

# Fact Sheet

## for STATES

### *What Is NYTD?*

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The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a mandatory federal reporting system that collects data from states about youth demographics, the services youth receive and the outcomes they experience as they transition out of foster care. You can learn more about NYTD at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/about-nytd>

### *What Are The NYTD REVIEWS?*

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The NYTD Reviews are a comprehensive evaluation of states' policies and practices related to collecting and reporting accurate data on youth in transition. Another important goal of the NYTD Reviews is to assess states' capacity to analyze and use these data to improve programs that serve youth in transition. Similar to a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), the NYTD Review is a federal monitoring effort conducted in collaboration with the state. The primary onsite review activities consist of:

- A live demonstration of the information systems that collect NYTD data;
- A case review of youth records reported to NYTD; and
- Stakeholder interviews with youth, caseworkers, and service providers.



### *What Is The NYTD REVIEWER PROGRAM?*

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Young people with lived experience often understand best how the system works from an “insider” perspective because they have experienced the child welfare system first-hand. Young people play an important role in the NYTD Review by helping the state and federal team analyze and use information to drive changes within an agency to improve outcomes for children and families. They generate enthusiasm and advocate for positive change.

JBS International, Inc., prepares and involves young people as NYTD Reviewers by recruiting, training, and offering onsite technical assistance for NYTD Reviewers.

JBS staff prepare NYTD Reviewers by:

- Involving knowledgeable and experienced staff to work with the NYTD Reviewers;
- Educating interested applicants through the recruitment process to understand NYTD, NYTD Reviews, and the role of NYTD Reviewers;
- Providing quality trainings that simulate the review experience and prepare NYTD Reviewers for their role;
- Offering interactive, in-person, and one-on-one preparation before, during, and after the NYTD Reviews;





## *How Can States Engage Young People In The NYTD REVIEWS?*

During the NYTD Reviews states engage their young people from foster care by inviting them to participate as a NYTD state team member or by inviting young leaders to participate in the youth stakeholder interview focus group.

- Planning logistics and compensating the NYTD Reviewers for their work;
- Developing youth-friendly materials in coordination with experienced young professionals; and
- Providing a network of professional and peer-to-peer support throughout the NYTD Review process.

JBS involves NYTD Reviewers in NYTD-related work and during every phase of the NYTD Review process (pre-onsite, onsite, and post-onsite) by:

- Involving them in ongoing assistance with networking, educating, and recruitment of qualified candidates for NYTD Reviewers;
- Offering opportunities to review and provide feedback on NYTD Review materials;
- Offering opportunities to co-facilitate quality trainings;
- Participating in all planning calls during the pre-onsite phase that include the state and federal teams together, while the state prepares and submits documentation describing how it has implemented NYTD requirements;
- Participating in onsite phase activities such as entrance and exit conferences, demonstration of key aspects of the states' data collection system, a review of a sample of case records, and stakeholder interviews; and
- Participating in calls during the post-onsite phase to provide information for preparing a final report to document findings, list suggested resources and supports if technical assistance needs are identified, and explain the actions the state should take to improve the quality and accuracy of data collection for NYTD.

- As a member of the state NYTD Review team, a youth is included throughout the state's planning phase so that they are well-informed in time to participate in the federal NYTD Review.
- As a participant in the youth stakeholder interview, the youth participates in a scheduled interview conducted by federal NYTD Reviewers. The information shared is confidential and is incorporated within the NYTD report drafted by the NYTD federal team.

States can also:

- Provide an overview of NYTD, give task-specific training, and set clear expectations for youth in their NYTD role;
- Conduct meetings, calls, and other relevant business during the hours when young people can participate;
- Be sensitive to barriers to participation and help young people with transportation, child care, scheduling, and clothing;
- Compensate youth for their time and expertise and consider providing meals or snacks;
- Remember that these young people are the experts—no one else can provide this perspective!
- Support youth after the completion of activities by discussing lessons learned and provide feedback for growth.

**“The focus group where we talked about the results...made me feel like, ok well what I'm doing is actually like making some—it's actually doing something and it's doing some good.”**

**Blanca Merced**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Email JBS International, Inc.'s Child Welfare Compliance Reviews Team at [cw@jbsinternational.com](mailto:cw@jbsinternational.com) or see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/about-nytd>.