



think of us

Driving Systems Change
in Child Welfare

Sixto Cancel

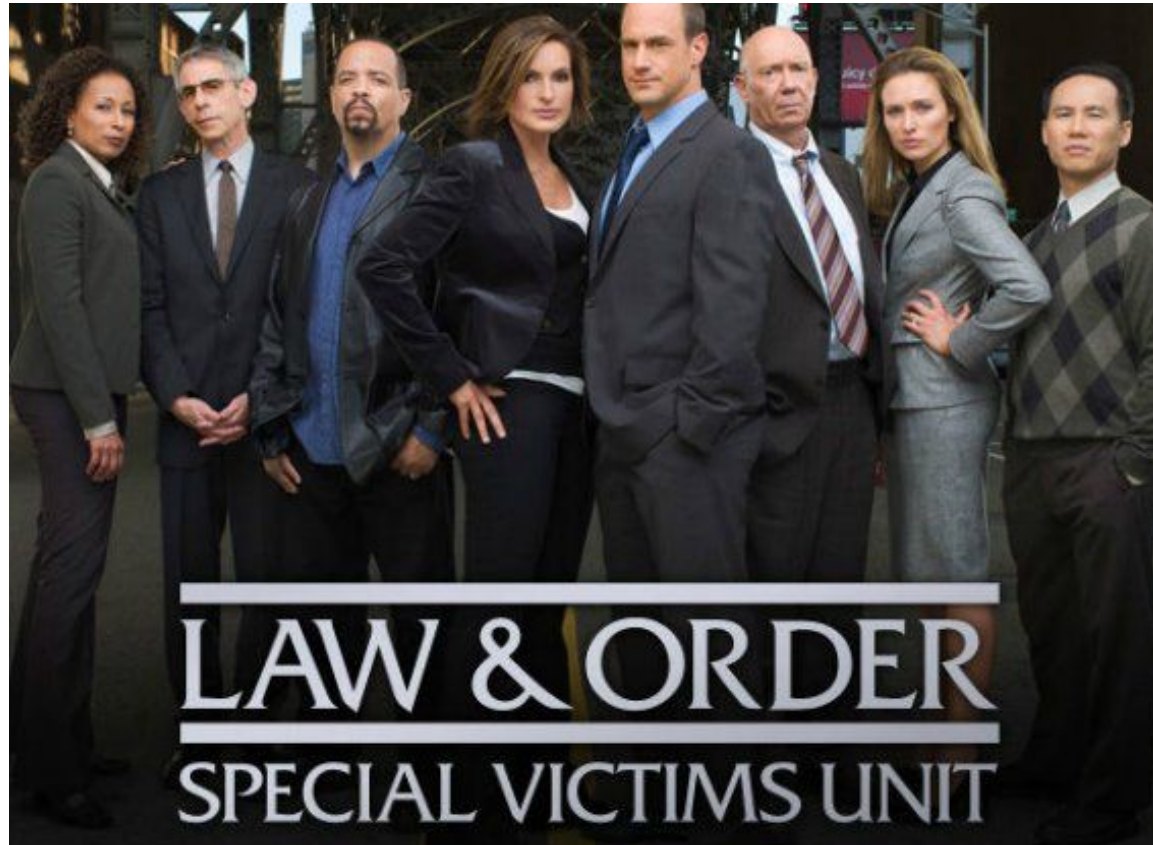
Founder & CEO
Think of us

National Press Foundation
The Future of the American Child 2023 Fellowship
May 7, 2023



think of 









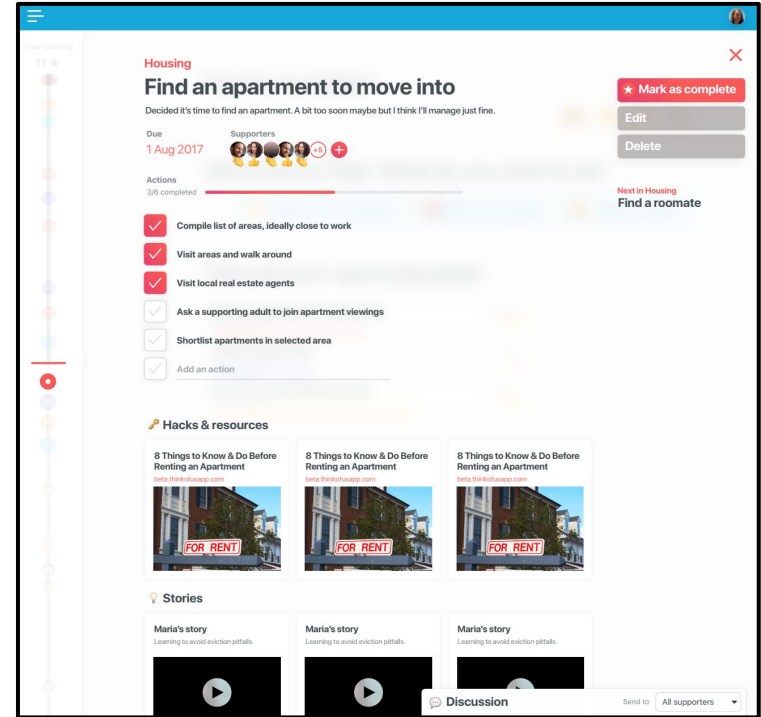
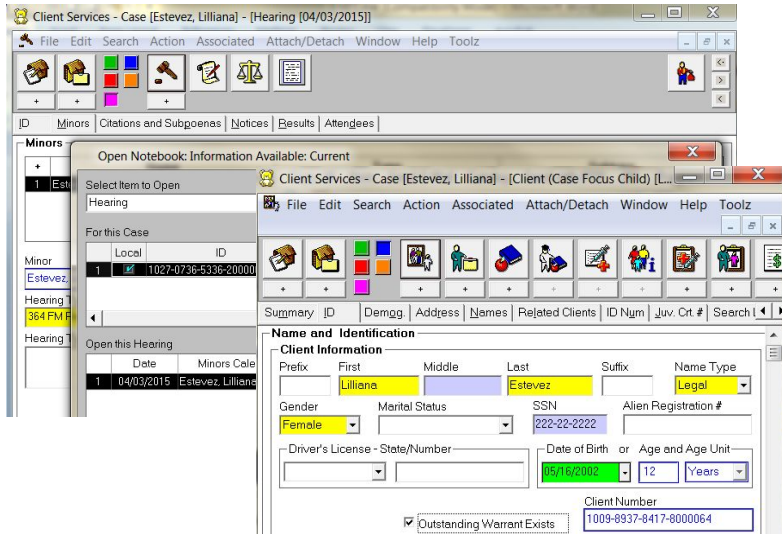
think of 





