

# ON TRACK to Success

John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood & Education  
and Training Voucher Program Resource Guide for Youth

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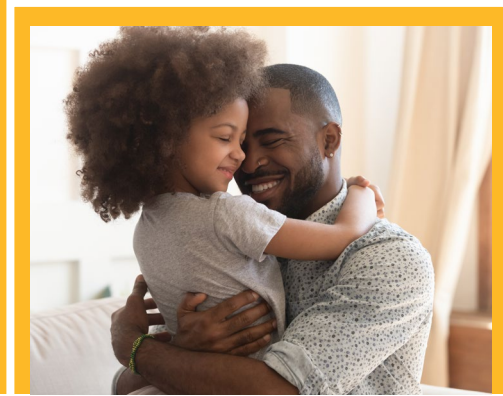
## mission:

*"We champion Indiana's future by protecting children and strengthening families with compassion and determination."*



## vision:

*"Every child in Indiana thrives in a safe, loving, forever home."*



## purpose:

*"Ignite hope. Cultivate joy."*



# What are Older Youth Initiatives?

## OYI Programs

### **Older Youth Services (OYS)**

OYS includes basic independent-living services. OYS helps youths achieve their independent-living case-plan goals and primarily focuses on helping youth obtain independent-living skills. OYS can be implemented concurrently with other goals like reunification and adoption.

### **Transition to Successful Adulthood services (TSA)**

TSA includes transitional services for older youth who have a case-plan goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) and are expected to age out of foster care. TSA is designed to assist youth with obtaining stability and self-sufficiency as they enter adulthood.

### **Collaborative Care (CC)**

CC is Indiana's extended foster-care program. CC is a continuation of Older Youth Services for young adults (from age 18 until they turn 21) who voluntarily agree to remain in or re-enter foster care. CC helps young adults reach their transition plan goals to successfully transition into adulthood.

### **Voluntary Services (VS)**

VS is for youths who have "aged out" of the foster care system at 18 or whose CC case closed at age 21. These services assist former foster youth in the areas of housing, employment, and education to help in maintaining stability and self-sufficiency.



Older Youth Services (OYS) are independent living developmental activities that provide an opportunity for you to gain life skills to live healthy, productive and responsible lives as self-sufficient adults. Services are to assist older youth and young adults in activities of daily living, education, employment, financial and asset management, housing, and physical and mental health.

Services available depend on a variety of factors that can include:

- Your age.
- Your age when you entered foster care.
- Your placement.
- Your needs.



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# + Additional programs

Ask your Family Case Manager or your Older Youth Case Manager about these programs.

**Catalyst:** This college-bridge program helps current foster youth transition to college.

**College Dorm Placement:** This program provides a monthly amount to youth who are participating in Collaborative Care and live in college dorms.

**Credit Reporting:** DCS runs a credit check on all youth and young adults in foster care to ensure there are no problems with your financial history. Talk to your case manager about your credit report.

**Driver's Education:** You may attend driver's education and obtain your driver's license. Talk to your case manager to make it a part of your plan.

**Education and Training Voucher:** This program provides educational financial support to youth who turned 18 in foster care.

**Housing:** These programs administered by the public housing authority in partnership with DCS provide rental assistance for eligible, current aging-out-of-foster-care youth or former foster youth.

- Family Unification Program (FUP)
- Foster Youth Independence (FYI) voucher

**Indiana Youth Advisory Board:** Indiana's youth leadership/advisory council assists foster youth in making their voices heard.

**Medicaid:** You have medical insurance through Medicaid. If you age out of foster care, you can keep your Medicaid benefits until age 26. Talk to your case manager about your physical and mental health needs.

**National Youth in Transition Database Survey:** This is an outcomes survey DCS ask youth to participate in to share your voice on your service outcomes. This information helps to enhance services.

