

Team Information

Project Name

Champions for Older Youth

Team Lead

Rene' Brinkman/Department of Social Services/Children's Division

Team Members

Minimum: 3; Maximum:10

	Name	Department	Division
1	Rene' Brinkman	Social Services	Children's Division
2	Shasta Miller	Social Services	Children's Division
3	Bobbie Thomas	Social Services	Children's Division
4	Nicole Robinson	Social Services	Children's Division
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Your Pitch

What problem are you addressing? (No more than 200 words)

Research shows us that youth aging out of foster care have higher rates of incarceration, early parenthood, lack of educational attainment, unemployment, and homelessness. These older youth also spend more time in foster care than youth under the age of 14 and their permanency options are often limited to APPLA or long-term foster care. Our goal is to ensure these youth are prepared for life outside the foster care system. We would like to see every youth have a successful transition from Children's Division to adulthood. We want every youth to be a successful and productive member of society, so they don't become a financial burden to the State of Missouri due to dependence on public assistance. If we invest in these youth, we could reduce long-term negative outcomes, the state of Missouri could become a leader in our work with older youth, and we could save the State and tax payers money. We have the opportunity to change the trajectory of these older youth and end the cycle of abuse, neglect, homelessness, incarceration, and unemployment.

What is the root cause of the problem? (No more than 200 words)

Standard caseload sizes are too high for Case Practitioners to be able to provide intense case management services to older youth. There is not enough of a focus on older youth's preparedness to age out of foster care. There is a lack of capacity for Case Practitioners to be able to specialize in work specific to older youth. As a result, these older youth may miss out on resources available to them. Youth are not always given the opportunity to have their voice heard about important matters that impact their lives, rather, cases are often driven by what professionals believe is best for the youth. Youth are aging out of foster care without a high school diploma or HiSet, they have never been taught how to manage money, they have little to no job experience, they lack stable housing, they don't have transportation, they lack permanent connections and a support network, and they don't know how to access resources within their community.

What is your proposed solution? (No more than 200 words)

Create additional SE Royals (Southeast Region Older Youth Adolescent Life Skills) units throughout the state whose main focus is on older youth ages 16-20. Every region in the state will have the capacity to have, at least, one unit that specializes in intense work with older youth. Youth will have a minimum of 2-4 contacts per month with their Case Practitioner with, at least, one of these contacts being in-person. Case Practitioners will be available to their youth 24/7. The average caseload size for workers in this unit will be 8-10 youth so that intense case management services can be provided. Services will be highly individualized, with treatment plans tailored to the strengths and needs of each older youth. Visits will involve hands-on experiences to ensure that older youth are able to apply their knowledge in a real world setting. This unit will ensure every youth has natural supports/permanent contacts, the ability to create and adhere to a budget,

Which area of impact is your primary focus? (No more than 10 words)

Increase positive older youth outcomes by establishing additional Royals units

What is your primary measure for impact?

Primary measure	Current Status	Target
-----------------	----------------	--------

To have, at least, one Royals unit in the Southeast, Southwest, Northeast, Northwest, St. Louis, and Kansas City regions of the state	1 of 6 units currently exists	6 of 6 meaning there will be additional Royals Units throughout the state of Missouri.
---	-------------------------------	--

[OA's guidance on performance metrics](#)

Project Plan

What are the major activities and milestones to deliver your solution? (Additional steps may be added)

	Activity	Milestone or deliverable	Due date
1	Pull data for the number of youth 16-20 currently in custody	We will know how many youth would be eligible to be referred to additional Royals Units	7 days
2	Look at the allocations throughout each region	We would know if we have the current capacity to move forward with creating the units	14 days
3	Begin having conversations with Central Office about needed allocations, if necessary	We would have the number of allocations needed to move forward	30 days
4	Deliver a presentation/training for each region	Regions would gain interest in the Royals unit and understand the program better. They would be ready to start this work.	60 days
5	Reaching out to each region to begin unit development	Units will be created in each region to support this work	120 days
6	Train members of the newly formed units	Each unit would be ready to move the work forward in their region	150 days
7			
8			

Required Resources and Support

What is the expected project duration? Choose one from the list below.

Medium term (4-6 months)

How many people will be required to finish the project in the given duration? Choose one from the list below.

Large (>6 people)

Does your project require any specialized skills to complete? If so, explain. (No more than 100 words)

No

Does your project require any statutory change to complete? If so, explain. (No more than 100 words)

No

Can you implement your project with your current resources? If not, explain. (No more than 50 words)

Strongly recommended: Provide a cost breakdown in your additional materials.

Yes by refocusing already existing allocations

Are there other factors critical to design and implement your project? (No more than 50 words)

No

Additional Materials

Please list any additional materials you have provided.

	Brief description
1	Data/Return on Investment
2	Presentation Slides
3	