



ALTERNATIVE  
FAMILY SERVICES

PROVIDING THOUGHTFUL, INFORMED FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Who We Are

Since 1978, AFS has been serving the diverse and varied needs of thousands of children, youth, and families. Currently, AFS annually cares for approximately 1,500 youth through the following services accredited by COA: foster care, mental health, adoption, transition age youth, professional training, emergency shelter and juvenile justice youth.

AFS staff, board members, resource parents, corporate/community partners, and financial supporters make up our compassionate network who work together to help youth in care reclaim their sense of possibilities within safe, stable, and caring environments. AFS employs approximately 200 staff members from more than 12 countries, with education ranging from high school graduates to PhDs who provide a wide range of services in English and Spanish.

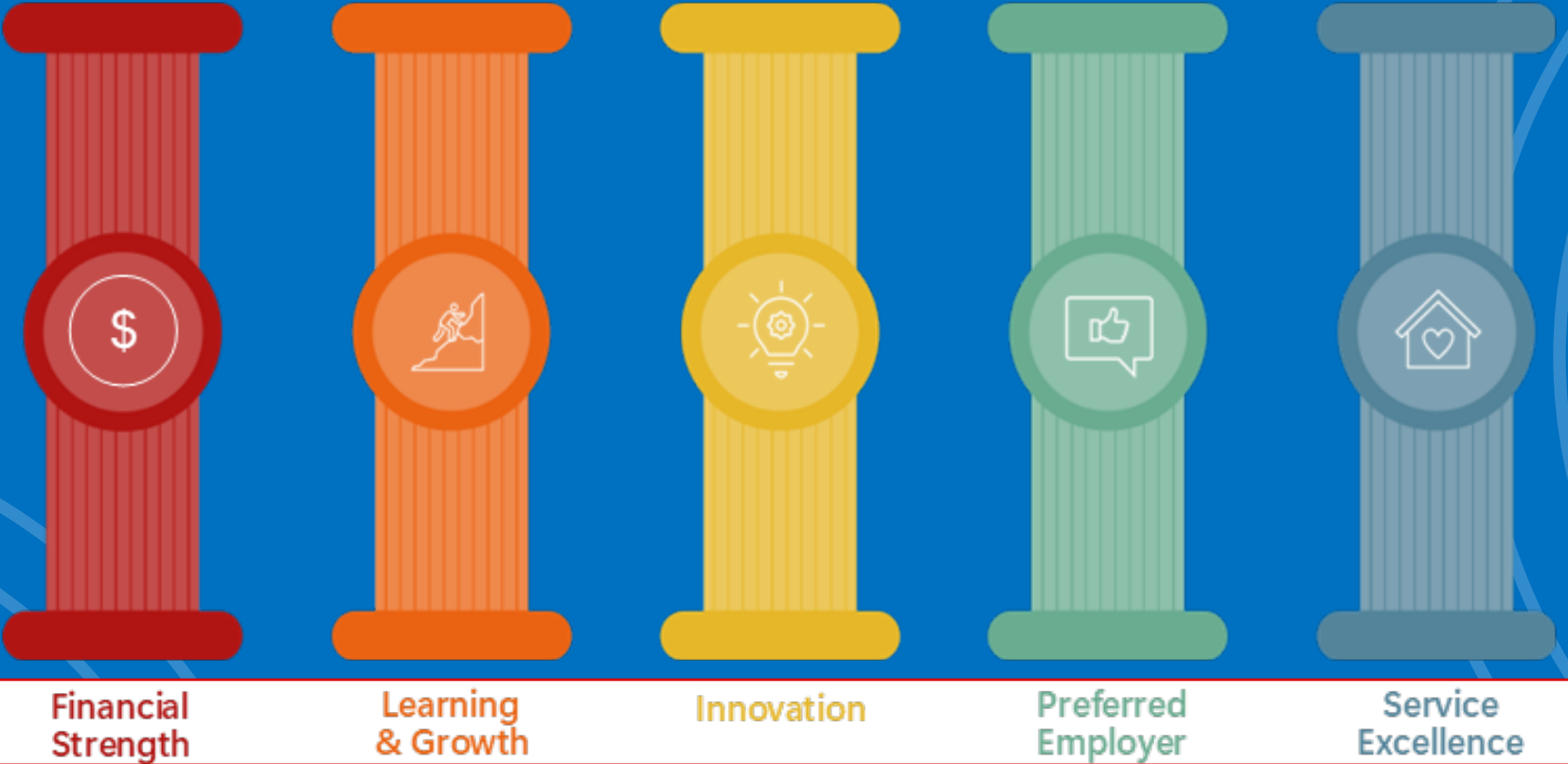
AFS' successful history, now spanning almost half a century, would not have been possible without the selfless generosity of the original visionaries at Huckleberry House (San Francisco), the dozens of volunteer board members, innumerable staff members, thousands of foster parents, respite workers, and volunteers.



