Older Youth Initiatives (OYI)

The Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) program encompasses The Chafee Program services delivery through 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 20-23.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Older Youth Services</th>
<th>Collaborative Care Indiana Extended Foster Care Program</th>
<th>Voluntary Older Youth Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Referral for Services at age 16</td>
<td>Eligible at age 18</td>
<td>Former foster youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must be placed in foster care</td>
<td>Must be placed in foster home placement on 18th birthday</td>
<td>Aged out of foster care at age 18 or Collaborative Care closes at age 20.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth driven CFTM begins at age 14</td>
<td>Must meet eligibility requirements</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>1. Youth MUST be working 80 hrs per month OR 2. Youth MUST be participating in education/training OR 3. Youth MUST be participating in OYS services OR 4. Youth MUST have documentation of a medical, etc reason for not being able to do 1-3 above</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. Room &amp; Board (R&amp;B): A lifetime maximum of $3,000 for assistance with housing needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood begins at age 14</td>
<td>Youth transition with a case plan of APPLA</td>
<td>Ends at age 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Bill of Rights provided to youth beginning at age 14</td>
<td>Continued services and planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth write their own youth court report beginning at age 14</td>
<td>Specialized Case Managers (3CM)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional placement options</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Host Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. College Dorm</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. Own Apt.
   - Ends at age 20

**Older Youth Services Providers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>

**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.
- **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
  - 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:
  - Culinary Arts
  - ServSafe
  - Building Trades
  - Care Maintenance
  - Life Skills
  - Other (A boot camp that does not fit into the 5 major components)
- **Summer Bridge Program**: A program for ETV eligible youth designed to address the barriers impacting youth post-secondary educational success. Summer bridge help’s high school seniors who plan to attend college prepare to enter post-secondary institutions

**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
  - 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 and Asset Management**
  - Budget and Money Management
  - Credit Reporting
  - 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

**Independent Living Specialists**
**Contact Information**

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