**Opportunity Passport:** This program helps youth and young adults gain experience with banking and asset management.

# It's all in the plan!



When you turn 14, your DCS case manager will seek your input on the following plans:

**Case Plan**

**Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood**

When you turn 16 and are referred to Older Youth Services, your OYS case manager will seek your input on the following plan:

**Successful Adulthood Learning Plan**

Your input is important when developing your plan. There are three ways to use your voice:

1. During your monthly visits
2. In your youth-led child and family team meetings (CFTMs)
3. On your youth court report

**What is your plan?**

my plan:

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# Older Youth Services



## Activities of Daily Living

- ☐ Do you know how to perform activities of daily living, including cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, comparison shopping, etc.?
- ☐ Can you demonstrate appropriate personal hygiene?
- ☐ Do you know how to advocate for yourself?
- ☐ Do you understand appropriate boundaries?
- ☐ Do you have your birth certificate, social security card, state ID, driver's license or other documentation that applies to youth's specific needs?
- ☐ Do you know your community resources?



## Education/Post-Secondary Education

- ☐ Are you on track to graduate from high school?
- ☐ Are you passing your classes?
- ☐ Do you know your high school resources?
- ☐ Have you talked to your high school counselor about the JAG program?
- ☐ Have you started the 21 Century Scholar track?
- ☐ Do you need tutoring or other help with your grades?
- ☐ Do you have plans to go to college?
- ☐ Have you applied for ETV?
- ☐ Have you taken your SAT or ACT?
- ☐ Have you completed the FAFSA application?



## Employment

- ☐ Have you completed a career assessment?
- ☐ Do you know what job or career you would like to do?
- ☐ What are your career goals?
- ☐ Do you have a resume?
- ☐ Have you had a job?
- ☐ Do you know how to interview?
- ☐ Do you know your strengths and weaknesses?
- ☐ Are their vocational programs or certifications you need or would like to participate in?



## Financial and Asset Management

- ☐ Do you have experience with money?
- ☐ Do you have a bank account?
- ☐ Do you know about credit, credit reports, and credit cards?
- ☐ Do you know about paying bills?
- ☐ Do you know how to track your bills?
- ☐ Do you need to learn about money management?
- ☐ Do you understand taxes?



## Housing

- ☐ Do you have plans for long term housing?
- ☐ Do you understand a lease, rent, utilities?
- ☐ Do you know housing resources?
- ☐ Do you know your housing options?
- ☐ Do you know how to clean a house?
- ☐ Do you know tenant rights and responsibilities?
- ☐ Do you know home safety?



## Physical and Mental Health

- ☐ Do you know you have Medicaid?
- ☐ Do you know who your healthcare provider is?
- ☐ Have you been to the doctor for a checkup?
- ☐ Have you been to the dentist for a checkup?
- ☐ Do you have your medical history?
- ☐ Do you participate in counseling?
- ☐ Do you know how to live a healthy lifestyle?



### Areas of Strength:

[illegible][illegible]

# Older Youth Services Timeline

AGE

- Talk with your FCM or OYCM about whom you would like to have on your child and family team (CFT).
- Participate in child and family team meetings (CFTMs).
- Work with your FCM or OYCM on your Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA).
- Apply for 21st Century Scholars program.
- Ask your FCM for the Indiana Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care.
- Attend court. Complete a youth report to the court if you are unable to attend.
- Work with your FCM or OYCM to create a Lifebook.

14  
–  
16

- Work with your FCM or OYCM on your Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA).
- Talk to your FCM or OYCM about Transition to Successful Adulthood Services
- Ask about post-secondary education options.
- Ask your FCM for the Indiana Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care.

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- Work with your FCM or OYCM on the Transitional Services Plan (TSP) portion of the Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA).
- Talk with your FCM or OYCM about getting your legal documents (birth certificate, state ID, medical records, insurance information, Social Security card).
- Talk to your FCM about advance directives.
- Work with your OYCM on your Transition to Successful Adulthood services.

90 days before

18

- Work with your child and family team to finalize plans to transition out of care.
- Ask your OYCM about completing the Voluntary Services Agreement (VSA).
- Ask your OYCM how to ensure you keep your Medicaid coverage.
- Participate in child and family team meetings (CFTMs).
- Ask your FCM about entering Collaborative Care (CC).
- Ask your FCM for the Indiana Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care.

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## Where are you on the timeline?

What has been done?

What needs done?

Next Steps:

Questions?

