

Independent Living Services

John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for
Successful Transition to Adulthood

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John H. Chafee Foster Care Program

Provides flexible funding to support youth who have experienced foster care from age 14 or older

Key program goals as outlined in the Social Security Act – 477. [42 U.S.C. 677] –

- **Support for Transition to Adulthood**
- **Permanent Connections with Caring Adults**
- **Age-Appropriate Engagement & Development**
- **Support Services for Young Adults aged 18-21**
- **Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)**
- **Support for Youth Leaving Foster Care for Guardianship or Adoption**
- **Opportunities for Youth Remaining in Foster Care until age 18**



Lutheran Social Services Community Resource Person (CRP)

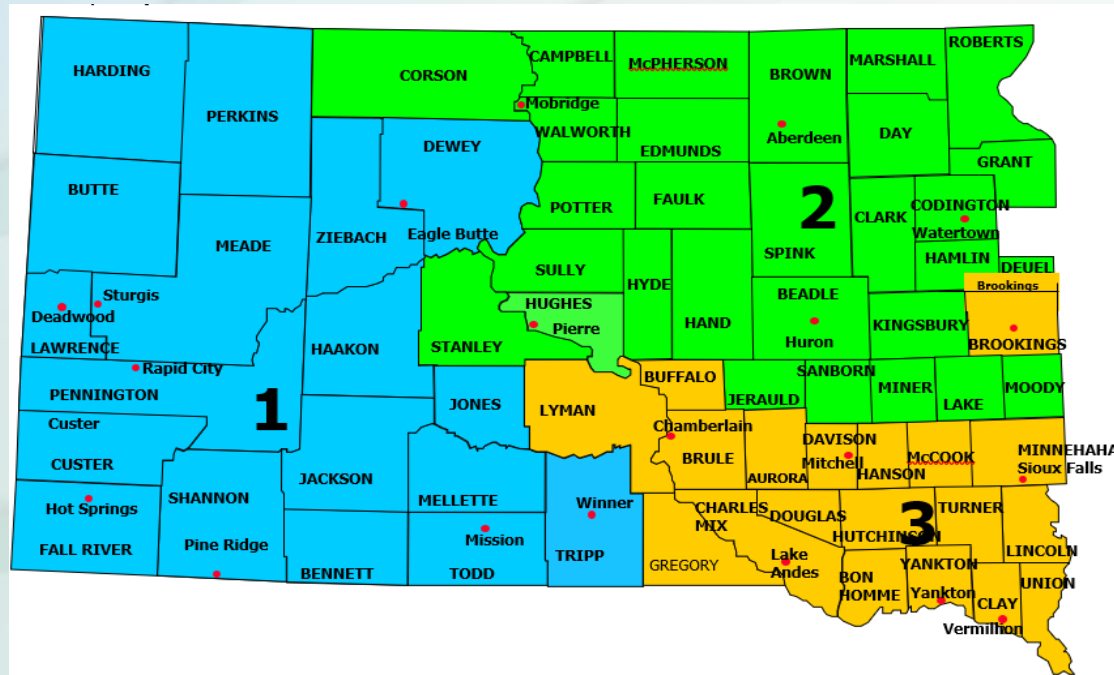
Provides ILS services to youth aged 16-21 who have been or are currently in foster care

CPS Policy - a CRP is assigned to all youth in CPS custody when they turn 15 years and 9 months

