will mail you \$20.** This is real money – do not throw it away. If you take the survey again at 19 and 21, you will also receive \$20 each time.