***MOVING FORWARD***



## What are my rights?

The Indiana Youth Bill of Rights is a document that describes the rights of Indiana's foster youth with respect to education, health, visitation, and court participation, the right to be provided various documents, the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation.

As a foster youth of the state of Indiana you are entitled to a voice and an opinion in decisions that will impact your life. These are basic rights during your time in foster care, the life of the case and safety are paramount in the case.

Reasonable restrictions, including court orders, may be imposed on the time, place, and manner in which rights can be exercised. Youth have the right to be informed of these restrictions and the reasons for them in a manner that they can understand.

Find the full version online at [www.in.gov/dcs/older-youth-initiatives](http://www.in.gov/dcs/older-youth-initiatives).





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# What You Should Know



# Education: High School

# Indiana Graduation Pathways

Students are able to individualize their graduation requirements to align to their postsecondary goals. You must satisfy all three of the following graduation requirements: 1. Earn credits necessary for a high school diploma. 2. Learn and demonstrate employment ability skills. 3. Demonstrate postsecondary ready competencies.

## Diploma Track

- Core 40
- Academic Honors
- Technical Honors
- General

## Employment Track

- Project-Based Learning
- Service-Based Learning
- Work-Based Learning

## Postsecondary Track

- Honors Diploma
- SAT
- ACT
- Industry-Recognized Certification
- Federally Recognized Apprenticeship

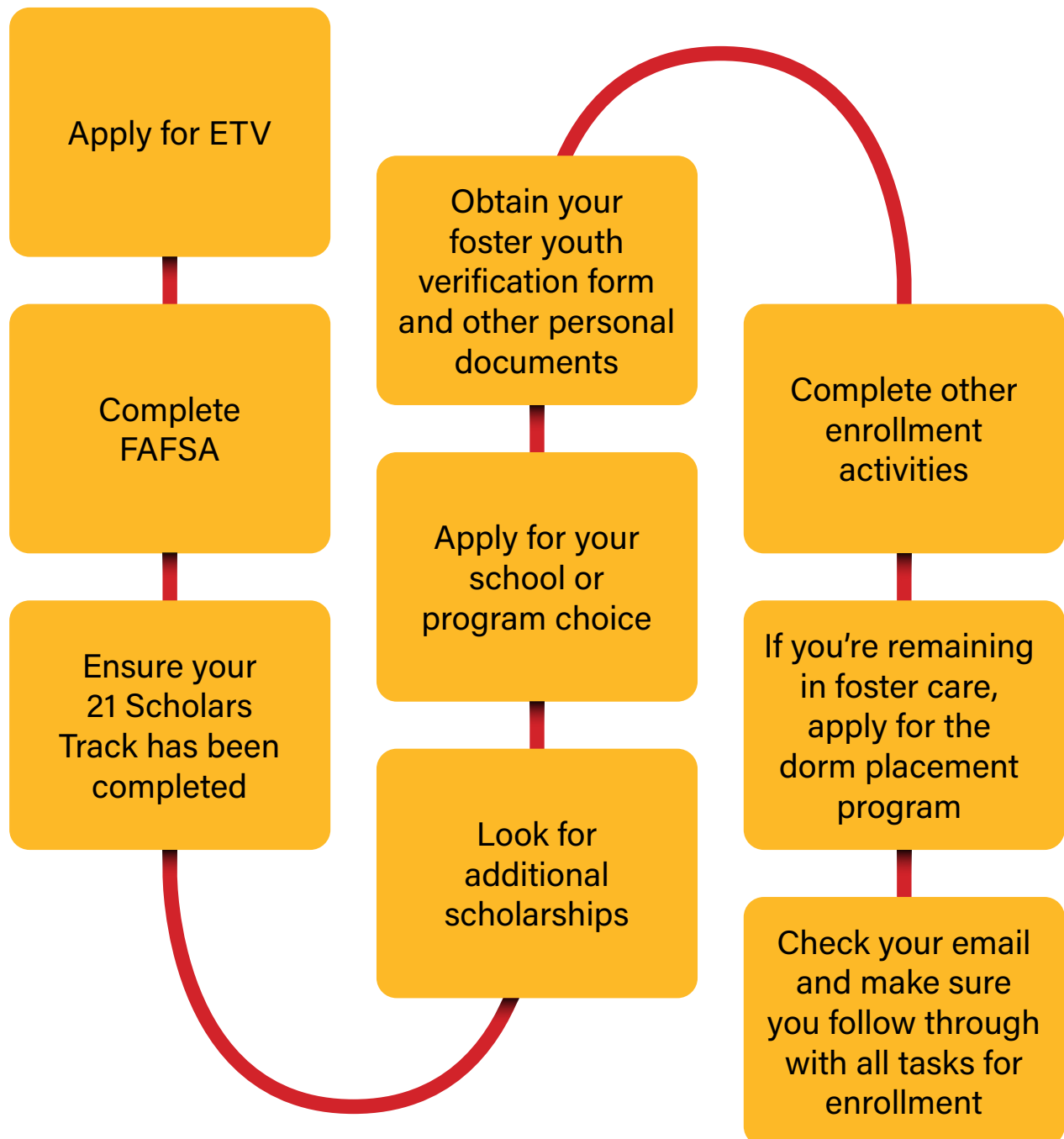
<b>Credits</b>	Core 40	40 Credits
	Academic Honors	47 Credits
	Technical Honors	47 Credits
	General	General 40 Credits: Core 40 opt out conference required.

