



Rick Scott, Governor
Esther Jacobo, Interim Secretary



Extended Foster Care & Independent Living

“My Future, My Choice”

Program Overview & Implementation Plan

**Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families,
and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency.**

Nancy C. Detert “Common Sense and Compassion Independent Living Act”

- Signed June 24, 2013
- Effective January 1, 2014
- Allows youth 18-21 to **choose** to stay in foster care
- Guarantees housing to youth 18-23 in extended care
- Promotes and facilitates completion of secondary education
- Promotes and facilitates employment opportunities
- Prepares youth transitioning into adulthood through a variety of supports and services
- Provides financial support to youth seeking postsecondary education

What can youth currently receiving Road To Independence (RTI) expect?



Those participating in the existing Road to Independence program will have the choice to remain in the program or switch to one of the new programs available on Jan. 1, 2014.

This means:



- Youth may continue to receive their same scheduled benefits
- Youth can opt into one of the new Independent Living programs at any time
- Youth who opt into a new program will receive the benefits available through their newly chosen program

Which program would best benefit the youth I serve?

Road To Independence(18-21)

- ✓ Recipients must be enrolled in a post-secondary institution full-time (12 credit hours)
- ✓ Recipients participate in a needs assessment which determines their monthly award amount
- ✓ Recipients receive the monthly award directly and in full
- ✓ If recipient does not maintain eligibility, he/she may reapply one time only

Extended Foster Care (18-21)

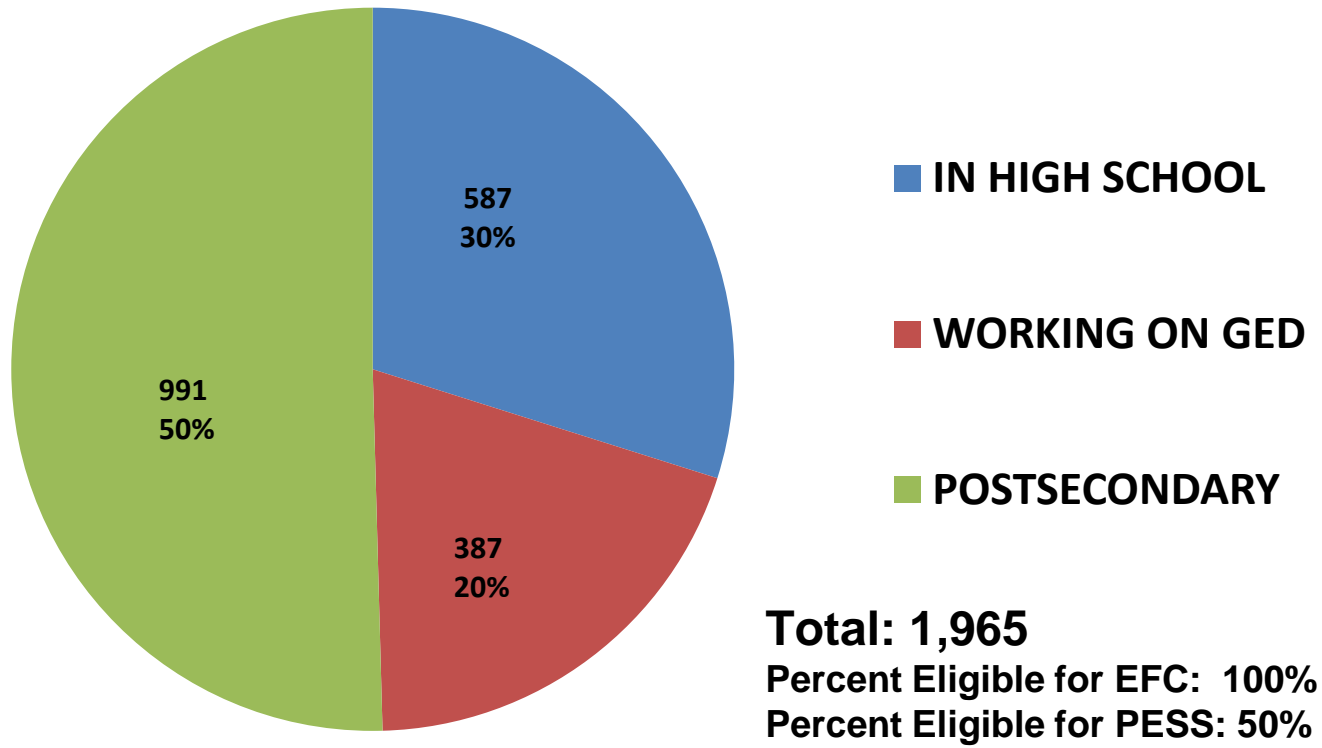
- ✓ Participants remain in or return to a licensed foster home, group home, or an unlicensed supervised living arrangement after reaching 18-years-old but not past 21-years-old
- ✓ Participants must be working toward their High School diploma or equivalent, work a minimum of 80 hours per month, or participate in an activity designed to eliminate barriers to employment
- ✓ Participants are guaranteed housing (CBCs pay for housing, utilities, in-home meals and transportation directly.)
- ✓ Participants receive an allowance to assist them in learning and practicing budgeting and money management skills
- ✓ If participant does not maintain eligibility, there is no limit on the number of re-entries