think of US

YOUTH, SUPPORTERS AND PROFESSIONALS IN ONE PLACE



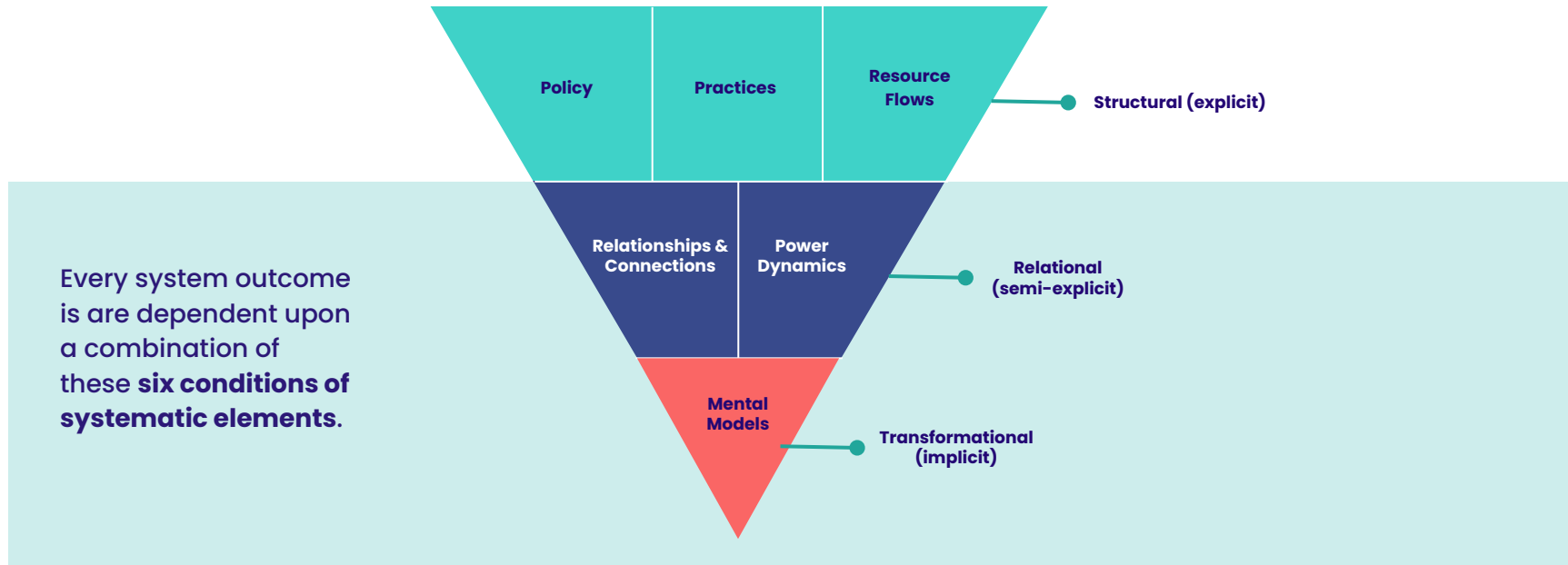
Provide workers, youth and supportive adults the first ever data driven life coaching platform for youth ageing out of foster care



@Sixtocancel #ThinkofUs



Think of Us is focused on shifting the six elements that keep systematic outcomes in place...



An National Opportunity

THE
AUDACIOUS
PROJECT

Think of Us raises
audacious investment
to accelerate
transformation of child
welfare system



TOU will work in partnership to **transform** the child welfare system:

**create a new
part of the
system that
supports families
and youth
(*PREVENTION*)**

**structure
a new version
of kinship care
(*Kinship*)**

**modernize how
we support older
adolescents
(*Older Youth*)**

The Opportunity

(PREVENTION)

reduce entry for
poverty by 50%



(Kinship Care)

80% of those in
care live with
someone they
know and trust



(Older Youth)

20K young people
who exit the
system annually
have the support
to thrive



TOU Systems Design Method to meet the moment

Diagnose

TOU and partner organizations conduct assessment of existing work to identify needs and evaluate which module is the most appropriate entry point for a proposed intervention/partnership opportunity.

Research & Understand

IDENTIFY

Surface pain points and opportunities for transformation in the system

REFRAME

Develop a differentiated and nuanced understanding of the pain point or opportunity

Design & Implement

SCOUT

Leverage existing solutions (applying innovation and technology) OR co-create new ones

IDEATE

Determine the tools needed to address the pain point or opportunity considering the needs of impacted individuals

Codify

REPLICATE

When applicable, scale solutions at the county, state, and/or federal level to drive sustainable impact

