

Review of State Policies and Programs to Support Young People Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Amy Dworsky and Judy Havlicek

**Submitted to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy
by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago**

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Table of Contents

	Page Number
Introduction.....	1
Methodology.....	2
Survey Results	3
Limitations	16
Discussion.....	7
Conclusion	20
References.....	21
Appendices	
Appendix A: Survey instrument.....	23
Appendix B: Number of current foster youth ages 17 and older by age in years	39
Appendix C: Definitions of supervised independent living placement options.....	40
Appendix D: Age until which foster youth can remain in care and circumstances under which they can remain.....	41
Appendix E: Maintaining court jurisdiction when young people remain	45
in foster care beyond the age of majority	
Appendix F: Eligibility for Chafee-funded services.....	46
Appendix G: Eligibility for supervised independent living.....	51
Appendix H: Eligibility for Medicaid or other health care coverage	55
Appendix I: Housing assistance for former foster youth.....	56
Appendix J: Circumstances under which former foster youth can re-enter care	61
Appendix K: Use of state funds and other policies or programs designed to support transitioning foster youth.....	62

Introduction

The goal for every child placed in out-of-home care is a permanent home, which, depending on the circumstances, may mean reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship. Nevertheless, more than 26,000 foster youth who have not achieved permanency “age out” of care each year (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008). Too old for the child welfare system but not yet ready to live on their own, these young people are at high risk for a number of adverse outcomes during their transition to adulthood, including economic insecurity, housing instability, criminal justice involvement, and early child-bearing (Barth, 1990; Cook et al., 1991; Courtney & Dworsky, 2006; Courtney et al., 2007; Courtney et al., 2001; Dworsky, 2005; Goerge et al., 2002; McMillan & Tucker, 1999).

Beginning with the Title IV-E Independent Living Program, which Congress created in 1986, and continuing with the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, the federal government has been providing states with funds to help prepare their foster youth for this transition. Nevertheless, the experiences of young people aging out of care vary widely across states. This variation reflects differences in state laws governing the age at which young people become ineligible to be under the care and supervision of the state as well as differences in the services and supports that states provide to young people, both while they are in foster care and after they exit.

Research suggests that these between-state differences are important because they can lead to differences in young adult outcomes. For example, the three states participating in the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois) have very different policies with respect to the age at which young people become ineligible to remain in care. Specifically, foster youth in Iowa and Wisconsin are usually discharged around the time of their 18th birthday and almost never after their 19th. By contrast, foster youth in Illinois can, and routinely do, remain in care until age 21. Courtney and Dworsky (2006) reported that young people in the Midwest Study who were still in foster care at age 19 fared better across a number of domains than the 19-year-olds who had already left. Likewise, Courtney, Dworsky, and Pollack (2007) found that allowing foster youth to remain in care until age 21 may contribute to a number of desirable outcomes, especially an increased likelihood of pursuing post-secondary education and receiving the kinds of services that states can provide with their Chafee funds.

Motivated by the lack of systemic information about these variations in state policies and programs, the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development surveyed state independent living services coordinators in 2006. Independent living coordinators from 45 states plus the District of Columbia responded to the survey. More than half of the respondents reported that there were some circumstances under which foster youth in their state could remain in care until at least age 21. However, they were not asked to report the percentage of foster youth who actually did so. A number of other important questions were also not addressed, including questions about whether foster youth are

encouraged to remain in care beyond their 18th birthday and whether the court retains jurisdiction over those who remain in care.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) began to address these unanswered questions by collecting data from child welfare and independent living services staff in four jurisdictions (Illinois, New York, Vermont, and Washington D.C.) where foster youth who are in care at age 18 can remain in care until 21 (Fernandez, 2008). Particular attention was paid to (1) the circumstances under which foster youth can remain in care beyond their 18th birthday; (2) foster care maintenance payments made by the state on behalf of those youth; and (3) the retention of jurisdiction by the juvenile court. Although understanding the policies and programs in these four jurisdictions is important, a more comprehensive review that includes all 50 states and the District of Columbia is also needed.

Shortly before the CRS report was issued, the 2008 Washington State Legislature directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to “conduct a national review of state programs for youth transitioning out of foster care” (ESHB 2687, Sec. 610.12). The review was to include a survey of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that would focus on “eligibility requirements for continued foster care, age thresholds for transitioning services, types of services provided, and use of state funds to supplement federal” Chafee dollars. A contract to design the survey instrument and administer the survey was awarded to Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. The results of that survey are presented in this report, which begins with a description of the methodology that was used.

Methodology

The primary method of data collection was a Web-based survey. The survey questions covered six major domains: (1) circumstances under which foster youth can remain in care beyond their 18th birthday; (2) provision of Chafee-funded independent living and transition services before and after youth leave care; (3) the availability of supervised independent living placements; (4) opportunities for youth to reenter care; (5) existence of individual development accounts; and (6) use of state dollars to fund independent living or transitional services and supports. A draft of the survey instrument was reviewed by several child welfare administrators, and their feedback led to a number of revisions. The final version is included as Appendix A.

