



## Independent Living Program / Self-Sufficiency Services Annual Report

SFY 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

The Independent Living (IL) program assists youth transitioning from foster care into adulthood, which can include self-advocacy, accessing community resources and supports, daily living skills, and efficiently managing financial resources. Kansas Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) provides for an array of services and supports to youth who are likely to "age out" of the foster care system. Kansas CFCIP services includes Basic Chafee, Subsidy, Start-Up Costs, Vehicle Repair and Maintenance, Transportation Costs, Education and Training Voucher (ETV), and Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Act, and Aged Out Medical.

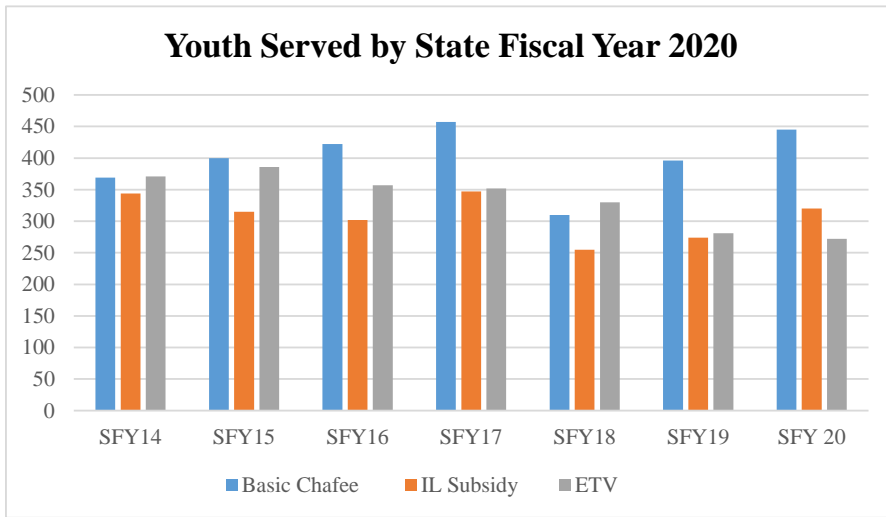
- ❖ Basic Chafee funds are used to help youth with education, employment, financial management, housing and emotional support. Youth must meet Chafee eligibility criteria of: 1) Youth who are in an eligible out of home placement in the custody of DCF, KDOC-JS, or Tribal Authority for any length of time on or after the 14th birthday and 2) Chafee eligibility ends at age 21.
- ❖ Independent Living Subsidy (IL Subsidy) funds are used to assist youth working towards completion of secondary education and/or obtaining/maintaining stable employment. Young adults must meet Subsidy eligibility criteria of: 1) Released from an eligible out of home placement in the custody of DCF, KDOC-JS, or Tribal Authority on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and 2) Subsidy eligibility ends at age 21.
- ❖ ETV are available to youth for post-secondary education or certified training program expenses. Youth must meet ETV eligibility criteria of: 1) Youth served by DCF, KDOC-JS, or Tribal Authority currently or previously in foster care for any length of time on or after the 14th birthday, 2) Youth earned a high school diploma or GED, 3) are enrolled in a post-secondary education that is a pre-accredited, accredited, or certified training program, and the youth meets one of many sub-criteria, and 4) Youth can receive ETV supports for a maximum of five years. ETV eligibility ends when a youth turns 26.

This report examines six years of data on youth who received Basic Chafee, IL Subsidy, ETV and/or Kansas Foster Child Education Assistance Act as part of Independent Living/Self-Sufficiency services through Department for Children and Families Prevention and Protection Services between SFY2014-2020.

### Executive Summary:

- Independent Living Program served a total of 858 (unduplicated) young adults in SFY2020.
  - ◆ Of the 858 youth, a total of 445 received Basic Chafee funds, 320 received the IL Subsidy and 272 were provided post-secondary educational assistance through ETV. Please note, youth may receive funding through multiple sources (example, Basic Chafee and IL Subsidy) based on eligibility and Self-Sufficiency Plans.
- The majority of youth served by the IL Program in SFY2020 were female at 72.11% while 27.48% were male.
- There were 264 Kansas Tuition Waiver new applications in SFY2020.

