

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 02: Eligibility for Older Youth Services (OYS)	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 7

POLICY OVERVIEW

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee Program) is a federal program that gives funding for Older Youth Services (OYS). These services help eligible youth successfully transition to adulthood.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has named the following youth as eligible for OYS:

1. Youth ages **16 to 20** (the day before their 21st birthday) who are in foster care with a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) case;

Note: OYS referrals are based on the youth's type of placement (see [11.01](#)).

2. Youth ages **18 to 22** (up to the day before their 23rd birthday) who were formerly in foster care and:
 - a. Were in care for at least six (6) months as a CHINS or JD/JS youth after turning 16,
 - b. Were in care under DCS care and supervision or had a JD/JS court removal order, or
 - c. Were in the custody of another state (must verify wardship and that state's eligibility criteria are met).
3. Youth ages **18 to 22** (up to the day before their 23rd birthday) who were formerly in foster care for at least six (6) months and were adopted or placed in guardianship on or after their 16th birthday.

Note: Youth who meet number two (2) or three (3) above are eligible for Voluntary OYS (see [11.07](#)).

LEGAL REFERENCES

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