	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services	**Effective Date:** July 1, 2015
	Section 18: Eligibility to Participate in Collaborative Care (CC)	**Version:** 3

POLICY [REVISED]

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make Collaborative Care (CC) available to eligible youth who are currently or were formerly in out-of-home placement. CC is a voluntary program that allows Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and Probation youth 18 years of age and older to remain under the care and placement of DCS in order to continue to receive services. CC focuses on youth-adult partnerships, positive youth development, and encourages youth to develop a strong social network and/or social capital.

DCS has determined that a youth is eligible to participate in CC if he or she meets all of the following criteria:

1. Youth who are 18 or 19 years of age and have not yet reached 20 years of age;
2. **[REVISED]** Currently in an out-of-home placement under an Indiana court order or was formerly in an out-of-home placement through an Indiana court order on the day of his or her 18th birthday;

   Note: Older youth placed in the state of Indiana under a court order for an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) do not qualify for CC. Indiana wards placed out of state and who do not intend to reside in Indiana upon turning 18 are also ineligible for CC.

3. Continuously meet **one** (1) of the following:
   a. Enrolled in a secondary education institution or a program leading to an equivalent credential, or enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education,
   b. Participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment,
   c. Employed for at least 80 hours per month, or
   d. Incapable of performing any of the activities described above due to a medical condition documented in the youth's case plan; and

4. **[REVISED]** Have signed a Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement that covers his or her specialized Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (SF 55166). See separate policy, 11.22 Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement.

A youth is ineligible to participate in Collaborative Care:

1. On or after the youth's 20th birthday;
2. When the youth fails to continuously maintain eligibility requirements as provided in the policies or rules adopted by DCS; or

   Note: If the youth does not continue to meet eligibility requirements or voluntarily decides to leave CC, the Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM) Supervisor will consult with the Local Office Attorney who may file a motion to dismiss.

3. The youth indicates a desire to withdraw from CC.

If DCS terminates a collaborative care agreement before the expiration date without the agreement of the youth, the court may, upon the request of the youth or a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) or Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) participating with the consent of the older youth:

1. Hold a hearing regarding the cause of the termination of the collaborative care agreement; and
2. Enter an order containing findings and conclusions regarding whether DCS properly terminated the agreement for good cause.

IV-E Eligibility

In order to be IV-Eligible and reimbursable under CC, the following must be met in addition to the CC eligibility criteria:

1. DCS must have placement and care responsibility;
2. Contrary to the welfare or best interest language must be obtained within a Court Order within 180 days from the date of placement; and
3. Child must meet Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) eligibility criteria.

Code References

1. IC 31-28-5.8-4: "Older youth"
2. IC 31-28-5.8-5: Eligibility; petitions
3. IC 31-28-5.8-8: Closing collaborative care cases

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. **[REVISED]** Invite members of the Older Youth Initiatives Team to the Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood meeting corresponding to the youth's 17th birthday; and
2. Begin preparations for the youth to transfer to a 3CM at age 17.5 or older. See separate policy, 11.21 Collaborative Care Case Transfers.

   Note: CC is a voluntary program. Not all youth may be interested or eligible (at age 18) to participate in the program. Youth who are interested and eligible to participate in CC will be transferred to a 3CM. Younger siblings who are not eligible or interested in the program shall remain on the FCM's caseload.

[REVISED] The Older Youth Initiatives Team will:

1. Accept referrals from FCMs who have identified a youth who is interested in participating in CC;
2. Have an informational meeting to determine if the youth is eligible for CC;
3. **[REVISED]** Have a transition meeting with the youth, FCM, 3CM, the youth's child representatives, and any other relevant persons if the youth chooses to participate in CC. These team members will work with the DCS Local Office Attorney to submit the completed Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement and petition to open a CC case immediately after the CHINS Case is closed.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Older youth in out-of-home placement who are likely to be in placement until age 18 years of age or older should be encouraged to participate in CC. Participation in the program can have a positive impact on youth outcomes, such as:

1. Educational attainment;
2. Delayed pregnancy; and
3. Higher earnings.

While youth and young adults are still in out-of-home placement related programs, efforts should be made to enhance and develop existing relationships with adults whom youth trust, or with whom trust could be strengthened. Building the capacity of existing relationships to offer more empathetic and insightful emotional support could provide important resources for the youth as he or she leaves out-of-home placement and continues to deal with the emotions and questions raised by his or her experiences prior to, and during, placement.

Emphasis should be placed on assisting youth in creating social capital through interactions with family, peers, caring adults, and community members. Youth who are participating in CC are likely to have missed out on the opportunity to find legal permanency. The building of social capital with the guidance of a 3CM and the youth's team gives the opportunity for each adolescent to achieve relational permanency; therefore, securing opportunities for heightened positive brain development and a chance at a higher level of success after leaving out-of-home placement.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. CC Brochure for Youth- Available in hard copy
2. CC 101: A practical guide for DCS Staff- Available in hard copy
3. Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement- Available in hard copy
4. Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (SF 55166)

RELATED INFORMATION

Collaborative Care (CC)

Indiana's CC program was developed to serve youth through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. CC is a voluntary program that allows DCS youth aged 17.5 to 20 years, and JD youth aged 18 to 20 years, to remain in the care and placement of DCS in order to continue to receive services. CC focuses on youth-adult partnerships, positive youth development, and encourages youth to develop a strong social network and/or social capital.

Collaborative Care Agreement

The Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement documents an arrangement between the potential youth in CC and DCS. The agreement outlines CC as well as the youth's rights and responsibilities once he or she has transferred into CC. This agreement must be signed by the youth. Any representative from the DCS Older Youth Initiatives team may review and sign the Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement with the potential youth. The Local Office Attorney is responsible for filing the agreement with the court of jurisdiction, which cannot be filed until the CHINS case is closed. This agreement is effective upon the date the last party has signed.

Relational Permanency

Samuels (2008)[1] defined relational permanency as a concept that defines familial relationships in ways that extend beyond biological connections, including familial ties formed during care and after exiting out-of-home placement. "The role of the biological family must be extended beyond that family's official or legal status in a child's permanency plan" (p. 5). Youth in out-of-home placement need to have emotional support, peer and insider wisdom for insight and understanding to make a smoother transition into adulthood.

Legal Permanency

Permanency, as defined by Child Welfare Systems, is a safe, stable, secure home and family. There are five (5) federal Permanency Goals:

1. Reunification;
2. Adoption;
3. Guardianship;
4. Fit & Willing Relative; and
5. **[REVISED]** Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA).

   [NEW] Note: APPLA is only an option for youth 16 years of age and older. DCS must document why every other permanency plan option is not in the best interest of the child, as well as, document continuous efforts to locate relatives of the youth.

[1] Samuels, G. (2008). *A Reason, A Season, A Lifetime: Relational Permanence Among Young Adults with Foster Care Backgrounds.* Retrieved from http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/old_reports/415.pdf.