

# Post Emancipation Services: Young Adult Services & Bridges

Presenter

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# **AGENDA**

- Transition Planning
- Final Transition Plan Requirements
- Transition Considerations for Older Youth with Developmental Disabilities
- Post Emancipation Services
  - 1. Medicaid Coverage
  - 2. ETV
  - 3. Young Adult Services
  - 4. Bridges
- ❖ How can you assist?
- Program Contacts



# Remember the Why?





# Transition Planning





- A process of transitioning from childhood to adulthood
- This process considers the youth's long-term plans, then breaks them down into short-term goals.
- The goals should be specific, measurable and attainable.
- These goals must be completed prior to the youth's emancipation.
- Planning is to be youth driven
- Include adult supporters in the planning process

Child Welfare Information Gateway (2018) <a href="https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/transitional-plan/">https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/transitional-plan/</a>



# Final Transition Planning Timeline



#### OAC Rule 5101:2-42-19

- At least 180 days (6 months) prior to youth's emancipation, youth are provided information on post emancipation services <u>and</u> eligibility criteria to enroll in the Bridges Program. 5101:2-42-19.2
- It is <u>mandated</u> that 90 days prior to a youth's emancipation (Best Practice is at least 180 days prior to emancipation) The PCSA or PCPA works with the youth to develop a final transition plan. The plan is to be youth driven and as detailed as the youth chooses.





## Final Transition Plan Content



Health care (health insurance and Power of Attorney)

**Employment services** 

Secondary and postsecondary education and training

Obtaining and paying for housing

Budgeting for necessary living expenses

Obtaining a credit report

Registering for selective service

Information on obtaining a driver's license

Information on any existing court fees associated with the youth's name

Information on any existing benefits the youth receives, ex: social security benefits



# PCSA/PCPA to provide the following to the young adult once custody terminates:



- A copy of their Final Transition Plan
- A copy of their health & education records
- A letter verifying that they emancipated from agency custody
- Certified copy of their birth certificate
- Their social security card
- A current state identification card and information on obtaining a driver's license



# Youth with Developmental Disabilities



#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

- Post emancipation services are voluntary.
- Young adults with DD often have life-long needs that are better served through the adult DD system.
- Coordination with the local Board of DD is Critical to ensure adequate continuity of care needed for the former foster youth's safety and wellbeing.



# Post Emancipation Services: Medicaid



The Ohio Medicaid program includes health care coverage for youth, who aged out of foster care on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, until age 26, regardless of income.

Youth can receive Medicaid through the Former Foster Care program, if:

- Under the age of 26
- Were in foster care under the responsibility of the State on or after 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- PCSA sends a ODM 01958 form and Medicaid application to the county department of job and family services to identify the youth as a former foster care youth



# Medicaid





OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAID

# **Applying for Medicaid Benefits**







- Benefits.Ohio.gov Self-Service Portal
- Medicaid.Ohio.gov
- The Medicaid Hotline
  - 1-800-324-8680
- County Shared Services Hotline
  - 1-844-640-6446

- ♦ In person CDJFS
- Mail or fax





- Education Training Voucher (ETV) is program that provides up to \$5,000 per year for academic and career training.
- The maximum number of years a student can receive ETV funding is five (5) years, (consecutive or intermittent).







#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- You must be a current or former foster student who:
  - are in foster care at age 17, earned a high school diploma or GED, and will remain in foster care until 18

OR

left foster care on or after your 18th birthday

OR

- left foster care on or after your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to be <u>adopted</u> or placed in a <u>kinship</u> guardianship
- You must be a U.S. citizen or a qualified non-citizen.
- Your personal assets are worth less than \$10,000.
- You may apply for ETV funds up to the age of 25.
- You must have been accepted into or be enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other accredited program at a college, university, technical, vocational school.
- To remain eligible for ETV funding, you must maintain a 2.0 GPA and submit an academic transcript per term/semester





- Tuition & Fees
- Books
- Laptops/Computers
- School Supplies
- Housing
- Meal Plans
- Transportation
- Child care





For more information or to apply for an education and training voucher go to:

Foster Success Education Services | Helping foster youth reach their education goals after high school (fosteredservices.org)



# Youth Navigator Network



YNN helps Ohio's youth and young adults who have been in care or recently transitioned out of care navigate systems, access resources, and build an expanded network of support.

ynn.jfs.ohio.gov



# Young Adult Services



OAC Rule 5101:2-42-19.2

- Requirements to receive YAS services
- Types of Services available
- Financial & Educational Assistance



# Young Adult Services: Requirements to Receive



 Any young adult who emancipated from foster care at age 18 or later can request post emancipation services from the county PCSA in which they reside at any time until they turn 21.