An e-mail explaining the purpose of the survey was sent to the 50 state independent living services coordinators and to the independent living services coordinator for Washington, D.C. The email included a URL for the online survey, which was expected to take approximately 25 to 30 minutes to complete. A PDF version of the survey instrument was also attached. Independent living services coordinators could complete the survey themselves or have someone else in their agency complete it.

The primary source of contact information for the independent living services coordinators was the Web site of the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development.¹ Chapin Hall was also able to leverage its connections with child welfare administrators in several states when the e-mail reminders and follow-up phone calls failed to elicit a response.

A total of 45 surveys were completed, for an overall response rate of 45/51, or 88.2 percent. This is similar to the response rate achieved by the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development.

In addition to the Web-based survey, the review also drew upon a variety of online resources, including: state independent living program Web sites; the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development's state by state fact pages; and the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood Wiki, a space for sharing information about state law and practice regarding foster youths' transition from foster care to adulthood.^{2,3} The information provided by these Web sites was useful in designing the survey instrument but did not contribute significantly to the review because, in many cases, it appeared to be outdated.

Survey Results

Although the focus of the survey was on state policies and programs designed to help foster youth making the transition to adulthood, we included a number of questions about each state's child welfare system to provide some context. A majority of the states that responded to the survey described their child welfare system as both state supervised and state administered. Fewer than one-third described their child welfare system as county administered and state supervised (Table 1). This distinction could be important because how the child welfare system is administered may affect the amount of variation in policy implementation and service delivery that exists within the state.⁴

Table 1. Type of child welfare system (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
State supervised and state administered	26	57.8
State supervised and county administered	14	31.1
Something else	5	11.1

Washington State has a state supervised and state administered child welfare system.

There was wide variation in the size of state foster care populations. Sixteen percent had caseloads of fewer than 2,000, whereas 11 percent had caseloads of 15,000 or more (Table 2). Remarkably, five states did not report (or did not know) their current foster care caseload.

¹ <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/resources/ilcoords.php>

² http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/state_pages.html

³ <http://fostercaretoadulthood.wikispaces.com>

⁴ We allowed for this possibility by including "it depends on the county" as a response option to some questions.

Table 2. Total number of children and youth currently in foster care (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Fewer than 2,000	7	15.6
2,000 to 3,999	7	15.6
4,000 to 6,999	6	13.3
7,000 to 9,999	7	15.6
10,000 to 14,999	8	17.8
15,000 or more	5	11.1
Do not know	5	11.1

Washington State currently has between 10,000 and 14,999 children and youth in foster care.

This variation was also evident in the number of youth ages 17 and older currently in care. Eighteen percent of the states reported fewer than 500 foster youth in this age group, while 11 percent reported 3,000 or more (Table 3).⁵ More than one-third—by far the largest group of states—responded “Do not know.”

Table 3. Number of youth ages 17 and older currently in foster care (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Fewer than 500	8	17.8
500 to 999	7	15.6
1,000 to 1,999	6	13.3
2,000 to 2,999	3	6.7
3,000 to 3,999	3	6.7
4,000 or more	2	4.4
Do not know	16	35.6

Washington State currently has between 500 and 999 youth ages 17 and older in foster care.

Although some of these youth will achieve permanency through reunification, adoption or guardianship, others will remain in care until they age out. The number of foster youth who aged out in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 ranged from fewer than 100 to 700 or more.⁶ However, almost one-third of the states that completed the survey did not or could not report the number of youth who had aged out of care during those two years and responded “Do not know.”

⁵ These data are broken down by age in years in Appendix B.

⁶ Specifically, the question asked about youth who had “exited foster care not because they had achieved permanency but because they had reached (or were about to reach) the age of majority or because they had become too old to remain in foster care under state law.”

Table 4. Number of foster youth who aged out of care in 2006 and 2007 (N = 45)

	2006		2007	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Fewer than 100	7	15.6	6	13.3
100 to 299	7	15.6	10	22.2
300 to 499	6	13.3	4	8.9
500 to 699	5	11.1	6	13.3
At least 700	6	13.3	5	11.0
Do not know	14	31.1	14	31.1

Between 300 and 400 young people in Washington state aged out of foster care in 2006 and 2007.

To better understand the current landscape, we asked states a number of questions about the age at which young people can no longer remain in care under any circumstances, according to state law. Nearly all of the survey respondents reported that there are circumstances under which foster youth can remain in care beyond their 18th birthday. Most also reported that there are circumstances under which foster youth can remain in care beyond their 19th birthday (Table 5). In fact, 60 percent of these states allow young people to remain in care until age 21, at least under some circumstances.

Table 5. Age at which young people become ineligible to remain in foster care under any circumstances (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
18 th birthday	2	4.4
19 th birthday	5	11.1
20 th birthday	3	6.7
21 st birthday	27	60.0
22 nd birthday	2	4.4
23 rd birthday	0	0.0
24 th birthday	1	2.2
It depends on the situation	4	8.9
Do not know*	1	2.2

*The state that responded 'Do not know' had indicated in response to previous questions that youth can remain in care after their 19th birthday.

Young people in Washington State become ineligible to remain in foster care on their 21st birthday.

States that allow young people to remain in care beyond their 18th birthday were asked about the circumstances under which that can occur (Table 6).^{7,8} By far, the most common reason given was being on track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED. Only two other circumstances were cited by a majority of these states: having a disability or other special need, or being enrolled in college or a vocational training program. However, nearly half reported that young people can remain in care beyond their 18th birthday if the court determines that it is in their best interest to do so.

