

# **Directory of Service Providers for Transitional Youth**

Prepared by Action for Children North Carolina  
for the  
**North Carolina Collaborative on Youth in Transition**

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## **Introduction**

The North Carolina Collaborative on Youth in Transition (NCCYT) began meeting as a result of interest generated by the US Department of Labor Shared Vision for Youth. The Shared Vision Initiative encouraged state agencies from Health and Human Services, Justice, Labor and Education to work together to better serve at risk youth. Since its inception in 2004, NCCYT has included a variety of public and private organizations, each of whom is committed to providing better outcomes for youth who exit our public systems: foster care, education, juvenile justice, health, and mental health. Reflecting on the Shared Vision Initiative, we recognized the importance of meeting and working together.

## **Mission Statement**

The North Carolina Collaborative for Youth in Transition (NCCYT) is a group of concerned representatives from public and private agencies. We promote successful transitions to adulthood for youth who are or have been served by public agencies. Without adequate supports, many of these youth could easily become disconnected from opportunities, networks, supports and services that would enable them to thrive.

## **Primary Goals:**

- To share and disseminate information through members to direct service providers;
- To identify and address overlaps and gaps in services;
- To promote interagency collaboration;
- To improve the provision of needed and available services; and,
- To advocate for improved services and improved outcomes in the areas of housing, education, employment, health, personal supports, and prevention of high risk behaviors.

The purposes of this directory of member resources are to share information about the Collaborative; identify and describe the services each member agency provides, and provide contact information for those seeking services. The goal of these efforts is that the youth of NC will experience improved services and outcomes. Users are encouraged to use this directory to document additional resources, so that they might share this information with others. Program descriptions and all other agency information are reported as provided by the agency.

For more information about the Collaborative, you may contact the agencies listed in the directory.

## **How to Use this Directory**

The first section of the directory lists the agencies in alphabetical order. Each agency has a description including location, contact information, program description, eligibility, geographic area served and types of direct services provided.

The second section, the Index, provides information about services provided by each agency. Agencies are listed according to indirect services provided (policy development, technical assistance, advocacy services, training, publication development and dissemination and program pilots), ages served and type of funding received.

## **Administrative Offices of the Courts, Court Improvement Program (CIP)**

Location: PO Box 2448, Raleigh, 27602

Contact Information: 919-791-2014

Focus of Program: The Court Improvement Program (CIP) was established by grant as part of a Federal initiative to support family preservation, prevention of child abuse, and services to families at risk. Its purpose is to assess and improve court processes related to foster care and adoption.

CIP funds are distributed to districts and are used for training and information programs for juvenile court and management assistance in developing and implementing court improvements, including working with judges to bring together juvenile court staff and others to improve court procedures and implement "best practices." Improvements in juvenile court policy, procedure and management in juvenile courts include:

- Implementing pilot projects that tested the effectiveness of using juvenile court "case managers" to process and handle child abuse and neglect cases. The implementation of these projects resulted in the reduction of the frequency and number of out-of-home placements of children.
- Developing a juvenile court information collection and management system (JWise). It is envisioned that once this system is in place and running statewide, performance standards can be used to monitor, evaluate and improve the performance of our state's juvenile courts.
- Reforming state laws (Juvenile Code), policies and procedures (court rules) for juvenile court proceedings. These changes have been made to either comply with federal legislation and/or to make clarifications in the state laws governing juvenile court procedures.
- Supporting and cosponsoring comprehensive skill-based training for judges and attorneys.

Eligibility: None given.

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

Direct Services Provided: None given.

## **Communities In Schools of NC, Inc., Local CIS Programs**

Location: 222 N. Person Street, Raleigh, 27601

Contact Information: 919-832-2700

Focus of Program: Our mission is to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools, to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life.

Our purpose is to ensure that ALL students have five basic resources:

- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A personal, one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- An opportunity to give back to their peers and community.

Eligibility: varies by program

Geographic Area Served: CIS is currently in 37 counties across the state. Additional counties are in replication.

