



Arizona Youth Opportunity Initiative



Children's Action Alliance (CAA)

Through research, publications, media campaigns, and advocacy, CAA seeks to influence policies and decisions affecting the lives of Arizona children and their families.

We Share Common Goals:

- **That all children have health insurance**
- **That no child is raised in poverty and hunger**
- **That every child enters school ready to learn and succeed**
- **That no child endures the ravages of abuse and neglect**
- **That every child has a place to call home**
- **That struggling teens have the support they need to become responsible adults**



Arizona Youth Opportunity Initiative (AYOI)



NINA MASON PULLIAM
CHARITABLE TRUST

Building a Legacy of Community
Grantmaking since 1998

Working nationally, in states, and locally to improve policies and practices, promote youth engagement, apply evaluation and research, and create community partnerships to ensure that young people make successful transitions from foster care to adulthood.

The Trust's investment in foster care organizations goes back to 1998. Beginning in 2012, The Trust provides leadership and support to CAA for Arizona to become a Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative Site.

CAA is currently working on an Environmental Scan and expects to develop an Implementation Plan towards acceptance as a Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Site.



AYIO Public and Community-Based Partners

- **Current Youth In Foster Care**
- **Alumni of Foster Care**
- **Arizona Department of Economic Security - Division of Children, Youth and Families**
- **Juvenile Courts and Judicial Officers**
- **Foundations**
- **Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections**
- **Regional Behavioral Health Authorities**
- **Administrative Office of The Courts**
- **Foster Care Review Boards**
- **CASAs**
- **Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys**
- **Foster Parents**
- **Community-Based Direct Service Providers**
- **Behavioral Health Providers**
- **K-12 Education**
- **Community Colleges**
- **Universities**
- **Financial Institutions**
- **Business Community**
- **Youth Organizations**
- **Faith Community**
- **Affordable Housing Entities**
- **And Many More...**



How Jim Casey and CAA Can Work To Improve Outcomes For Youth Leaving Foster Care

Strategies And Activities

A set of strategies and activities will help create the conditions that are necessary in Arizona in order to improve outcomes for young people transitioning from foster care:

- Youth Engagement
- Partnerships and Resources
- Research, Evaluation, and Communications
- Public Will and Policy
- Increased Opportunities

Improved Policy and Practice

Improved policy and practice will promote timely permanence and increase opportunities available to young people, regardless of race or ethnicity:

- A Permanent Family
- A Stable Education
- Opportunities to Achieve Economic Success
- A Place to Live
- Access to Health and Mental Health Care
- Opportunities to Be Listened To, Informed, and Respected and to Exert Control Over Their Lives

Improved Youth Outcomes

When systems are effectively supporting young people throughout their transition, they will have improved outcomes in the following areas:

- Permanence
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Physical and Mental Health
- Social Capital
- Financial Capability



- **Permanence** – Every young person has a lifetime supportive family network
- **Education** – Every young person has the skills to retain steady employment
- **Employment**– Every young person can support themselves through employment
- **Financial Capability** – Every young person is able to manage their budget & achieve financial goals
- **Housing** – Every young person has safe, stable & affordable housing
- **Physical & Mental Health** – Every young person has physical & mental health insurance
- **Social Capital** – Every young person capitalizes on a diverse network to achieve life goals

