

SERVICES FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

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FOSTER CARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - SEPTEMBER 23, 2020





OVERVIEW

- Youth in foster care can face challenges in transitioning to self-sufficiency that their peers do not
- The DCF Independent Living program provides services to help youth overcome these challenges and thrive as self-sufficient adults
- Independent Living services begin with the transition planning process

- Planning for the transition to self-sufficiency begins when a youth turns 14 using the My Plan for Successful Adulthood
- Domains of the My Plan for Successful Adulthood include:
 - Identifying Documents
 - Life Skills
 - Education Plan
 - Youth Advocacy
 - Connections
 - Health/Well-Being
 - Employment/Financial Plan
 - Transportation
 - Housing



TRANSITION PLANNING

- At the last case plan before release of custody when the youth turns 18, the child welfare case manager and the DCF IL Coordinator meet with the youth to ensure the transition plan covers every aspect for self-sufficiency and has been developed with input from the youth
- During FY 2020, there were 1,995 youth aged 14-21 in out of home placement



TRANSITION PLANNING



AGING OUT

- Youth that turn 18 while still in state custody are considered to have “aged out” of foster care
- 392 youth aged out in FY 2020
- Youthrive awarded a TANF grant for Youth and Family Stability Programs to serve this population



DCF INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

- Federal Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
- The DCF Independent Living program provides services and supports to youth for a successful transition to self-sufficiency
- Independent Living Coordinators support young adults ages 18-26 as they transition to self-sufficiency
- Eligibility determined by age, length of stay, and placement type in the custody of DCF, KDOC-JS, or Tribal Authority
- 858 youth were served by the IL program in FY 2020 with an average of 721 cases open each month



DCF INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

- Participants work towards education and/or employment goals
- Service components include:
 - Tuition waivers for postsecondary education
 - Aged Out Medical coverage through KanCare
 - Basic Chafee
 - Education and Training Voucher
 - Subsidy
 - Start Up Funds
 - Vehicle repair and maintenance
- Pandemic response – extended Subsidy and Education and Training Voucher benefits

- Kansas Youth Advisory Council and Regional Youth Advisory Councils
- National Youth in Transition Database
- FosterClub All-Stars
- Activating Youth Engagement Summit hosted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation



- Older Youth and Young Adult Services Partnership
- Foster Youth to Independence Initiative with HUD and ACF
- Strengthening collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation and Pre-Employment Transition Services to support youth's employment plans
- Department of Commerce facilitating apprenticeships



IMPROVING
SERVICES FOR
OLDER YOUTH

- Peer Navigator positions within the DCF Independent Living Program
- Development of pathways to employment through DCF
- Accountability regarding six months of Aftercare Services for Aged Out Youth
- Exploring electronic benefit options for youth participating in the Independent Living program



**IMPROVING
SERVICES FOR
OLDER YOUTH**

- MOU with Keys to Networking
- DCF Independent Living Program presentations for KSDE
- Possible legislative initiatives:
 - Assisting youth with obtaining drivers licenses – Keys2Independence
 - Individual Development Accounts through Department of Commerce



IMPROVING SERVICES FOR OLDER YOUTH

QUESTIONS?