### **Direct Services Provided**

Life Skills: training, social skills training

Leadership Development: skills training, community service, mentoring

Assistance: education, medical or health issues

## **Concern of Durham, Greenhouse for Boys and Greenhouse for Girls**

Location: 1800 Martin Luther King Parkway, Suite 102, Durham, 27707

Contact Information: 919-489-5652

Focus of Program: Concern of Durham, Inc. offers both 24 residential treatment services which include transition and independent living services as part of the group home treatment and a separate transition program that does not have a group home residential component. This second service includes a Drop-in Center located in Chapel Hill, therapeutic foster care families recruited to work with the older adolescent, mentor homes recruited to work with homeless youth and scatter-site apartments.

### Eligibility:

- Group Homes: Meet level III Medicaid criteria for admission to our group homes and meet CMSED criteria for availability for the at-risk funds to pay for room and board costs.
- Transition Program: 15-18 ½ years of age in need of support services to assist with the transition to young adulthood/independence. Criteria will include: mental health needs, DSS involvement and/or homelessness to qualify for HUD housing support.

Geographic Area Served: Primarily the Piedmont in the following counties: Durham, Orange, Chatham, Wake, Person, Alamance-Caswell and 5 County mental health.

### Direct Services Provided

Employment: job skills training, work based learning

Life Skills: training, financial education

Delinquency Prevention

Leadership Development: skill training

Community Service: mentoring

Assistance: education, housing, food/nutrition, mental health, prevention/abuse treatment, transportation, connection to foster family

**Department of Commerce - Division of Employment & Training**

Location: 313 Chapanoke Rd., 4316 Mail Service Center, Raleigh

Contact Information: 919-329-5262

Focus of Program: Offers youth a broad range of coordinated services to include opportunities for assistance in academic and occupation learning; development of leadership skills; and preparation for further education, additional training and eventual employment. The program blends traditional employment and training activities with a positive youth development approach.

Provides assessment of each youth that includes a review of academic and occupational skills as well as the services needed, and develops with the youth participant, an individualized service strategy, including identifying an age-appropriate career goal.

The following services are made available: Tutoring, study skill training; alternative secondary school; summer employment opportunities; paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing; occupational skill training; leadership development; supportive services; adult mentoring; follow-up services; comprehensive guidance and counseling.

Eligibility: Low-income plus one of six specified categories: deficient in basic literary skills; school dropout; homeless, runaway or foster child; pregnant or parenting; offender; or is an individual who requires additional assistance to complete an education program or to secure and hold employment.

Geographic Area Served: Services available statewide through a network of twenty-four local Workforce Development Boards/Youth Councils.

**Direct Services Provided**

Employment: job skills training, work-based learning, job getting/job keeping ` skills, work experience (paid and un-paid)

Life Skills: training, social skills training

Leadership Development: skills training, community service, mentoring, citizenship training

Assistance: education, transportation, child care

**Department of Health and Human Services, DMH/DD/SAS**

Location: 325 North Salisbury ST, MCS 3005, Raleigh, 27699

Contact Information: 919-715-5989

Focus of Program: DMH/DD/SAS provides an array of comprehensive services and supports including prevention and early intervention, treatment, vocational, residential, educational and state facility services.

Eligibility: Individuals must be eligible as part of a target population to receive enhanced services. These include children/adolescents with severe emotional disorders, mental health/substance abuse disorders and developmental disabilities.

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

Direct Services Provided:

Assistance: prevention/education, substance abuse treatment/recovery

**Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

Location: 1801 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, 27608

Contact Information: 919-733-3388

Focus of Program: The Department's involvement in the Collaborative is to gather information regarding services offered by state and local agencies for youth in transition. These services will be of use for youth throughout the continuum of services from community programming to community supervision to commitment and post release supervision.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility criteria. Youth interact with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through Juvenile Crime Prevention Council-funded program services, community programs, juvenile court services, and the Center for the Prevention of School Violence.

Geographic Area Served: The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a statewide agency. The vision of the Department is the creation of a seamless, comprehensive juvenile justice system which provides the most effective services to youth and their families at the right time in the most appropriate settings.

**Direct Services Provided**

Leadership Development: mentoring

Delinquency Prevention

## **Department of Public Instruction, Homeless Program**

Location: 301 N. Wilmington St, 6351 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, 27699

Contact Information: 919-807-3941

Focus of Program: Through the LEAs, DPI addresses the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school, by ensuring that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. Local liaisons and state coordinators ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the educational and other services they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standard to which all students are held. In addition, schools must provide homeless students these services in the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance or success in school of homeless children and youth.

