

# Finding success after foster care and state custody

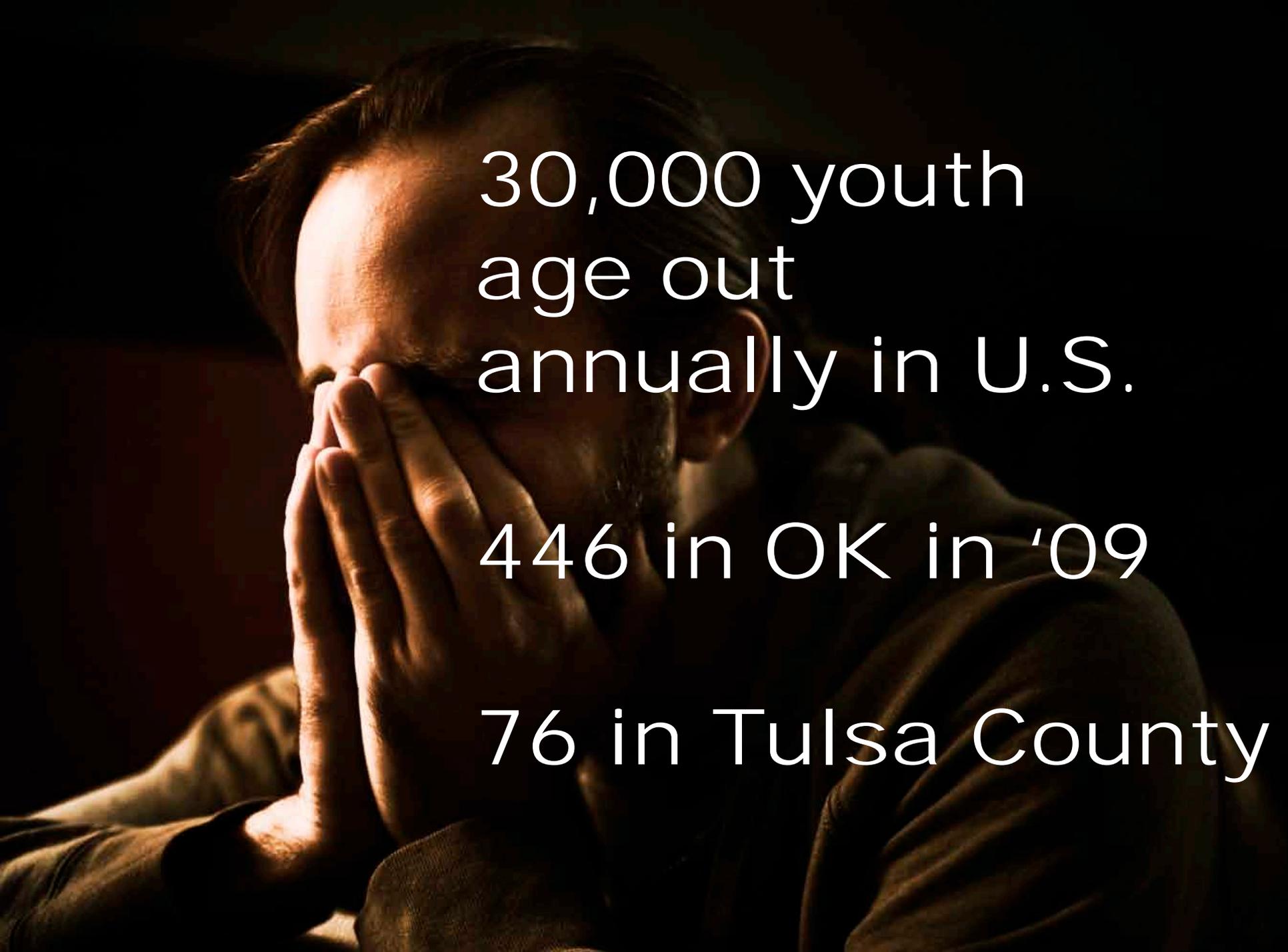
ACT's Transition Services



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18 is not a happy birthday for kids in state custody who are now on their own without the skills to succeed.



A man with dark hair and a beard is shown in profile, covering his face with both hands. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left, casting deep shadows and highlighting the contours of his face and hands. The background is dark and indistinct.

30,000 youth  
age out  
annually in U.S.

446 in OK in '09

76 in Tulsa County



The most critical  
factor to  
success:

Positive  
relationship with  
competent and  
caring adults.



# Transition to Independence Process (TIP)

**Evidence based, best practice where caring, competent adults assist young people with emotional and/or behavioral difficulties in making a successful transition to adulthood**

# Success happens



**Andrew's story:**

**Still in high school and working at age 18**

**Must leave foster care with no place to go**

**No daily living skills, budgeting or self-care skills**

**Today, he serves in the military**

**Transition  
Services has  
helped more  
than 50 young  
people since  
January 07**



**18 have  
graduated**

**23 are enrolled  
today**

# Main Focus

- **Housing**
- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Life Skills**





Young people should:

- Work with team before age 18
- Lead planning based on needs and wants
- Have access to caring, adults who can help move plan forward

# It takes a team

The young adult is in the center of the team and must be motivated or no model will work.

Transition Coordinator

Community Support Provider

Behavioral Health Aide

Young Adult

Friends and family of the young adult

Other service providers (DHS, OJA, Therapist)



# How does it work?

- Engage youth
- Meet immediate needs



Assess strengths

Help them develop a life plan

Provide guidance in achieving the plan



# Common goals



Housing

High school/  
GED

Employment

Parenting skills

Daycare

Documents

A photograph of a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a black judicial robe over a white shirt and a patterned tie. He is seated in a dark leather chair, looking slightly to the right of the camera. A black gooseneck microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is a dark, textured wall.

# Additional goals

- § Advocacy in court
- § Substance abuse treatment
- § Self-care skills – cooking, budgets, medication



Let's hear  
from some  
of our  
young  
adults!

A man with short dark hair and a light beard, wearing a bright green t-shirt, is positioned on the left side of the frame. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a solid teal color. On the right side, there is a list of four items, each preceded by a white paragraph symbol (§).

# Problems

§ **Housing**

§ **Evictions**

§ **Loss of benefits  
(SSI, food stamps,  
etc.)**

§ **Finding resources  
for furniture,  
clothes, etc.**



# Additional problems

§ Homelessness

§ Need for long term continuing care

§ Access to funds in a timely manner

§ Not being able to contact youth

# What has helped success?



- § Empowering the youth to make their own decisions
- § Strong community support
- § Relationships with youth and team

# More success factors

- § Letting youth make mistakes
- § “Wrapping” team around youth
- § Doing what we say we will do
- § Honesty
- § Right people





Where do  
we go from  
here?



**Questions**