



Resources for Teens/Young Adults in Foster Care

Updated April 2024

OLDER YOUTH PROGRAMS

- **Chafee (John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood)**

The Chafee program provides funding to support youth/young adults in or formerly in foster care in their transition to adulthood. Individuals in foster care who are 14+ are eligible for a Chafee worker and must be referred by their caseworker. The Chafee worker meets with the youth quarterly to help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support and more. The local Chafee program hosts life skills workshops/classes.

Firefly Supported Living and Employment Services has the Chafee contract for the entire Southwest area. If you have questions about the Chafee program and its services, contact the Firefly office (417-659-9911) and ask to speak with **Linda Donoho** or **Joan Cantrell**. They are Youth Specialists and can direct the teen or their CASA to the correct Chafee worker. CASAs and youth can also contact the Regional Director, Katie Long, when working to get in touch with their Chafee worker:

Katie Long

Regional Director, Firefly Supported Living & Employment Services
Office: (417) 659-9911, Cell: (417) 396-9659, klong@pfh.org

- **ROYALS: Regional Older Youth Advancement of Life Skills Unit**

Affiliated with Children's Division, ROYALS provides case management for older youth who are between 17 and 20 years old. The worker visits the youth 2-4 times per month and they work on goals together. The ROYALS worker teaches life skills (including budgeting, securing employment, finding housing options like transitional/independent living, getting enrolled in driver's education, educational attainment, etc.). They also teach youth how to advocate for themselves in court and at Family Support Team meetings. Jasper County has a targeted caseload of only 12 youth. To request information and find out if there are any openings in ROYALS, please contact:

Brandi Geohagan

ROYALS Statewide Supervisor
573-614-1149 (cell), Brandi.Geohagan@dss.mo.gov

CAREER & INTERNSHIPS

- **Missouri Job Center - Joplin**

Free assistance with writing a resume, filling out job applications, practicing for interviews, and exploring vocational training programs. They also host professional development workshops and career fairs: <https://jobs.mo.gov/job-centers/joplin-job-center>
Phone: (417) 629-3000

- **MOSO CAPS**

Local internship program for high school students that is facilitated by Missouri Southern State University: <https://mosocaps.yourcapsnetwork.org/about/faqs/>
Phone: (417) 625-9623

- **Vocational Rehabilitation**

Free career exploration, job search, placement, and on-the-job training services for individuals with disabilities: <https://dese.mo.gov/adult-learning-rehabilitation-services/vocational-rehabilitation>
Phone: 1-877-222-8964

EDUCATION

- **Adult Education & Literacy**

Free tutoring to prepare students for the high school equivalency exam (HiSET), ACT, SAT, ASVAB, and more: <http://hsejoplinael.org/>

- **Educational Opportunity Center**

Free help with researching colleges and vocational training programs, filling out applications for postsecondary educational programs, and applying for financial aid/completing the FAFSA: <https://www.crowder.edu/services/trio/eoc/eoc-office-locations/>
Phone: (417) 455-5475

- **Educational Talent Search**

Educational Talent Search is a federally funded TRIO program designed to assist middle and high school students (grades 6-12) with the necessary understanding, skills, and desire to complete high school and then continue their education. Talent Search serves students who are traditionally underrepresented to explore training and educational options and enroll in postsecondary education. Participants will receive academic advising, information and assistance with the ACT & SAT, professional job shadowing and career exploration, tutoring, college campus visits, and more.

- ✓ MSSU Talent Search: <https://www.mssu.edu/student-affairs/trio/talent-search/index.php>
- ✓ Crowder College Talent Search: <https://www.crowder.edu/services/trio/Talent-Search/>

- **Franklin Technology Center**

Variety of technical programs including automotive technology, welding, computer information, construction technology, HVAC, culinary arts, and more: <https://ftc.joplinschools.org/>
Phone: (417) 625-5260

- **Tuition Assistance & Education Vouchers**

Learn about *Missouri Reach* and the *Educational & Training Voucher (ETV)* to help youth in foster care pay for college, vocational school, and training programs:
<https://dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/education-services.htm>

- **Upward Bound**

Free program funded through the US Department of Education that works with high school students to help prepare them for post-secondary education. Activities include college visits and field trips, academic and career assessments, ACT readiness, student success workshops, financial aid assistance, essay writing practice for scholarship applications, self-esteem and community building, and a summer program on a college campus.

