



YTFG FACT SHEET

The **Youth Transition Funders Group** (YTFG) was started by funders dedicated to improving the lives of our nation's most vulnerable youth. The YTFG vision is of a society dedicated to providing young people with the skills, supports, and opportunities they need to transition into meaningful and productive adult lives. Foundations involved in the YTFG are committed to achieving a common mission—ensuring that young people are successfully connected by age 25 to institutions and support systems that will enable them to succeed throughout adulthood. The YTFG has adopted the theme “Connected by 25” to describe this mission. A young person who is Connected by 25 has attained five critical outcomes:

- Educational achievement in preparation for career and civic participation, including a high school diploma, postsecondary degree and/or vocational certificate training
- Gainful employment and/or access to career training to achieve life-long economic success
- Connections to a positive support system—guidance from family members and caring adults, as well as access to health, counseling, and mental health services
- The ability to be a responsible and nurturing parent
- The capacity to participate in the civic life of one's community

To achieve this mission, YTFG members are committed to working together, thereby enhancing the likelihood that investments from individual foundations will make a real difference in promoting young people's attainment of these outcomes. YTFG members are organized into three work groups: multiple pathways to graduation, juvenile justice, and foster care.

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION WORK GROUP

As part of the Youth Transition Funders Group, the Multiple Pathways to Graduation Work Group focuses on young people who are struggling to stay in school despite the poor quality of their educational experience, as well as young people who have been pushed out or who have dropped out. Grantmakers in this work group are currently

working together to support efforts in selected cities to improve educational options and outcomes for the growing numbers of struggling and out-of-school youth.

JUVENILE JUSTICE WORK GROUP

The Juvenile Justice Work Group is composed of regional and national grantmakers who work across the fields of justice, education, foster care, and mental health. Members of this work group are committed to funding systems and programs that serve justiceinvolved youth, seizing opportunities to reduce harm, address fairness, promote public safety, and save taxpayers dollars. Through coordinated funding across the country, this work group aims to make the links between fields more explicit so that more foundations can engage in this work as a logical extension of their existing guidelines.

FOSTER CARE WORK GROUP

The Foster Care Work Group brings together foundation leaders with a shared interest in preparing youth in foster care for their transition out of the child welfare system and providing them pathways to lifelong economic well-being. Together, members of the Foster Care Work Group are working in demonstration sites across the country to actively build a national movement of funders, community leaders, young people, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers with a shared focus on supporting successful futures for foster youth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Multiple Pathways to Graduation Work Group

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Juvenile Justice Work Group

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Foster Care Work Group

fcwg@ytf.org

Media Contact

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STEERING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Gary Stangler

Executive Director, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
YTFG Steering Committee Co-Chair
St. Louis, MO

Mr. Stangler is executive director of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, a major national effort launched in May 2001 by The Annie E. Casey Foundation and Casey Family Programs to help youth in foster care make successful transitions to the adult world. Prior to this position, Mr. Stangler was the director of the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) appointed by Governor John Ashcroft (R) in May 1989, and re-appointed by Governor Mel Carnahan (D) in February 1993. Active in international, national and state organizations, he has served on the board of directors of the American Public Human Services Association and the American Public Welfare Association, and chaired its National Council of State Human Services Administrators from 1994-1998. He is a graduate of the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government; Strategic Public-Sector Negotiation; and Leadership for the 21st Century at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.



Carmen James Lane

Program Officer, Eugene & Agnes Meyer Foundation
YTFG Steering Committee Co-chair
Washington, D.C.



Carmen James Lane specializes in grantmaking related to children, youth, and families. She is the co-chair of the [Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers](#) working group on Children Youth and Families. Her portfolio also includes research on the District, suburban Maryland, Northern Virginia, and regional issues. Ms. Lane joined the Meyer Foundation in 1998 to lead the Initiative to Strengthen Neighborhood Inter-Group Assets, which was created in partnership with the [Ford Foundation](#) to encourage recent immigrants and established residents to work together on issues of common concern. The Inter-Group Initiative is now housed at the [Community Foundation for the National Capital Region](#) and supported by a host of local funding partners. For more than seven years prior to joining the Meyer Foundation, Ms. Lane served as the assistant director of the [Humanities Council of Washington, DC](#) where she developed the award-winning City Lights program, a humanities-based literacy program for children and families living in public housing communities. She received a bachelor's degree in American Studies with a concentration in African American Studies from American University.

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EXAMPLES OF FUNDER COLLABORATION

Multiple Pathways to Graduation

[Strategic Assessments of Five Communities](#) *

Boston, Philadelphia, Portland (Oregon), San Jose, and New York

Foster Care

[Connected by 25 FCWG Pilot Sites](#) *

Florida, Indiana, California

Juvenile Justice

[Juvenile Justice Detention Alternative Initiative](#) *

Cook County, New York City, Multnomah County, Sacramento

Cross-Cutting Disconnected Youth Initiative

[California Connected by 25 Initiative](#) *

Five Counties in California

* Active Links

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YTFG PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP

Philanthropic leaders from the following institutions are active in the Youth Transition Funders Group:

[The Annie E. Casey Foundation](#)

[The Atlantic Philanthropies](#)

[Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

[The California Endowment](#)

[Carnegie Corporation of New York](#)

[Casey Family Programs](#)

[Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#)

[The Children's Trust](#)

[Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth](#)

[Eckerd Family Foundation](#)

[The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation](#)

[Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation](#)

[Edward W. Hazen Foundation](#)

[Girl's Best Friend Foundation](#)

[The James Irvine Foundation](#)

[JEHT Foundation](#)

[The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#)

[Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

[Lumina Foundation for Education](#)

[Open Society Institute](#)

[Stuart Foundation](#)

[Surdna Foundation](#)

[The Tow Foundation](#)

[Twenty-First Century Foundation](#)

[Walter S. Johnson Foundation](#)

[The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#)

[William Penn Foundation](#)

[W. K. Kellogg Foundation](#)

[Zellerbach Family Foundation](#)