# Mission

Alternative Family Services  
MISSION

Support vulnerable children, youth and families in need of stability, safety and wellbeing in their communities.



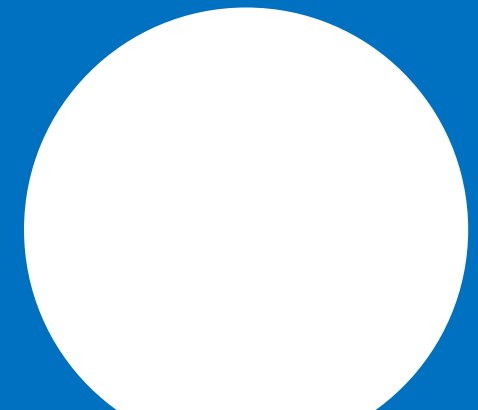


# Programs

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# Resource Parents-

VIDEO



# What You Need to Know



## Increased Financial Strain on Families

Families are facing increased financial burdens, which impacts their ability to provide for foster children. Rising costs for basic necessities—such as food, school supplies, and transportation—are stretching already limited resources. These financial strains also make it more difficult to secure long-term stability for children in foster care.

## County Cutbacks

With county funding cuts, foster care agencies like ours are forced to operate with fewer resources. This makes it harder to provide the level of support that children and families need. Many of the programs that have proven essential, such as after-school tutoring, math camps, and community-based initiatives are at risk of being scaled back or eliminated entirely.

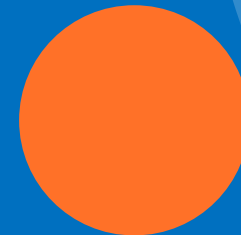


# The Impact of Financial Support

Financial support is critical for meeting the basic needs of foster children.

Funds help provide:

- **School Supplies & Clothing:** Ensuring that children have the tools they need to succeed in school.
- **After-School Programs & Tutoring:** Helping children keep up academically and socially.
- **Transportation Costs & Local Community Groups:** Facilitating access to extracurricular activities and important socialization opportunities.
- **Specialized Programs:** Such as math camps and other enrichment activities that help foster children catch up and excel in their education.
- **Additional Services and Support for Special Needs Children**  
Children with special needs require extra attention and specialized services, such as therapy, educational support, and medical care. These services often come with additional costs, making it even more challenging for foster families to meet their children's needs without external financial assistance.



# Understanding AFS's Community-Based Services

VIDEO





**Did you  
know?** VIDEO



**Foster Teens**

# Meeting the Needs of Over-Age Youth



## **Some challenges that foster youth face include:**

**Feelings of abandonment, grief, and confusion**

**Questions about self-worth**

**Difficulty processing their circumstances**

**Physical, mental, and emotional symptoms that can extend into adulthood**

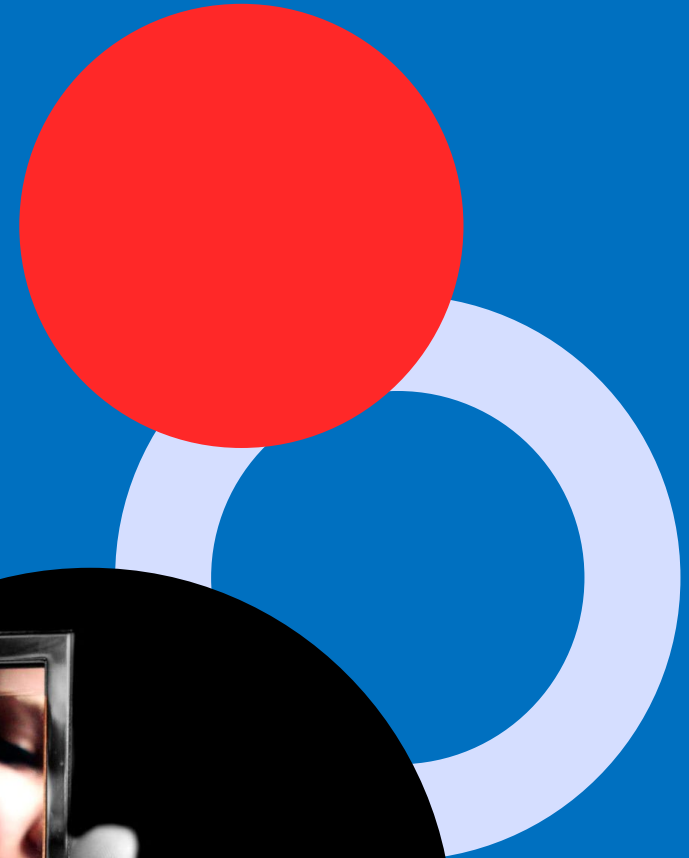
## **Some statistics about foster youth include:**

