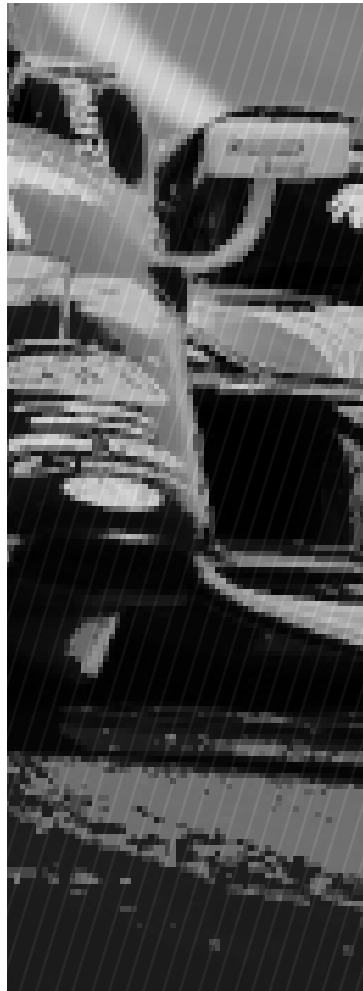




INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILD  
SERVICES



# ON TRACK to Success

John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood  
& Education and Training Voucher Program Resource Guide for Youth



One of our big goals at DCS recently has been to improve our engagement and interaction with you, our older youth. A big part of that is making sure you know about the resources available to you and the ways DCS can continue helping you as young adults. We are here for you! We want to empower our older youth to be independent by providing the right tools and resources and, perhaps most importantly, giving you a voice. I hope this guide helps us achieve our goal together!

There are so many resources out there, ready and waiting for you should you need or want them. Did you know that we can support you in getting your driver's license? Or that we have a program to provide financial and academic support for college? Those are just two of the many ways DCS can help you through our Older Youth Initiatives.

I encourage you to take some time to read through this guide and learn more. Keep it handy, and don't hesitate to take advantage of the resources listed inside. We're here to support you in any way we can!

Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN  
Director

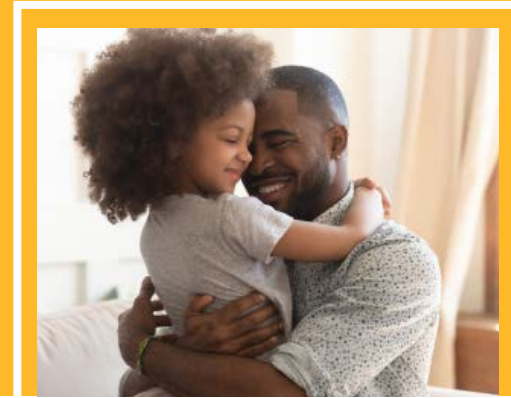
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## mission:



*“The Indiana Department of Child Services leads the state’s response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and facilitates child support payments. We consider the needs and values of all we serve in our efforts to protect children while keeping families together whenever possible.”*

## vision:



*“Children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.”*

## values:



*“We at the Indiana Department of Child Services empower our team, in collaboration with state and local partners, to make decisions in the best interest of every child in our care by embracing: respect for all, racial justice, diversity and inclusion, a culture of safety and a commitment to continuous improvement.”*

# 4

## What are Older Youth Initiatives?

OYI



The OYI program encompasses Older Youth Services (OYS), Collaborative Care and voluntary services. OYS were formerly known as the Chafee Independent Living Services. OYS and Collaborative Care are sets of services and supports used to assist older youth successfully achieve their case plan goal. OYS and Collaborative Care are primarily focused on helping those youth who are expected to turn 18 in foster care, but the programs can be implemented concurrently with other goals like reunification and adoption. Voluntary Services are a set of services for youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system. These services are geared to assisting former foster youth in the areas of housing, employment, and education.

### About OYI Program:

#### Older Youth Services (OYS):

- Formerly known as the Chafee Independent Living Services.
- Helps older youths achieve their adulthood case plan goals.
- Focuses on helping youth who are expected to turn 18 in foster care; however, OYS can be implemented concurrently with other goals like reunification and adoption.

#### Collaborative Care:

- A continuation of older youth services for youths (from age 18 until they turn 21) who voluntarily agree to remain in foster care.
- Helps older youth reach their case plan goals and successfully transition into adulthood.

