

Indiana Department of Child Services

Older Youth Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

The DCS OYI team will ensure current and former foster youth have their essential needs met during the COVID-19 pandemic. DCS will support transitioned aged youth by offering and connecting youth to emergency resources and support.

<p>A. Federal Children’s Bureau Funding Guidance</p> <p>E-Mail Correspondence (March 13, 2020 email from ACF-Children’s Bureau: Use of Chafee vs. ETV Funding with assisting college dorm youth)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If a youth is enrolled in a college or university but is not currently using ETV funds for room and board because of an institution’s closure due to an emergency, and the housing built into the cost of attendance is not available, Chafee funds for emergency housing not provided by the college or university can be used. While Chafee funding cannot be used for funding to supplement what ETV provides, it can be used for different housing. ➤ Appropriations law precludes the use of general Chafee funds to supplement the \$5,000 per-year ceiling. When an agency has a specific appropriation for particular item (such as ETVs) and also has a general appropriation broad enough to cover the same item (such as general Chafee funds), only the more specific appropriation may be used. Therefore, expenditures for the ETV program must be made for the specific purposes set forth in the law and limited to expenses associated with institutions of higher education. General Chafee funds may not be used for voucher expenses associated with institutions of higher education but may be used for other non-higher education-based learning activities (such as General Equivalency Degree programs, mentoring programs and other supportive services for eligible youth). General Chafee funds may also be used for activities that are outside the scope of an institution's definition of ‘cost of attendance’ and are not covered by the ETV program.
<p>B. Older Youth Services</p> <p>Case Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remote interventions are appropriate for most DCS cases, particularly when coupled with some face-to-face service when there are child-safety risks. Child and family teams should evaluate every case to determine the best way to serve a specific family with the input of families and providers. Keep in mind the DCS Practice Model, which calls for collaboratively teaming to decide the best way to serve children and families. ➤ If a child and family team can’t decide how to deliver services effectively, or if members disagree on the delivery method after considering all of the presenting risks, teams should consult DCS and provider leadership. Providers should follow the chain of command when seeking the guidance of DCS leadership (starting with the supervisor, escalating to division manager, local office director, regional manager, etc.). FCMs and probation officers should seek guidance from provider leadership,

	<p>similarly taking into account the provider’s chain of command, when a clear agreement can’t be reached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Locate and provide additional resources to meet the needs of youth. https://in211.communityos.org/
Food Assistance	<p>Ensure current and former foster youth essential needs are being met on a continual basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food: DCS approved and increased the food cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EGS \$100 (Voluntary youth). ○ Collaborative Care: As needed. ➤ Refer the youth to food assistance programs within their service area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/5768.htm ○ https://www.indyhunger.org/find-help/
College Dorm/University Closures	<p>DCS OYI team has provided guidance to the OYS provider on how to meet youth and young-adult needs as they transition out of their college dorm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The OYS providers have been directed to work with the CC team to ensure youth have their needs met during placement transitions and to assist with the youth’s future plans. This includes assisting youth with accessing food, health care and emotional support. ➤ Advocating for youth to remain in their college dorm. ➤ Assisting voluntary youth with securing alternative housing while their college or university is closed. ➤ ETV liaison will contact youth to ensure they are successfully completing their post-secondary course work.
Technical Support (access to laptops, internet, Wi-Fi, cell phone)	<p>Ensure youth post-secondary educational needs are continually met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Internet access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Internet Essentials (Comcast) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 60 days free service for all new customers & \$9.95/month thereafter. ▪ Increased internet speed. ○ Spectrum: 60 days free internet and waived installations fees. ○ Cox (Connect2Compete): First month free for low-income internet program: https://www.cox.com/residential/internet/connect2compete.html ○ DCS will continue to fund the internet needs of our youth. ➤ Laptops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request through ETV. ○ Personal Allowance. ○ One Simple Wish (request through DCS). ➤ Cellphones: Ensure youth have a cell phone with active service.
Moving Support for Displaced Students: U-Haul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist youth with securing storage for their items. ➤ 30 Days free self-storage amid Coronavirus outbreak: https://www.uhaul.com/Articles/About/20625/College-Students-U-Haul-Offers-30-Days-Free-Self-Storage-amid-Coronavirus-Outbreak/ ➤ U-Haul utilizes a program called College Boxes (https://www.collegeboxes.com/indiana/purdue-university/storage-shipping/) that allows youth at certain schools to ship and store their items

