

Options for Iowa Foster Youth as They Reach Age 18

Description of Resource	Eligibility & Case Management	Considerations/Comments
Foster Group Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary • Continues group placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The youth is not diagnosed with mental retardation and the Service Area Manager has granted an exception to allow the youth to remain in group placement • Youth must be working on high school diploma/GED • DHS/JCS case remains open and case is managed by DHS/JCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going planning should begin at age 16 and it is the exceptional circumstance that youth remain in group care beyond the age of 18
Family Foster Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary • Continues foster care placement & services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be working toward high school diploma or GED • Must be under age 19 unless an exception is granted by the Service Area Manager • DHS/JCS case remains open and case is managed by DHS/JCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This level provides much needed support for youth and should be encouraged whenever possible
Supervised Apartment Living (SAL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary • Continues foster care placement & services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth is under age 20 • Must be working on high school diploma/GED • Obtain supervisor and SAM approval via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-placement Screening Form (470-4063) - Request for Approval for SAL Foster Care Placement Form (470-3186) • If youth under age 18, obtain court order after SAM approval • DHS/JCS case remains open and case is managed by DHS/JCS • A youth under the age of 20 who voluntarily left foster care at age 18 may request to return to foster care, SAL level only, in order to complete high school diploma/GED when approved by the Service Area Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who leave foster care without obtaining high school diploma/GED should be informed that SAL remains an option for them until their 20th birthday • Youth requesting re-entry to foster care after they have aged out should contact the intake unit for the local office where they live
Education & Training Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College funding for undergraduate degree and training programs only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must have aged out of foster care or relative care; or have been adopted or entered subsidized guardianship after the age of 16 • Must be enrolled in college or training program. Application available at www.iowacollegeaid.org • Youth can receive ETV funding until the age of 23 as long as they are in the program by the time they turn 21 • Includes court-ordered relative and suitable person placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth does not have to attend a college/training program in Iowa – can move outside of the state • Youth does not have to enroll full-time to be eligible • Maximum award per year: \$5000 per year Lifetime maximum per student \$25,000 • FAFSA must be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov (check yes to ward of court question if in foster care over age 13)
Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary • Individual self-sufficiency plan developed by youth with assistance of a self-sufficiency advocate; plan must include at least 2 monthly visits with the self-sufficiency advocate • Limited financial assistance available to meet short-term or emergency needs that help youth achieve self-sufficiency • Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) subsidized housing program may be available to youth participating in IASN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be at least age 18 AND out of foster care, and not yet 21 • Youth must have exited foster care between the ages of 17½ and 18 and have been in care for at least 6 months at the time they left, or have left at age 18 or older • Includes court-ordered relative and suitable person placements • DHS case is closed; services provided by Iowa Aftercare Services Network • Youth signs a release, which is forwarded to the Transition Planning Specialist (TPS) who determines that the youth meets eligibility guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aftercare services are intended to be short-term to help the youth meet self-sufficiency goals • The youth may request services more than once as long as they are not yet age 21

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<p>Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Stipend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary • Monthly stipend and support for youth who work or attend school full-time; plan must include at least 2 monthly visits with the self-sufficiency advocate • Youth may live with a former foster family, in a dorm, or apartment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in Aftercare is required • Youth is no longer eligible for voluntary foster care services • Youth must have exited <u>on or after their 18th birthday</u>, AND have been in state-paid foster care for at least 6 of the previous 12 months • The TPS determines that the youth meets the guidelines for the PAL program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are responsible for their day to day activities and this program provides minimal structure, while offering support if needed between scheduled visits • Youth that initially refuse the PAL program when exiting care may request PAL at a later date if they are still under 21
<p>Adult Disability System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and residential support services for adults with qualifying disability • May be voluntary or involuntary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by county of legal settlement • Involvement of the adult system in planning for these services is mandated beginning at age 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central Point of Coordination Administrator (CPC) will establish the referral process for their county
<p>Adult Guardianship/Conservator/Representative Payee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be voluntary or involuntary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal action establishing Guardianship or Conservatorship is done by the District Court • A guardian makes decisions about the person, such as where they will live, or decisions about medical treatment • A Conservator handles a person's financial resources • A representative payee handles a person's monthly benefit check such as Social Security, SSI, or FIP benefits. The need for a payee is determined by the agency issuing the benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Code allows the Juvenile Court to order the GAL to continue a relationship with the youth after age 18 when needed • In many cases the GAL may be willing to complete the paperwork needed for District Court proceedings
<p>Medicaid (Title XIX)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth leaving foster care on their 18th birthday or later qualify for Title XIX until their 21st birthday as long as income does not exceed 200% of the poverty level and meet other Federal Medicaid requirements. There is no resource limit. • Youth who leave care prior to their 18th birthday may be eligible for Title XIX based on income and other factors. They should contact the local county DHS office to make application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The case manager must report the forwarding address to the IV-E IM worker via the IV-E Changes form whenever a youth leaves foster care • Youth receiving Title XIX must report change of address and respond to requests for information regarding income in order to remain eligible for the program
<p>Vocational Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not tied to foster care status • Youth with a qualifying disability may be eligible for assistance in becoming employed • Includes training if needed for chosen occupation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility is determined by the Iowa Department of Vocational Rehabilitation • Due to the waiting list for funding it is important to refer youth at the beginning of the junior year of high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of youth that have an IEP at school can qualify for these services. • Youth with a health condition such as diabetes, a physical problem, or a seizure disorder may also qualify
<p>Job Corps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federally funded residential education and training program • Get GED, high school diploma, learn a trade • Youth receives monthly allowance while residing in the program • Offers transitional support for first year after beginning a career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth between ages 16-24 • Refer youth to local Job Corps rep • Youth usually can't be in DHS custody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Tolerance Policy for drugs and violence. • Provides basic medical and dental needs on campus. Youth needs other insurance coverage if has specific medical needs such as braces. May qualify for Title XIX under 21 • May want youth to turn age 18 in foster care setting to allow eligibility for Title XIX (MIYA coverage group) and PAL stipend to 21
<p>All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State funding for higher education at eligible colleges and universities located in Iowa – cosmetology schools excluded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth that age out of foster care or other juvenile court ordered placement • Youth adopted from foster care after the age of 16 • Must complete the FAFSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes youth aging out of the State Training School or Iowa Juvenile Home • Application and more information are available at www.iowacollegeaid.org