

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 09: Voluntary Services Host Home	
	Effective Date: September 1, 2023	Version: 3

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POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy does not apply to Collaborative Care (CC) Host Homes. See policy 11.25 Collaborative Care Host Home for guidance.

Voluntary services host homes are similar to resource homes, except the host is not necessarily a licensed resource parent and may not have to go through the process of having the home licensed. The purpose of voluntary services host homes is to provide the youth with an opportunity to develop skills prior to becoming independent and living on their own.

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PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) may assist an older youth, whose Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) case has been dismissed after the age of 18, with making living arrangements through voluntary services host homes.

The Family Case Manager (FCM) or Older Youth Case Manager (OYCM) will:

1. Ensure every youth who has their 18th birthday while in foster care is given the option of locating a possible voluntary services host home when their case is dismissed, if desired by the youth. This includes youth placed in a relative or kinship home through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC);
2. Determine if a voluntary services host home agreement would be appropriate, and in the youth's best interest, in the following situations when a youth's case is dismissed:
 - a. The youth and current resource parent mutually agree for the youth to remain in the foster home as a renter,
 - b. The youth and their relative or kin (other than the youth's legal or biological parents) mutually agree for the youth to become a renter in their home, or
 - c. The youth and an appropriate adult (e.g., a neighbor, coach, church member) in the youth's life mutually agree for the youth to become a renter in their home.

Note: The youth and the host home should mutually decide upon an amount of financial compensation the host home will receive while the youth is living in the home, subject to approval of DCS.

3. Refer eligible youth requesting a voluntary services host home to the Older Youth Services (OYS) provider for room and board (R&B) services (see OYS Service Standards for details); and

4. Have a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting prior to the youth's transition to discuss expectations of the voluntary services host home. The following topics, which are included in the Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement, shall be discussed:
 - a. Physical description of living space,
 - b. Refraining from discriminating against the youth based on race, religion, national origin, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual or gender identity, or sexual orientation,
 - c. Expectations, roles, and responsibilities of the youth and voluntary services host home adult, as well as consequences for the youth, and
 - d. Per diem and payments.

The OYS provider will assist the relative or kin, resource parent, or other appropriate adult in developing a reasonable, mutually agreed upon Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement between the host home and the youth.

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RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Voluntary Services Host Home

A voluntary services host home is a living arrangement where a youth rents a room in a family or single adult's home (related or unrelated), shares basic facilities and utilities, and agrees to basic rules, but the youth is not under the supervision of the adults in the home.

Forms and Tools

- [11.B Tool: Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#)
- [Indiana ETV Program](#)
- [OYS Service Standards](#)

Related Policies

- [11.10 Education and Training Voucher Program](#)
- [11.25 Collaborative Care Host Home](#)

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LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 677 John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)

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PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 11.09

Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.

Determining the Appropriate Rent for a Voluntary Services Host Home

Factors to consider when determining financial compensation for a voluntary services host home should include:

1. The duration of time the youth will live in the home;
2. The employment status of the youth;
3. The financial status of the youth;
4. The educational and vocational goals of the youth; and
5. The health and behavioral needs of the youth.

Housing Assistance

Youth may not access housing assistance from both the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program) R&B funds and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) assistance at the same time. Those attending school full-time or part-time must access assistance for housing through the ETV Program (see policy 11.10 Education and Training Voucher Program).

Room and Board (R&B) Payments

R&B payments will only be made through a contracted service provider who is providing OYS case management services to the youth. An alternative payment arrangement including the length of stay and rental amount will be negotiated under the Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement. This agreement is subject to approval of DCS. Requests to adjust the Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement must be approved by an Independent Living (IL) Specialist or OYCM Supervisor.

Voluntary Services Host Home

Voluntary services host homes are a possible solution in rural areas where apartment buildings are scarce and house rentals may be cost prohibitive. Voluntary services host home arrangements are inappropriate for peer roommates, biological parents, or adoptive parents. Voluntary services host homes may include, but are not limited to: a former resource parent, teacher, coach, relative, or church member with whom the youth has a positive relationship. In this environment, the youth is able to come and go as the youth chooses and is expected to manage the youth's time, money, school, work, and appointments without oversight from the voluntary services host home. The youth is expected to follow the rules of the home as with any other rental agreement.

Voluntary Services Host Homes When Receiving Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Assistance

Youth may access funding for a voluntary services host home through the ETV program while attending college or trade/vocational programs. The Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement may be developed between the youth and the voluntary services host home with the assistance of the OYS service provider prior to receiving ETV funding or may be developed with the assistance of the youth's FCM or OYCM. The signed Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement

must be provided to the ETV program in order for the voluntary host home to receive financial compensation from this program.

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