Post-Secondary Education Supports and Services (18-23)

- ✓ Participants must be enrolled in a Bright Futures eligible post-secondary institution full-time (9 credit hours)
- ✓ Participants are eligible for a \$1,256 monthly stipend
- ✓ Participants are guaranteed housing (CBCs pay for housing, utilities, in-home meals, and transportation directly out of the \$1,256 stipend.)
- ✓ Participants receive the remaining funds after living expenses have been paid by the CBC
- ✓ If a participant does not maintain eligibility, there is no limit on the number of re-entries

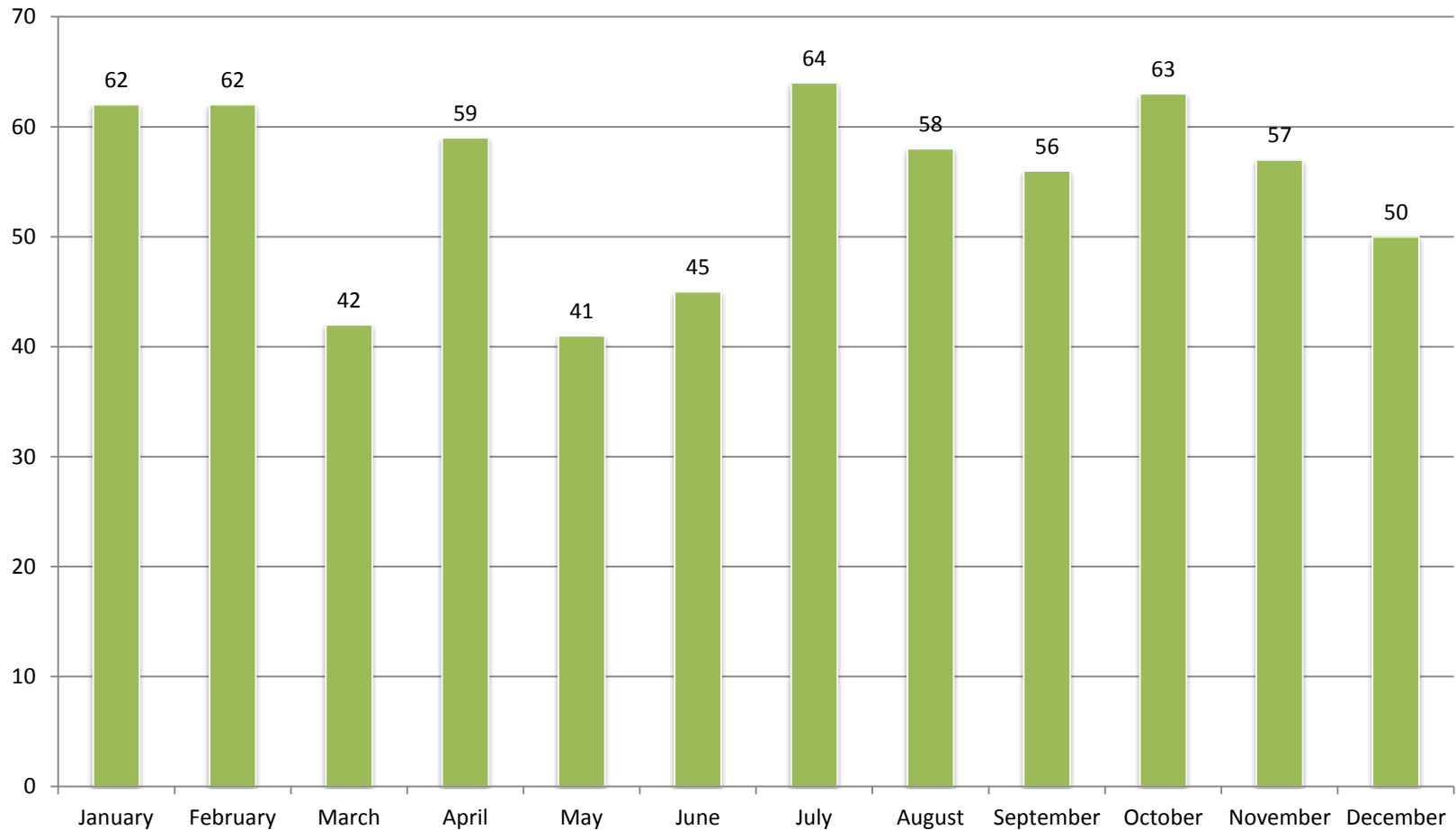
How many youth are currently in the Road To Independence program?

