



Older Youth Resource Packet

For more information about your local

Chafee/Aftercare/TLSS Services

Contact Your Local Chafee/Aftercare TLSS Office

Or

SW Regional Lead Mandy Truitt

mtruitt@pfh.org or 417-869-8911



ATTENTION

Former Foster Care Youth -- Do You Need Chafee Aftercare?

What is Chafee Aftercare?

Through the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFCP), Children's Division is able to provide support services for youth who are no longer in care referred to as Aftercare services.

Aftercare services are flexible, short term and used as a safety net to meet the needs of the youth after they have exited Children's Division custody. The needs and array of services vary depending on the need of the former foster youth.

Am I Eligible?

If you left foster care after the age of 18 but have not yet reached age 23, the following services may be available:

- **Support services** provide referrals to resources. This support service may be one-on-one contact for guidance or to just talk to someone you trust about what is happening in your life. You should have an identified personal advisor who could be a community member, co-worker, job mentor, friend, someone you recognize who has a personal interest in you and truly cares about you.
- **Emergency funds** are considered short-term assistance that will enable you to continue with your efforts to become independent. This might include: auto repairs, utility payments, food and rent. Throughout our adult lives, we may encounter emergency or crisis situations. When this occurs, we look to our family or friends for assistance. Some of you may not have these resources. These funds can be used to assist when possible.
- **Educational assistance** the Missouri Education and Training Voucher program offers funds, up to \$5000 or the Cost of Attendance, to former foster youth to enable you to attend accredited colleges, universities, and vocational training institutions. Missouri Reach Tuition Waiver is a full tuition waiver program for youth attending a Missouri public college or

university. Limited awards are available for this program. The Missouri Reach Credential Completion and Employment Financial Assistance Program (CCE) program is a program to help youth successfully pursue an education or training pathway that leads to a recognized credential and entry into the workforce. Application can be made for all three programs at: <http://www.fc2sprograms.org/missouri/>

- **Healthcare Assistance** MO HealthNet is automatically available to age 26 for former foster youth to provide medical and behavioral health care coverage.
- **Job training** may consist of a referral to a training site with possible financial assistance during the training period. Training in an occupation may enable you to find more than a part time job and become self-sufficient.
- **Housing** (room and board expenses) would be considered as a safe shelter that could best meet your needs. These funds are meant to be flexible and short term, 90 days or less, to stabilize a particular situation. The funds may be used for a variety of reasons as a support, not as an on-going supplemental funding source. This may include any or all of the following: food, rent, security deposits, utility deposits, start-up kits which can include supplies and necessary furniture.

How Do I Receive Services?

To access the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFCP) Aftercare services or obtain more information about these services, you will need to contact your local Children's Division office. Children's Division staff will ask you to complete an application. The application contains identifying information, housing situation, current/future needs, medical/mental health needs, employment, education, goals, financial status, and available resources. The local staff will send the referral to the Older Youth Transition Specialist, who will connect you to Chafee resources in your area. Your local contact information is:



County Office:
Phone Number:

Children's Division
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103
AskCD@dss.mo.gov

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Local and State Youth Advisory Board Information



Local Youth Advisory Board (LYAB) meetings are held at minimum one time per quarter and facilitated by your local Chafee/Aftercare office. These meetings are open to any youth in MO Foster Care between the ages of 14-23. Local Youth Advisory Boards inform the State Board representatives of what is taking place locally, discuss upcoming learning and community engagement opportunities, and guide what topics and presenters will be happening in the future.

State Youth Advisory Board (SYAB) meetings are held one time per quarter in Jefferson City, MO. on a Saturday and Sunday. These meetings are sponsored by MO Children's Division. Any youth currently in MO Foster Care, and 15-21 years of age, may apply for membership on the state board. All applicants must complete a SYAB application, obtain two references and interview with the current active SYAB members, during a scheduled SYAB meeting. All youth that participate and attend SYAB meetings are chaperoned/transported by Older Youth/Chafee Specialist.

SYAB is an opportunity for MO Older Youth, to actively participate in changes of our MO Foster Care system, Child Advocacy Day and help plan and facilitate our bi-yearly Older Youth Conference.

**For more information on how to be involved with your LYAB and SYAB,
please contact your Older Youth/Chafee Specialist**

Basic Life Skills Awareness Training (B.L.A.S.T)

B.L.A.S.T class are held quarterly, focusing on age appropriate life skill training such as; i.e banking, budgeting, employment readiness, healthy relationships, college campus tours, communication. B.L.A.S.T classes are hosted by your local Older Youth/Chafee Specialist's.



