

The logo for THRIVE Evaluation is centered at the top. It consists of a purple rounded rectangle with a teal shadow on its right side. Inside the rectangle, the word "THRIVE" is written in large, bold, white, uppercase letters. Below it, the word "Evaluation" is written in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font, with each letter spaced out.

THRIVE
Evaluation

Information for
Participating Sites

THRIVEevaluation.org

Seeking Child Welfare Partners in Illinois, Kansas, and Colorado for a Study of THRIVE

What is THRIVE?

THRIVE is a promising sexual health intervention for 13- to 19-year-old youth in foster care **and** child welfare professionals. It was designed by sexual health and child welfare experts, foster caregivers, and youth in foster care. THRIVE is built on trauma-informed principles. It aims to create a safe and inclusive space in which youth can talk and learn about relationships and sexual health.

- THRIVE's 4-hour training for child welfare professionals focuses on strategies for being a safe and trustworthy resource for youth and providing them with resources and support for navigating relationships and sexual health.
- THRIVE's 10-hour sexual health curriculum for youth focuses on building skills for healthy relationships and consent, provides an overview of STI prevention and contraceptive methods, and includes information about youth friendly resources and access to condoms.

Who is conducting the study?

The study is led by child welfare experts at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago with support from the University of Kansas and the University of Colorado Boulder. The study team works closely with local sexual health educators who have received training on the curriculum and on trauma-informed practices and child welfare. The study team is

- Committed to minimizing the burden on child welfare partners.
- Flexible and responsive to partner needs when scheduling program and evaluation activities.
- Keeping the needs of youth and child welfare professionals at the center of this project.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study will address two main questions:

1. Does THRIVE increase young people's knowledge about healthy relationships and sexual health, communication with partners about consent, and use of condoms and contraceptives?
2. Does THRIVE increase child welfare professionals' confidence in talking with youth about sexual health and their provision of sexual health resources to youth?

Which congregate care providers are eligible to participate?

Recruitment of providers will begin in Spring 2024 and continue over four years. Congregate care providers are eligible if they **serve youth ages 13 – 19** and have **at least eight beds**. We expect to have at least 45 congregate care providers across Illinois, Kansas, and Colorado to participate in the study.

What does participation in the study mean for providers?

We are seeking congregate care providers that serve youth, ages 13 – 19, to participate in a study of this innovative program. Congregate care providers that agree to participate will be randomly assigned to one of two groups: a group that will receive THRIVE (i.e., program group) or a group that will not (i.e., comparison group). This will allow us to compare the outcomes of youth and child welfare professionals who receive THRIVE to the outcomes of youth and child welfare professionals who do not receive it. Congregate care providers that are randomly assigned to the comparison group one year will have another opportunity to be selected to receive THRIVE the following year.

What do partners agree to?

Assign a person to assist with scheduling the THRIVE program (if they are selected for the program group) and data collection at times convenient for staff and youth.

- Support youth and staff participation in the study and allow a researcher to visit their site to collect survey data.
- Support youth and staff participation in the THRIVE program (if they are selected for the program group) and allow a researcher to observe part of the program.

What do partners receive?

- Providers in the program group receive a \$1,000 incentive, providers in the comparison group receive a \$3,000 incentive.
- Providers in the program group receive the THRIVE program for their staff and youth. The program is delivered by trained facilitators.

What does participating in the study mean for youth and staff?

- Youth will be asked to complete 5 surveys over one year. Three of the surveys will take 15 – 20 minutes to complete; two check-in surveys will take 5 – 10 minutes to complete.
- Staff will be asked to complete 4 surveys over nine months. Each survey will take 15 – 20 minutes to complete.
- Some youth and staff may be invited to participate in an interview.
- Participation in the study is voluntary.
- Youth and staff will receive gift cards as incentives.

Is this study supported by the child welfare system?

- The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Colorado Department of Human Services, and the Kansas Department for Children and Families support the implementation and evaluation of THRIVE in their respective states.
- The evaluation plan is being reviewed by Institutional Review Boards at each of the participating universities and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.
- The evaluation team will follow each state's rules for obtaining consent for minors in care. Youth will also be asked to assent to participating in the study.

Where can I get more information?

- Information about the THRIVE program and the study: THRIVEevaluation.org
- Contact the study team in your state
 - Illinois: Lee Ann Huang, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, lhuan@chaphall.org
 - Colorado: Katie Massey Combs, University of Colorado Boulder, Katie.Combs@colorado.edu
 - Kansas: Pegah Naemi Jimenez, University of Kansas, pnaemi@ku.edu or Ariana Nasrazadani, anasr@ku.edu

Who is funding this study?

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