Eligibility: McKinney- Vento definition of Homeless, individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement
- children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses.
- unaccompanied youth' includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

### **Direct Services Provided**

Assistance: education, medical or health issues, financial, housing, food/nutrition, developmental disabilities, mental health, transportation

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Transition Services**

Location: 805 Ruggles Drive, 2801 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, 27699

Contact Information: 919-855-3572

Focus of Program: Assist individuals with disabilities to transition to employment.

Eligibility: Must be on school caseloads; Individual with a disability (Mental, Physical, or Learning) who require assistance to prepare for, locate, or maintain employment compatible with their interests, skills and potential.

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

**Direct Services Provided**

Employment: job skills training, work-based learning

Life Skills: social skills training, financial education training

Leadership Development: mentoring

Assistance: education, medical or health issues, financial, housing, food/nutrition, developmental disabilities, mental health, prevention/abuse treatment, transportation

**DMH/DD/SAS**

Location: 325 North Salisbury St, MCS 3005, Raleigh, 27699

Contact Information: 919-715-2774 x265

Focus of Program: Array of Comprehensive services and supports including treatment, vocational, residential, educational

Eligibility: Target population for enhanced services. Children/adolescents with severe emotional disorders, MH/SA and developmental disabilities.

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

**Direct Services Provided**

Employment: job skills training, work-based training

Life Skills: training, social skills training

Leadership Development: skills training, community service, mentoring

Assistance: education, medical or health issues, financial, housing, food/nutrition, developmental disabilities, mental health, prevention/abuse treatment, pregnancy, parenting, transportation, connection to foster family, legal services, insurance and benefits

**Independent Living Resources, Inc.**

Location: 411 Andrews Road, Suite 230, Durham, 27705

Contact Information: 919-384-1457 or 1-800-820-0001

Focus of Program: ILR is a national publishing and consulting company focused on helping agencies develop transitional programming for youths.

Eligibility: Serves all child serving agencies nationally via a catalog of resources and by contractual agreement.

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

Direct Services Provided: None given.

## **N.C. Division of Social Services, LINKS**

Location: 325 North Salisbury Street, MSC 2409, Raleigh, 27699-2409

Contact Information: 919-733-2580

Focus of Program: To provide resources and services designed to help older foster youth successfully transition to adulthood. An outcome-based program which allows for flexibility based on assessed individual need; life skills coaching, learning experiences, collaboration for services with other youth-serving agencies. Focus is on achievement of 7 outcomes: a safe and stable place to live; sufficient income to meet daily needs; adequate education and vocational training to secure employment; avoidance of high risk behaviors; postponing parenthood until emotionally and financially stable enough to parent; a personal support network of at least 5 caring adults who are willing to commit to a long-term relationship with the young adult; and access to needed health care.

Youth who are discharged from DSS custody after age 17 and youth who are adopted from foster care after age 16 are eligible for assistance with postsecondary educational and vocational training through the Education Training Voucher Program.

Eligibility: Youth and young adults ages 13 to 21 who are or were in DSS foster care after the age of 13. Eligibility ends on the youth's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Geographic Area Served: State of North Carolina LINKS-eligible students attending college outside of North Carolina and young adults who aged out of care in NC may continue to be eligible for LINKS services and resources.

### **Direct Services Provided**

Employment: job skills training, work-based learning

Life Skills: training, social skills training, financial education training

Leadership Development: skills training, community service, mentoring

Assistance: education, medical or health issues, financial, housing, food/nutrition, developmental disabilities, mental health, prevention/abuse treatment, pregnancy, parenting, transportation, connection to foster family, insurance and benefits

Delinquency Prevention

**NC Guardian ad Litem Program**

Location: PO Box 2448, Raleigh, 27602

Contact Information: 919-789-3633

Focus of Program: Trained community volunteers, supervised by program staff, work in collaboration with attorneys to represent the best interests of children in court.

Eligibility: By NC statute, this agency is appointed by the court to represent a child's best interests once the Department of Social Services has filed a petition alleging abuse or neglect, and in some cases dependency.

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

Direct Services Provided

Assistance: legal services

## **North Carolina Community College System**

Contact Information: 919-807-7132

Focus of Program: The Basic Skills program addresses the needs of adults who do not have a high school diploma or who lack sufficient mastery of basic education skills to enable them to function effectively in society. The system provides educational opportunities for adults to improve their reading, writing, mathematics, and communication skills through five major programs: Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development (GED), Adult High School (AHS), English as a Second Language (ESL), and Compensatory Education (CED).