<b>Employability Skills</b>	Project-Based Learning	Allows students to gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to research.
	Service-Based Learning	Allows students to use their academic study with service experience in the community.
	Work-Based Learning	Allow students to participate in learning activities that occur in a workplace, i.e.: on the job.

<b>Postsecondary Ready Competency</b>	Honors Diploma	Academic or Technical
	SAT	Scores – Reading/Writing: 480, Math: 530
	ACT	Scores – English: 18, Reading: 22, Math: 22, Science: 23
	Certification	Must be on DWD’s graduation pathways approved list.
	Apprenticeship	Must be federally recognized.

# Education: Post-Secondary Readiness

When preparing for a college or a university here are some things you must remember to do:





# 14 Other college financial resources



21st Century Scholarship provides students up to four years of undergraduate tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana.

[learnmoreindiana.org/scholars](http://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars)



A foster youth who turns 18 while in foster care is eligible for a Pell Grant to assist with college expenses.



Look online for additional scholarship opportunities:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

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# Employment Programs and Vocational Training

If you're looking to participate in an employment or vocational training program, check out these sites below and speak with your school guidance counselor, your OYS provider and your DCS case manager.

Areas to consider include:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Business Operations
- Information Technology
- Medical
- Construction
- Plumbing
- Cosmetology
- Barber School



Next Level Jobs provides resources to secure a job, access tuition-free training, explore new careers or get career advice.

[in.gov/dwd/nextleveljobs](https://in.gov/dwd/nextleveljobs)



Indiana Department of Workforce Development has virtual tools to help you find a job, explore careers, education, and training opportunities.

[in.gov/dwd](https://in.gov/dwd)



Find your local WorkOne office for employment and career services.

[in.gov/dwd/WorkOne](https://in.gov/dwd/WorkOne)



Find new opportunities to advance.

[onestoptostart.in.gov](https://onestoptostart.in.gov)

# Financial, Housing and Health Care Services

## Financial and Asset Management

It is important to be financially stable and know how to manage your finances. You should be receiving services in the following areas.

**Budgeting**

**Credit Building**

**Credit Reporting**

**Savings**

## Housing

When preparing for housing stability there are housing options and programs for youth in care and for those who have aged out of care. Talk with your DCS case manager or older youth services provider to find out what options are available in your community and best fit your housing plan.

### In Care

Apartment/Shared Apartment

Dorm

Host Home

### Out of Care

Family Unification Program

Foster Youth Initiatives Program

Housing Choice Voucher

## Physical and Mental Health

You should be provided with health care while in foster care and know how to continue accessing health care services as an adult. Ask your DCS case manager about accessing your health care provider and work with your older youth services provider on developing healthy habits.

