



Older Youth Initiatives

The Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) program assists current and former foster youth who were under the care and supervision of the Indiana Department of Child Services and in out-of-home placement. OYI is designed as a continuum of care beginning at age 16 with an extension of foster care until the youth turns 21 years of age (and voluntary services as a safety net for older youth from age 21 until the youth turns 23).

OYI encompasses Older Youth Services, Collaborative Care and Voluntary Older Youth Services.

Older Youth Services (OYS) is formerly known as the Chafee Independent Living Services. OYS helps older youths achieve their adulthood case plan goals. OYS primarily focuses on helping youth who are expected to turn 18 in foster care; however, OYS can be implemented concurrently with other goals like reunification and adoption.

Collaborative Care, Indiana’s extended foster care program, is a continuation of older youth services for youths (from age 18 until they turn 21) who voluntarily agree to remain in foster care. Collaborative care helps older youth reach their case plan goals and successfully transition into adulthood.

Voluntary Older Youth Services are for youths who have “aged out” of the foster care system at 18 or whose Collaborative Care case closed at age 21. These services assist former foster youth in the areas of housing, employment and education.

Additional Supportive Services & Programs

- Support for Pregnant and Parenting Youth
- Support for LGBTQ+ Youth
- Mental Health Services
- Education and Training Voucher Program
- Indiana Youth Advisory Board
- Opportunity Passport
- College Dorm Placement Program
- National Youth in Transition Outcome Survey
- Summer Bridge Program - Catalyst

Older Youth Services Providers

Youth are referred to OYS providers by their DCS family case manager or Collaborative Care case manager. Youth placed in a licensed childcare placement agency or residential facility will receive OYS through the placement agency. Find the OYS provider that serves your county on the OYS Service Provider Map at www.in.gov/dcs/OlderYouthInitiatives.htm.

OYS Outcome Areas

OYS providers offer instruction, experiential learning and monitoring of services including education; employment; housing; physical and mental health; financial and asset management; daily living activities and youth engagement.

Learn more about OYI online at www.in.gov/dcs/OlderYouthInitiatives.htm.