⁷ We asked about both the 18th and 19th birthdays because sections 406 and 472 of the Social Security Act limit Title IV-E eligibility to children who are under age 18 or (at state option) over age 18 but under age 19, and full-time students. We instructed states to interpret the phrase “in foster care” to mean under the care and supervision of the child welfare system as defined by your state, including out-of-home care placements that do not qualify for federal reimbursement under Title IV-E.

⁸ Appendix D contains additional information that states provided about the age until which foster youth can remain in care and the circumstances under which they can remain.

Responses were much the same when states were asked about the circumstances under which young people can remain in care beyond their 19th birthday. Being on track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED was again the most common. Having a disability or other special need and being enrolled in college or a vocational training program were also cited by more than half of the states in which 19-year-olds can remain in care.

Table 6. Circumstances under which young people can remain in foster care

	Beyond 18 th birthday N = 43		Beyond 19 th birthday N = 38	
	#	%	#	%
On track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED	35	81.4	29	76.3
Physical or mental disabilities or other special needs	25	58.1	22	57.9
Enrolled in college or vocational training	24	55.8	19	50.0
Court determined that it is in the youth's best interest	21	48.8	17	44.7
Receiving mental health or substance abuse treatment	14	32.6	13	34.2
Youth petitions the court to remain in foster care	10	23.3	9	23.7
Youth is pregnant	8	18.6	9	23.7
Youth is parenting	6	14.0	7	18.4
Other	16	37.2	11	28.9

The circumstances under which youth in Washington State can remain in foster care beyond their 18th (as well as their 19th) birthday include being on track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED; having a physical or mental disability or other special need; and being enrolled in college or vocational training..

We also asked what, if anything, is required of young people who choose to remain in care beyond their 18th birthday and, where applicable, their 19th birthday too (Table 7). A majority of the states that allow young people to remain in care require them to be living in an approved or licensed placement and to be in compliance with their case plan. To other common requirements are being enrolled in school and signing a voluntary placement agreement.

Table 7. Requirements for young people to remain in foster care

	Beyond 18 th birthday N = 43		Beyond 19 th birthday N = 38	
	#	%	#	%
Live in an approved or licensed placement	27	62.8	22	57.9
Comply with case plan	26	60.5	22	57.9
Be enrolled in school	19	44.2	16	42.1
Sign a voluntary placement agreement	17	39.5	17	44.7
Be employed or enrolled in school	5	11.6	4	10.5
Pay for a portion of room and board	2	4.7	1	2.6
Be employed	1	2.3	1	2.6
Other	15	34.9	11	28.9
There are no requirements	3	7.0	2	5.3

To remain in foster care beyond their 18th (as well as their 19th) birthday, youth in Washington State are required to live in an approved placement, comply with their case plan, be enrolled in school and sign a voluntary agreement.

A question that arises when young people remain in care beyond their state's age of majority is whether jurisdiction is retained by the court.^{9,10} The court retains jurisdiction in fewer than half the states that allow young people to remain in care beyond their 18th birthday, and in just over one-third of those that allow young people to remain in care beyond their 19th birthday. There are also a number of states in which jurisdiction may be retained, depending on the situation.¹¹

Table 8. Court retains legal jurisdiction over young people who remain in foster care

	Beyond 18 th birthday N = 43		Beyond 19 th birthday N = 38	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	20	46.5	14	36.8
No	13	30.2	12	31.6
It depends on the situation	8	18.6	9	23.7
Do not know	2	4.7	3	7.9

Courts in Washington State do not retain legal jurisdiction over young people who remain in foster care beyond their 18th birthday.

The Foster Care Independence Act gives states considerable discretion in deciding who is eligible for independent living services, including the age at which eligibility for Chafee-funded services begins. In a majority of the states that completed our survey, that minimum age is 14 years old (Table 9). However, 16 percent provide Chafee-funded services to foster youth before their 14th birthday, and in more than a quarter of these states, eligibility does not begin before age 15.

Table 9. Minimum age at which foster youth become eligible for Chafee-funded services (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Before age 12	2	4.4
12 years old	1	2.2
13 years old	4	8.9
14 years old	24	53.3
15 years old	7	15.6
16 years old	4	8.9
17 years old	1	2.2
It depends on the county	1	2.2
Missing	1	2.2

The minimum age at which foster youth become eligible for Chafee-funded services in Washington State is 15 years old.

The Foster Care Independence Act explicitly states that independent living services can be provided to foster youth who are likely to remain in care until age 18 regardless of their permanency plan (i.e., emancipation, reunification, legal guardianship, or

⁹ The age of majority is 18 years old in all but three of these states. It is 19 in Nebraska and Alabama, and 20 in Mississippi.

¹⁰ Appendix E contains additional information that states provided about court jurisdiction when young people remain in foster care beyond the age of majority.

¹¹ See Buss et al. (2008) for a discussion of why court involvement is important for youth 18 and older who remain in foster care.

adoption).¹² Indeed, all foster youth who are likely to remain in care until age 18 are eligible for Chafee-funded services in most of the states that completed the survey (Table 10).

