

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 02: Eligibility for Older Youth Services (OYS)	
	Effective Date: June 1, 2023	Version: 6

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POLICY OVERVIEW

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee Program) provides funding for Older Youth Services (OYS), which supports eligible youth with achieving a successful transition to adulthood.

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PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has determined the following youth meet the eligibility requirements for OYS:

1. Youth **16 years of age up to the day before the youth's 21st birthday who are in foster care** with a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) involvement;

Note: Referral for OYS is based on the type of placement of the youth (see policy 11.01 Older Youth Services).

2. Youth 18 years of age up to the day before the youth's 23rd birthday who were formerly in foster care:
 - a. A minimum of six (6) months as a CHINS or JD/JS youth after age 16,
 - b. Under the care and supervision of DCS or have a removal order by the JD/JS court, or
 - c. Were in the custody of another state (verification of wardship and all eligibility criteria must be met from the state of jurisdiction).
3. Youth **18 years of age up to the day before the youth's 23rd birthday who were formerly in foster care** for a minimum of six (6) months and have achieved permanency through guardianship or adoption on or after the youth's 16th birthday.

Note: Youth who meet number two (2) or three (3) of the eligibility requirements listed above are eligible for Voluntary OYS (see policy 11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services).

The Family Case Manager (FCM) or Older Youth Case Manager (OYCM) will:

1. Determine eligibility for OYS for all CHINS youth 16 to 21 years of age, and ensure eligibility is determined for JD/JS youth 16 to 21 years of age, who are in foster care or were previously in foster care;
2. Determine eligibility for OYS for youth 16 to 21 years of age in foster care through an

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) when requested (see Chapter 9- Interstate Compact [ICPC] policies); and

3. Determine whether eligible youth should be referred for OYS based on the type of placement.

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RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Foster Care

Foster care is defined as 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parent, guardian, or custodian and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility.

Older Youth Services

The purpose of OYS is to:

1. Assist identified youth who are expected to remain in foster care until their 18th birthday or after in making the transition to self-sufficiency;
2. Help identified youth receive the necessary education, training, and services to overcome potential barriers to employment;
3. Help youth prepare for and enter post-secondary education and/or training programs;
4. Provide personal and emotional support for youth aging out of foster care;
5. Assist youth in locating and identifying community resources that will be available to the youth after DCS involvement has ended; and
6. Encourage positive personal growth in older youth through “teachable moments”.

Forms and Tools

- OYS Services Referral - available in KidTraks
- [OYS Service Standards](#)

Related Policies

- [11.01 Older Youth Services \(OYS\)](#)
- [11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services](#)
- [Chapter 9 - Interstate Compact \(ICPC\)](#)

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LEGAL REFERENCES

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

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PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 11.02

Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.

N/A

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