

# BRIDGING THE GAP

Understanding the Journey of Youth Participants



## Bridging the Gap Youth

When youth leave the child welfare system, they often need support to successfully transition to independent living.



## Housing and Support

Mile High United Way supports Bridging the Gap participants by providing a 36-month Family Unification Program (FUP) housing voucher and partnership with an Independent Living Coach.



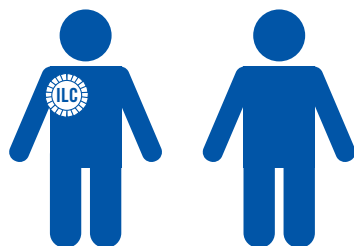
## Safe and Stable Housing

Youth who enter Mile High United Way's Bridging the Gap program receive 36 months of stable housing with the Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher.

## Financial Stability



Less than half of youth aging out of the child welfare system have any form of checking or savings account. Bridging the Gap coaches help youth establish healthy financial practices.



## Youth Coaching

Participants are paired with an Independent Living Coach to help them write their own future while supporting and advocating for them along the way.

## Workforce Development

Fewer than half of former foster youth are not employed by age 24. Bridging the Gap coaches plan career development opportunities specific to each youth's work goals.

## Education



In Colorado, about 23 percent of foster youth graduate from high school on time. Coaches in Mile High United Way's Bridging the Gap help these youth pursue their educational goals.

## Wellness

Bridging the Gap youth may have mental health or developmental needs that coaches address by helping youth find supportive community resources.



## Community Connections

Coaches help youth set goals and access resources and skill-building opportunities, reviving a sense of hope for the future that many had cast aside.