Eligibility: High school dropout or high school graduate functioning below the high school level in reading, writing, and/or mathematics. (16-17 year-olds must have permission of local public schools)

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

### **Direct Services Provided**

Employment: work-based learning

Life Skills: training, financial education training

**SaySo Inc.**

Location: 411 Andrews Road, Suite 230, Durham, 27705

Contact Information: 919-384-0338 or 1-800-820-0001

Focus of Program: Advocate for change within the foster care system. To provide support and leadership to youth in the foster care system.

Eligibility: Be between the age of 14-24 and are, or have been in some type of out of home placement in North Carolina

Geographic Area Served: state-wide

**Direct Services Provided**

Life Skills: training, social skills training

Leadership Development: skills training, community service, mentoring

**Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office**

Location: 217 West Jones Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 1319 Mail Service Center,  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1319

Contact Information: Stephanie Nantz Assistant Director, 919-733-9296,  
Stephanie.nantz@ncmail.net

Focus of Program: The Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office (YAIO) is an advocacy agency in the North Carolina Department of Administration. The office offers a blend of programs and services for children, youth and young adults on a statewide basis. In addition, the office provides staff support to four councils.

Eligibility: As a state agency, we serve children and families free of charge.

Geographic Area Served: All 100 North Carolina counties.

**Direct Services Provided:**

Assistance: Advocate for children/families in the following areas: mental health, education issues, financial, housing, food/nutrition, developmental disabilities, prevention/abuse treatment, pregnancy, parenting, transportation, connection to foster, insurance and benefits.

## Index

<b>Agencies that provide Policy Development</b>
Administrative Offices of the Courts
Department of Commerce - Division of Employment & Training
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that provide Technical Assistance/Consultation</b>
Administrative Offices of the Courts
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
DMH/DD/SAS
Independent Living Resources, Inc.

<b>Agencies that provide Advocacy Services</b>
Concern of Durham, Inc.
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
DMH/DD/SAS
Independent Living Resources, Inc.
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
SaySo Inc.
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that provide Training</b>
Administrative Offices of the Courts
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
DMH/DD/SAS
Independent Living Resources, Inc.
North Carolina Community College System
SaySo Inc.

<b>Agencies that provide Publication Development and Dissemination</b>
Administrative Offices of the Courts
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
DMH/DD/SAS
Independent Living Resources, Inc.

SaySo Inc.
------------

<b>Agencies that provide Program Pilots</b>
Administrative Offices of the Courts
Concern of Durham, Inc.
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
DMH/DD/SAS
Independent Living Resources, Inc.

<b>Agencies that serve 3-4 year olds (PK)</b>
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Instruction
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that serve 5 year olds (K)</b>
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Instruction
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that serve 6 year olds (K)</b>
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that serve 7-12 year olds</b>
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that serve 13 year olds</b>
Concern of Durham, Inc.
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program

Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office
---------------------------------------

<b>Agencies that serve 14-15 year olds</b>
Concern of Durham, Inc.
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Commerce - Division of Employment & Training
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
SaySo Inc.
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that serve 16-18 year olds (12<sup>th</sup> grade)</b>
Concern of Durham, Inc.
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Commerce - Division of Employment & Training
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
North Carolina Community College System
SaySo Inc.
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that serve 19-20 year olds</b>
Department of Commerce - Division of Employment & Training
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Social Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
North Carolina Community College System
SaySo Inc.

<b>Agencies that serve 21 year olds</b>
Department of Commerce - Division of Employment & Training
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
North Carolina Community College System
SaySo Inc.

<b>Agencies that serve 22-24 year olds</b>
North Carolina Community College System
SaySo Inc.

<b>Agencies that are federally funded</b>
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Commerce - Division of Employment & Training
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
DMH/DD/SAS
North Carolina Community College System
SaySo Inc.

<b>Agencies that are state funded</b>
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Department of Public Instruction
Department of Social Services
DMH/DD/SAS
NC Guardian Ad Litem Program
North Carolina Community College System
SaySo Inc.
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

<b>Agencies that are county funded</b>
Communities In Schools of NC, Inc.
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Instruction
DMH/DD/SAS