UPGRADE

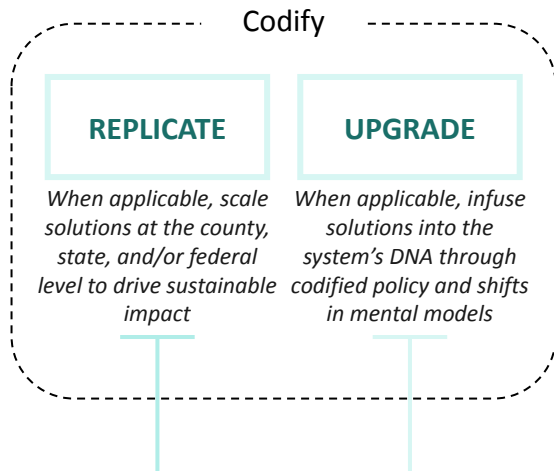
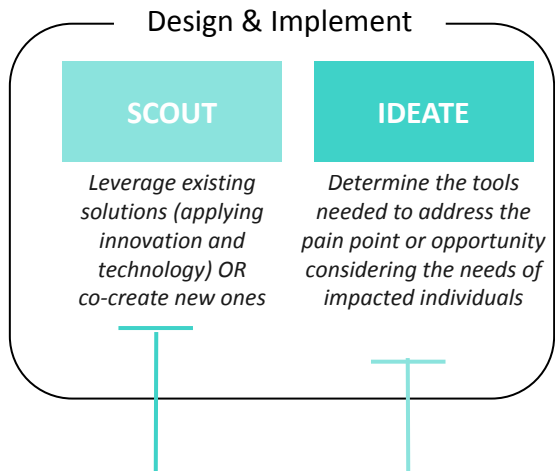
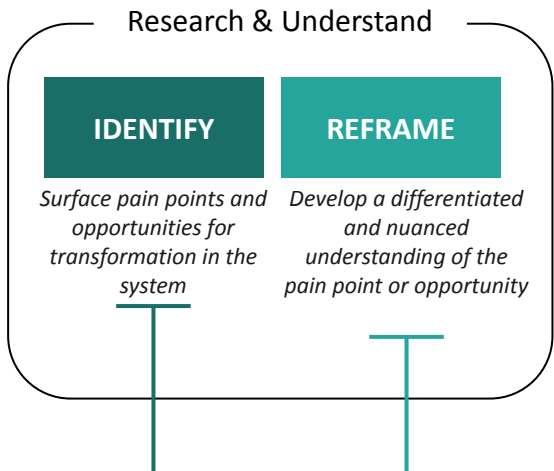
When applicable, infuse solutions into the system's DNA through codified policy and shifts in mental models

CENTER LIVED EXPERIENCE & STAY PROXIMATE

KEY



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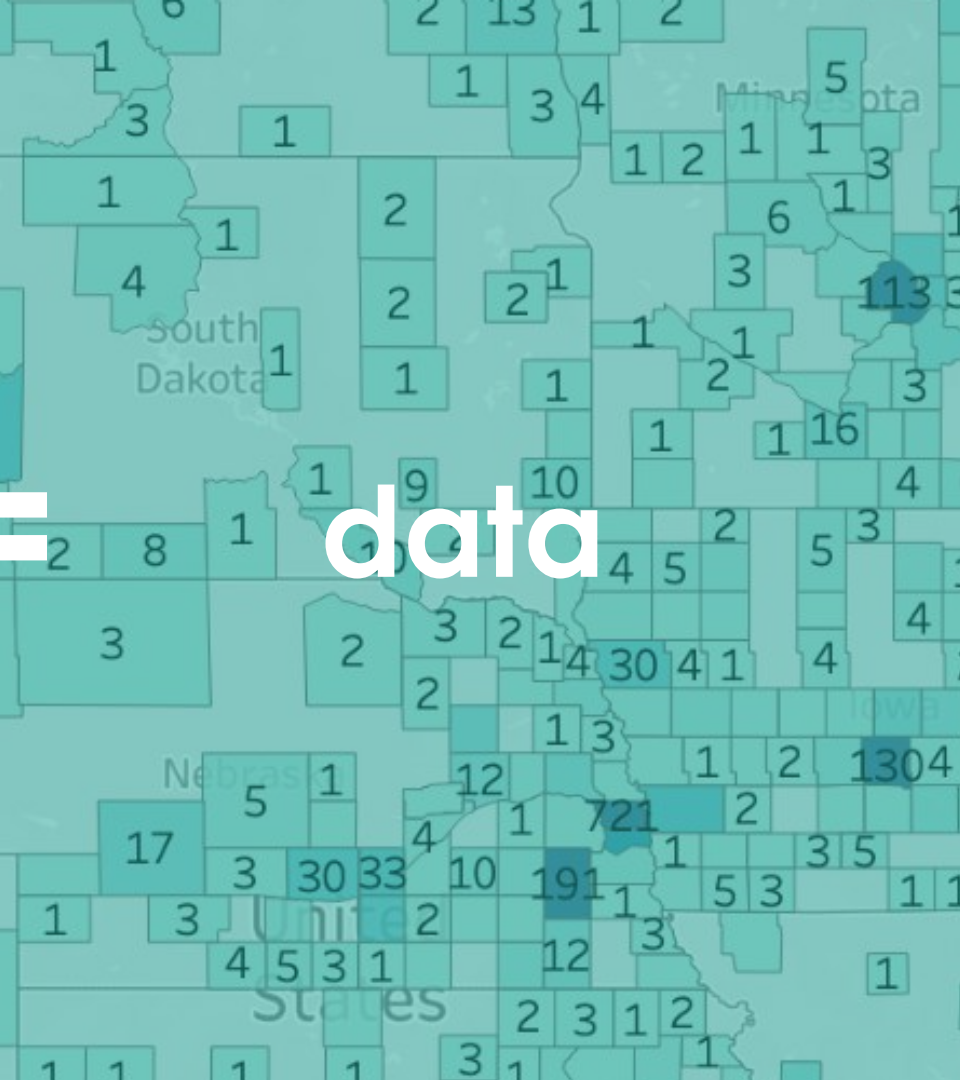


STAY PROXIMATE VIA DIRECT SERVICE & REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