Region 1 – Shirley Conrad & Chris Kelly

Region 2 – Tarralee Fischer

Region 3 – Melissa Goeken & Denise Bechard



CRP's

Assist with
employment
& housing
support

Meet monthly
with youth in
custody
Ages 16 - 18

Coordinate ILS
workshops &
summer
conference

Drivers
Education &
State ID

Assist with
Age/Transition
Meetings

Support Youth
Advocacy through
Young Voices

Assist with transition
to adulthood
Ages 18-21

Assist with ETV
application

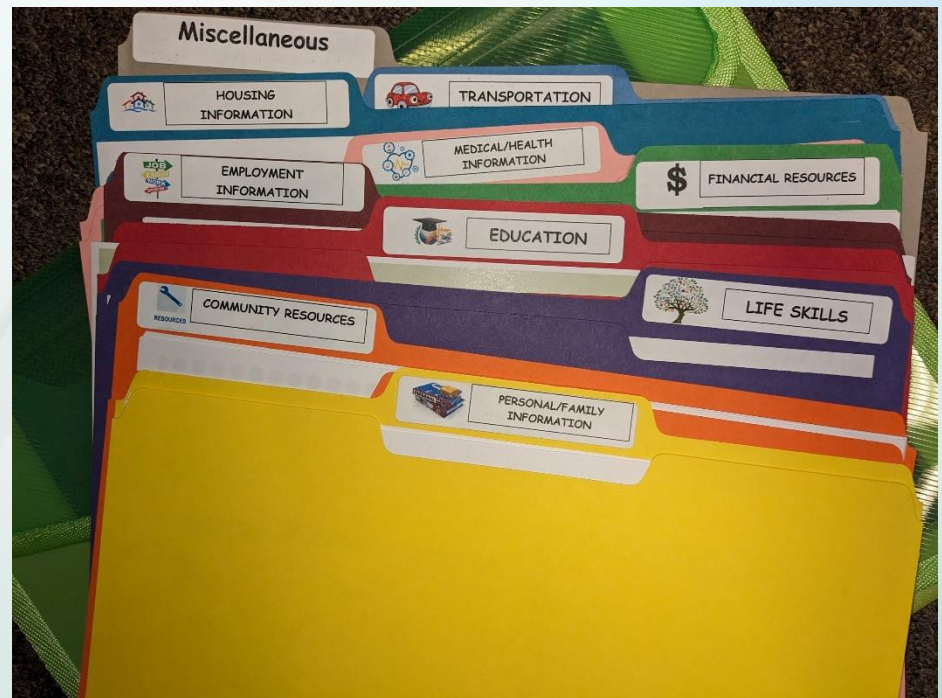
Support youth in
state and tribal
custody



Youth ILS Organizer

Designed to help youth gather important documents and information they need when they transition from foster care to live on their own

- Banking
- Emergency
- Employment
- Housing
- Independent living
- Insurance
- Medical
- Paid and unpaid bills
- Personal and family resources
- School
- Taxes



Casey Life Skills Assessment

Purpose -

Used to evaluate a youth's readiness to meet the challenges of adulthood and to provide a picture of the youth's strengths and needs:

- Daily Living
- Self-Care
- Relationships & Communications
- Housing and Money Management
- Work Study Life
- Career & Education Planning
- Looking Forward

Standardized online instrument that is automatically scored



Youth Starter Kit

Youth in CPS custody can accumulate starter kit incentives between the ages of 14 and 18. During this period, they can earn up to \$1,200, which is intended to be used as start-up funds upon their transition out of custody. CRPs can help them access these funds.

Examples of what funds can be used for:

Cell Phones, Cell Phone data cards, Household items, Clothing, Groceries, Furniture and more...



Independent Living Planning Meetings

Age 16 Meeting
Age 17 Meeting
Transitional Meeting

Purpose: to develop a transitional plan early on and monitor progress with the youth to best prepare them for independent living. Important to hold this meeting in-person if possible.

Who should be at these meetings -

- Youth
- Family Services Specialist
- Community Resource Person (CRP)
- Placement Resource Provider (Foster parent, Kinship, ILPP staff, or Residential/Group staff)
- School Contact
- The Youth's Attorney
- Biological Parents
- Extended Family
- CASA volunteers
- Friends / Mentors / Coaches / Therapists
- Tribal reps (if involved)



Independent
Living Services
Funding
through Chafee
– **MUST HAVE
PRIOR
APPROVAL**

- Special clothing required for work, bus passes, funding for work-related trainings
- Graduation items (\$400) – announcements, cap/gown, senior pictures
- Prom (\$250) – dress, tux rental, suit, pictures, flowers, meal
- Extra-curricular activities, camps, tutors, sporting programs
- Cell phone and cell phone data cards
- GED testing, dual enrollment classes, summer school, books, laptops
- Assistance for fuel or parts to fix a vehicle
- Gift card for high school graduates or completion of GED



Drivers Education Course Drivers Permit or License State ID

The state will pay for Driver's Education ages 14+

Important for youth to get their permit before turning 18, easier to get their Drivers License later

State can pay for a State Identification Card



ILS Workshops & Summer Conference

All foster care youth ages 14-18
(DSS, DOC, BIA, and Tribal)

Provide education and training on Health (STD's, fitness, nutrition, alcohol and drug prevention), Post-Secondary (college planning, scholarships, tuition, financial aide), Career planning (DOL, filling out applications), Military, Job Corp, NYTD, Housing (FYI, start up costs, finding housing, low income, leases, landlords), Money management (Taxes, earned income, paychecks, credit), Medical (Medicaid, wellness, personal & preventative health, immunizations), Sex-trafficking, Internet safety etc.