Table 10. Foster youth are eligible for Chafee-funded services regardless of their permanency plan (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	40	88.9
No	0	0.0
It depends on the situation	3	6.7
Do not know	1	2.2
Missing	1	2.2

Foster youth in Washington State are eligible for Chafee-funded services regardless of their permanency plan.

Nevertheless, nearly half of the states reported that young people who are placed with a permanent legal guardian either are not eligible for Chafee-funded services or may not be eligible depending on the situation (Table 11).

Table 11. Foster youth in permanent legal guardianship are eligible for Chafee-funded services (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	18	40.0
No	6	13.3
It depends on the situation	16	35.6
Do not know	4	8.9
Missing	1	2.2

In Washington State, it depends on the situation. Foster youth for whom a dependency guardianship has been established are eligible for Chafee-funded services.

The Foster Care Independence Act requires states to use some (unspecified) portion of their Chafee funds to provide aftercare services and supports to former foster youth until their 21st birthday.¹³ However, states can limit eligibility in a number of ways. A majority of the states that completed the survey reported that former foster youth who had exited care before age 18 are either *not* eligible for aftercare services and supports or are only eligible in some situations (Table 12).

Table 12. Former foster youth are eligible for aftercare services if they were *not* in care on their 18th birthday (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	19	42.2
No	14	31.1
It depends on the situation	11	24.4
Missing	1	2.2

Whether or not former foster youth who were not in care on their 18th birthday are eligible for aftercare services in Washington State depends on the situation

¹² Appendix F contains additional information that states provided about eligibility for Chafee-funded services.

¹³ Approximately half of the participating states could not report the number of former foster youth, ages 18 to 21, who received aftercare services and supports in 2006 and 2007.

Likewise, three-quarters of these states reported that former foster youth are *not* eligible for aftercare services and supports, or are only eligible in some situations, if their discharge outcome was reunification or legal guardianship (Table 13). Although fewer states limit the eligibility of adoptees, in half of these states, former foster youth who have been adopted either are *not* eligible for aftercare services and supports or are only eligible in some situations.

Table 13. Former foster youth are eligible for aftercare services if their discharge outcome was reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (N = 45)

	Reunification		Adoption		Legal guardianship	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	20	44.4	21	46.7	21	46.7
No	10	22.2	7	15.6	10	22.2
It depends on the situation	14	31.1	16	35.6	13	28.9
Missing	1	2.2	1	2.2	1	2.2

Whether or not former foster youth whose discharge outcome was reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship are eligible for aftercare services in Washington State depends on the situation.

One approach that states have used to prepare their foster youth for the transition to adulthood is to provide placement options that allow for some degree of independence. These can include scattered-site or semi-supervised apartments, clustered or supervised apartments, shared homes, adult-roommate apartments, specialized foster homes, host homes, boarding homes, subsidized housing, and college dorms or residence halls.¹⁴ Most of the states that completed the survey reported that supervised independent living is a placement option for their foster youth, at least in some situations (Table 14).

Table 14. Supervised independent living is a placement option for youth in foster care (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	36	80.0
No	4	8.9
It depends on the situation	3	6.7
Do not know	1	2.2
Missing	1	2.2

Supervised living is not a placement option for foster youth in Washington State.

Nearly three-quarters of the states in which supervised independent living is a placement option reported that eligibility begins at 16 or 17 years old (Table 15). A few reported that the minimum age of eligibility depends on the county.

¹⁴ See Appendix C for definitions of placement options that were included in the survey instrument.

Table 15. Minimum age of eligibility for supervised independent living (N = 39)

	Frequency	Percentage
14 years old	1	2.6
15 years old	0	0.0
16 years old	17	43.6
17 years old	12	30.8
18 years old	4	10.3
19 years old	0	0.0
20 years old	1	2.6
21 years old	0	0.0
It depends on the county	4	10.3

Supervised living is not a placement option for foster youth in Washington State.

Additional information about the specific types of supervised independent living placements that are available to foster youth in these states and the age at which young people become eligible for each type of placement is summarized in Table 16. Scattered-site or semi-supervised apartments, specialized foster homes, college dorms or residence halls, and clustered or supervised apartments are placement options for young people both before and after their 18th birthday in a majority of the states that provide opportunities for supervised independent living.¹⁵ Subsidized housing is also a placement option in a majority of the states that provide opportunities for supervised independent living but only for foster youth who are at least 18 years old.

Table 16. Ages at which different types of supervised independent living are a placement option (N = 39)

	Before 18 th Birthday		After 18 th birthday		It depends		Not an option	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Scattered-site/semi-supervised apartments	25	64.1	33	84.6	1	2.6	2	5.1
Clustered/supervised apartments	23	59.0	29	74.4	3	7.7	5	12.8
Shared homes	12	30.8	15	38.5	3	7.7	19	48.7
Adult-roommate apartments	8	20.5	14	35.9	2	5.1	22	56.4
Specialized foster homes	25	64.1	21	53.8	4	10.3	9	23.1
Host homes	12	30.8	19	48.7	4	10.3	15	38.5
Boarding homes	12	30.8	18	46.2	2	5.1	17	43.6
Subsidized housing	14	35.9	26	66.7	3	7.7	7	17.9
College dormitory/residence hall	24	61.5	30	76.9	2	5.1	4	10.3
Other	7	17.9	7	17.9	18	46.2	12	30.8

Supervised living is not a placement option for foster youth in Washington State.

