

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services	Effective Date: October 1, 2021
	Section 02: Eligibility for Older Youth Services (OYS)	Version: 5

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Chafee Program provides funding for Older Youth Services (OYS) (formerly known as Chafee Independent Living [IL]) for Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) youth in foster care, Collaborative Care (CC), relative/kinship foster care, or other court approved placements. The Chafee Program also provides funding for OYS for youth formerly in out-of-home care who are currently on a Trial Home Visit (THV) with their parent, guardian, or custodian while they remain under the jurisdiction of the court in an open CHINS or JD/JS case.

PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has determined the following youth meet the eligibility requirements for OYS:

1. Youth **16 years of age up to the day before the youth’s 21st birthday who are in foster care** as a CHINS or JD/JS. Referral for OYS is based on the type of placement of the youth (see policy 11.01 Older Youth Services).
2. Youth **18 years of age up to the day before the youth’s 23rd birthday who were formerly in foster care:**
 - a. A minimum of six (6) months as a CHINS or JD/JS after age 16,
 - b. Under the care and supervision of DCS, or
 - c. Were in the custody of another state (verification of wardship and all eligibility criteria must be met from the state of jurisdiction).
3. Youth **18 years of age up to the day before the youth’s 23rd birthday who were formerly in foster care** for a minimum of six (6) months and have achieved permanency through guardianship or adoption on or after the youth’s 16th birthday.

Note: Youth who meet eligibility requirements number two (2) and three (3) above are eligible for Voluntary OYS (see policy 11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services).

The Family Case Manager (FCM) or Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM) will:

1. Determine eligibility for OYS for all CHINS youth 16 to 21 years of age, and ensure eligibility is determined for JD/JS youth 16 to 21 years of age, who are in foster care or were previously in foster care;
2. Determine eligibility for OYS for youth 16 to 21 years of age in foster care through an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) when requested (see Chapter 9 Interstate Compact policies); and
3. Determine whether eligible youth should be referred for OYS based on the type of placement.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 677: John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Foster Care

Foster care is defined as 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parent, guardian, or custodian and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility.

Older Youth Services

The purpose of the Older Youth Services is to:

1. Identify youth who are expected to remain in foster care until their 18th birthday or after and assist them in making the transition to self-sufficiency;
2. Help identified youth receive the necessary education, training, and services to overcome potential barriers to employment;
3. Help youth prepare for and enter post-secondary education and/or training programs;
4. Provide personal and emotional support for youth aging out of foster care;
5. Assist youth in locating and identifying community resources that will be available to the youth after DCS involvement has ended; and
6. Encourage positive personal growth in older youth through “teachable moments”.

Forms and Tools

- [OYS Services Referral](#)- Available in KidTraks
- [OYS Service Standards](#)

Related Policies

- [CHAPTER 9- INTERSTATE COMPACT \(ICPC\)](#)
- [11.01 Older Youth Services](#)
- [11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services](#)