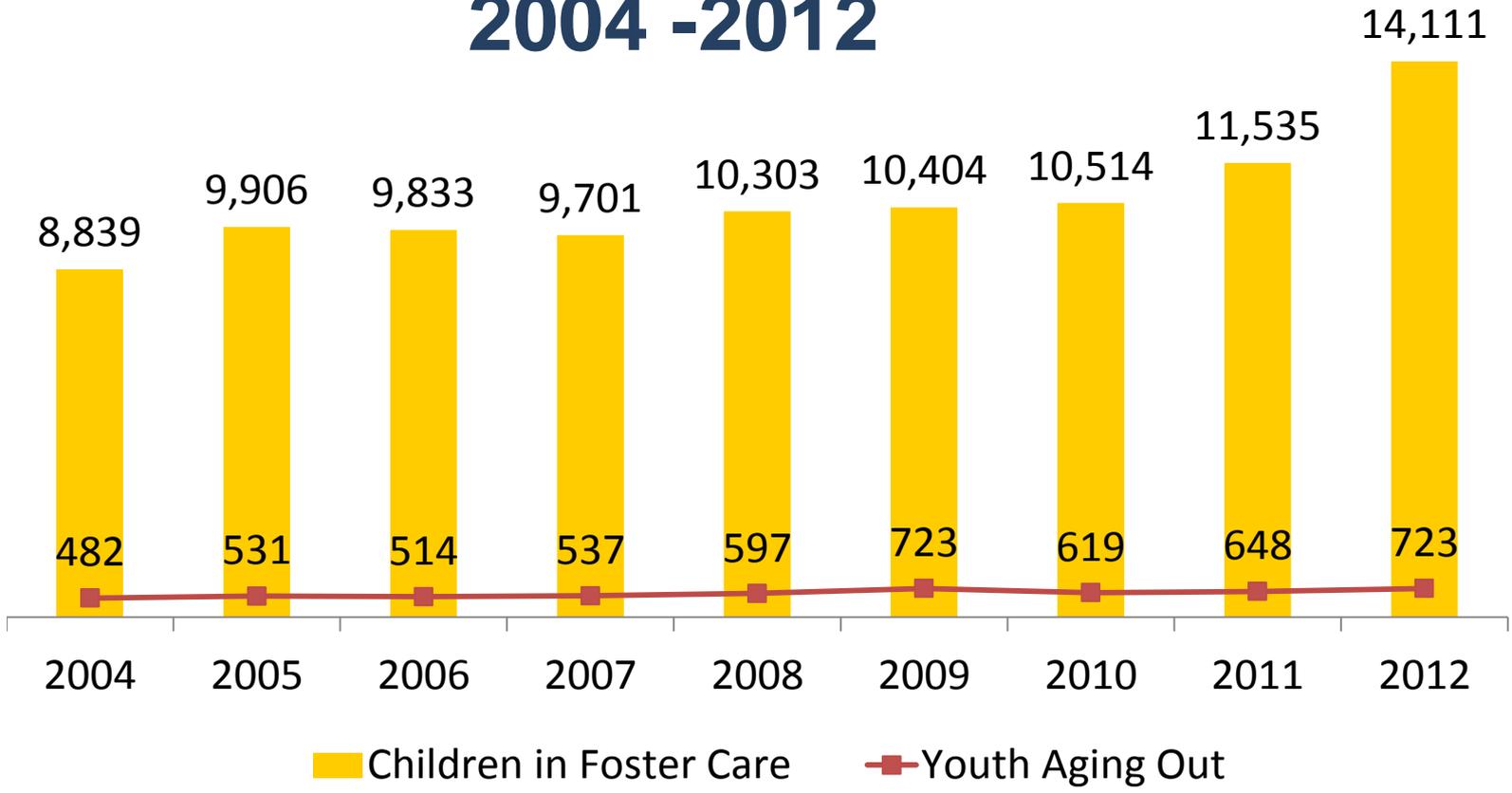


Arizona Policy Advancements For Youth In Foster Care

- **1984 - Established specialized case management staff and units to work with youth transitioning from foster care to independent living (Arizona Young Adult Program)**
- **1984 - Legislation providing for an Independent Living Subsidy Program**
- **2000 - Legislation to allow youth to remain in foster care until age 21.**
- **2000 - Legislation to provide AHCCCS health insurance coverage to youth who turn 18 while in foster care until their 21st birthday without regard to income (Young Adult Transition Insurance - YATI).**
- **2006 – DES practice changes allowing former Arizona foster youth under 21 who left care at age 18 or older have the option of returning to the state agency for these services, including transitional living support and the cost of housing.**
- **2010 - Legislation to ensure siblings are placed together whenever possible & contact is permitted.**
- **2010 - 2012 - Court adopted Rules for the Juvenile Court, outlining the responsibilities of Attorneys to advise children of their rights to participation in court proceedings, including speaking to the judge.**
- **2013 - SB 1208 - A 5 year pilot to provide tuition waivers for foster youth at state community colleges & universities (Pending Passage).**



Arizona Children in Foster Care 2004 -2012



Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports (2003-2012) compiled by the Children's Action Alliance.