- ✓ Crowder College Upward Bound: <https://www.crowder.edu/services/trio/Upward-Bound/>
- ✓ MSSU Upward Bound: <https://www.mssu.edu/student-affairs/trio/upward-bound/index.php>

FINANCIAL LITERACY

- **One-on-one financial literacy training**

Jennifer Reeves is a board member with Jasper County CASA and is a Loan Administration Officer for Southwest Missouri Bank. She has volunteered to provide financial literacy training to CASA youth. Contact Jennifer and set up a time to meet in the community or at the CASA house: jreeves@smbonline.com, 417-623-0400

- **Finance & Life Skills**

Learn about managing money, building credit, filing taxes, car insurance, and identity theft: <https://dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/finance-and-life-skills.htm>

HOUSING

- **Older Youth Program – Chafee**

For older youth with a case goal of APPLA, contact your Chafee worker and caseworker to discuss housing options, such as transitional living (group homes available for youth who are 16-18) or scattered site apartments (available to youth who are 18+).

For youth who are 18+ and looking for housing in the southwest region of Missouri, contact:

Mandy Truitt, SW Regional Lead

417-869-8911, mtruitt@pfh.org

- **Jasper County Public Housing Agency**

Manages housing programs (must be outside of Joplin City Limits) in Jasper, Barton, Newton, and McDonald Counties. Ask about the Housing Choice Voucher Program – must be 18 to qualify: <https://www.escswa.org/housingassistance/>

Phone: (417) 627-2022

- **Joplin Housing Authority**

Manages housing inside Joplin City limits.

Contact: Matt Moran, Director of Joplin Housing Authority

Phone: 417-624-4514

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE

- **ACT-TAY (Assertive Community Treatment for Transitional Age Youth)**

Intensive wraparound mental health program offered through Ozark Center for individuals with a mental health diagnosis ages 16-25: <https://www.freemanhealth.com/service/assertive-community-treatment-for-transitional-age-youth-act-tay>

Phone: (417) 347-7450

- **Ozark Center - Crisis Services**

24/7 support to people of all ages and backgrounds who are experiencing a personal, emotional or mental health crisis: <https://www.freemanhealth.com/ozarkcenter/specialty/crisis-services>

Phone: (417) 347-7720

- **Ozark Center - Urgent Behavioral Solutions**

Urgent care for behavioral health issues, it offers an alternative to the emergency room and saves time and money for individuals age 16 and up who have significant behavioral health symptoms: <https://www.freemanhealth.com/ozarkcenter/service/ozark-center-urgent-behavioral-solutions>

Phone: (417) 347-7800

- **PATH (Pre-Adult Transitional Housing)**

Ozark Center PATH provides long-term housing options for young adults age 17-22. To qualify, participants must have a serious emotional disturbance determined through an assessment:

<https://www.freemanhealth.com/ozarkcenter/service/housing-programs#964037043-1943474497>

Phone: (417) 347-7580

- **Preferred Family Healthcare – Wildwood**

Adolescent-focused program that offer substance use assessments, comprehensive residential and outpatient services. Serve Jasper, Newton County, and surrounding areas:

<https://pfh.org/locations-details?q=5620+w.+wildwood+ranch+parkway>

Phone: (417) 623-1990

- **SAMHSA**

Online resources and support regarding mental health services and substance abuse:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help>

- **Therapy providers who accept Medicaid:**

- ✓ Counseling Associates of the Four States (www.counselingjoplin.com)

- ✓ College Skyline (<https://collegeskyline.com/>)

- ✓ Access Family Care (<https://www.accessfamilycare.org/index.html>)