**For more information on B.L.A.S.T classes, please contact your
Local Chafee/TLSS Serving Office**

“Snap Shot” of Chafee/Aftercare Youth Expenses

- **Dual Enrollment College Courses** – Total up to \$300.00 per course – (includes tuition and books)
(2 courses per youth maximum – 1 per semester)
- **Vehicle***: Total up to \$250.00
 - Repair/Maintenance (can be utilized multiple times until cap is reached)
 - Car License and Sales Taxes
 - Car Insurance – equivalent of one month’s cost (ex. 1/6 of semi-annual premium)

** Youth’s name should be on Title vehicle, title should be checked prior to these expenses being paid. Young Adult must have valid Driver’s License or Learner’s Permit.*

** Partial cost toward purchase of car itself is NOT allowed.*
- **Driver’s Education (if free driving courses not available through school)** – Total up to \$390.00. Use the following website to identify a driving school near your youth/young adult:
<https://driversed.com/driving-schools/mo-driving-school-list.aspx>
- **College/Independent Living Arrangement (ILA) Household Items**: Total up to \$100.00. We can assist youth that are entering college or an ILA placement with household items such as; pots/pans, silverware, cups, bowls, cooking utensils, bath towels, shower curtain, bath mats, trash can, bedding items. *Chafee funds cannot assist with rental deposits, monthly rent for ILA placements.*
- **Clothing**: Total up to \$100.00- Only specialty clothing items such as *required* apparel for school (i.e., basketball shoes, choir robe, cheerleading uniform), work clothing (i.e., boots, uniforms). Extreme circumstances if youth’s clothes were damaged, stolen, lost due to moving or medical reasons such as extreme weight loss or weight gain (these expenses could be considered if they do not have any remaining clothing voucher funds).

- **Graduation Expenses** up to \$150.00 – we need to make sure that Cap & Gown have been taken care of first- any remaining funds can go towards other Sr Expenses such as; Senior dues (commonly can get fee waived for underprivileged students in district, yearbook, Senior Pictures, class ring, letterman jacket, graduation invitations etc.
- **Prom** - Total up to \$150.00:
 - Attire
 - Admittance ticket/s (to include date's ticket)
 - Haircut/styling, manicures, pedicures, jewelry, flowers can be discussed on an individual basis.
- **School dance** (Homecoming, Sweetheart, etc.):
 - Admittance tickets (to include date's ticket- \$25.00 (can be discussed as price per ticket is typically much more).
 - Attire allowed IF youth is a contestant in coronation or the like. Most school dances, other than prom, are casual wear and there is no need for formal dresses or tuxedos.
 - Haircut/styling, manicures, pedicures, jewelry, flowers, can be discussed on an individual basis.
- **Camps/Trips:** Total up to \$200.00
 - Trips for youth to travel to visit family or go on vacation are NOT allowed.
 - Camps/Trips are allowed IF tied DIRECTLY to the youth's existing IAP Goal/s

Making Proud Choices

Making Proud Choices (MPC) is an evidence-based curriculum designed to teach youth between the ages of 14-19 years old, about HIV/AIDS, STD's, and Pregnancy Prevention. This curriculum is taught through ten modules, to include lecture, video, individual and peer activities.

Each youth in attendance will receive a **\$100.00 gift card**
after successfully completing all **ten sessions!**
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner is served to all attendees.

Module 1: Setting the Stage and Making Your Dreams Come True

Module 2: Relationships and the Consequences of Sex

Module 3: The Consequences of Sex: Pregnancy

Module 4: The Consequences of Sex: STDs

Module 5: The Consequences of Sex: HIV Infection

Module 6: Attitudes and Beliefs about HIV/AIDS and Condom Use

Module 7: Sexuality 411

Module 8: Strategies for Preventing HIV Infection: Stop, Think and Act

Module 9: Developing Condom Use and Negotiation Skills

Module 10: Enhancing Refusal and Negotiation Skills

Success Strategies

Choose the Right School:

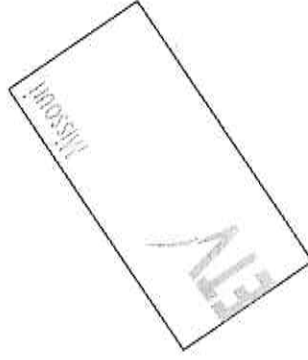
- ✓ Hundreds of colleges and training programs are listed at www.technical-vocational-schools.com and <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenaicator/>

Get Funding:

- ✓ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid www.fafsa.gov
- ✓ Look for Scholarships www.fastweb.com

Get Started:

- ✓ Visit campus career center
- ✓ Think about a major, consider:
 - what you like to do
 - what you are good at doing
 - your dream job
- ✓ Make a schedule
- ✓ Get to know your school advisors and instructors
- ✓ Learn how to study
- ✓ Go to class!!!