KEY



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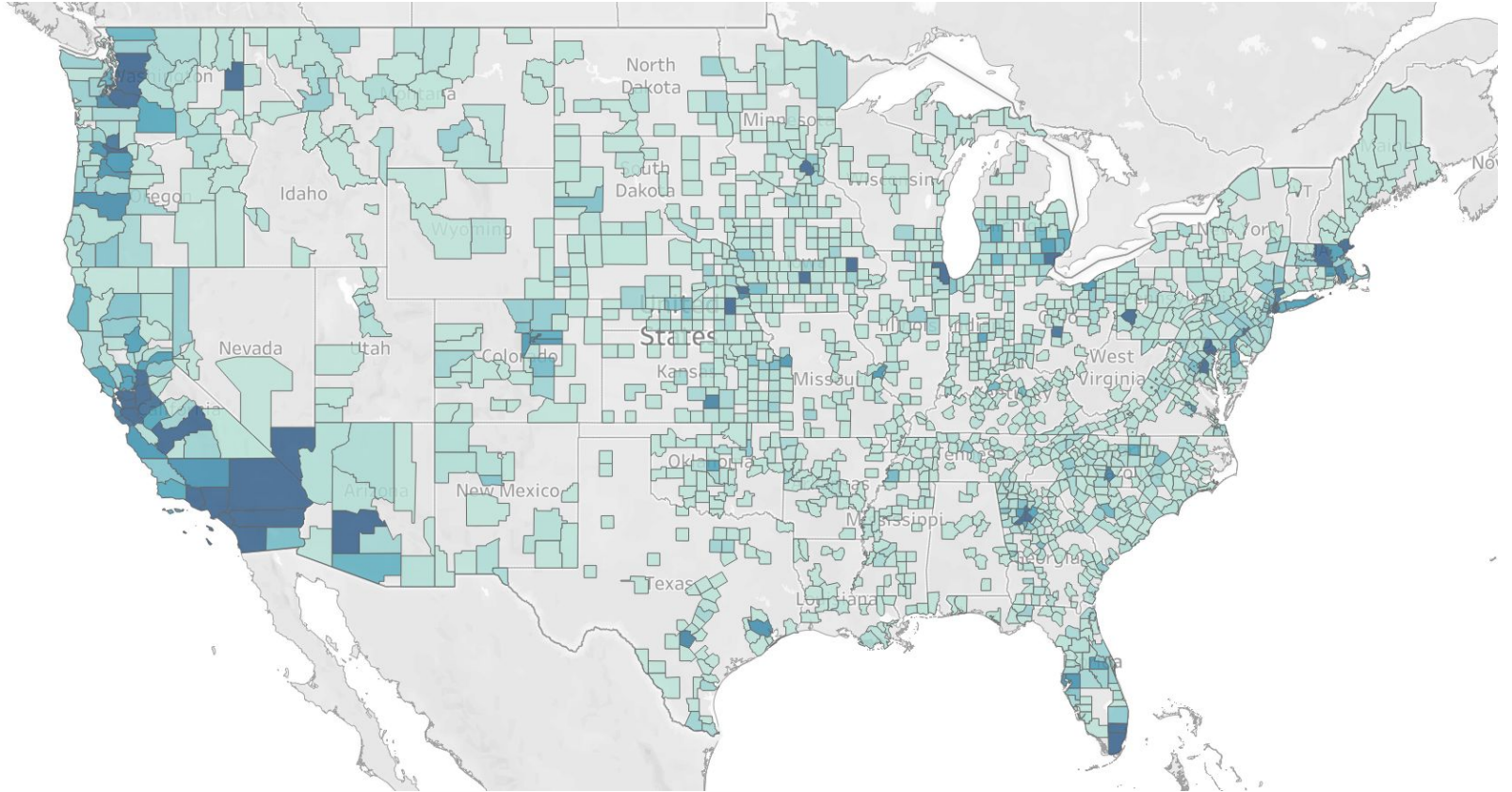


**lived
experience**

=

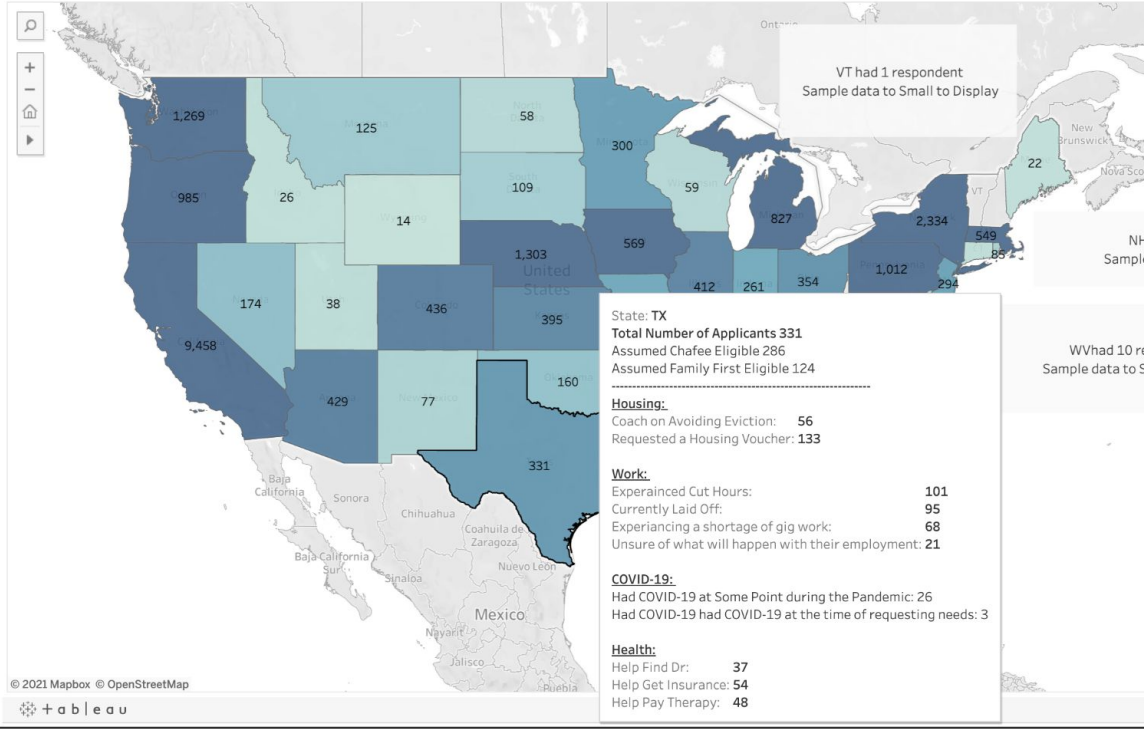
data

Where do they live?



