

Collaborative Care

Talking Points & Fast Facts

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