Because these placement options allow for some degree of independence, they generally have eligibility requirements.¹⁶ By far, the most common is that the young person be in compliance with his or her case plan (Table 17). Two other requirements—school

¹⁵ When we determined which placement options are available in a majority of these states, we did not include states where a particular type of supervised independent living may or may not be a placement option, depending on the situation.

¹⁶ Appendix G contains additional information that states provided about eligibility for supervised independent living.

enrollment and employment—were cited by a majority of the states that provide opportunities for supervised independent living.

Table 17. Eligibility requirements for supervised independent living (N = 39)

	Frequency	Percentage
Pay for some portion of rent or room and board	14	35.9
Be enrolled in school	23	59.0
Be employed	20	51.3
Comply with case plan	33	84.6
Other	8	20.5
It depends on the situation	7	17.9

Supervised living is not a placement option for foster youth in Washington State.

Since the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act became law in 1999, states have been able to extend Medicaid coverage to former foster youth until their 21st birthday under what has come to be known as the “Chafee option.” Nearly two-thirds of the states that completed the survey reported doing so (Table 18).^{17,18}

Table 18. State extended Medicaid coverage to former foster youth until their 21st birthday under the Chafee option (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	64.4
No	15	33.3
Missing	1	2.2

Washington State has extended Medicaid coverage to former foster youth until their 21st birthday under the Chafee option.

All but four of the states that have taken up the Chafee option limit extended Medicaid coverage to former foster youth who were in care on their 18th birthday (Table 19), as the Foster Care Independence Act allows them to do.¹⁹ States have also imposed other eligibility requirements.²⁰ For example, a majority require former foster youth to complete an application. In fact, only one state reported that eligibility is automatic.

¹⁷ This includes Louisiana, which was “in the process” of extending Medicaid coverage when the survey data were collected.

¹⁸ Patel and Roherty (2007) identified 17 states in which Medicaid coverage had been extended and five states in which the Chafee option was under consideration based on data they collected from state human services administrators in 2006. The discrepancy between their results and ours is particularly striking, given that four of the 17 states did not complete the survey and a fifth completed the survey but skipped the Medicaid coverage questions. Consequently, we sent follow-up e-mails to 11 states requesting clarification. The six states that responded all confirmed that, in fact, they did extend Medicaid coverage, presumably since 2006, when Patel and Roherty collected their data. A Web search yielded documentation for three of the five remaining states.

¹⁹ The Foster Care Independence Act gave states the option of extending Medicaid coverage to “independent foster care adolescents,” which it defined as youth under 21 years of age who were in foster care on their 18th birthday.

²⁰ Although the Foster Care Independence Act allows states to limit eligibility for extended Medicaid to former foster youth whose income and assets fall below some threshold, income and asset limits were inadvertently omitted from the list of potential eligibility criteria on the Web-based version of the survey instrument. Only one state specifically mentioned limits on income or assets in response to an open-ended question about other eligibility requirements, but the number of states that have a means test could be

Table 19. Eligibility criteria for extended Medicaid coverage under the Chafee option (N = 28)*

	Frequency	Percentage
Youth must have been in foster care on 18 th birthday	25	89.3
Youth must complete an application	15	53.6
Youth must be in college or a full-time student	0	0.0
No requirements/automatic eligibility	1	3.6
Other	9	32.1

*One state that has extended Medicaid coverage did not respond to the follow-up question about eligibility requirements.

Former foster youth must have been in care on their 18th birthday to be eligible for extended Medicaid coverage in Washington State.

Former foster youth may still qualify for Medicaid or other government-funded health insurance coverage even in states that have not exercised the Chafee option through state 1115 waivers, State Children’s Health Insurance Programs (SCHIPs), and programs paid for exclusively with state funds. In fact, at least one of these was a way for some former foster youth to qualify for Medicaid or other government-funded health care coverage in almost all of the 15 states in which the Chafee option had not been taken up.

Table 20. Ways former foster youth may qualify for Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage if state has not extended Medicaid coverage under the Chafee option (N=15)

	Frequency	Percentage
By meeting criteria for “medically needy”	7	46.7
Under the state’s S-CHIP program	6	40.0
Under a 100% state funded program	3	20.0
Other	3	20.0
None of the above	1	6.7

Washington State has extended Medicaid coverage to former foster youth until their 21st birthday under the Chafee option.

One step states can take to help foster youth accumulate assets that they can use for educational and vocational expenses after they leave care is to provide opportunities to them to participate in an individual development account (IDA) or a matched savings plan such as the Jim Casey Opportunity Passport.²¹ Fewer than half of the states that completed the survey reported that their foster youth can accumulate assets in this way.

Table 21. Foster youth can participate in a matched savings plan or IDA (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	20	44.4
No	16	35.6
Do not know	8	17.8
Missing	1	2.2

In Washington State, 50 foster youth from King County can participate in a matched savings plan..

higher. Appendix H contains additional information that states provided in response to that open-ended question.

²¹ For more information about the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, of which the Opportunity Passport is but one component, see <http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/opportunitypassport.htm>.