TO APPLY FOR ALL THREE PROGRAMS VISIT:

<https://studentportal.fc2sprograms.org/login/>

Need Money for Higher Education?



Help is Available
to Youth who
have been in
Foster Care



The Missouri Department of Social Services and Missouri Department of Higher Education offer a tuition waiver to offset tuition fees at Missouri colleges and universities.

Who is Eligible?

- MO residents who have been in foster care: the day they graduated/received their HiSet, OR the day before 18th birthday, OR the day of 14th birthday (if they were eligible for adoption)
- Student graduated high school/passed HiSet w/in last 3 years
- Student is accepted by/attending MO college or university AND have 60 credits prior to applying for MO Reach
- Student is under 21 when applying

Recipients must:

- Maintain 2.5 GPA
- Apply for other grants & scholarships (including Pell Grant)
- Should NOT accept student loans
- Complete 100 hours community services or public internship each year they receive the waiver
- Enroll and participate in Foster Care to Success' Academic Success Program

Support Services:

- Program Coordinators
- Mentors
- Care packages
- Career Readiness

FOR MORE INFORMATION / TO APPLY GO TO:

<https://www.fc2sprograms.org/mo-reach/mo>

Reach is administered by Foster Care to Success
1-800-585-7115



WHAT IS THE 'ETV' PROGRAM?

The Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program provides up to \$5000/year for college and vocational training and is renewable until age 26.

Who is Eligible?

- Students who have left foster care after age eighteen (18) OR have been adopted/obtained legal guardianship from the public foster care system after age sixteen (16) **and are not yet 26**
- Students in foster care at the time funds are received AND meet one of the following:
 - Have high school diploma or equivalent
 - Is MO foster youth attending post-secondary education/training program outside MO
 - Is in post-secondary training program requiring at least one (1) year of training prior to certification/graduation

Requirements:

- Student has high school diploma or equivalent
- Student must apply and use other appropriate scholarships, grants, and financial aid
- Student must be US citizen OR qualified non-citizen
- Student assets are less than \$10,000
- Student must be accepted/enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other accredited program at a college, university, or vocational school
- Student must show progress toward degree or certificate to remain eligible
- Student may receive funding for no more than 5 years

ETV Funds Can Be Used For:

Tuition – Housing – Computers – School Supplies
Books – Childcare – Health Insurance – Groceries – Living Expenses – Transportation

FOR MORE INFORMATION / TO APPLY GO TO:

<https://www.fc2sprograms.org/missouri/>

Email: MO@etvvoucher.org Ph: 1-800-585-7115
MO ETV Program is administered by
Foster Care to Success



Credential Completion and Employment Financial Assistance Program

Who is Eligible?

- Youth currently in foster care, OR left care after age 18, OR youth adopted/obtained guardianship after age 14
- Youth between age 19-25

Requirements:

- Youth must be accepted into CCE and credentials must be earned before their 26th birthday

How it Works:

- Funding and support up to 12 months (including pre/post training time) while you earn a credential
- Credential must be earned w/in 9 months
- Maximum award is \$8000
- If you are in a no-cost Workforce Program, CCE funds can be used for living expenses.
- If you need 15 credits or less to earn an AA or BA/BS, and you have used all federal & state higher education funding (e.g. Pell and ETV), CCE funds may be used for tuition, fees, and books.

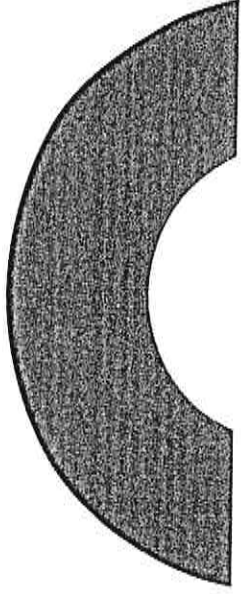
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND

TO APPLY GO TO:

<https://www.fc2sprograms.org/mo-reach-credential-completion-and-employment-program/>

OR

Call 1-800-950-4673



ATTENTION FORMER FOSTER YOUTH



You may qualify for FREE health insurance!

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) if you:

- Were in foster care on (or any time within 30 days before) your 18th birthday regardless of income or assets
- Are under the age of 26
- Are not eligible for health insurance through any other provider
- Were covered by Medicaid while in foster care

What coverage is available?

The following services are covered through MO HealthNet:

- Medical – routine and emergency
- Dental – routine cleaning
- Vision – routine exams
- Behavioral health – individual counseling
- Prescription coverage with no co-pay

Questions?

If you have general questions, you can email us at: CDMHNQuestions@dss.mo.gov or call 1-800-348-6627 for questions about choosing a plan.

Older Youth Transition Specialists

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