A	B	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	
Guid	ClientId	MoneyFor	MoneyFor Housing	MoneyFor Fo	MoneyFor Bill	AmountMone	FeelOtherNex	Area	TellUs	Selection1	Selection2	State	RChildCare	RClothing	REducation	REmployment	RFood	
199b5c61-88	13635	Diapers, orga	Diapers, organic milk, cloth . Rent , bills .	Diapers, orga	Diapers, orga	1000	Family suppo	I need to find	How to deal v	Employment	Childcare	CA	5	3	5	5		
2ef6ae08-be	16231	Rent utilities	Rent utilities and supplies	Rent utilities	Rent utilities		Whatever you	My rent and u	I wouldn't kno	If I can't keep	Housing	CA	5	5	5	5		
333621a6-86	12656	Utilities,housi	Utilities,housing,gas,clothing,food,childcare	Utilities,housi	Utilities,housi	1000	Utilities	Just continue	I am curently	Housing	Childcare	CA	5	5	1	1		
dfda01f5-d50	17124	My self and c	My self and child i will be caring for	My self and c	My self and c	1000	Transportati	Program infor	Good mornin	Childcare	Clothing/Supp	CA	5	5	1	1		
2d0eef75-fa9	17124	Myself and ca	Myself and care of child being placed in my home	Myself and ca	Myself and ca	1000	Transportati	Good mornin	Good mornin	Childcare	Clothing/Supp	CA	5	5	1	1		
fb5272ac-34e	14143	rent /food -	rent /food -	rent /food -	rent /food -	1000	clothes	California P-e	I am a greatg	Food	Clothing/Supp	CA	1	5	1	1		
b919114f-51f	19960	Food, summe	Food, summer camp, school clothes	Food, summe	Food, summe	1000	Therapy, cam	Any kind of h	My wife and I	Food	Clothing/Supp	CA	3	5	5	5		
869953a-9a	18667	School clothe	School clothes	School clothe	School clothe	1000	Clothes	Need help wil	Single mom o	Food	Clothing/Supp	CA	5	5	3	5		
dc0cc862-a7f	13013	Rent and bills	Rent and bills	Rent and bills	Rent and bills	1000	Counseling	Counseling A	Bills are piling	Healing from	Clothing/Supp	CA	1	5	3	5		
cb6d110e-32	19378	Housing expe	Housing expenses and supporting the kids	Housing expe	Housing expe	1000	Resources to	Any that can	O have been	Healing from	Clothing/Supp	CA	5	5	5	5		
79421187-be	12418	clothes, food,	clothes, food,daily necessities, bills, moving expense	clothes, food,	clothes, food,	1000	therapist for s	I'm looking fo	I rent and the	Housing	Clothing/Supp	CA	5	5	5	5		
9a323729-1d	17428	Behind on rei	Behind on rent, car payment and utilities due to covid	Behind on rei	Behind on rei	2200	Clothes for th	More affordat	I have a love	Housing	Clothing/Supp	CA	1	5	3	3		
759f5e96-c0e	21562	My family is	My family is in need of these funds to pay rent, food, bills and to get clo	My family is	My family is	1000	school suppli	I would have	I wish to cont	Housing	Clothing/Supp	CA	5	5	5	1		
b7465e33-51	15393	Grocery, Higl	Grocery, High Electric bills, Gas Bill, Clothing	Grocery, Higl	Grocery, Higl	1,000	would l	Helping a you	Help advocat	I would like to	Mental health	Clothing/Supp	CA	1	3	5	1	
0a83a483-fd1	13639	My food expe	My food expensive been higher utilities and kids breaking their electroni	My food expe	My food expe	3000	Resources ar	Allow a week	This has beer	Respite/break	Clothing/Supp	CA	5	3	5	3		
d417ca1d-da	16807	I need to get	I need to get my truck registered so I can transport the kids to school ar	I need to get	I need to get	1,000	Clothing Food	I have a vehi	My husband j	Transportatio	Clothing/Supp	CA	1	5	3	3		
88228ccf-c53	12966	Financial harc	Financial hardship	Financial harc	Financial harc	\$1,000	Bills	I need help w	Hi I'm curren	Transportatio	Clothing/Supp	CA	1	5	3	5		
5eb09221-0f6	16323	2 Beds and n	2 Beds and mattresses, dresser	2 Beds and n	2 Beds and n	\$1,500	Childrens clot	A car	I currently car	Transportatio	Clothing/Supp	CA	1	5	1	1		
ebbeba28-98	13759	I need the m	I need the money to pay my electric/gas bill,rent and get some groceries	I need the m	I need the m	\$1,000	Pay for my cl	This grant will	Due to covid	Food	Employment	CA	1	1	5	2		
bfd78a72-7ff	12330	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	1,000	Food	Unknown	Bills and rent	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	5	5	5	5		
be6331e6-dd	14362	Utilities, rent,	Utilities, rent, groceries	Utilities, rent,	Utilities, rent,	1000	Food	I'm not sure n	I have 6 kids	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	5	5	1	1		
1e88e6fd-b3	16239	I can use this	I can use this money for schools clothes, vacation for the summer, get n	I can use this	I can use this	\$1,000	Besides mon	By helping m	I love the fac	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	5	5	2	2		
7c5d0a85-f2f	18583	Rent bills	Rent bills	Rent bills	Rent bills	1000	Na	Children cloth	Food, rent an	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	1	5	1	1		
8a258c6d-0a	18891	Food close in	Food close in allowance betting	Food close in	Food close in	\$1,000	Haircuts book	Anything that	I am the aunt	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	5	5	5	1		
c7631453-f9	12653	Clothes, Sho	Clothes, Shoes, Blankets, Summer activities	Clothes, Sho	Clothes, Sho	1,000\$	Foster care B	N/A	I am recentl	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	1	4	5	1		
d21bdc09-65	16827	For child need	For child need	For child need	For child need	1000	I would like to	All types of c	I have 6 gran	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	5	5	5	1		
d9015163-94	20129	clothing, child	clothing, child clothing, childcare, shoes	clothing, child	clothing, child	\$800	childcare	money to pay	my greatgran	Clothing/Supp	Food	CA	5	5	5	3		
63a56ad0-64	12432	Summer ente	Summer entertainment Magic mountain Knoxberry Farm adventure city	Summer ente	Summer ente	\$500 to the \$	Preparing for	School suppli	I would just lik	Education	Food	CA	5	5	5	3		
e7148cb4-04	13041	Food and ren	Food and rent	Food and ren	Food and ren	\$3,000	Food	Financial hel	My rent has ir	Housing	Housing	CA	4	5	5	4		
5ed2db77-9b	18795	Mortgage, ligl	Mortgage, light bill , groceries	Mortgage, ligl	Mortgage, ligl	4,000	Light bill Mort	We are curre	I have more t	Housing	Food	CA	1	5	1	3		
fe4c7a74-17f	12339	Bills	Bills	Bills	Bills	1000	Finding a nev	I just need he	lm a foster pe	Housing	Food	CA	1	5	4	5		
0470e323-01	16402	Food, Rent, u	Food, Rent, utilities, self care, transportation	Food, Rent, u	Food, Rent, u	1000	More online g	I would like s	I am a single	Housing	Food	CA	1	5	1	3		
d7755605-e7f	17260	It would help	It would help with some past due utility bills and household items	It would help	It would help	1000	household ap	Fixing a big	The money w	Housing	Food	CA	3	3	1	5		
8624aaa6-8f8	18062	Rent, groceri	Rent, groceries, bills,	Rent, groceri	Rent, groceri	\$1,000	Clothes and	Grants for rer	Any money w	Housing	Food	CA	2	4	2	5		
7a6ef053-45f	19232	Basic everyd	Basic everyday needs	Basic everyd	Basic everyd	1000	Having to mo	I need immed	I am 75 years	Housing	Food	CA	5	5	5	1		
b04ae6a3-f0e	16729	food/rent/ clo	food/rent/ clothes for granddaughter	food/rent/ clo	food/rent/ clo	800	food/ daycare	watch my gra	I am in need	Childcare	Housing	CA	5	5	1	1		
a4637601-87	17094	For food and	For food and rent	For food and	For food and	\$1,000.00	Child care	I would need	I used to hav	Childcare	Housing	CA	5	1	3	5		
c992ba9c-e3	20648	I am Currentl	I am Currently taking care of a child whose case from AZ and the pay is	I am Currentl	I am Currentl	\$1,000	Day Care, Dis	Arizona douc	I am caring fo	Childcare	Housing	CA	5	5	5	1		
14586fed-08	15197	Food , Clothe	Food ,Clothes, Shelter	Food , Clothe	Food , Clothe	1000	Housing	Clothing vouc	I really love t	Clothing/Supp	Housing	CA	5	5	5	5		

