

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 19: Collaborative Care (CC) for Discharged Older Youth		Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

Older youth who have left the care of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) may return to care through Collaborative Care (CC) if they meet certain requirements. CC helps youth successfully transitioning to adulthood by offering support with housing, education, employment, and life skills.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will make CC available to youth who:

1. Are at least age 18 but not yet 21;
2. On their 18th birthday, they were in out-of-home placement through an Indiana court;
3. Want to participate in CC; and
4. Meet the eligibility rules (see [11.18](#)).

The youth can start the process by calling the Indiana DCS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (Hotline) at 1-800-800-5556.

Note: If the youth goes to a local DCS office and asks for help re-entering care, the local office staff will help the youth call the Hotline while they are in the office.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-28-5.8-5: Eligibility; petitions](#)