



**Transitioning into Adulthood:
An Overview of Kentucky's Foster Youth**

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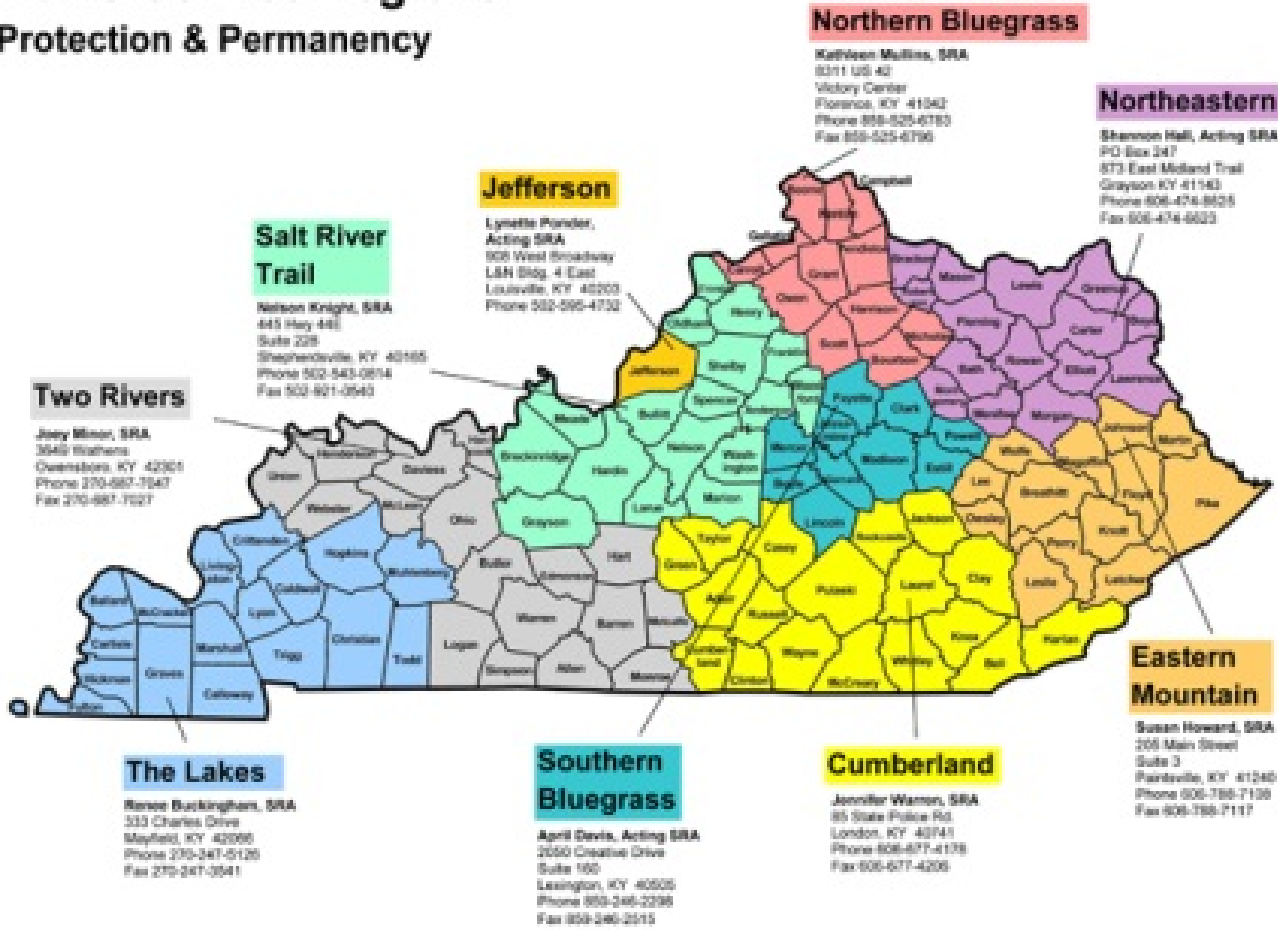
KY Foster Youth...By the Numbers

7,917

Source: CHFS Statewide Foster Care Facts, February 6, 2017

Where are these youth?

DCBS Service Regions Protection & Permanency



- Cumberland = 748
- Eastern Mtn = 392
- Jefferson = 967
- Northeastern = 639
- N. Bluegrass = 1,156
- Salt Riv Trail = 1,062
- S. Bluegrass = 1,354**
- The Lakes = 619
- Two Rivers = 980

KY Foster Youth...By the Numbers

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:

Less than 1 year = 1,569

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:

1 to < 3 years = 1,156

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:

3 to < 6 years = 1,890

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:

6 to < 12 years = 1,353

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:

12 to < 18 years = 1,941



Transition to Adulthood: Difficulties

Substantial evidence suggest that these youth, many of whom lack ongoing familial support, are more likely to experience:

- homelessness (Fowler, Toro, & Miles, 2009);
- have poorer outcomes in marital relations and community involvement (Buehler, Orme, Post, & Patterson, 2000);
- have a heightened risk for poor physical health (Takayama, Wolfe, & Coutler, 1998) and psychiatric disorders (McGuinness & Schneider, 2007);
- addiction (Morris, 2007);
- and, have difficulty in obtaining mental and physical health care, (Montgomery, Donkoh, & Underhill, 2006).

Promising Practices

- **Fostering Success Employment Program**
 - **Foster Care Plus Mobile Tech Development**
 - **Embrace Initiative**
 - **Fostering Good Will, FCAA, Voices of the Commonwealth, etc.**
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Areas of Need

- **Workforce**
- **More flexible (i.e., responsive) IL programming**
- **Resources for 21+ alumni (housing, etc.)**
- **Reframe the “continuum” of care**
- **Research that incorporates the VOICE of youth**

QUESTIONS?

A 3D rendered scene featuring the word "QUESTIONS?" in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters. The letters have a slight shadow and a reflection on the white surface below. A small, white, 3D humanoid figure stands in the center, positioned between the letters 'T' and 'I'. The figure is in a classic "thinking" pose, with its right hand on its chin and its left hand on its chest. The entire scene is set against a plain white background.