Request submitted to Think of Us



State
 (Multiple values)

Race
 (All)

LGBTQIA
 (All)

Possible Parent
 (All)

Urban, Surban, Rural
 (All)

Kinship Care (all ages)
 (All)

System Status
 (All)

Version 1 of Needs of Applicants

County: State: MD

Total Number of Applicants 500
 Assumed Chafee Eligible 426
 Assumed Family First Eligible 150
 Possible Parent: 150

Coach on Avoiding Eviction:	77
Request Help on filling out a Housing Application:	112
Requested a HUD Housing Voucher:	242
Requested Advice On Couching Surfing during the Pandemic:	32
RequestAdvice On Renting:	148

Experienced Cut Hours:	133
Requested Preparing for an Interview:	77
Requested Help Writing a Resume:	91
Currently Laid Off:	133
Requested help Networking for a Job:	234
Experiencing a shortage of gig work:	89
Reported they don't know what they need:	38
Unsure of what will happen with their employment:	36




Requested donated Groceries:	122
Help Apply for Stamps App:	165
Requested apps that help you find food:	166

Help Find Dr:	32
Help Get Insurance:	33
Help Pay Therapy:	37
Speak With Mh:	81
Speak With Peers:	159
Text Mh Coach:	94

Help Apply for Public Assistance:	108
Help secure a Bank Account:	86
Help create a Budget:	203
Help apply for Unemployment:	72



v1 State Map v1 State Map v1 County Map % of housing stability Curr
 NT(assumed Chafee eligibility): 22,635




- Jose M.   




1st

- Tempest  



Work


- Suzanne 





- Kristy 

- Allen  8th

- Malaysia  

- Asunte 



2nd

- Bong  

- Sage

Family
Foster Family

This youth established a clear ranking (from first to fourth) of the different sub-groups of people in their life (in order: romantic partner, friends, co-workers, foster family).

-  Kim ~~the~~ 

2th



SARAH (ILP)



The most prominent relationship this youth highlighted is the one with their ILP case manager.

COMMUNITY



Story. N
WHITE
95127



her family!

