

# The Fostering Connections Act

**Congressional Briefing**

**May 15, 2012**



# The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351)

Sweeping federal reforms  
for children and families

Enacted October 7, 2008

Bipartisan legislation with  
broad support among  
stakeholders

Former foster youth played  
key advocacy role



# About Fostering Connections

The law promotes permanency and improved outcomes for children in foster care through policy changes in six key areas:

- ❑ Support for **kinship care** and family connections,
- ❑ Support for **older youth**,
- ❑ Coordinated **health** services,
- ❑ Improved **educational stability** and opportunities,
- ❑ Incentives and assistance for **adoption**, and
- ❑ Direct access to federal resources for **Indian Tribes**.

# How Fostering Connections Addressed Needs of Older Youth

- A state option to extend Title IV-E reimbursable foster care, adoption, or guardianship assistance payments to children after the age of 18;
- A requirement that personal transition plans for youth aging out are developed within 90 days prior to youth exiting foster care;
- Extending eligibility for Independent Living Program services & ETV to children adopted or placed in kinship guardianship at age 16 or older;
- Extending Medicaid eligibility

# Snapshot of Implementation Efforts to Extend Care Beyond Age 18

At least 12 states have received federal approval to extend assistance beyond age 18; additional states have enacted legislation.

