

www.casey.org

fostering families. fostering change.®

Casey Family Programs

1300 Dexter Avenue North, Floor 3
Seattle, Washington 98109-3542
Phone: 206.282.7300



268-3290-05

Casey Family Programs
Tools and Resources

Publications, online tools, videos, trainings,
and workshops for child welfare professionals



Casey Family Programs' mission is to provide and improve—and ultimately to prevent the need for—foster care.

We offer these tools for your work with children and families.

The resources in this catalog are **practice-focused** and **results-oriented**. To encourage innovation and collaboration across agencies that serve youth, we offer them free of charge.

Use them in your daily work with youth and families to:

- **Improve** the foster care experience and well-being of young people
- **Build** community strengths
- **Assess and develop** client strengths
- **Define and document** outcomes for your agency's target populations

To learn more, please visit our Web site at www.casey.org/ToolsAndResources

Casey Life Skills

Online tools to assess and develop independent living skills



www.caseylifeskills.org

Easy-to-use tools give instant feedback to youth and staff

Over 40 states now require or prefer the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) to prepare youth for independent living.

Use this suite of online tools to mentor youth and inform case planning.

- **Instant, confidential feedback** engages and motivates youth.
- **Customized learning plans** clearly outline next steps for youth and caregivers.
- **Data reports** allow agency administrators to document and evaluate programs.

Age-appropriate versions are available, along with ACLSA supplements that address life-skills needs of specific youth populations.

“The Web site tools help agencies understand their young people better than ever! [With the data reports] I know where to put my training and education dollars.”

—Agency administrator
Lincoln, Nebraska

Casey Foster Family Assessments

Online tools to assess and develop foster family applicants



www.fosterfamilyassessments.org

Promote foster parent success with easy-to-use, standardized tools

The better the match between families and youth, the more likely the success of the foster placement.

This new Web site gives licensing workers reliable online tools to:

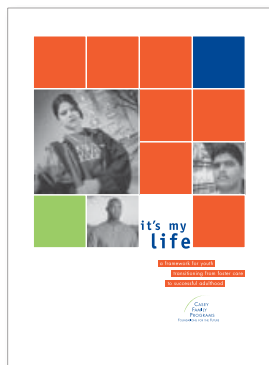
- **Assess** an applicant’s potential to foster
- **Pinpoint** areas for growth
- **Customize** home studies

Choose from among 20 standardized measures in the **Casey Foster Applicant Inventory** and the **Casey Home Assessment Protocol**.

The self-reporting tools are convenient for applicants to take and quick for staff to administer and interpret.

“The home studies I am receiving from my workers are so much better than before. The CFFA tools have enabled them to do family-specific assessments.”

—Child welfare supervisor
Ohio



It's My Life

An integrated practice framework for transition services

Build a youth-driven, holistic, and strengths-based child welfare practice

How can a child welfare agency best prepare youth to make the transition from foster care to successful adulthood?

It's My Life defines the seven “life domains”—such as life skills, education, employment, and housing—that together determine a young person’s ability to succeed.

This holistic approach serves youth with programs that:

- **Start early** with pre-teens
- **Involve youth** in planning their own care
- **Collaborate** with youth, caregivers, and community agencies

The framework outlines practice guidelines and ways to measure outcomes in transition services.

“I believe we can and will make a huge difference in the lives of youth leaving care, but only if we do it together.”

—Alumna of foster care
South Dakota

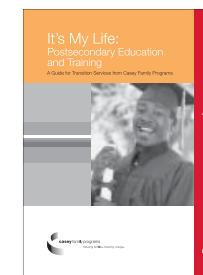
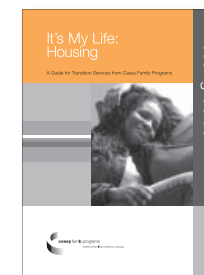
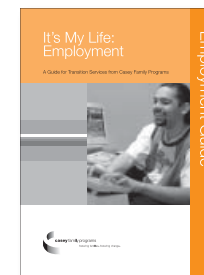
It's My Life Guides

Practical resource guides for transition services

It's My Life: Employment

It's My Life: Housing

It's My Life: Postsecondary Education and Training



“This is a very hands-on guide, full of insights and tips . . . It will help me design workshops for young adults.”

—Child welfare worker
Oakton, Virginia

Improve transition outcomes with practical how-to guides

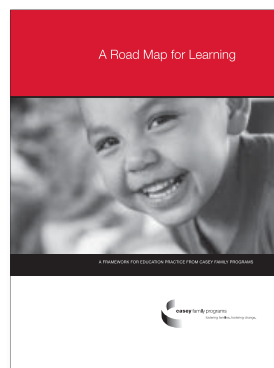
Three strategic and tactical guides based on *It's My Life* (see opposite page) are now available.

Designed for quick and frequent reference, these comprehensive guides provide:

- **Successful strategies** to work with youth from diverse backgrounds
- **Time-saving tactics and tips** for staff and youth
- **Easy access** to the most useful Internet resources

A Road Map for Learning

A practice framework and resource guide to improve education outcomes



Guide youth in foster care toward success in school

Young people in foster care face unique educational barriers and challenges.

A Road Map for Learning prepares caseworkers and education specialists to advocate for K–12 education plans that:

- **Reflect known predictors** of academic success
- **Respond to disparities** in outcomes for youth of color
- **Involve students** as decision makers

For quick reference, this comprehensive book is divided into eleven education objectives, each tied to practical strategies and “what you can do now” action steps. Reviews of 47 promising practices include contact information for easy follow-up.

“An excellent tool for caseworkers and caregivers when advocating for the educational needs of youth in care.”