BST

Lauren

(Friend)



DAD



(Family)

MOM



Little

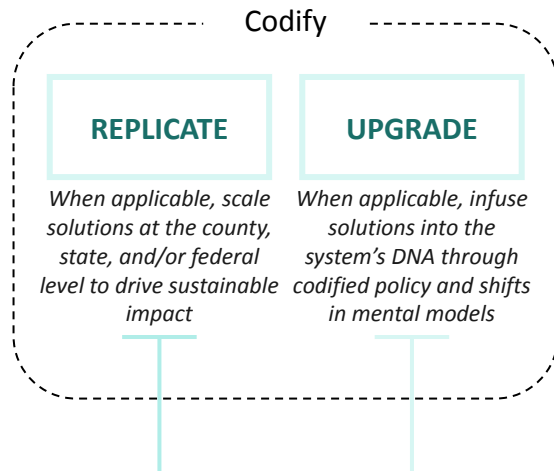
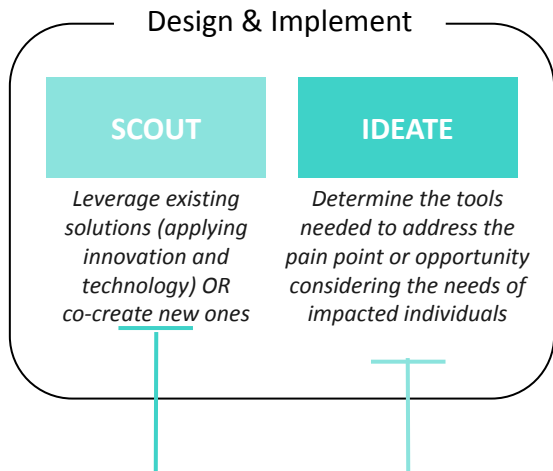
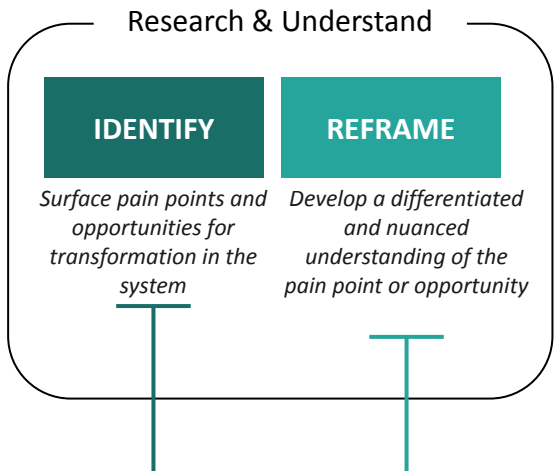
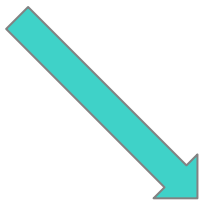


Brother



“All I ever wanted was for a family but I was told I was too old so I was kept in a group home until I aged out. I wasn't given the necessary things or resources to survive once I got out and I got kicked out of my program for not being productive because I lost the will to live because I didn't know what to do with my life now that it was my own.”

(MP-LT-AZ-01)



STAY PROXIMATE VIA DIRECT SERVICE & REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

KEY



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Congress

In December 2020, Congress released more than **\$400M in emergency funds** for current and former foster youth in response to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. States were tasked with eligibility verification and distribution to young people.



CHECK FOR US Home About Eligibility Partners Share FAQ SIGN UP

Connecting current & former foster youth with pandemic relief funds

Most states are providing between \$500 - \$20,000 for current & former foster youth. Sign up to find out what your state is doing!

SIGN UP

Sound On!

CHECK FOR US

Check For Us is a national outreach campaign run by current and former foster youth to simplify the process of connecting YOU with pandemic relief funds that you may be eligible for and other paid opportunities.

Current and former foster youth between the ages of 18-26 qualify for over \$400 million in federal stimulus funds BUT you gotta apply before September 30, 2021.

Sign up to be a part of our online network that will provide you the right information about how you can get your money.

SIGN UP

SHARE THIS OPPORTUNITY WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Check For Us is here to make sure YOU get your money.

While each state's plan is different, the offerings range from direct cash payments of \$500 - \$2,000 to tuition and student loans payments to pre-paying your rent for an entire year.

With your permission, we'll share your contact with the people processing the funds in your state.

Instagram Facebook YouTube

THE CAMPAIGN

Check For Us is a national campaign powered by Think of Us that is focused on connecting anyone up to the age of 26 that has spent time in foster care after the age of 14 with emergency funds and other opportunities.

Congress made \$400 million available, your state is making plans on how to use it right now and we're here to help.

**Do you need support?
Do you know your state's plan?
Are you signed up to receive funds?**

If so, Check For Us is here to make sure that you get the resources you need.

Join our growing community and get the resources you need

CHECK FOR US

www.checkforus.org

CHECK FOR US

TOGETHER

We will check on you
Advocate with you
Be there for you

CHECK FOR US

FOR ME,

Check For Us means Care

checkforus.org

Check for Us Marketing Campaign

"We did something that was supposedly impossible."

– Sixto Cancel, TOU



44 states

and D.C. had data transferred to them effectively



24 states

used the 'Check for Us' application as part of their official verification process