Although there is nothing in the Foster Care Independence Act that would preclude states from using some of their Chafee funds to help finance a matched savings plan (Nguyen, 2007), fewer than one-third of the states in which foster youth can accumulate assets in this way actually do so.

Table 22. State uses Chafee funds to pay for a matched savings plan (N = 20)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30.0
No	12	60.0
Do not know	2	10.0

Washington State uses Chafee funds to help pay for a limited matched savings plan in King County.

Another provision of the Foster Care Independence Act allows states to use up to 30 percent of their Chafee funds to cover the costs of room and board for young people who are 18 but not yet 21 and eligible for Chafee-funded services.²² Most of the states that completed the survey are using at least some of their Chafee funds for this purpose (Table 23).

Table 23. State uses Chafee funds to pay for room and board of 18- to 21-year-olds (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	39	86.7
No	4	8.9
Do not know	1	2.2
Missing	1	2.2

Washington State uses Chafee funds to pay for the room and board of 18-21 year olds.

States have considerable discretion with respect to what they count as “room and board” because the Foster Care Independence Act does not provide a definition. Most of the states that cover room and board expenses with their Chafee funds use it to pay for rent, security deposits, and utilities (Table 24). Many are also paying for food and furniture.

Table 24. Expenses related to room and board for which Chafee funds are used (N = 39)

	Frequency	Percentage
Rent	36	92.3
Security deposit	35	89.7
Utilities	34	87.2
Food	30	76.9
Furniture	27	69.2
Other housing-related expenses	12	30.8

Washington State uses Chafee funds to pay for rent, security deposits, utilities, and furniture.

The Foster Care Independence Act does not preclude states from using their Chafee funds to pay for the room and board of 18- to 21-year-olds who are still in care (Administration for Children and Families, 2008). Nevertheless, nearly two-thirds of the states that use their Chafee funds for room and board do so exclusively for former foster youth (Table 25).

²² This marks a significant change in policy. The legislation that created the Title IV-E Independent Living Initiative specifically prohibited states from using their independent living funds to pay for room and board.

Table 25. State uses Chafee funds to pay for the room and board of current foster youth (N = 39)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	11	28.2
No	25	64.1
Do not know	3	7.7

Washington State does not use Chafee funds to pay for the room and board of current foster youth.

Besides using a portion of their Chafee funds to pay for room and board, states can address the housing needs of former foster youth in a number of other ways. For example, states can make former foster youth eligible for time-limited (18-month) housing vouchers under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Family Unification Program or give them priority access to Housing Choice or Section 8 vouchers. Only a small percentage of the states that completed the survey reported doing either (Table 26). However, 41 percent reported providing housing assistance through some other program.

Table 26. Types of housing assistance available to former foster youth

	N	Frequency	Percentage
Family Unification Program	44	12	27.3
Priority access to Section 8 vouchers	44	9	20.5
Other housing programs	43	18	41.9

Washington State has other housing programs for former foster youth.

A number of states provided additional information about these other housing programs in response to an open-ended question.²³ Several mentioned specific transitional living programs that include a housing component. Others cited programs that provide young people with housing vouchers or subsidies.

Some young people choose emancipation even when they are given the opportunity to remain in care. However, they may want to reenter foster care if the transition to adulthood proves to be more difficult than they had expected. Nearly half of the states that completed the survey reported that they do permit reentry in some situations (Table 27).²⁴

Table 27. Are there any circumstances under which former foster youth can reenter care (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	15	33.3
No	17	37.8
It depends on the situation	7	15.6
Do not know	5	11.1
Missing	1	2.2

Washington State’s Foster Care to 21 program allowed up to 50 foster youth who were on track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED in each calendar year 2006-2008 to remain in care to pursue post-secondary education or vocational training until age 21. In addition, youth who applied to participate in the program within six months of transitioning out of a licensed foster home could re-enter care if they were accepted

²³ See Appendix I for responses to the open-ended question about other housing programs.

²⁴ More than two-thirds of the states that allow reentry were not able to report the number of youth who came back into foster care during either of the two most recent fiscal years.

States in which reentry is an option were asked to describe the circumstances under which youth might reenter care.²⁵ In some states, youth can return by signing a voluntary care agreement. In others, a determination of “best interest” must be made by the court. Some states limit the amount of time that can elapse between discharge and reentry. Others allow young people to reenter care for specific reasons, such as pursuing their education or avoiding homelessness.

States are required to provide a 20 percent match, in cash or in-kind, to receive their full share of Chafee funds. However, these matching funds represent the minimum that states must spend on services and supports to prepare youth for the transition to adulthood. More than two-thirds of the states that completed the survey reported spending additional funds above and beyond the mandatory match (Table 28).²⁶

Table 28. State spends additional funds above and beyond the 20 percent match (N = 45)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	31	68.9
No	11	24.4
Do not know	2	4.4
Missing	1	2.2

Washington State spends additional funds above and beyond the 20 percent match.

Seventy-one percent of the states that reported spending more than the required 20 percent match are using at least some of those state funds to provide services and supports for which Chafee funds cannot be used.