Spring Workshops held in April and Conference to be held in June



National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

When youth turns 17 or enters care within 45 days of their 17th birthday, they will require a NYTD survey to be completed within 45 days of turning 17

FSS will receive a system generated email from FACISHelp, which provides the link and information whether it's a 45-day or 15-day reminder

NYTD collects information on youth in foster care, including sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth and foster care status. It also collects information about the outcomes of youth who have aged out of foster care at age 19 and age 21

Independent Living (ILS) Program



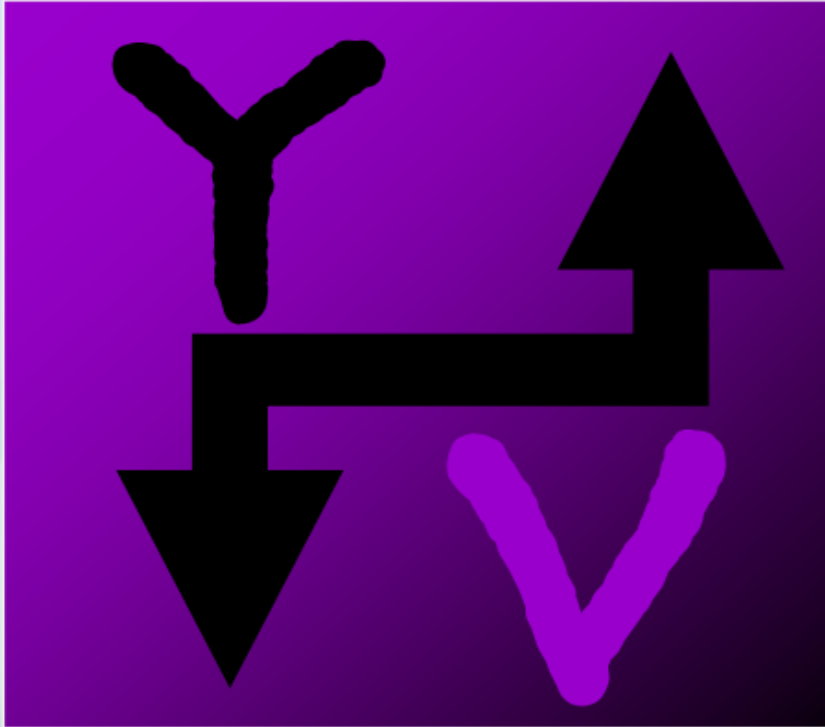
Goal 1: Youth will obtain a high school diploma or GED

Goal 2: Youth are employable after transitioning from foster care



(DSS APSR / CFSP, 2025)

Young Voices Youth Advocacy



Young Voices ensures that practices are guided by youth input and experience. Positive Youth Development is an approach to working with youth that emphasizes building on youths' strengths and providing supports and opportunities that will help them achieve goals and transition to adulthood in a productive, healthy manner.

- Learn to advocate for their personal needs
- To share their own lived experiences
- Work with state child protection to improve the lives of young people in state custody
- Gain leadership, communication skills, and self-confidence



Housing Supports

- 100% deposit and 100% first month's rent, 66% of the second month's rent and 33% of the third months rent
- \$200 a month for youth that are no longer under the custody of DSS but continue living in an out of home placement for a limited time (ex. transitioning to post-secondary)
- \$300 Housing available for youth using ETV where there are no dorm options, or they are non-traditional students
- ILPP (Independent Living Preparation Programs) -
 - Volunteers of America/Axis 180, McCrossan Boy's Ranch, Abbott House/Bridges, and New Alternatives
- FYI (Fostering Youth Independence) Vouchers
 - Pennington, Minnehaha, Yankton counties
 - CRPs provide ongoing case management



Education & Training Voucher Program



Financial Assistance for Youth in
Foster Care for Post-Secondary
Education and Training

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

- Assists eligible foster youth with continued education and training after high school graduation or GED completion
- Available until the age of 26
- Scholarship awards up to \$5,000 a year, for no more than 5 years and up to \$25,000 - to attend an accredited college, vocational school or to learn a trade
- Funds can be used for -

Fees

Books & Supplies

Room and Board

Tool and Uniform

Tutoring

Parking permits

Meal plans

Transportation

Employment expenses

Childcare



Former Foster Care Medicaid

Provides extended medical coverage for youth aged 18-26 that are leaving state or tribal foster care after their 18th birthday no matter where they reside.

As of January 1, 2023, states now grant reciprocity



Questions?

Contact information -

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