30k+ alumni



found and connected via the 'Check for Us' campaign*

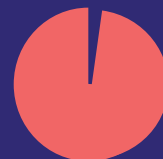
87.5%

of applicants applied from a mobile phone

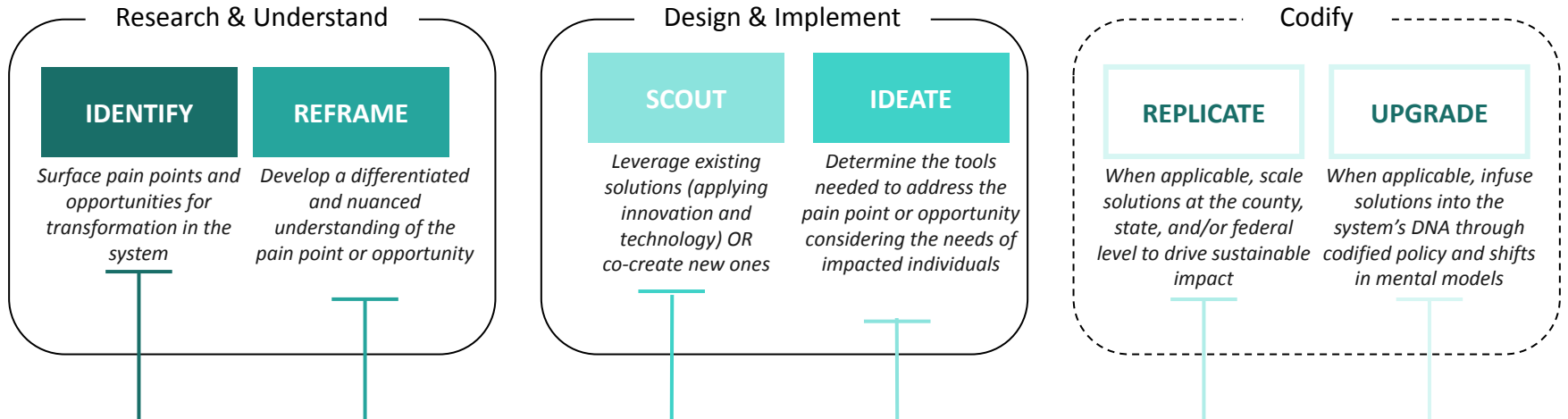
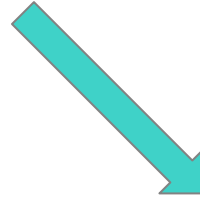


95.5%

application completion rate for those who specified their state



*35+% of eligible population in CA where we had official state contract



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The media power

The power of the media

The framing of the problem... there are 400,000 youth in the system and this system affects a small number of children ...

Foster care is result of multiple systems failing.

33% of families with children will experience an investigation before that child's 18th birthday / 53% of all black families will experience this

10% of all black children in the United States experience foster care

Media plays a significant role in what governors and commissioners hold their staff too.

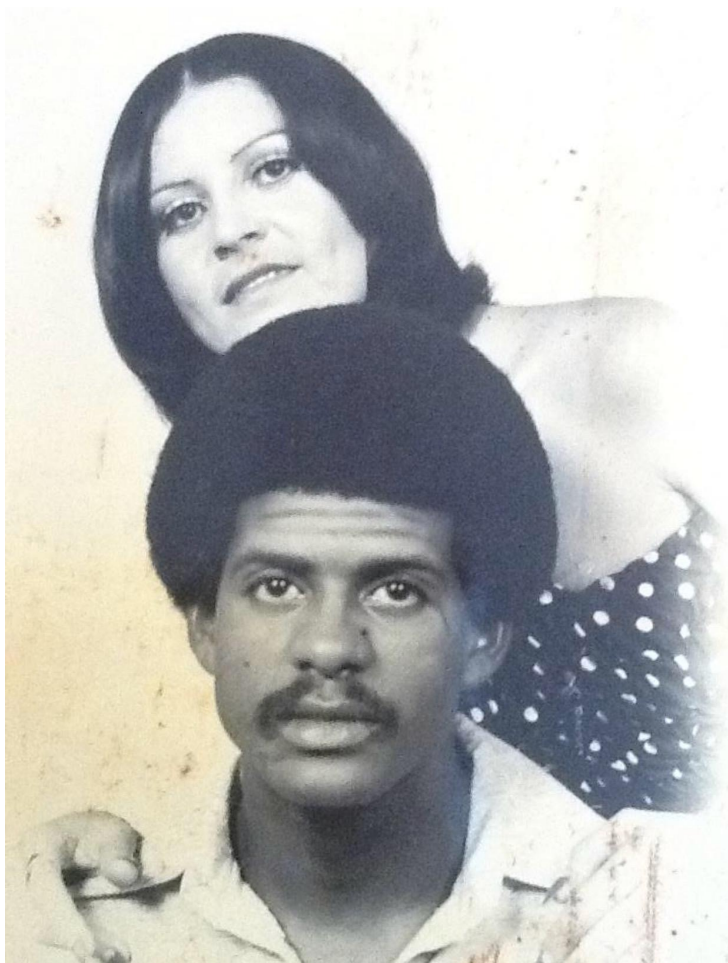
When the media reports on a child dying, children sleeping in offices that is where reform efforts are pushed.

Commissioners have been outed due to negative press even if they have been doing a really good job.

Fueling the support for the right interventions that go beyond moments.

System change coverage provides cover for leaders to take calculated risk

Empower legislators to lean in more





CASE PLANNING GOAL

Permanency Plan Goal: Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Target Date: 12/31/2012

Progress/Barriers: [REDACTED]

Concurrent Goal: N/A

Progress/Barriers: Indep. Living is the goal for this youth.

Conditions of the Child That Influence the Permanency Goal:

Sixto adamantly refused to be reunified with Mrs. Santiago. Sixto is working on living independently.

Compelling Reason for Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement:

Sixto refused reunification and adoption. No viable resources for transfer of guardianship. [REDACTED]

PLACEMENT

Date of most recent removal from home: 3/28/2008

Trauma makes the headlines

A Black family fights to get their kids back from Tennessee Department of Children's Services

One month after the Tennessee Highway Patrol pulled the couple over, their five young children remain in state custody



BY: ANITA WADHWANI - MARCH 16, 2023 6:00 AM



Temecia and Rodney pose for a portrait in DeSoto, Texas on March 28, 2023.

Health

Texas newborn is headed home after custody fight involving race, midwifery and the child welfare system

Child Protective Services removed Mila Jackson from her home and placed her in foster care for 23 days after her parents chose their midwife's care over a hospital.



Roxanna Asgarian, photo by Michael Starghill

BOOK EXPLORES HOW CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES' FAILURES LED TO MURDER-SUICIDE

Call to Action

Sixto@thinkof-us.org

Twitter/Instagram: @sixtocancel