ACF established the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) to meet a statutory requirement to track independent living services and develop outcome measures for states’ independent living programs (see 45 CFR 1356.80 et seq. and the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169)). States are also required to survey young people who are or were in foster care regarding their outcomes. States submit all NYTD data electronically to ACF on a semiannual basis.

NIEM compliance and the NYTD IEPD are not required for NYTD submissions. The NYTD IEPD provides an option to states that may be receiving NYTD information collected at local agency offices. The IEPD offers an electronic exchange that is standardized and therefore can be reused by all the local offices to send NYTD data elements to the state child welfare agency level. For example, in county-administered states or states that utilize private providers, independent living services information may be collected at the local level. The county offices and/or private providers can use this IEPD to send NYTD information to the state office to support preparation of the NYTD file submitted to ACF.