**Eligibility**

- DCS and probation youth must be at least 18 years of age

All Youth must meet AT LEAST ONE of the following:
- Attending school (one of the following):
  - High School
  - Participating in a General Education Diploma (GED) program
  - Post-secondary education program
  - Trade school OR
- Participating in an Independent Living program meant to promote employment or remove barriers to employment OR
- Are already employed and work at least 80 hrs/month OR
- Not able to meet any of the above requirements due to a documented medical condition

**Benefits**

Youth will receive continued support while completing school (secondary/post-secondary, trade school, GED program, etc.) or starting a career. Supports include:
- Rent and utilities
- Clothing allowance
- Assistance building support network
- Continued services (including therapy, psychiatric care, etc.)
- Continued health insurance

**Commitments**

Youth will have increased responsibility in their case if they choose to participate in Collaborative Care. This means that they have more of a say in what happens, and that they have commitments to maintain in order to remain in the program.
- Monthly face to face visits with Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM)
- Maintaining records of eligibility (paystubs, college transcripts, etc.)
- Active role in case planning and implementation

**Other Options**

Collaborative Care is a voluntary program. Youth who are not interested in participating, or, who are not eligible to participate they have other options!
- Remaining in ‘traditional’ foster care
- Participating in Voluntary Independent Living Services
- After wardship dismissal, the youth may choose to no longer have contact with DCS.

**Legal Information**

At age 18 the youth will be asked to:
- Sign a Collaborative Care Agreement
  - The Agreement will be filed with the Court
- Participate in planning and implementing their Collaborative Care Case
- DCS youth will transition to a 3CM at age 17.5

**Reentry**

Youth may choose to re-enter foster care any time before turning 20 years of age. This includes youth who:
- Previously participated in Collaborative Care and opted out
- Never participated in Collaborative Care
- Who were in foster care the month before they turned 18
- Who turned 18 in foster care

**Placements**

Collaborative Care Placements include:
- Own Apartment/Housing
- Shared Apartment/Housing
- College Dorm
- Host Home
- Staff Supported Housing

**Who to Contact**

For more information about the Collaborative Care Program, please contact Heather Kestian at 317-234-6154.
For more information for youth interested in entering the Collaborative Care Program, please contact: 1-800-800-5556