# Young Adult Services: Services Available



#### OAC Rule 5101:2-42-19.2

- 1. Academic Support
- 2. Budget and Financial Management
- **3.** Career Preparation
- 4. Employment Programs or Vocational Training
- **5.** Family Support and Healthy Marriage Education
- 6. Health Education and Risk Prevention
- **7.** Housing, Educational and Home Management Training
- 8. Mentoring
- **9.** Post-Secondary Educational Support
- **10.** Financial Assistance (i.e. Room & Board, Educational)
- 11. Supervised Independent Living



# Young Adult Services: Financial Assistance





Counties can use Chafee and TANF independent living (IL) funds to provide financial assistance post emancipation.

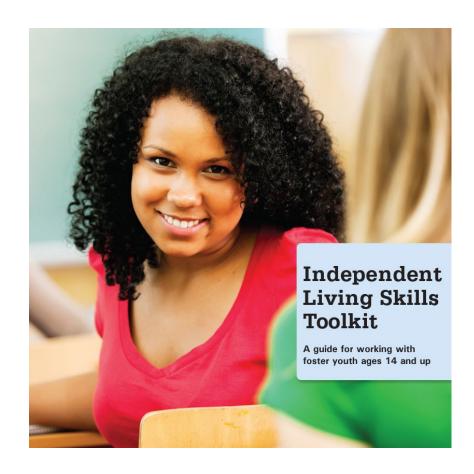


# Independent Living Toolkit JFS 08046 (revised 10/2022)





https://bit.ly/IL Toolkit 2022





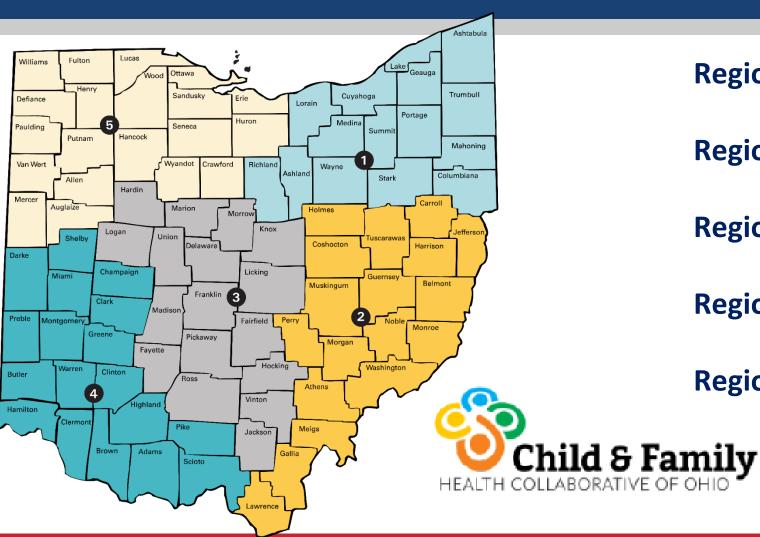




- Bridges is a voluntary program designed to provide housing and case management supports to emancipated young adults.
- Bridges can assist with stable housing and offer support in working towards educational, employment and other personal independence goals.



# Bridges: 5 Regions



Region 1: Northeast Region

ne.region@cfhcohio.org

Region 2: Southeast Region se.region@cfhcohio.org

Region 3: Central Region c.region@cfhcohio.org

Region 4: Southwest Region sw.region@cfhcohio.org

Region 5: Northwest Region nw.region@cfhcohio.org



# Bridges: Who's eligible?

- Young adult who left the custody of an Ohio PCSA at the age of 18, 19, or 20 years old; or
- Young adult who turned 18 when in the care & placement of an Ohio Title IV-E Juvenile Court; or
- Young adult who turned 18 when in the care & placement responsibility of DYS <u>and</u> are in a IV-E reimbursable placement setting

Must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:





# Bridges: Eligibility Criteria

- 1. Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
  - Enrollment in school to receive high school diploma
  - Enrollment in GED program
- 2. Enrolled in an institution that provides post- secondary or vocational education;
  - Public or Private 4 year college or university
  - Community College
  - Vocational Programs
  - Technical Schools
- 3. Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
  - CCMEP
  - Job Corps
  - Job skills Training, Life Skills Training, Volunteering
- 4. Employed for at least eighty hours per month;
  - Regular Employment
  - AmeriCorps
  - Internship/Externship
- 5. Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a medical condition, which incapacity is supported by regularly updated information from a qualified practitioner.





