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## Youth Policy Institute of Iowa receives Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting Support Grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

**Des Moines, Iowa** – June 19, 2017 – The [Youth Policy Institute of Iowa](#) (YP II) has received a 2017 Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting Support Grant Award from the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#). YP II will utilize the funds to conduct research to inform policies and make program and practice recommendations related to early pregnancies and parenting among youth in and alumni of foster care.

Universal strategies that have been effective at reducing the overall teen pregnancy rate in Iowa and across the country have not resulted in a similar reduction among young people (especially young women) who have been in foster care. Iowa's [National Youth Transition Database](#) (NYTD) data shows that, specifically for those females who were in foster care at age 17, more than 50% were parenting by age 21. The goal for the Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting Support project is to determine if existing universal strategies for reducing pregnancy among foster youth can be adapted to improve outcomes or if unique strategies designed specifically for this population are needed.

*“We continue to see high rates of young parents among our population of foster care youth and those aging out of the child welfare system,” says Carol Behrer, YP II Executive Director. “This project will be foundational to improving our long-term efforts to reduce unplanned or untimely pregnancies among youth transitioning from foster care and to better support young parents in this population and their children.”*

YP II will work with the [Iowa Aftercare Services Network](#) (IASN) to recruit up to 100 current and former Aftercare participants (ages 18 to 23) to respond to an on-line survey and conduct focus groups to gather youth input on possible causes for unintended pregnancy and to identify gaps in current service offerings. Based on the information collected, YP II and a multi-agency stakeholder group will develop recommendations to expand evidence-based interventions and services. The project will also identify and improve data collection efforts to track progress over time.

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### [About Youth Policy Institute of Iowa](#)

Founded in 2000, the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YP II) works to expand and improve the delivery of services and supports for Iowa youth by partnering with public and private entities throughout the state. YP II is involved in a wide range of initiatives, but specializes in policies and programs affecting youth transitioning from adolescence to adulthood, particularly those who have been involved in child welfare (foster care) or juvenile justice systems. YP II also provides coordination, outreach, and evaluation support to the [Iowa Aftercare Services Network](#).