#### Voluntary Services:

- For youths who have aged out of the foster care system at 18 or whose collaborative care case closed at age 21. These services assist former foster youth in the areas of housing, employment, and education.
- *Emancipation of Goods and Services (EGS)*: funding available to assist youth with their needs as they become independent of the system while making a safe and successful transition into adulthood.
- *Room and Board (R&B)*: funding available to youth to assist with their housing expense. This may include start-up assistance, on-going assistance, and emergency assistance.



# 5

Services available depend on a variety of factors that can include:

- Your age.
- Age when you entered foster care.
- Your placement.
- Your needs.

## Additional programs available:

### **Driver's Education:**

You may attend driver's education and obtain your driver's license. Talk to your case manager to make it a part of your plan.

### **Medicaid:**

You have medical insurance through Medicaid and if you age out of foster care, you can keep your Medicaid until age 26. Talk to your case manager about your physical and mental health needs.

### **Credit Reporting:**

DCS runs a credit check on all youth and young adults in foster care to ensure there are no problems with your financial history. Talk to your case manager about your credit report.

### **College Dorm Placement:**

This program provides a monthly amount to youth who are participating in the Indiana's Extended Foster Care program - Collaborative Care and live in a college dorm.

### **Indiana Youth Advisory Board:**

Indiana's youth leadership/advisory council assists foster youth in making their voices heard.

### **Opportunity Passport:**

This program helps those leaving the foster care learn about banking, accounts and budgets.

### **Specialized Youth Career Training:**

This program provides life skills and career development services to foster youth.

### **Catalyst:**

This college bridge program helps current foster youth transition to college.

### **Family Unification Program (FUP) & Foster Youth Independence (FYI) Voucher:**

These programs administered by the public housing authority in partnership with DCS provide rental assistance for eligible current and former foster youth.



# Education Training Voucher

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides financial and academic support to those who have or will age out of foster care and who are enrolled in an accredited college or vocational training program. You could receive up to \$5,000 per year.

To be eligible for ETV, you must be a current or former foster youth who meets the following criteria:

- Turned 18 years old in foster care.
- Adopted or placed in a kinship guardianship from foster care on or after your 16th birthday.
- Aged out of foster care on or after your 18th birthday.

ETV funding assists in covering costs including:

- Tuition/fees
- Room and board (on campus or off campus)
- Books & supplies
- Transportation
- Child care
- Medical cost

Talk to your case manager or your older youth service provider about your plans to continue your education. Applying for ETV is easy; just visit the ETV website, [www.indianaetv.org](http://www.indianaetv.org).





## Other college financial resources:



21st Century Scholarship provides students up to four years of undergraduate tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana.



A foster youth who turns 18 while in foster care is eligible for a Pell Grant to assist with college expenses.



Look online for additional scholarship opportunities:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

# 8



# What's your plan?

When you turn 14, your DCS case manager will seek your input on the following plans:

**Case plan:**

A plan for assuring you receive safe and proper care and services.

**Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA):**

A plan for obtaining housing, employment, education, health care and vital records prior to aging out of foster care.

**Learning plan:**

A plan to ensure your older youth service goals are met.

Your input is important. Three ways you can share your voice:

- Child and family team meetings (CFTMs).
- Youth court reports.
- National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) outcome survey.

my plan:



# Older Youth Services Timeline

AGE

- Talk with your FCM about who you would like to have on your child and family team (CFT).
- Participate in child and family team meetings (CFTMs).
- Work with your FCM on your Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA).
- Apply for 21st Century Scholars program.
- Ask your FCM for the Indiana Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care.
- Attend court. Complete a youth report to the court if you are unable to attend.
- Work with your FCM to create a lifebook.

14  
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16

- Work with your FCM on your Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA).
- Talk to your FCM about Collaborative Care.
- Ask about post-secondary education options.
- Ask your FCM for the Indiana Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care.

17

- Work with your FCM on the Transitional Services Plan (TSP) portion of the Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA).
- Talk with your FCM about getting your legal documents (birth certificate, state ID, medical records, insurance information, Social Security card).
- Talk to your FCM about advance directives.
- Continue to talk about Collaborative Care with your Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM).

90 days before  
18

- Work with your child and family team to finalize plans to transition out of care.
- Ask your FCM about completing the Voluntary Services Agreement (VSA).
- Ask your FCM how to ensure you keep your Medicaid coverage.
- Participate in child and family team meetings (CFTMs).
- Ask your FCM about entering Collaborative Care (CC).
- Ask your FCM for the Indiana Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care.