—Social worker
Washington state

Endless Dreams

A video and curriculum to educate teachers about foster care

See school through the eyes of youth in foster care

Endless Dreams is a complete toolkit for school social workers and education specialists.

As a certified Endless Dreams trainer, you can use the brief video and field-tested, self-paced, modular curriculum in your school districts to:

- **Build awareness** of the educational needs of youth in care
- **Offer trainings** to teachers (who earn continuing education credits)
- **Improve educational outcomes** for students

The Endless Dreams video is available by request. Trainer certification workshops are by application only.

“It really and truly hits home . . . [and will] help me better support the children, families, and schools I serve.”

—Liaison to foster youth
Los Angeles Unified School District





Better Together

A facilitated curriculum for agency managers and alumni of care

Build effective partnerships with alumni of foster care

Many alumni of foster care are eager to give back to their communities through service.

In this facilitated workshop, child welfare professionals and alumni learn how to effectively and respectfully collaborate to improve child welfare practice and policy.

Partnering with alumni creates opportunities to:

- **Add alumni voices** to practice and policy development
- **Move forward** on state Performance Improvement Plan requirements
- **Develop alumni skills** in strategically sharing expertise on target issues

Better Together is currently available by invitation.

“I learned how to get alumni involved in my program, how to more effectively and creatively utilize alumni, and to always remember to bring alumni to the table from the beginning.”

—Child welfare staff member



www.powerfulfamilies.org

Powerful Families

A partnership to strengthen vulnerable families with peer-to-peer learning

Build community capacity to prevent the need for foster care

National and local community-based and faith-based organizations offer Powerful Families—a series of weekly workshops—to low-income families.

Learning together and from one another, parents develop skills in financial literacy and economic justice, advocacy, and leadership.

As partner to the community, state, and tribal sponsors, Casey provides:

- **A field-tested curriculum** based on peer learning
- **Technical assistance** and logistical support
- **Outcome measurement** and program evaluation

To reach more families, workshops are held in English and Spanish.

“You realize that maybe you aren’t the only one going through this. You know it helps talking to other parents.”

—Parent in a Powerful Families workshop
New York City

The Breakthrough Series Collaborative

An innovative method to test and implement change in child welfare practice

“Participation . . . put us in touch with the real power we can wield. We really can make a difference.”

—Agency manager
2004 participant from Arizona

Make rapid, small-scale changes to create system-wide improvements

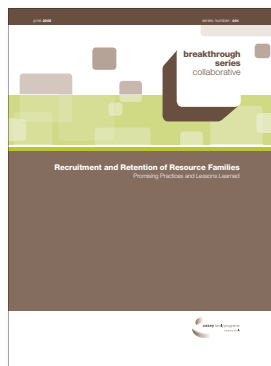
Each year, Casey Family Programs invites teams from state, county, and tribal agencies to participate in a topical Breakthrough Series Collaborative—a practice-improvement methodology adapted from the healthcare field.

Recent topics include:

- **Recruitment and retention** of foster families (2004)
- **Kinship care** (2005)
- **Disparities in outcomes** for children and families of color (2006)

Each team simultaneously tests its own small, practical, measurable changes, sharing what works with other teams.

Promising practices and lessons learned in each collaboration are published and available to all.



Knowing Who You Are

A video, e-learning course, and in-person learning event for social workers



www.casey.org/ToolsAndResources

Helping youth in care develop their racial and ethnic identity

The journey to develop one's racial and ethnic identity engages not only the mind, but also the heart, body, and spirit.

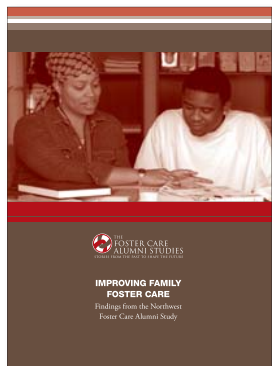
This integrated suite of tools prepares social workers to more effectively support the development of the racial and ethnic identity of all young people in foster care.

Learn from these multimedia tools to:

- **Promote pride** in a young person's racial and ethnic heritage
- **Develop multicultural competency** in staff and youth
- **Prepare youth** to cope with racism and discrimination

“I will encourage youth on my caseload to educate themselves about their own ethnicity and how to confront and move on from racism.”

—Social worker
Honolulu, Hawaii



Improving Family Foster Care

Findings from the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study

Ground-breaking research and analysis of what works in foster care

The Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study asks two questions about outcomes in foster care:

- How are youth formerly in care (“alumni”) faring as adults?
- What changes in foster care services could improve their lives?

The study highlights findings in three areas: mental health, education, and employment and finances.

The analysis is accompanied by detailed recommendations to improve outcomes for youth currently in care, making this a useful tool for administrators in program and policy development.

“This really validates many things that many of us had speculated. We will use it as a guide to where we’re going to put our time, energy, and resources.”

—Foster care program manager
Oregon

At a Glance

For more information about these tools and resources from Casey Family Programs, please visit our Web site at www.casey.org/ToolsAndResources.

		Print (and/or PDF)	Online (Web-based)	Video	Trainings and Workshops
PERMANENCY AND TRANSITION	Casey Life Skills		X		
PERMANENCY AND TRANSITION	Casey Foster Family Assessments		X		
PERMANENCY AND TRANSITION	It’s My Life	X			
PERMANENCY AND TRANSITION	It’s My Life Guides	X			
EDUCATION	A Road Map for Learning	X			
EDUCATION	Endless Dreams	X		X	X
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT	Better Together				X
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT	Powerful Families		X		X
INNOVATIVE PRACTICES	The Breakthrough Series Collaborative	X			X
RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY	Knowing Who You Are		X	X	X
RESEARCH STUDIES	Improving Family Foster Care	X			