Job Services & Unemployment

Cash, Food & Refugee Assistance Child & Adult Protection Foster & Adoption

Child Support Child Care

Collapse All Sections

Contact



JFS / Child & Adult Protection, Foster & Adoption / Services for Families and Children / Bridges / Apply



#### **Apply**

#### **Bridges**

Overview

**About Bridges** 

Apply

**Bridges Offices** 

**Supportive Services** 

**Grievance Process** 

Resources

Testimonials

Contact Us

#### **Participant Responsibilities**

Eligibility

You may be eligible for Bridges if you left the Ohio foster care system at age 18, 19 or 20, but have not yet turned 21 and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Completing high school or GED
- Enrolled in college or vocational school
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers, to employment
- Employed at least 80 hours a month
- Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a physical or mental health condition

s: a class schedule, a paystub, or letter of participation from an Be prepared to provide documentation employment program, showing that wa meet at least one of the eligibility criteria mentioned above. Please refer to this documentation chart for more information.

#### **Application**

^



Submit a referral form

**Share this** 







# Pathways to Bridges

#### Youth in the process of transitioning out of care:

- 6 months prior PCSA introduces Bridges
- 3 months prior PCSA refers an interested young adult to Bridges to start the "Warm Hand-off"
- Once PCSA custody terminates, Bridges sends the application, signed Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA) and eligibility documentation to ODJFS for approval
- Bridges is <u>NOT</u> the youth's transition plan.

#### Young Adult who has already aged out:

- Young Adult can make a self-referral
- If eligible, young adult will be assigned to a Bridges Liaison to complete the application, VPA, and obtain eligibility documentation. If not eligible and if the young adult wishes, Bridges will assist the young adult in connecting with the PCSA for post emancipation services.
- The application, signed VPA, and eligibility documentation is sent to ODJFS for approval

Any Adult Supporter can refer a young adult to Bridges.



Job Services & Unemployment Cash, Food & Refugee Assistance Child & Adult Protection Foster & Adoption Child Support Child Care

Collapse All Sections

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Contact



JFS / Child & Adult Protection, Foster & Adoption / Services for Families and Children / Bridges / Apply



**Bridges** 

#### **Apply**

Participant Responsibilities

Clause Submit a referral form

Eligibility

Share this

**About Bridges** 

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#### If you are transitioning from foster care

Talk with your children services caseworker about your interest in Bridges. Your caseworker will contact Bridges three months before you leave foster care to coordinate services. Bridges will then help you complete the application.

#### If you aged out of foster care

If you aged out of foster care and are under 21 or know someone who is, please contact Bridges using the referral form link below. If you are over 21 and need support services, please visit Resources.

#### To Apply

**Application** 

If you are a young adult, PCSA Caseworker, or an adult supporter, you may submit a referral using this <u>referral</u> <u>form</u>. A Bridges respresentative will contact you within two (2) business days. For more information or questions, contact your local <u>Bridges Offices</u>.





# Bridges: Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA) & Application

- Care and placement to ODJFS
- A contract between the Young Adult and ODJFS
- Includes each parties' responsibilities, but does not include specifics regarding the young adult's plan
- A new VPA must be signed if the young adult leaves or is terminated from the program and then reapplies
- Bridges Application, VPA and Supporting Documentation are submitted to ODJFS for approval



# Bridges Financial Support/IV-E Funded

# Foster Care Maintenance (FCM) payments which shall cover the cost of providing all of the following:

- 1. Food;
- 2. Clothing;
- 3. Shelter;
- 4. Daily Supervision;
- 5. School Supplies;
- 6. Personal incidentals;
- 7. Liability insurance with respect to the participants; and
- 8. Reasonable cost for transportation.

#### Administration costs, which shall cover the following:

- 1. Overhead costs associated with administering the Bridges program;
- 2. Costs of providing case management; and
- 3. Costs of travel for the participants' judicial or case review.