**20% of foster youth become homeless immediately after aging out**

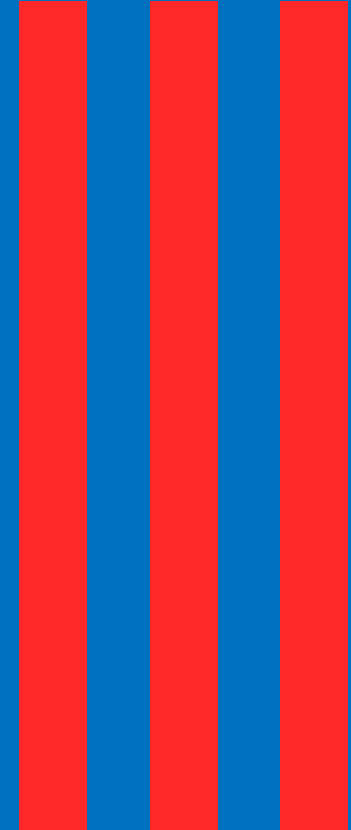
**Less than 3% earn a college degree by age 26**

**Only 50% find employment by age 24**

**25% of foster youth who age out have PTSD**



**Youth who are transitioning to adulthood need to have well developed self-esteem and self-efficacy skills that equip them to manage relationships in multiple contexts, including education and employment settings, as well as with friends and family members. Often, youth in the foster care system have lived through multiple traumas and disruptive events by the time they begin their transition to adulthood. This can include abuse and/or neglect, multiple foster home placements, lack of continuity in education, and an array of losses of relationships (e.g., friends, family, and/or siblings).**



# Housing Services For Foster Youth THP+

Transitional Housing Program Plus





# Foster Youth Testimonial

## Julio's Journey: From Foster Care to Empowerment

Julio's story is one of resilience and transformation. Entering foster care at age 10, he faced instability, moving between homes due to behavioral challenges. This changed when he was placed with the AFS resource family, the Morris family, who provided unwavering support and a nurturing environment. Their care, combined with AFS's therapeutic resources, helped Julio address his emotional and behavioral needs.

At 18, Julio joined the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+) program, gaining a stable foundation for his future. Today, at 22, he is about to graduate from Sonoma State University. His academic success, driven by determination, is a testament to the support he received.

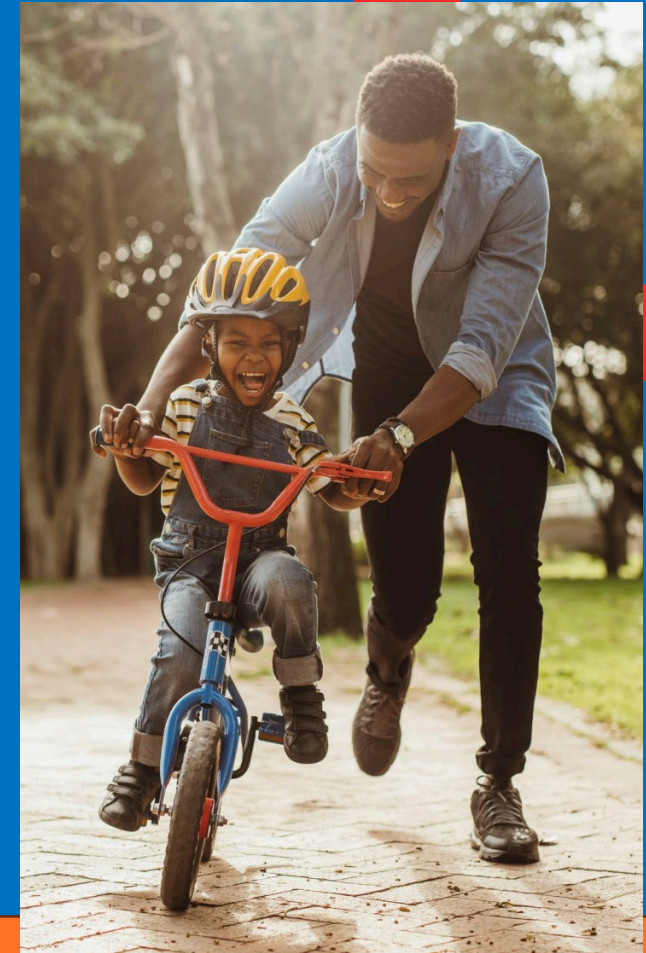
Julio now aspires to become a social worker to help foster youth navigate similar challenges. His journey demonstrates the profound impact of compassionate care and the power of support systems like AFS and THP+. Julio's story is an inspiration and a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit.



# The Path Forward

This grant will enable us to continue to serve vulnerable children, particularly those from underrepresented and underserved communities, by addressing the financial pressures that are hindering our efforts. We believe that every child deserves a chance to succeed, and with your support, we can continue to provide the services, mentorship, and programs that are essential to their growth and well-being.

Your investment will directly impact the lives of foster children, helping to provide the stability, education, and opportunities they need to overcome their challenges and succeed.



With your support, we can continue our mission to empower and uplift these children, providing them with the tools and opportunities to thrive.

Thank you!

“

Every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them,  
who understands the power of connection  
and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.

~**Rita Pierson**~



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