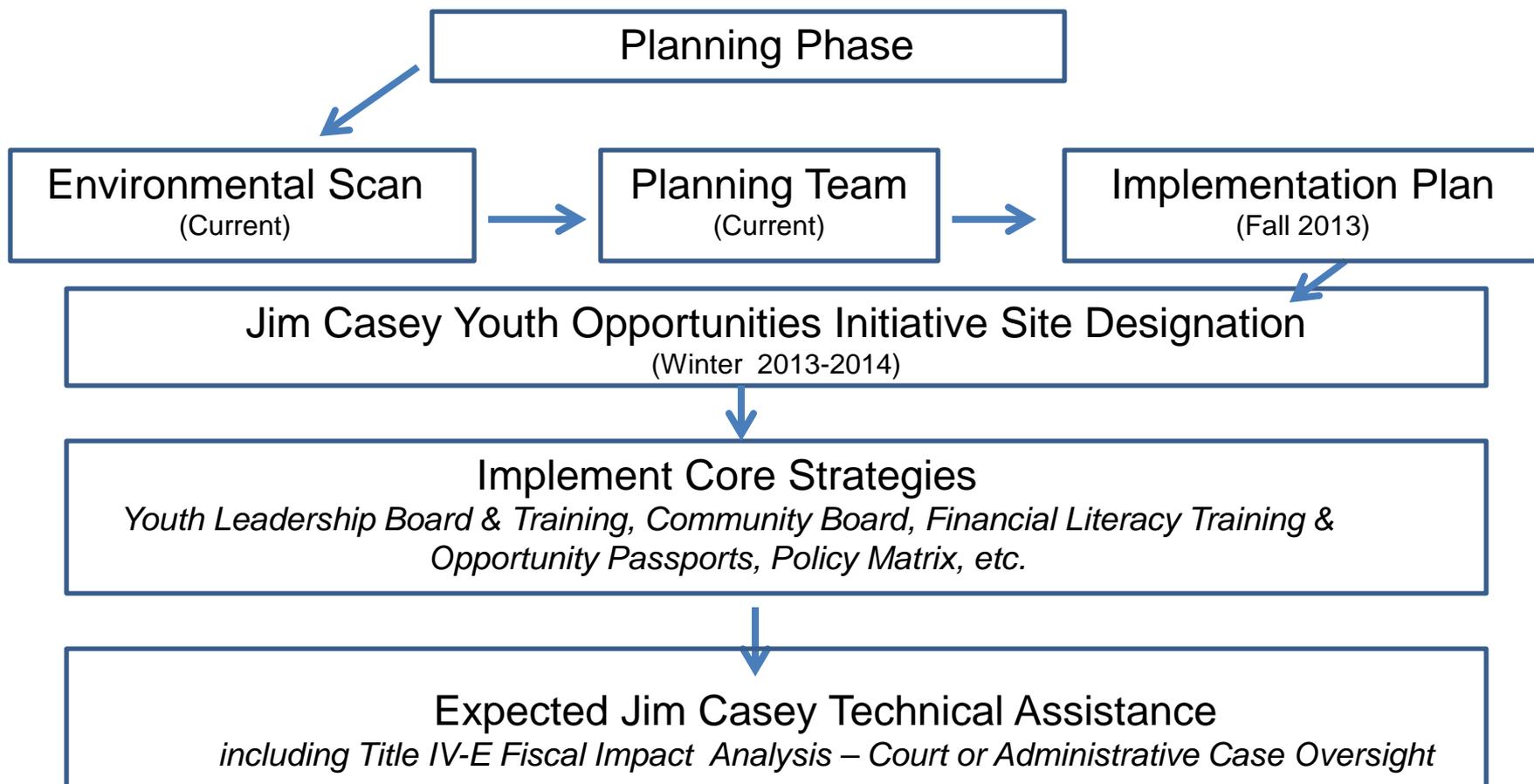


Arizona Children in Foster Care aged 14 + by Placement Type

Age	Relative	Family Foster Home	Group Home	Residential Treatment	Independent Living	Runaway	Trial Home Visit	Total
14	160	163	131	61	0	24	1	540
15	149	203	190	94	0	41	5	682
16	159	196	240	114	3	62	4	778
17	126	183	255	116	9	98	3	790
18 & older	27	79	56	88	313	38	1	602
Total	621	824	872	473	325	263	14	3,392
Percent of Total	18.3%	24.3%	25.7%	13.9%	9.6%	7.8%	0.0%	100.0%



AYOI Expected Action Steps





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