# Bridges: Supported Housing Options

- Host Homes
  - In-Home
  - Supportive In-Home
- Community Housing
- Supportive Community Housing
- Leased Housing
- College Room & Board
- Emergency Housing
- Non-Paid



# **Bridges: Support Services**

- ✓ Monthly Visits
- ✓ Young Adult Driven Plan
- ✓ Positive Young Adult Development
- Critical Thinking
- ✓ Home Management Skills
- ✓ Independent Living Skills
- Education

- ✓ Employment & Career Preparation
- ✓ Budgeting/Financial Management
- ✓ Self-Advocacy
- ✓ Health and Self-Care
- Crisis Intervention
- Permanent Connections
- ✓ Community Resources



# Preparing the Youth for Aging Out of Foster Care



- Seek additional training on transitional-age and emancipated foster youth engagement
- Attend SARs, other case reviews, and any transition planning meetings
- Stay in contact with the youth's independent living worker and other service team members
- Provide your business cards and contact information to youth multiple times prior to a youth's emancipation.
- Remember they are learning Independent Living (IL) Skills and many times starting with a blank slate.
- Be a teacher and a mentor. Lead by example. Have good boundaries for your protection and theirs.



# Preparing the Youth for Aging Out of Foster Care



- Know what your CASA Office will allow you to do
- Help them with IL activities (studying, collecting recipes, looking into car insurance, purchasing a car/comparing prices, searching for colleges, providing positive feedback, applying for jobs, job references, etc.).
- Communicate with the youth about their transition plan. The transition plan is YOUTH DRIVEN. Youth should not be forced into a plan even when their support system feels they know what is best for the young person.
- Prepare the young adult for success by assisting the young person to create transition plans with realistic goals.



# Once a young adult has aged out:



- If you are contacted for support, refer the young adult to their local PCSA or Bridges.
   It is up to the young person to follow through and request services, but you can assist.
- Continue to be a mentor/support to youth who you have built a relationship.
- Stay knowledgeable and aware of resources in your local community.
- Know that financial help and case management services through PCSAs may be limited. Not all counties have an IL/EY unit. It may be more beneficial financially and emotionally for a young adult to participate in Bridges, if eligible for the program, because services can be provided for the duration of the young adult's participation in Bridges.
- Currently, post emancipation services, both Young Adult Services and Bridges, are no longer available once the young person reaches the age of 21. However, advocates, including emancipated young adults, are pushing to extend post emancipation services past 21 in Ohio. Be sure to stay up to date on any policy changes.

SUCCESS means ...

Trying my best is what matters and is success itself

HELPED me ...

Belief that I can be BETTER

Feel WISER and realized the type of person I want to be

**MOTIVATED** to try harder and not give up

Having the power to BELIEVE in myself

Motivated to take control of my FUTURE.

Knowing I AM CAPABLE of things I put my mind to

Being optimistic and STRIVING for goals

Getting into COLLEGE

Helping me get my GED and TEACHING me to budget

I would not have accessed mental health care without her support. She strongly ADVOCATED to me how much it would help me, and she was right



...grow as a man, seeing where I was and where I am now is amazing ...always have someone to go and TALK, because I don't have parents

My Liaison LISTENED when I needed it most

I never thought that I would have a HOME like this at the age of 19. Thank You!

Future plans...when a few years ago, never thought of even having GOALS. Never expected to get this far or even be alive.

I appreciate everything everyone has done for me. I'm very THANKFUL for my Liaison.

I was told I was nothing and was waiting for the day I didn't wake up. I am living a happy life and am so thankful for Bridges giving me the POWER to believe in myself. Finally GRADUATING High School, believing in myself

Sobriety and picking up the pieces I threw away. It helped me ACHIEVE things I never thought I would achieve.

Without Bridges, I wouldn't have graduated high school, would've wound up homeless, and never had been able to continue my EDUCATION.

This program has really helped me GROW as a person and make better decisions.



# Thank you!



### **Independent Living/Transition Age Youth Email:**

<u>Transitional-Youth-Programs@jfs.ohio.gov</u>

### **Bridges Email:**

Bridges@jfs.ohio.gov

### **Bridges Website:**

jfs.ohio.gov

JFS / Child & Adult Protection, Foster & Adoption / Services for Families and Children / Bridges

### **Bridges Marketing Toolkit:**

https://www.cfhcohio.org/bridges-toolkit