

# FOSTER



A collaborative program between  
Child and Family Services, Community  
Options and Department of Human

# Background

- FOSTER developed to address foster children aging out of care
- Started September 2009 as a subsidized employment program for youth under care, custody and control of county social services ,Division of Juvenile Services or ND Executive Director.
- TANF purpose - end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage
- Funding – TANF ARRA funds

# Purpose



Prepare youth for living as an adult by providing employment, transportation assistance and case management

# Community Options, Inc.

Fostering Opportunities &  
Services Through Employment  
Retention  
(FOSTER)

# History of Community Options, Inc.

- ❖ For-profit corporation founded in 1997 by Bryan Wetch, CEO
- ❖ First five referrals were for employment services
- ❖ Services over 1000 clients and employees over 350 staff across the state of North Dakota
- ❖ Two branches to the company: Residential and Employment

# Day/Residential Services

Day Support Services

In-Home Services

Family Support Services

Independent Supported Living Arrangements

Supported Living Arrangements

- Developmental Disabilities Services
- Receive referrals from
  - Human Service Centers
  - County Social Services

# Employment Services

- Diversified populations
- Referrals from various human service agencies
  - County Social Services
  - Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Human Service Center
  - Independent Living Coordinators
  - General Public

Job Opportunities & Basic Skills Program

Vocational Development Program

Supported Employment Program

Traumatic Brain Injury Pre-Vocational Skills Program

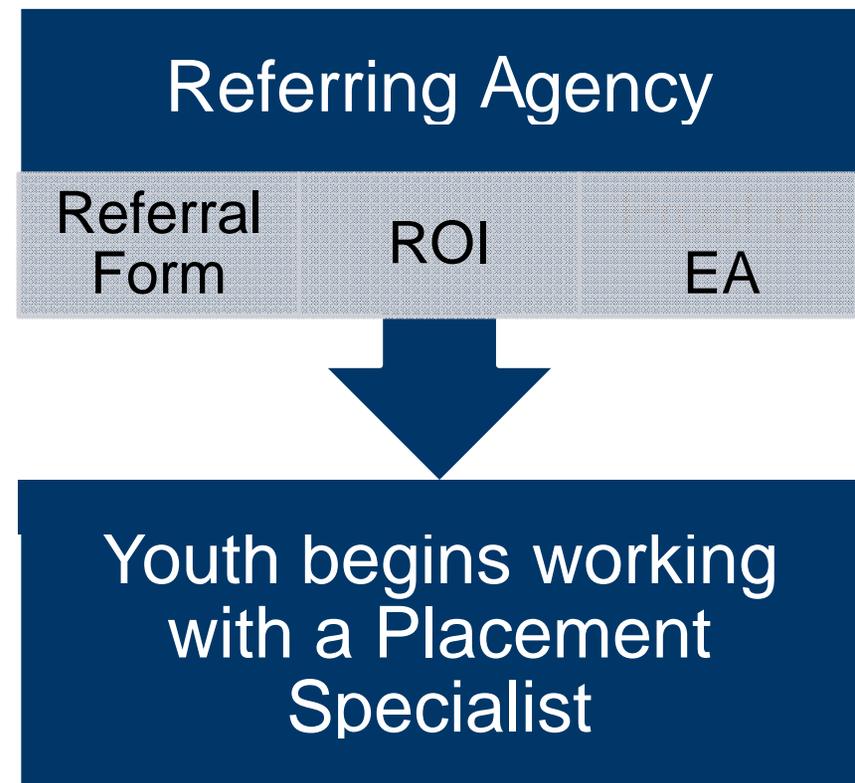
Fostering Opportunities & Services Through Employment Retention Program

# FOSTER Program

- **Goal**
  - To enhance youth employment efforts in achieving sustainable employment towards self-sufficiency.
- **Joint effort**
  - ND DHS- Public Assistance and Children & Families, and Community Options
- **Referrals for youth age 16 and older**
  - Youth may choose to sign back in upon emancipation
- **Subsidized employment placement opportunity**
  - Placement Specialists work with area employers to secure and maintain placements
- **Follow-up services**
  - Weekly or monthly visits with youth and employer

# FOSTER Program Process

- **Referral Process - referring person will complete the following:**
  - **Referral**
  - **Releases of Information**
  - **Proof of Emergency Assistance (EA)**



# FOSTER Program Process

- **FOSTER Program Steps**

- 1.Intake/Assessment**
- 2.Securing Subsidized employment placement**
- 3.Maintain subsidized employment**
- 4.Case Closure**