	<p>for a fee. Colleges and universities that U-Haul/College Boxes partners with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Holy Cross College ○ Purdue University (West Lafayette) ○ St. Mary’s College ○ University of Notre Dame <p>➤ Community outreach program that provides donations.</p> <p>All requests must be submitted by a 501c3 charitable organization (no requests from individuals will be considered). On the website, they list the donation submission guidelines: https://www.uhaul.com/About/Philanthropy/.</p> <p>➤ Use of Chafee funds for continued storage needs, if applicable.</p>
Housing/Shelter Needs	<p>➤ Room & Board: The OYS provider will continue to utilize R&B for voluntary youth. During this crisis, providers do not have to follow the step-down process as defined in the service standards and should inform the ILS of their plan. Also, for youth who have utilized their full \$3,000 of R&B but need assistance, a waiver can be requested. This guidance is in the service standard.</p> <p>➤ Limit non-essential apartment moves. Develop a contingency plan with the youth and the youth’s team for an appropriate move-in date.</p> <p>➤ Assist youth with emergency placements to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>➤ Coordinate with local COC to access alternative housing resources to prevent homelessness.</p>
Employment/Loss of income	<p>➤ Help youth navigate the application process for unemployment benefits through DWD: https://www.in.gov/dwd/19.htm.</p> <p>➤ Assist youth with employment assistance.</p> <p>➤ Continue to support youth through Chafee services.</p>
Transportation	<p>➤ Assist youth with transportation resources and provide updated information on their community’s transportation guidelines.</p> <p>➤ Other transportation services: Review local policy on using these services to ensure medical safety of the youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taxi ○ Uber ○ Lyft: Lyft Indy Grocery Access Program (Marion County only) - groceryaccessindy.com.
Education (online resources, graduating)	<p>➤ OYS providers or ETV will pay for online courses as needed.</p> <p>➤ OYS Providers and CC will access resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus ○ https://thejournal.com/articles/2020/03/13/free-resources-ed-tech-companies-step-up-during-coronavirus-outbreak.aspx <p>➤ Coordination with our ELs and local schools to ensure youth’s academic needs are being adequately met.</p> <p>➤ Assess learning needs and pay or tutoring services as needed.</p>
Household Supplies	<p>➤ When youth are moving into apartments, providers are responsible for purchasing household and cleaning supplies during the move-in process.</p> <p>➤ Ensure youth in apartments have the appropriate ongoing cleaning and household supplies.</p>

<p>Parenting/Childcare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Help youth navigate the new process due to COVID for WIC, SNAP and TEFAP https://www.in.gov/isdh/19691.htm. ➤ Ensure youth have access to resources needed to care for their child / children
<p>Financial Assistance (utilities, reimbursement, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist youth with SNAP https://fssabenefits.in.gov/bp/#/. ➤ Collaborate with local community resources, such as the trustee’s office, to request payment assistance. ➤ Assisting youth with their utilities and teach youth how to pay online. ➤ Review youth budgets.
<p>Mental Health Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Check on youth and offer resources for youth struggling with social distancing, as this could look like social isolation and cause emotional/mental health concerns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SAMHSA’s National Helpline (also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service): 1-800-662-HELP or (TTY) 1-800-487-4889. This is a confidential, free, 24/7/365 informational service in English and Spanish for individuals and family members facing mental and/or substance-use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups and community-based organizations. Callers can also order free publications and other information. ○ The Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990. This is a 24/7/365 national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. This toll-free, multilingual and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Stress, anxiety and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster. Also available by text: Send TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. ○ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html ➤ Collaborate with existing service providers to ensure accommodations and modifications are made to meet the needs of the youth (e.g., utilizing different modalities such as Zoom, TeleHealth, FaceTime, etc.). ➤ Support youth with virtual meetup such as game nights and online support.
<p>Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure youth remain informed of Indiana’s COVID-19 response and national guidelines. ➤ Review health and safety risk of COVID-19. ➤ Inform youth of COVID-19 symptoms that youth need to be aware of for self-assessment. ➤ Ensure youth have their Medicaid card and current information of their health-care provider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1071
<p>C. Extended Foster Care - Collaborative Care (Completed by the Collaborative Care Team)</p>	
<p>College Dorm/University Closures</p>	<p>DCS assisted youth with identifying housing options such as foster homes, host homes, relative homes and other caregivers, etc.</p>
<p>Youth Aging Out</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that they have a voluntary IL referral in place upon closure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure they have a step-down/transition plan in place. ➤ Ensure they are connected to community-based resources, and efforts have been made to build/maintain essential connections and promote relational permanency.
Re-Entry Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Connect youth to community-based resources and referrals. ➤ Ensure a grounds for eligibility (i.e., working, engaging in educational programming and/or engaging in OYS IL Programming). ➤ Assess medical/mental health/and substance needs prior to entry. ➤ Prioritize re-entry of youth into care through the courts (facilitating signing of VCCA and arranging initial court hearing). ➤ Provide authentic youth engagement, providing a stable placement option upon re-entry.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communicate regularly with placement providers regarding safety and general well-being of youth, ensuring they provide appropriate medical care. ➤ Use appropriate screening tools to ensure stability of youth and placement. ➤ Provide services and support to runaway youth who resurface and seek to return to stable placement. ➤ Ensure budget 2 youth maintain placement in their current setting. ➤ Address displaced college dorm youth and develop contingency plans.