



Voluntary Older Youth Services

Indiana provides voluntary services to young adults who “aged out” of the foster care system at 18 or whose Collaborative Care case closed at age 21. Services are available up to the day before the youth’s 23rd birthday. Voluntary Older Youth Services provides financial guidance, housing, health care, employment, education opportunities and more.

Process

After a referral is made to an Older Youth Services provider, an agreement will be drafted outlining the plan for service. The youth must participate directly in designing their program activities and accept personal responsibility for achieving interdependence. Additionally, the Independent Living (IL) Learning Plan will describe how the young adult will assume responsibility once assistance ends.

Who is Eligible?

Youths 18-22 (up to the day before their 23rd birthday) who:

- Were in foster care, a collaborative care placement or adjudicated a delinquent between the ages of 16-18 and who were returned to their own homes on a trial home visit and remained a chins or adjudicated a delinquent with a case plan establishing the need for older youth services.
- Were in foster care or a collaborative care placement for a minimum of six months as a chins or adjudicated a delinquent between the ages of 16-18 under the supervision of the DCS and had a case plan establishing the need for older youth services.
- Meet the criteria above but were in the custody of another state (provided wardship is verified through the interstate compact for the placement of children and all eligibility criteria from the state of jurisdiction are met).
- Left foster care after age 16 and entered into a kinship guardianship or adoption.

Levels of service

Level 1: Case management only

Level 2: Case management and emancipation goods and services

Level 3: Case management, emancipation goods and services, and room & board

Emancipation goods and services: Not to exceed \$1,500 for goods and services youths need as they transition into adulthood. All EG&S funds must be approved by the IL specialist. After initial start-up assistance, brokering services and linking youth to community resources should be considered when needs arise.

Room and Board: Lifetime cap of \$3,000. Includes start-up assistance, ongoing assistance and emergency assistance. These funds are contingent upon availability as well as verification of the youth’s eligibility by the IL specialist.

CONTACT:

ANISA EVANS, MSW

Older Youth Initiatives Manager
Anisa.Evans@dcs.in.gov

SHEENA MICKELSON

Northeast Independent Living Specialist
Sheena.Mickelson@dcs.IN.gov

WILLIAM THOMAS

Northwest Independent Living Specialist
William.Thomas@dcs.IN.gov

WILLIAM DAY

Southern Independent Living Specialist
William.Day@dcs.IN.gov