

Youth from Ethnocultural Communities in Youth Protection



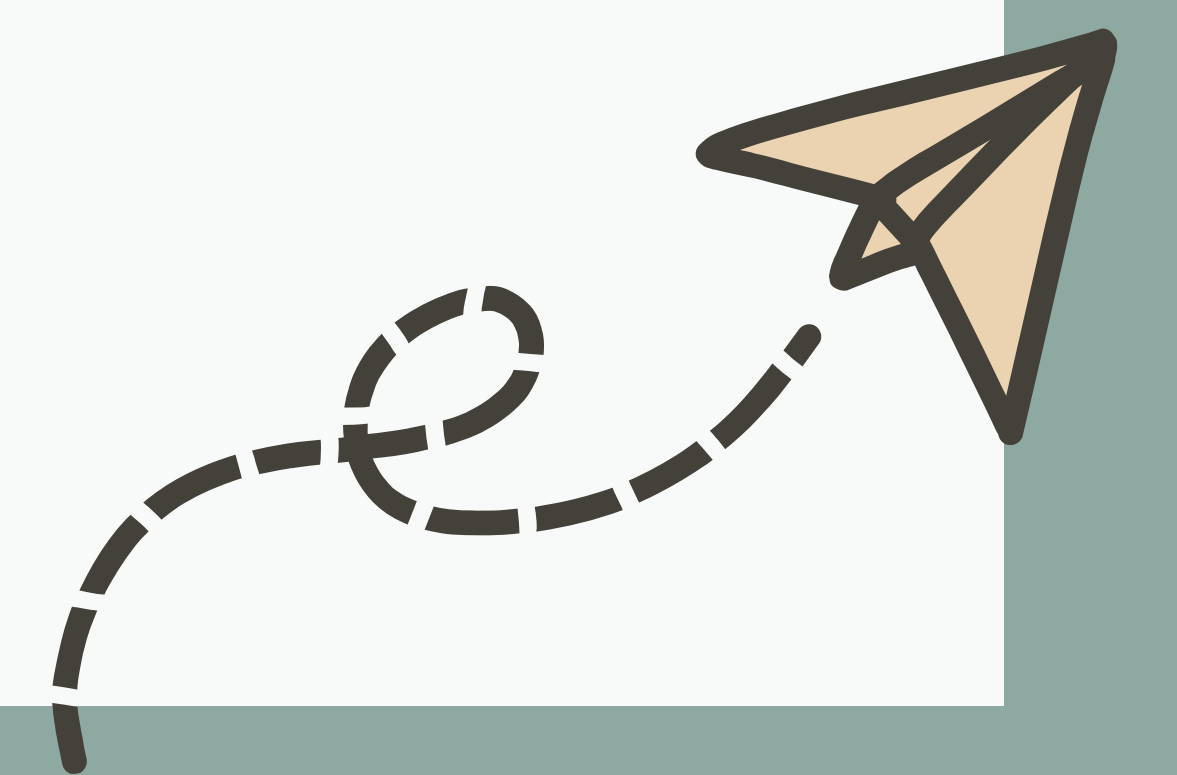
Transition to Adulthood

Multiple Aspects of the Transition to Adulthood

- **Belonging to an ethnocultural community: a double vulnerability ?**
 - Vulnerability experienced by youth in transition to adulthood in youth protection: low education; lack of job skills; lack of general life skills
 - A vulnerability experienced by ethnocultural communities: discrimination

- **Looking at the future with a rather negative attitude, these young people...**
 - Are less optimistic than their white peers about the future after post-secondary study
 - Have fewer people to rely on than their white peers
 - Feel less prepared on many life skills

- **The relationship of trust with the social worker**
 - A factor facilitating a successful transition
 - Particularly useful for youth without family support
 - More important than transition programs



Negative Experiences as a Source of Motivation for Successful Transition

Making transition a positive experience

Developing determination and resilience to succeed

Providing stability for oneself after leaving care



Success Factors for the Transition

- Self-defense skills
- Mentoring for youth; housing, education and work plans
- Discussions and preparation a few years before transition
- Relationship with biological family, when possible
- Support networks dedicated to one-on-one or personalized assistance
- Participation of youth in activities planned for their discharge from placement

Conclusion

- Youth from ethnocultural communities experience a **particularly difficult transition**; in addition to the known pitfalls of transition, they are more likely to face discrimination
- Social and family support, a transition plan, individual assistance, and participation in transition activities allow for adequate preparation for exit from the child protection system
- These youth can use their negative experiences as a **source of motivation** and resilience to succeed in adult life