## Part I: Youth Served in Independent Living/Self-Sufficiency Program

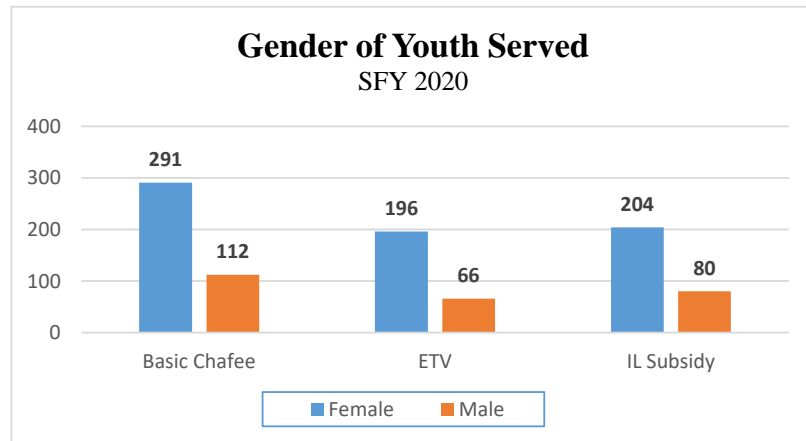
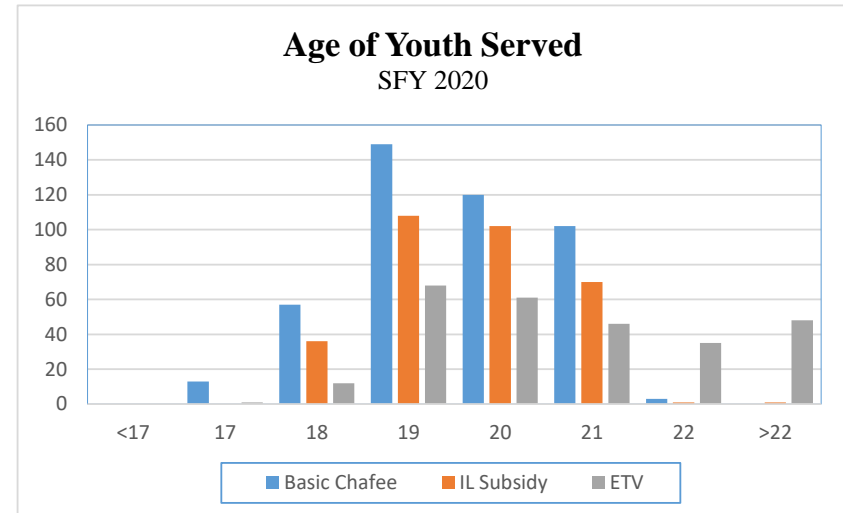


IL/Self-Sufficiency Program Trending over SFYs.

- Basic Chafee youth receiving Chafee funds is 445 for FY2020.
- IL Subsidy youth participation is 320 for FY2020.
- ETV youth participation is 272 for FY2020.

Nineteen year olds represented the largest age group for all three programs: 1) Basic Chafee - 33.5%; 2) ETV - 25%; and 3) IL Subsidy - 33.8%.

The majority of youth receiving Basic Chafee funds (50.6%) and IL Subsidy (54.7%) and ETV funding (70.1%) were 20 years or older.



Young adult gender breakdown by IL program include:

- Basic Chafee, 72.58% were female while 27.42% were male.
- ETV, 74.63% were female while 25% were male.
- IL Subsidy, 69.69% were female while 29.69% were male.

## Part II: Basic Chafee Funds

Basic Chafee activities and programs include, but are not limited to, help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support and assured connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care.

**Table 1: Basic Chafee Funds Youth Served SFY2014 - 2020**

	SFY2014	SFY2015	SFY2016	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY 2020
Young Adults Served	369	400	422	457	310	396	445
Payment Totals	\$226,249	\$240,148	\$294,029	\$308,762	\$206,660	\$209,945	\$268,623
Annual Average per Young Adult	\$613.14	\$600.37	\$696.75	\$675.63	\$666.65	\$530.17	\$603.65

**Table 2: Basic Chafee Funds Youth Served by Region SFY2014 - 2020**

	SFY2014		SFY2015		SFY2016		SFY2017		SFY2018	
East	108	29.3%	119	29.8%	118	28.0%	108	23.6%	57	18.4%
Kansas City	99	26.8%	80	20.0%	102	24.2%	84	18.4%	64	20.6%
West	58	15.7%	84	21.0%	70	16.6%	105	23.0%	96	31.0%
Wichita	104	28.2%	117	29.2%	132	31.3%	160	35.0%	93	30.0%
Unable to Determine	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	369	100%	400	100%	422	100%	457	100%	310	100%
	SFY2019		SFY2020							
East	115	29.0%	96	21.3%						
Kansas City	75	18.9%	85	17.6%						
West	50	12.6%	75	16.4%						
Wichita	156	39.4%	189	44.7%						
Unable to Determine	0	0.0%	0	0.0%						
Total	396	100%	445	100%						

### Part III: Independent Living Subsidy (IL Subsidy)

IL Subsidy is short-term assistance between the youth (ages 18 up to 21) and IL program. Youth shall be working towards completion of secondary education and/or obtaining/maintaining stable employment. The youth will be expected to work with his/her mentor (if assigned) and IL Coordinator to achieve the identified self-sufficiency goal. IL Subsidy is funded through the CFCIP. Youth's financial need and participation in the program are criteria for financial support which shall not exceed \$350.00 per month.

In SFY2018, IL program updated IL Subsidy policy to provided a tiered approach to target vulnerable youth transitioning from foster care towards independence.

