

The SC NYTD (**National Youth in Transition Database**) survey of 17-year-olds begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>! The NYTD federal data collection requires all states to collect information from youth in care who turn 17 between October 2016 and September 2017 and invites youth to share their experiences and feedback about independent living.

The federal government is interested in youth's thoughts and experiences related to the independent living services they have received. The survey will include questions about Independent Living Services, and youth will have an opportunity to share how they are doing in the areas of education, employment, finances, housing, access to health care services, and social support. The South Carolina Department of Social Services has asked the Center for Child and Family Studies to conduct this data collection.

Youth will complete a short survey and then receive a \$50 gift card in appreciation for their time and input. Three weeks before the youth turns 17, the South Carolina NYTD team mails a birthday card and letter explaining NYTD to the youth. Two weeks before the youth's birthday, we will contact the youth to discuss the survey and answer any questions that he/she may have. The survey must be completed **within 45 days** of their 17th birthday. The same youth will be surveyed again at 19 and 21.

Foster parents are key partners in making NYTD a success. Foster parents can help by letting us know if a youth in their care moves or needs special accommodations to complete the survey and by encouraging them to complete the survey within the required 45 days. Answers to the survey questions asked of all youth will be shared in reports available through the DSS intranet and through presentations at meetings and conferences.