

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL</b>	
	<b>Chapter 11: Independent Living</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2006
	<b>Section 2 : Eligibility for Chafee Independent Living Services</b>	<b>Version:</b> 1

<b>POLICY [REVISED]</b>	<b>OLD POLICIES</b> 404.44, 404.441, 404.442, 404.443
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has determined the following youth meet the eligibility requirements for Chafee Independent Living (IL) Services:

1. Youth ages **16-21 who are in foster care**<sup>1</sup> as a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent with a case plan establishing the need for independent living services. Referral for IL services is based on the type of placement of the youth (see separate policy, [11.1 Independent Living Services](#)).
2. Youth ages **16-21 who were formerly in foster care** as a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent with a case plan establishing the need for independent living services:
  - a. Who were returned to their own homes and remain a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent; or
  - b. Who were adopted or placed in a guardianship from foster care after the age of 16 and were receiving independent living services prior to the dismissal of their case.
3. Youth age **18-21 who were formerly in foster care** for a minimum of 6 months as a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent after age 16 under the supervision of DCS and:
  - a. Had a case plan establishing the need for independent living services; or
  - b. Were a “ward or in the custody of another state” if there is a verification of wardship and all eligibility criteria is met from the state of jurisdiction.

See separate policy for [11.8 Chafee Room and Board Services](#) eligibility

Code References

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program:  
Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677)

**PROCEDURE**

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Determine whether eligible youth should be referred for Chafee services based on type of placement;
2. Determine eligibility for all CHINS and Probation youth aged 16 to 21 in foster care and youth previously in foster care; and
3. Determine eligibility for youth aged 16 to 21 in relative care through an ICPC when requested.

<sup>1</sup> Foster care is defined as 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents/guardians/custodians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. Facilities that are outside the scope of foster care include, but are not limited to: detention facilities; psychiatric hospital acute care; forestry camps; or facilities that are primarily for the detention for children who are adjudicated delinquents.

The Probation Officer will:

1. Prepare and submit the IV-B referral form and Probation Case Plan for eligible probation youth to DCS when requesting Chafee IL services.

## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

### **Placement Type Determines Eligibility for Chafee IL Services**

Chafee funding provides IL services for CHINS and Probation youth in local foster care, relative foster care, or other court approved placements and for youth formerly in out-of-home care who have been reunified with the youth's parents and remain under the jurisdiction of the court and remain a CHINS or Probation case.

Eligible youth in any placement type are eligible for Chafee IL transition services (see separate policy [11.6 Transition Planning and Services](#)) at age 17 years and 6 months and older for youth "aging" out of foster care. These services are to assist the youth in locating housing and employment prior to the youth's case being dismissed.

### **Interagency Agreement**

DCS staff and Probation staff should be familiar with the [Interagency Agreement](#) regarding each agency's responsibilities related to probation wards.

## FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [Service Referral Form](#)
2. [Probation Case Plan](#)
3. [Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Service Standards](#)
4. [Interagency Agreement](#)

## RELATED INFORMATION

N/A