Table 29. State funds used to provide services for which Chafee dollars cannot be used (N = 31)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	22	71.0
No	7	22.6
Do not know	2	6.5

Washington State does use its own funds to provide services for which Chafee dollars cannot be used.

Table 30 lists the services and supports on which these states are spending their own dollars.²⁷ State funding is most likely to be spent on foster care maintenance payments. Other common uses include transitional housing, housing subsidies, monthly stipends for youth still in foster care, additional housing-related expenses, emergency cash assistance, driver's education or driver's license fees, and college scholarships. It is worth noting that Chafee funds *can* be used for most of these services and supports.

²⁵ See Appendix J for responses to the open-ended question about reentry.

²⁶ Nearly two-thirds of the states that reported spending their own funds could not specify the amount they had expended during either of the two most recent fiscal years.

²⁷ Appendix K contains additional information that states provided about their use of state funds.

Table 30. Services and supports for which states use their own funds (N = 31)

	Frequency	Percentage
Foster care maintenance payments for youth ages 18 and older	22	71.0
Transitional housing	17	54.8
Housing subsidies	17	54.8
Monthly stipends for current foster youth preparing to age out	16	51.6
Emergency cash assistance	15	48.4
Other housing costs (e.g., first month's rent, security deposits, utilities, or household start-up purchases)	15	48.4
Driver's education or driver's license fees	14	45.2
Tuition waivers	14	45.2
College scholarships	13	41.9
Monthly stipends for former foster youth who have aged out	13	41.9
Individual development accounts	4	12.9
Other	11	35.5
Do not know	1	3.2

Washington State uses its own funds to pay for foster care maintenance payments for youth ages 18 and older, transitional housing, housing subsidies, tuition waivers, college scholarships, individual development accounts.

Limitations

This study has several limitations that should be kept in mind when considering the results. First, although we achieved a respectable 88 percent response rate, including Washington, D.C., six states (Maryland, Montana, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and West Virginia) did not complete the online survey, primarily due to time constraints.²⁸ We were fortunate, however, in that the eight states with the largest foster care populations did respond (California, New York, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio). These states alone account for more than 50 percent of U.S. children and youth in foster care (Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, n.d.). We also have some information about policies and programs in the states that did not complete the survey from the Web-based sources we reviewed.

Second, missing data turned out to be a much larger problem than we had anticipated. Questions that required a numerical response (e.g., number of youth, amount of money) were particularly likely to elicit a response of “Do not know.” Although we cannot rule out the possibility that the child welfare agency did not have the information we requested, an alternative explanation is that tracking down the information would have required more time than respondents were either willing or able to invest. Nevertheless, these missing data are disconcerting and do not bode well for compliance with the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requirements.²⁹

Third, although some of the survey questions included “It depends on the county” as a response option, and states could (and did) refer to between-county differences in

²⁸ We tried our best to accommodate states by extending the deadline by two weeks.

²⁹ Beginning in October 2010, states will be required to report the number and characteristics of youth receiving independent living services, the types of services provided to those youth, and specific youth outcomes at ages 17, 19, and 21. For additional information about NYTD, see <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/nytd2.html>.

response to some of the open-ended questions, we had limited ability to capture variation within states. This is most likely to be an issue when the child welfare system is state supervised but administered at a county or regional level. However, significant variation can occur even when the system is state administered. The “official” policy may be implemented differently in different parts of the state or the distribution of services may be uneven. Thus, talking about “state” policies and programs may imply more uniformity than really exists.

Finally, during the same month in which our survey data were collected (i.e., September 2008), Congress passed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351).³⁰ This legislation will, among other things, allow states to claim Title IV-E reimbursement for maintenance payments made on behalf of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds who are still in foster care if the young people are (1) working toward their high school diploma or GED; (2) pursuing post-secondary education or vocational training; (3) participating in activities designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment; (4) employed for a minimum of 80 hours per month; or (5) incapable of doing any of the above due to a documented medical condition. It also expands the definition of foster care for this age group to include “supervised settings” in which young people are “living independently.”³¹ Although it will take time for states to respond to this legislation, and this provision does not take effect until October 2010, there may be significant changes in state policies over the next few years regarding the extension of foster care beyond age 18.

Discussion

Perhaps the most obvious conclusion to be drawn from our analysis of the data we collected is that the way young people experience the transition from foster care to adulthood could vary widely across states not only due to differences in eligibility for extended foster care but also due to differences in the provision of independent living or transitional services and supports.

A majority of the states that responded to the survey described their child welfare system as state supervised and state administered; only one-third described it as county administered but state supervised. One might hypothesize that variation would be greater within states whose child welfare system is county administered, which may be more or less desirable depending on one’s perspective. However, this hypothesis has yet to be tested.

We were surprised that so many of these states allow young people to remain in care not only beyond their 18th birthday but often beyond their 19th birthday too, at least under some conditions. National data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) suggest that the norm is for youth to leave care when they

³⁰ A summary of this legislation can be found at <http://www.clasp.org/publications/FCSAIAActLongSummary091608.pdf>.

³¹ The secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is supposed to establish regulations regarding the definition of a “supervised setting in which the individual is living independently.”

turn 18 or shortly thereafter.³² In fact, on September 30, 2006, there were more 17-year-olds in foster care (N = 39,624) than there were 18-year-olds (N = 13,303), 19-year-olds (N = 5,488), and 20-year-olds (N = 3,316) combined (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2008).