**Anthem**

**Health Management Inc (HMI)**

**United Health Care**

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# Supportive Connections

Name: *Person or organization*

Category: *Family, friend, club, etc.*

Kind of support: *How they support you. Emotional, financial, advice, etc.*

Name:

Category:

Kind of support:

Name:

Category:

Kind of support:

Name:

Category:

Kind of support:

Name:

Category:

Kind of support:

Name:

Category:

Kind of support:

Name:

Category:

Kind of support:

Name:

Category:

Kind of support:

# 18 Contacts

DCS FCM or 3CM:

Phone:

Email:

GAL or CASA:

Phone:

Email:

OYS Provider:

Phone:

Email:

Medical Info

Hospital:

Diagnosis:

Doctor:

Therapist:

Dentist:

Medications:

Support:

Phone:

Email:



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# Glossary

## **John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (The Chafee Program)**

Independent living (IL) services that help you gain the skills required to live a healthy, productive and responsible life as a self-sufficient adult. [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/chafee-foster-care-program](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/chafee-foster-care-program)

## **Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs)**

Meetings that bring together your whole team to talk about your case. You'll discuss what's happened so far, your plan going forward and how everyone can work together to make sure you have what you need. You have a say in what happens. You will talk about strengths, identify needs, set timeframes for your goals and make sure everyone is on the same page. These meetings will happen frequently throughout your case.

## **Collaborative Care (CC)**

Indiana's extended foster care program, available from the time you turn 18 until you turn 21. CC can help you pay your rent and utility bills, find health insurance, buy clothes and more. Along the way, CC will help you continue the services you still need (like counseling) and build a network of people who can support you as you continue your education or start a career.

## **Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM)**

An employee of the Indiana Department of Child Services who monitors Collaborative Care cases. Your 3CM is here to help you navigate the services available to you.

## **Collaborative Care Youth (CCY)**

A youth who chooses to participate in Indiana's Collaborative Care program.

## **Education and Training Voucher (ETV)**

Provides funding for post-secondary education and training if you are aging out of foster care and are enrolled in an accredited college or vocational program. See [www.indianaetv.org](http://www.indianaetv.org) for more information.

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## **Emancipation Goods and Services (EG&S)**

Provides funding for goods and services you might need as you become independent of the system. EG&S funds have a lifetime maximum of \$1,500 for youth up to age 23 who are accessing voluntary services.

## **Independent Living Arrangement**

A living arrangement that is not formally supervised. Examples include college dorms, apartments or shared housing. These do not include foster homes, host homes, group homes, child-caring institutions or private secure facilities.

## **Indiana Youth Bill of Rights**

Your rights as a foster youth with respect to education, parental involvement, visitation, court participation and more. The Indiana Youth Bill of Rights is provided to every foster youth in out-of-home care at age 14 and every six months thereafter. Find the entire bill of rights at [www.in.gov/dcs](http://www.in.gov/dcs).

## **Older Youth Services**

Services offered to you by DCS or by someone else on DCS' behalf. These services are further defined in the Older Youth Services Service Standards and are also known as Successful Adulthood Services.

## **Older Youth Services Provider**

An agency or individual who is paid by DCS to provide Older Youth Services.

## **Permanency:**

### **Legal Permanency**

A safe, stable, secure home and family. There are five federal permanency options: reunification, adoption, guardianship, fit and willing relative, and Another Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA). These relationships are recognized by the court.

### **Relational Permanency**

A concept that defines a relationship beyond your biological relatives. These include relationships formed during care and after exiting foster care.

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## **Plans:**

### **Case Plan**

A plan listing your goals, strengths and needs. If you are 14 or older, you are expected to participate in creating your case plan and may have two child representatives to help represent you. DCS ensures your case plan is updated every 6 months to reflect changes until you leave the system.

### **Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (TP/SA)**

A plan you will work on with your child and family team to ensure you have everything you need as you prepare to exit foster care. The TP/SA plan is updated every 6 months and begins at age 14.

### **Successful Adulthood Learning Plan**

A plan based off the results of your Life Skills Assessment. This plan is strongly driven by you and your hopes for the future. Unlike the TP/SA, this plan is developed between you and your older youth services provider.