- ✓ Children’s Center (<https://www.childrens-center.org/>) – Therapy is offered for free but is only available to individuals who have previously received forensic services at the center

PREGNANCY & STD TESTING

- **Choices Medical Services**

Choices does STD and pregnancy testing and accepts Medicaid: <https://choicesmedical.org/>

Phone: Call or text 417-624-8030

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

- National Dating Abuse Helpline: 1-866-331-9474
- Love is Respect: Text “LOVEIS” to 22522 for relationship quizzes, videos, live chat, and more
- Lafayette House: <https://lafayettehouse.org/>

TRANSPORTATION

- **Alliance of Southwest Missouri**

Driving lessons: <https://www.theallianceofswmo.org/behind-the-wheel-driving-lessons-2/>

Phone: (417) 782-9899

- **Community Action Ride System (CARS)**

Expected to launch in May 2024, Economic Security is creating a program to provide free transportation. CARS, which stands for Community Action Ride System, will utilize volunteer drivers and pay them mileage. Anyone can obtain a free ride, regardless of income. Contact:

Cavanaugh Studyvin, Community Organizer

Economic Security Corporation of the Southwest Area

417.627.2084, cstudyvin@escswa.org

- **Higher Power Garage**

Low-cost vehicle program: <https://www.higherpowergarage.org/low-cost-vehicle-program>

Phone: (417) 208-5829

- **Joplin Public Library**

Downloadable MO driver’s handbook & free practice tests: <https://joplinpl.driving-tests.org/missouri/>

Phone: (417) 623-7953

- **MAPS Transit**

Public transportation in Joplin and surrounding cities including Webb City and Oronogo:

<https://www.joplinmo.org/365/Public-Transportation>

Phone: (417) 626-8609

- **Medicaid Transport/Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)**

Contact your caseworker to ask about transportation options available through Medicaid.

<https://mydss.mo.gov/mhd/hot-tips/non-emergency-medical-transportation-program>

- **Ozark Center Transportation**

Temporary transportation to and from counseling appointments at any facility (including Access Family Care, Children’s Center, Ozark Center, etc.) within Barton, Newton, Jasper, and McDonald Counties. For more information, contact:

Kasidi Huffman, Youth Behavior Health Liaison

Crisis Services, Ozark Center, An Entity of Freeman Health System

Phone: (417) 347-7502, Mobile: (417) 629-2501

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Online resource guide for Southwest Missouri**

Search by category, including medical, dental, substance abuse prevention, housing, food pantries, clothing assistance, transportation, legal, LGBTQ+ services, and more:

https://www.theallianceofswmo.org/resource_guide/

- **FosterAdopt Connect: Community Connections Youth Project (CCYP)**

CCYP helps current and former foster youth, ages 17-26, transition from foster care to self-sufficiency with the support of foster care alumni. A case manager connects youth to resources in several areas, including housing, higher education, employment, healthcare, finances, social supports, transportation, legal advocacy, and more. *This program operates out of Springfield.*

Phone: 417-866-3672 (Springfield)

- **I Pour Life**

This nonprofit helps foster youth, ages 16-24, to build life skills and social capital through the support of virtual life coaching and in-person events. *The program is based in Springfield.*

<https://ipourlife.org/>

- **Jasper County CASA**

Training and resources for Court Appointed Special Advocates in Jasper County:

<https://jascocasa.org/volunteer-portal-resources/>

- **Missouri Department of Social Services: Older Youth Program**

Resources for older youth in foster care including information about the State Youth Advisory Board, Guide for Youth in Out of Home Care, and the National Youth in Transition Database:

<https://dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/>

- **Older Youth Transition Specialist for Southwest Missouri – Justin Nations**

Older Youth Transition Specialists are located in Children’s Division county offices throughout the state. Their job duties include providing support to and overseeing contracted services for Transitional Living and Chafee Programs: <https://dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/files/map-older-youth-transition-specialist.pdf>

Phone: (417) 629-3952