

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 04: Youth Advisory Board	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Foster Youth Alliance (IFYA) meets four (4) times a year. It gives older youth who are or were in foster care a chance to build leadership and advocacy skills. They can also help improve the policies and service standards in the Older Youth Services (OYS) programs.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) funds the IFYA. The IFYA is open to:

1. Youth ages 14 to 23 who are in foster care with a CHINS (Child in Need of Services), Older Youth Case Management, or JD/JS (Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status) case.
2. Former foster youth ages 18 to 23 who were in care for at least six (6) months and have a Case Plan/Prevention Plan that shows they need OYS.

Youth may join IFYA if they meet one of the following:

1. Are 14 to 23 years old and in foster care as a CHINS or JD/JS;
2. Are 14 to 23 years old and were in foster care as a CHINS or JD/JS between ages 14-18, returned home, and still have a CHINS or JD/JS case with a Case Plan/Prevention Plan that shows a need for OYS;
3. Are 18 to 23 years old and were in foster care on their 18th birthday as a CHINS or JD/JS with a Case Plan/Prevention Plan that shows a need for OYS;
4. Are 18 to 23 years old and meet the above criteria but were in another state's custody through the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC), with proof of wardship and eligibility from that state;
5. Are 16 to 23 years old and were adopted or placed in a guardianship at or after age 16, and were DCS wards before adoption or guardianship;
6. Are 18 to 19 years old and are in Collaborative Care (CC);
7. Are 14 to 15 years old and have approval from their parent, guardian, or custodian, and from the Child and Family Team (CFT), with special approval from the IFYA board and Independent Living (IL) Specialist; and
8. Are receiving Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds and are under age 23.

See the [Indiana Foster Youth Alliance website](#).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 677: John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)
- [Pub. L. No. 113-128: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(previously the Workforce Investment Act of 1998\)](#)