Tier 1: Months 1-12 100% of subsidy based on need (PPS 7000A)

Tier 2: Months 13-18 90% of initial subsidy amount

Tier 3: Months 19-24 80% of initial subsidy amount

Tier 4: Months 25-36 70% of initial subsidy amount

**Table 3: Independent Living Subsidy Youth Served SFY2014 - 2020**

	SFY2014	SFY2015	SFY2016	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020
Young Adults Served	344	315	302	347	255	274	320
Payment Totals	\$546,088	\$477,439	\$510,808	\$551,284	\$406,034	\$387,525	\$551,857
Annual Average per Young Adult	\$1,587.46	\$1,515.68	\$1,691.42	\$1,588.71	\$1,592.29	\$1,414.32	\$1,724.55

**Table 4: Independent Living Subsidy Youth Served by Region SFY2014 - 2020**

	SFY2014		SFY2015		SFY2016		SFY2017		SFY2018	
East	124	36.0%	82	26.0%	82	27.2%	68	19.6%	42	16.5%
Kansas City	80	23.3%	95	30.2%	97	32.1%	100	28.8%	75	29.4%
West	78	22.7%	87	27.6%	69	22.8%	89	25.6%	65	25.5%
Wichita	62	18.0%	51	16.2%	54	17.9%	90	25.9%	73	28.6%
Unable to Determine	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Statewide	344	100%	315	100%	302	100%	347	100%	255	100%
	SFY2019		SFY2020							
East	76	27.7%	96	30.2%						
Kansas City	83	30.3%	102	32.6%						
West	55	20.1%	64	21.4%						
Wichita	60	21.9%	58	15.8%						
Unable to Determine	0	0.0%	0	0.0%						
Statewide	274	100%	320	100%						

## Part IV: ETV

The ETV program provides youth who meet eligibility criteria with post secondary support. Criteria includes completion of Self-Sufficiency Plan, ETV Program Plan documenting all post secondary educational costs, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and successful submission of three scholarship applications. To receive financial support youth shall attend accredited public, private or non-profit post-secondary school or training programs in or out of state. ETV funds may be used to pay for education related costs including room and board, books, materials or tutoring. All ETV Plans shall begin July 1 and end June 30 of each year. Youth can receive ETV supports for a maximum of five years. ETV eligibility ends when a youth turns 26.

**Table 5: ETV Youth Served SFY2014 – 2020**

	SFY2014	SFY2015	SFY2016	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020
Young Adults Served	371	397	357	352	330	281	272
Payment Totals	\$715,719	\$746,486	\$796,528	\$695,789	\$520,596	\$437,620	\$787,030
Annual Average per Young Adult	\$1,929.16	\$1,880.32	\$2,231.17	\$1,976.67	\$1,577.56	\$1,557.37	\$2,893.49

**Table 6: ETV Youth Served by Region SFY2014 - 2020**

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
East	106	28.6%	99	24.9%	95	26.6%	73	20.7%	62	18.8%
Kansas City	100	26.9%	100	25.2%	84	23.5%	97	27.6%	95	28.8%
West	76	20.5%	118	29.7%	93	26.1%	97	27.6%	86	26.1%
Wichita	89	24.0%	80	20.2%	83	23.2%	85	24.1%	87	26.4%
Out-of-State Education	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unable to Determine	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	371	100%	397	100%	357	100%	352	100%	330	100%
	2019		2020							
East	66	23.5%	61	22.0%						
Kansas City	85	30.2%	70	25.0%						
West	54	19.2%	57	21.2%						
Wichita	76	27.0%	84	31.4%						
Out-of-State Education	0	0.0%	0	0.0%						
Unable to Determine	0	0.0%	0	0.4%						
Total	281	100%	272	100%						

## Part V: Kansas Foster Care Educational Assistance Act Program (Tuition Waiver)

The Kansas Tuition Waiver Program waives tuition and required fees at state educational institutions in Kansas, including vocational-technical schools, community colleges, and state universities. Youth who are eligible to apply for the Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Act are enrolled in a Kansas educational institution and meet one of the following:

- i. In the custody of DCF and in a foster care placement on the date the youth attained 18 years of age; or
- ii. Released from custody of DCF prior to attaining 18 years of age, after having graduated from high school or fulfilled the requirements for a GED while in foster care placement and the custody of DCF; or
- iii. Adopted from a foster care placement on or after the youth's 16th birthday; or
- iv. Left a foster care placement subject to a permanent custodianship or guardianship under chapter 38 or 59 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated on or after the youth's 16th birthday.

In order to remain eligible for participation in the program, youth shall remain in good standing at the Kansas educational institution where the youth is enrolled and shall make satisfactory progress toward completion of the requirements of the educational program.

Eligibility for Kansas Foster Child Education Assistance service component ends at the conclusion of the semester during which the youth attains 23 years of age

**Table 7: Tuition Waiver data from 2014 - 2020**

Initial Semester of Participation	# of Applications Approved for Tuition Waiver						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Spring	62	62	72	82	81	53	203
Summer	26	39	32	23	29	33	49
Fall	170	166	186	239	244	192	12
Total	258	267	290	344	354	278	264