

# READY BY 21

## Mentors



There are several key factors that contribute to helping youth to be on target and Ready by 21 to become strong, contributing members of society. The Department of Human Resources is focusing on five of those factors: **Safe and Stable Housing, Education, Financial Stability, Health Care** and linkages to **Mentors**.

### Proposed Strategies:



The DHR will work collaboratively with key stakeholders and advocates to design a “mentoring” component of the Ready by 21 strategy, in an effort to ensure that all youth are connected to a caring adult at discharge.

Current statistics indicate that youth who have at least one stable adult, such as a mentor, in their lives have better outcomes.

#### Outcomes

45% are less likely than their peers to begin using illicit drugs

59% do better academically

73% set and attain higher life achievement goals than other kids their age

### Goal: Aged-out youth will have ongoing support.

Youth who have aged out of the foster care system face many challenges as they attempt to secure employment, housing and services to meet their needs. While youth outside the foster care system can rely on a network of family and friends to help them with rent, provide a free room, pay for college books, and offer advice on key decisions, aged-out foster youth often need to be much more independent. The DHR is committed to reducing the number of youth aging out of care, and to ensuring that every young adult has a network of supports throughout their transition to adulthood. Such supports could include a youth advocate, mentors, relationships with community service providers, support groups and other aftercare services.