18

# 10

## Where are you on the timeline?

What has been done?

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What needs done?

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Next Steps:

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Questions?

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## What are my rights?

The Indiana Youth Bill of Rights is a document that describes the rights of Indiana's foster youth with respect to education, health, visitation, and court participation, the right to be provided various documents, the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation.

Foster youth of the state of Indiana who are involved in a child in need of services (chins), collaborative care (cc), or delinquency court case, are entitled to a voice and an opinion in decisions that will impact their lives. These basic rights during the life of the case and safety are paramount in the case. Reasonable restrictions, including court orders, may be imposed on the time, place, and manner in which rights can be exercised. Youth have the right to be informed of these restrictions and the reasons for them in a manner that they can understand.

See the full version at [www.in.gov/dcs](http://www.in.gov/dcs).

## Contacts

DCS FCM or 3CM:

Phone:

Email:

GAL or CASA:

Phone:

Email:

OYS Provider:

Phone:

Email:

Medical Info

Hospital:

Diagnosis:

Doctor:

Therapist:

Dentist:

Medications:

# Glossary

## **John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (The Chafee Program)**

Independent living (IL) services that help you gain the skills required to live a healthy, productive and responsible life as a self-sufficient adult. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/chafee-foster-care-program>

## **Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs)**

Meetings that bring together your whole team to talk about your case. You'll discuss what's happened so far, your plan going forward and how everyone can work together to make sure you have what you need. You have a say in what happens. You will talk about strengths, identify needs, set timeframes for your goals and make sure everyone is on the same page. These meetings will happen frequently throughout your case.

## **Collaborative Care (CC)**

Indiana's extended foster care program, available from the time you turn 18 until you turn 21. CC can help you pay your rent and utility bills, find health insurance, buy clothes and more. Along the way, CC will help you continue the services you still need (like counseling) and build a network of people who can support you as you continue your education or start a career.

## **Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM)**

An employee of the Indiana Department of Child Services who monitors Collaborative Care cases. Your 3CM is here to help you navigate the services available to you.

## **Collaborative Care Youth (CCY)**

A youth who chooses to participate in Indiana's Collaborative Care program.

## **Education and Training Voucher (ETV)**

Provides funding for post-secondary education and training if you are aging out of foster care and are enrolled in an accredited college or vocational program. See [www.indianaetv.org](http://www.indianaetv.org) for more information.

# 14

## **Emancipation Goods and Services (EG&S)**

Provides funding for goods and services you might need as you become independent of the system. EG&S funds have a lifetime maximum of \$1,500 for youth up to age 23 who are accessing voluntary services.

## **Independent Living Arrangement**

A living arrangement that is not formally supervised. Examples include college dorms, apartments or shared housing. These do not include foster homes, host homes, group homes, child-caring institutions, or private secure facilities.

## **Indiana Youth Bill of Rights**

Your rights as a foster youth with respect to education, parental involvement, visitation, court participation and more. The Indiana Youth Bill of Rights is provided to every foster youth in out-of-home care at age 14 and every six months thereafter. Find the entire bill of rights at [www.in.gov/dcs](http://www.in.gov/dcs).

## **Older Youth Services**

Services offered to you by DCS or by someone else on DCS' behalf. These services are further defined in the Older Youth Services Service Standards and are also known as Successful Adulthood Services.

## **Older Youth Services Provider**

An agency or individual who is paid by DCS to provide Older Youth Services.

## **Permanency:**

### **Legal Permanency**

A safe, stable, secure home and family. There are five federal permanency options: reunification, adoption, guardianship, fit and willing relative, and Another Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA). These relationships are recognized by the court.

### **Relational Permanency**

A concept that defines a relationship beyond your biological relatives. These include relationships formed during care and after exiting foster care.

# 15

## **Plans:**

### **Case Plan**

A plan listing your goals, strengths and needs. If you are 14 or older, you are expected to participate in creating your case plan and may have two child representatives to help represent you. DCS ensures your case plan is updated every 6 months to reflect changes until you leave the system.

### **Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA)**

A plan you will work on with your child and family team to ensure you have everything you need as you prepare to exit foster care. The TP/SA plan is updated every 6 months.

### **Learning Plan**

A plan based off the results of your Life Skills Assessment. This plan is strongly driven by you and your hopes for the future. Unlike the TP/SA, this plan is developed between you and the provider.