Current RTI Population



How many youth may remain in care?

Florida Youth in Licensed Care Turning 18 in 2014
Statewide Total: 659



Predicting Participation

How many of the 1,965 youth currently receiving RTI will opt in?

- ★ Youth currently receiving RTI are being educated on the newly available Independent Living programs
- ★ CBCs are surveying all youth currently receiving RTI to project potential participation

How many of the 659 eligible youth turning 18 in 2014 will opt in?

- ★ CBCs are educating these youth about the newly available Independent Living Programs
- ★ CBCs are surveying these youth to project potential participation

Providing Foster Homes and Transitional Housing

- ★ Regions are recruiting foster parents and seeking housing facilities to ensure shelter for young adults 18+
- ★ Regions are identifying opportunities to develop new transitional housing specifically for young adults 18+
- ★ DCF is partnering with the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) to help secure affordable housing options for former foster youth

Case Management



CBCs are assessing their current case management capacity and future needs.



Some CBCs are exploring new hires as a way to fulfill case management needs.



Some CBCs are repurposing their life skills staff as case management for the 18+ population.

Training Opportunities

★ **October 17, 2013:** Free day-long training workshop for CBC Trainers, Case Management Supervisors, Group Home Staff and Independent Living Coordinators. Skill development will focus on effectively engaging young adults in planning for their future.

★ **On the Web:** PSAs, videos, brochures and presentations are online to educate youth, foster parents, child welfare partners and stakeholders about extended foster care

<http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/qpi/iltraining/qpi-ilvideo.zip>

<http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/independent-living/extended-foster-care>

<http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/sb1036/sb1036.html>

★ **Partnerships:** DCF is collaborating with The Office of Court Improvement, National Resource Center for Youth Development, Guardian ad Litem, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Quality Parenting Initiative and others.

Important Dates



September 3, 2013 – **Rule Development Workshop for 65C-41:** Leveraging technology allowed over 500 interested parties to participate and provide input.



October 16-17, 2013 - **Extended Foster Care & Independent Living Summit** in Orlando, Florida. DCF in partnership with Florida Coalition for Children will host a conference for CBCs and DCF Regional Leads to share implementation best practices.



October 17, 2013 - **Rule Development Workshops** for:
65C-41 (Extension of Foster Care)
65C-42 (PESS, ETV, Aftercare)

How can I learn more?



Contact your DCF Regional Implementation Lead to learn how you can be a part of your community's Extended Foster Care Implementation Team.

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