



Pictured: Left to right, back row: Martavius Lowery, Gerry Glynn, Keri Flynn, Wendy Land, Crystal Alicea, Kendall Seifert (Front row; left to right); Lisa Padua and Maria Solon

K2I honored as Outstanding Program by Florida's Children First

At the end of September, our team was awarded Outstanding Program for Children by Florida's Children First (FCF). FCF is a non-profit organization that advocates for systemic changes that positively impact at-risk children. We're proud to be recognized as an organization that makes a difference throughout Florida, and hope to continue to exceed expectations for resources available to youth in foster care and young adults who have aged out of care.

\$100 Incentive Available for Youth Enrolled in K2I

Last month, teen caregivers and young adults over 18 were notified about a supplemental stimulus payment intended to help our older youth overcome economic or personal barriers that have arisen during the pandemic. This federal

allocation includes funds for transportation assistance, including incentives for youth enrolled in K2I.

Below is a graphic outlining federal funding for youth in licensed foster care. Specific to Keys to Independence (K2I), any youth 15-17 who is actively enrolled in K2I will receive a \$100 incentive. In addition, youth who are interested in gaining support for transportation can request funding for these needs.

We hope you'll take advantage of this great financial incentive. Please contact your case manager for more information.

Additional Funding for Transportation Needs		
	Youth Ages 15-17 Years Old	Young Adults Ages 18-23 Years Old
Funding Amount for Transportation Needs	Maximum \$500 per youth	Maximum \$2000
Fund Distribution	To caregiver on behalf of youth	Directly to young adult or vendor
Documentation	Required in FSFN Case Note under Housing Education and Home Management	Required in FSFN Case Note under Housing Education and Home Management
Assistance Request	Request submitted using <i>Additional Chafee Assistance</i> form.	Request submitted using <i>Additional Chafee Assistance</i> form.

To prevent duplicity of services, each staff member must verify if the youth or young adult is enrolled and eligible to receive services from Keys to Independence before using transportation funds.

Keys to Independence Incentive:

- One-time \$100.00 incentive for any youth ages 15-17 in OHC who enrolls into the Keys to Independence program
- Paid to caregiver on behalf of the youth or to the youth directly.
- Request must be submitted using the *Additional Chafee Incentive* form.

Targeted Technical Assistance: Going National

Our reach is expanding! While the Keys to Independence team remains dedicated to serving teens and young adults in Florida by removing barriers to drive, the model we pioneered is going national. The Florida K2I team has been selected to help create and implement **Paving the Way**, a national Targeted Technical Assistance project that will help teens all over the country earn a driver's license. Our partner in this effort is ICF, and our goal is to support other states as they launch their own driving programs for youth and young adults in foster care!

Post Education Secondary Services (PESS) eligibility changes

Thanks to new legislation passed by the Florida Legislature, our Keys to

Independence team will soon be ready to expand our services to young adults that are receiving PESS! We are working out all of the specifics and will have more information about how to access those benefits in the near future. Keep an eye on [our website](#) and [social media](#) pages for eligibility details.

Proud to represent Keys to Independence at events throughout Florida

We're back on the road! The Keys to Independence team recently attended three major events, spreading awareness of our program statewide.

The first, in Tampa, hosted by *Eckerd Family Connections*, was a back-to-school event aimed to help older youth discover new resources. We also attended the *Daniel Memorial Conference* and the *2021 Child Protection Summit*, both held in Orlando.

For the first time since the pandemic, both of these events were held in person and we were happy to attend – following all CDC-recommended safety precautions, of course.



Child Protection Summit: Sarai Arroyo and Elias Quintana

Daniel Memorial Conference: Elias Quintana

[Visit Our Website](#)





Keys to Independence | 4001 Pelee Street, Orlando, FL 32817 | www.keystoindependencefl.org
321-207-8300 | info@keystoindependence.org

Sponsored by Embrace Families and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families