

Consent to Participate in Research Young Adult Services Study (YASS)

We are from RTI International (RTI). We have been hired to interview young people as part of a study being conducted by the Urban Institute. The Urban Institute is a non-political nonprofit social policy research organization in Washington DC. The Urban Institute study looks at what it's like for young adults who are leaving foster care and the services they may receive. This study is funded by Youth Villages, Inc. We are asking over 600 youth in foster care to help us with this study. You have been asked to be in the study because you are or were a youth in foster care in New Jersey. We call this study the Young Adult Services Study, or YASS. You may have previously participated in an interview with us for this study.

What will happen to me in this study?

If you decide to participate in this study, we would like to interview you today. We may also ask to interview you again in the future. For the interview today, a person from RTI International will ask you questions about the services you have received and the experiences you may have had in the past 24 months. For example, we may ask about your experiences leaving foster care such as education and work, places you lived, and the relationships you have with family and friends. The interview today will last about **75 minutes**. The interview can be done at a time that works best for you. Some portions of the interview may be recorded to make sure the person asking the questions is doing a good job.

Some questions ask about your emotions, alcohol and drug use, and behavior that might be against the law.

If you want, **you can listen to these questions on headphones and enter your answers on a computer**. The interviewer will not see your answers to these questions. If you do not want to use the computer, the interviewer can read you the questions. They will enter your answers into the computer. If you do it this way, the interviewer will know your answers to these questions.

We will also ask you to allow us to look at different kinds of **administrative data**. Administrative data are information about you collected by government or other agencies. The kinds of data we would look at:

- college records, such as attendance and graduation;
- public assistance records, such as WorkFirst New Jersey or food stamps;
- unemployment insurance wage records, such as dates of employment and wages;
- foster care agency records, such as how many and what types of placements you were in;
- birth, marriage, and death records;
- criminal justice records, such as arrests or convictions; and
- consumer/credit databases that may have your phone number or address.

We may use any information we get from these sources in two ways.

1. We may use it to help us better understand what has happened to you after you left foster care. For example, it may tell us the number of jobs you've had or the dollar amount of food stamps you received. This information will give a fuller picture of youth's circumstances when they leave foster care.
2. We may use it to help find you in the future if we decide to do another interview with YASS participants. For example, if you change your phone number, we may use credit databases to find your new phone number.

Do I have to participate?

You don't have to be in this study. **Being in the study is voluntary**. If you don't want to be in the study just tell the interviewer. You can say yes now but you can stop if you change your mind later.

You can still be in the study even if you do not give us permission to get information about you from administrative data. Whether or not you choose to be in this study will not change anything for you in terms of the care you receive from the state or any other services you may be eligible for. In other words, it will not change your placement or the services you get.

Who will see my information?

Members of the research team will be able to see your information. Information that could identify you will be removed from the information you share today and any of the data we collect about you in the future. The information may be combined and made available for other researchers to use; these files will not include any information that could identify you and will only be available under password protected secure access. If we receive future funding to extend this project, we may share your information with the researchers working on that extension, but they would keep the information that is identifiable private to the same extent that we do. One exception to not sharing your identity, is that the interviewer may need to tell the appropriate authorities if you report evidence of current abuse or neglect. They may also need to report if you threaten to hurt yourself or someone else.

How will my information be protected?

We will do many things to keep your information private. We will only let the research team see your information. We will store information about you either in a locked drawer or on a secure computer. The computer will be password protected. We will also not use your name in any reports or papers.

We also have a Certificate of Confidentiality from the government to protect your privacy. This Certificate of Confidentiality strictly limits when we can share identifiable information collected through our research. For example, we cannot be forced to give a court information about you. However, you should know that the Certificate does not stop reporting that federal, state or local laws require, for example reporting of child abuse and threats to harm yourself or others.

Can anything bad happen to me?

Some of the questions you are asked may make you feel uneasy. **You do not have to answer** any questions that you do not want to answer. Additionally, any data you may agree to provide us access to could be compromised in a breach of data and the answers you may provide in the interview could be revealed. We have taken precautions discussed under “How will my information be protected?” to minimize the risk of any data being compromised.

Participating in-person increases your risk of exposure to illnesses such as COVID-19, flu, or other contagious illnesses. You may request that the person interviewing you wears a mask, and you may also request a mask for yourself. You may also request that we conduct the interview outside—on a porch, deck, or steps outside of your home. The interview can also be conducted by telephone, if you prefer.

Can anything good happen to me?

You will not benefit directly from this study. But data we get from the study is important. Being in this study will let you tell officials about your experiences during and after foster care. This information may be used to improve the services that youth receive during care. Many youth in foster care appreciate the chance to tell their story and be listened to.

Will I get anything for being part of the study?

For helping me with this study, you will receive **\$75** for this survey. If you decide to stop being in the study or skip some of the questions today you still get **\$75**. It’s all up to you.

Who is doing the study? Who can I talk to about it?

This study is being done by the Urban Institute, the University of Chicago, and the Survey Firm, RTI International. Youth Villages, Inc. is paying for this study. The people in charge of the study are Dr. Michael Pergamit (mpergamit@urban.org), Dr. Mark Courtney (markc@uchicago.edu), and Dr. Katrina Brewsaugh (kbrewsaugh@urban.org). If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

Jennifer Keeney
RTI International
919-316-3525
1-877-475-7054
jkeeney@rti.org

If you agree to be in this study and feel that you were not treated fairly, please contact:

The Institutional Review Board Administrator

Everett Madden

Urban Institute

202.261.5632

emadden@urban.org

What else do I need to know?

If you are feeling upset by the issues discussed in this survey and would like to talk with someone about your feelings, we suggest you call your current clinician or reach out to another provider organization. If not, below are some numbers you can call.

2nd Floor Youth Helpline: Call or text 1-888-222-2228.

Children's System of Care: Call or text 1-877-652-7624.

Subject's Statements

(1) Agreement to Participate in Today's Interview

Do you voluntarily agree to participate in today's interview? You can choose not to participate at any time.

Yes No

(2) Agreement to Audio Recordings

We use a laptop quality control (QC) system for this study. The system runs on the computer and will record what you and I say to each other during parts of the survey. Neither you nor I will know when the computer records what we say. The recordings are used to monitor my work. We keep the recordings for those purposes only and we keep them private. We will destroy the files after this review.

Do we have your okay to run this system during the interview?

Yes No

(3) Agreement to Permit the Use of Administrative Data

We would like to ask for your permission to allow the YASS research team to potentially review administrative records data that might contain information that can be used to see how you are doing and help find you in future. These include the following types of records: public assistance; education; foster care agency; unemployment insurance wages; vital statistics; and criminal justice. These and other records such as department of motor vehicles credit database information may also be used to locate you if we should lose contact.

Do you allow the YASS Study research team to review the records that were listed above for research, locating, and contact purposes?

Yes No