



## ▶ Collaborative Care

Collaborative Care is Indiana's extended foster care program that allows:

1. Current foster youth to remain in foster care with services
2. Former foster youth or probation youth to re-enter foster care with services
  - Voluntary Program
  - Youth must meet the Collaborative Care eligibility requirements
  - Program ends at age 21

### Eligibility ◀

DCS and probation youth must be at least 18 years of age and meet AT LEAST ONE of the following:

- Attending school (one of the following):
  - High School
  - General Education Diploma (GED) program
  - Post-secondary education program
  - Trade school
- Participating in an Independent Living program meant to promote employment or remove barriers to employment
- Employed and working at least 80 hours per month
- Not able to meet any of the above requirements due to a documented medical condition

### Benefits ◀

Youth will receive continued older youth services and supports while completing their education or starting a career. Supports include:

- Rent and utilities
- Clothing allowance
- Assistance in building a supportive network
- Continued services (therapy, psychiatric care etc.)
- Continued health insurance
- Continued case management

### Commitments ◀

Youth will have increased responsibility in their case if they choose to participate in Collaborative Care.

- Monthly face-to-face visits with Older Youth Case Manager (OYCM) and OYS Provider
- Maintaining records of eligibility (pay stubs, college transcripts, etc.)
- Active role in case planning and implementation.

### Placements ◀

Collaborative Care Placements include:

- Own apartment/housing
- Shared apartment/housing
- College dorm
- Host home
- Foster home
- Other out of home placements:
  - LCPA
  - Group home
  - Residential facility

### Legal Information ◀

- DCS youth with a permanency plan of APPLA can transfer to a OYCM at age 16 with court approval prior to entering into the Collaborative Care Program.
- At age 18 the youth will be asked to sign a Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement. The Agreement will be filed with the Court.

### Re-entry ◀

Youth may choose to re-enter foster care before turning 20 years of age. This includes youth who:

- Previously participated in Collaborative Care
- Youth who age out of foster care on or after their 18th birthday
- Probation youth who turn 18 years of age while in an out of home foster care placement.

### Contact Information ◀

For more information about the Collaborative Care Program, email [olderyouthquestions@dcs.in.gov](mailto:olderyouthquestions@dcs.in.gov).

If you are interested in entering the Collaborative Care Program, please contact the Older Youth Case Management Supervisor in your county or call 1-800-800-5556.

