Indiana Department of Child Services  
Older Youth Initiatives  
(OYI)

The Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) program encompasses CHAFEE Older Youth Services (OYS), Collaborative Care, and CHAFEE Voluntary Older Services. OYS were formerly known as the Chafee Independent Living Services. OYS and Collaborative Care are sets of services and supports used in order to assist older youth successfully achieve their successful adulthood case plan goals. OYS and Collaborative Care are primarily focused on helping those youth who are expected to turn 18 in foster care; however, OYS can be implemented concurrently with other goals like reunification and adoption. Voluntary Services are a set of services for youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system. Indiana’s Older Youth Initiatives services are geared to assisting current and former foster youth in the areas of housing, employment, education, physical and mental health and financial education.

The primary purposes of the OYI programs are:

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

Older Youth Initiatives is designed as a continuum of care beginning at age 16 with an extension of foster care until the youth turns 20 years of age and voluntary services as a safety net for older youth age 20-21.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Older Youth Initiatives</th>
<th>Collaborative Care</th>
<th>Voluntary Older Youth Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Older Youth Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Indiana Extended Foster Care Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>Former foster youth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth driven CFTM</td>
<td>Eligible at age 18</td>
<td>Aged out of foster care at age 18 or Collaborative Care closes at age 20.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood</td>
<td>Must be placed in foster home placement on 18th birthday</td>
<td>Case Management Services provided by Older Youth Service Provider (only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two child representatives selected by the youth (one can be an advocate)</td>
<td>Must meet eligibility requirements</td>
<td>Emancipation of Goods &amp; Services (EG&amp;S): A lifetime maximum of $1000 to assist the youth with the purchase of goods and services to meet their needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Bill of Rights</td>
<td>1. Youth MUST be working 80 hrs per month OR</td>
<td>Room &amp; Board (R&amp;B): A lifetime maximum of $3,000 for assistance with housing needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begins at age 14</td>
<td>2. Youth MUST be participating in education/training OR</td>
<td>Ends at age 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referral for Services at age 16</td>
<td>3. Youth MUST be participating in OYS services OR</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Older Youth Services Providers

Indiana Department of Child Services provides older youth services through contracted service providers. The Older Youth Service Providers (OYS Providers) provide services for youth / young adults who will or have aged out of foster care with the skills and abilities necessary or desirable to be self-reliant. There are six OYS providers contracted to provide OYS services within their service area throughout the State of Indiana. Please see Chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVICE AREA</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>AGENCY</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>SAFY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>The Villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Damar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>The Villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Children’s Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Children’s Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13 &amp; 14</td>
<td>George Junior Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Lifeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>15 &amp; 18</td>
<td>George Junior Republic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff Supported Housing (Not available at this time)

The staff supported housing program is for youth ages 18 -21 who are currently in a foster care placement and working to meet one of the eligibility requirements of the Collaborative Care Program. Youth eligible for Staff Supported housing must be case managed by a 3CM. The purpose of Staff Supported Housing is to:

- Allow youth to experience and gain successful adulthood / successful adulthood skills while continuing in care with supportive services.
- All youth to develop apartment readiness skills to live self-sufficiently in a semi-structured environment
- Prepare youth to transition out of care and/or into their own apartment
- Determine post foster care housing options based on potential earnings and youth voice

Other Supportive Services & Initiatives

- **Youth Advisory Board**: A youth lead board with adult supervision consisting of foster and former foster youth ages 14 to 23 that provides leadership experiences for youth throughout the state.
- **Opportunity Passport**: (Marion Co only): Financial Literacy program.
- **SuperVitamin**: (Fort Wayne only): Advance Financial Literacy program with financial counselor
- **Education and Training Voucher**: A federally funded, state-administered program that provides financial and academic support for foster youth who turned 18 in foster care and for those foster youth who were adopted or
placed in a guardianship at age 16 and are enrolled in qualified colleges, universities or vocational education programs
  o  Probation youth must have an identified plan indicating the need for Older Youth Services.
•  **College Dorm Placement Program**: A program that provides assistance to youth who are placed in a college dorm through the Collaborative Care program.
•  **Pink Leaf**: (Statewide) A vocational boot camp program that provides 3 to 7 day training in the following areas:
  o  Culinary Arts
  o  ServSafe
  o  Building Trades
  o  Care Maintenance
  o  Life Skills
  o  Other (A boot camp that does not fit into the other components)

**Authentic Youth Engagement**
•  Youth Voice
•  Youth – Adult Partnership
•  Teachable moments & Healthy Risk Taking
•  Adolescent Brain Development
•  Trauma Informed Care

**Program Goals**
•  **Connections to caring committed adults**
  ➢  Child and Family Team: Youth driven
  ➢  Referral to Youth Connections Program

•  **Employment**
  ➢  Work with Department of Workforce Development—Jobs for American Graduates
  ➢  State Fair Employment
  ➢  Specialized Education Training Programs—Culinary Arts, Building Trades
  ➢  Specific services in the Older Youth Service Standards

•  **Education**
  ➢  Referral to the Education Liaisons
  ➢  College Ready vs. College Eligible
  ➢  College support programs

•  **Housing**
  ➢  Preparation for long-term housing
  ➢  Apartment Readiness
  ➢  Financial education

**National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**
NYTD requires that States engage in two data collection activities
  1. Collect information on each youth who receives Older Youth Services paid for or provided by the State and transmit this information to ACF biannually.
  2. Collect demographic and outcome information on youth at age 17, 19, and 21 via survey
Older Youth Initiatives Team
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