At this point, we can only speculate as to the reason(s) for this disconnect between what state laws permit and what happens in practice. One possibility is that child welfare agencies do not encourage foster youth to remain in care, perhaps by not informing them that this is an option. Alternatively, young people may be well informed but choosing not to stay.

What is clear from our data is that the circumstances under which young people who are 18 and older can remain in foster care are quite different in different states. For years, states have been able to claim Title IV-E reimbursement for maintenance payments made on behalf of full-time students until their 19th birthday. This probably explains why so many states allow 18-year-olds to remain in care if they are on track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED. Some of the other circumstances under which it is often possible for young people age 18 and older to remain in care only apply to particular target groups, such as foster youth who have a disability or those who are in college. Interestingly, almost half of the states that completed the survey allow young people to remain in care if a court determines that doing so would be in their best interest. If this criterion were consistently applied, the number of young people in extended foster care could significantly increase.

A few states claimed that nothing is required of young people to remain in care, but they were the exception. The majority require foster youth to be living in an approved placement and/or complying with their case plan. Other common requirements include signing a voluntary placement agreement and being enrolled in school. By contrast, relatively few states require foster youth to be employed.

The Foster Care Independence Act gave states considerable discretion with respect to determining eligibility for services. This discretion is reflected in the different ages at which eligibility for Chafee-funded independent living services begins in different states, although age 14 is the minimum in a majority. Significantly, despite repeated calls for independent living preparation to start earlier than has traditionally been the case, more than one-quarter of these states do not provide Chafee-funded services to their foster youth until they are at least 15 years old. State discretion also explains why young people who are in subsidized legal guardianships are ineligible for Chafee-funded services in at least some states.

We observed the greatest variation across states when we looked at eligibility for aftercare services. For example, there is nothing in the Foster Care Independence Act to prohibit states from using their Chafee funds to provide aftercare services to young

³² Of course, this could change with the advent of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351).

people who were not in care on their 18th birthday.³³ Nevertheless, in a majority of the states that completed the survey, young people who leave care before their 18th birthday either forfeit their eligibility or are only eligible under some conditions. Similarly, although the Foster Care Independence Act does not restrict the provision of aftercare services to emancipated youth, there are a number of states in which young people who achieve permanency through reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship prior to emancipation are either not eligible for aftercare services or only eligible in certain situations.

One might expect some of these state policies to change in the near future. Another provision of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act extends eligibility for independent living services as well as Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) to young people who exit foster care for relative guardianship or adoption after their 16th birthday.

Supervised independent living placements are an option for foster youth in most of the states that completed the survey, typically beginning when they are 16 or 17 years old. Options vary across states, but are most likely to include scattered-site or semi-supervised apartments, specialized foster homes, college dorms or residence halls, and clustered or supervised apartments. Subsidized housing is another common option but primarily for those 18 and older.

States have different eligibility requirements for supervised independent living. By far, the most common is case plan compliance, followed by being enrolled in school and/or being employed. Some states require foster youth to pay a portion of their rent or room and board.

We were particularly surprised by the number of states in which former foster youth are eligible for Medicaid coverage until their 21st birthday. Nearly two-thirds of the states that completed the survey reported that they had taken up the Chafee option. This is considerably higher than a recent Congressional Research Service report would suggest (Fernandez, 2008).

Significantly, Medicaid coverage is not automatic even in states where the Chafee option has been exercised. All but four of the states that have extended Medicaid coverage limit eligibility to former foster youth who were still in care on their 18th birthday, and more than half require former foster youth to complete an application. Unfortunately, we don't know how many states have income and/or asset tests.

At the same time, just because a state has not taken up the Chafee option does not mean that former foster youth will not be eligible for government-funded health care coverage. On the contrary, nearly all of the states that have not exercised the Chafee option cover some young people through state 1115 waivers, SCHIPs, and programs paid for only with state funds.

³³ The Foster Care Independence Act does stipulate that young people must be in care on their 18th birthday to qualify for extended Medicaid coverage.

Although matched savings plans such as the Jim Casey Opportunity Passport are a great way for states to help foster youth accumulate assets that they can use to pursue their educational and vocational goals after they leave care, these plans are not an option in a majority of the states. Moreover, fewer than a third of the states where the option does exist use Chafee funds to help support the program, despite the fact that nothing in the Foster Care Independence Act would prohibit them from doing so (Nguyen, 2007).

Our survey results indicate that states are addressing the housing needs of former foster youth in a number of different ways. Most are using some portion of their Chafee funds to pay for room and board expenses, including rent, security deposits, and utilities. Relatively few states have made former foster youth eligible for time-limited (18-month) Family Unification Program vouchers or given them priority access to Housing Choice Vouchers (or what had been known as Section 8). Although many do provide assistance through other housing programs, these programs are often limited in terms of their geographic reach.

Nearly half of the states that completed the survey allow emancipated foster youth to reenter care, at least in some situations. For example, several states permit reentry within some time-limited period after exiting if they are not yet 21. Of course, the fact that state law permits former foster youth to come back into care says nothing about what actually happens in practice. If young people do not know that reentry is an option, then few, if any, will request permission to come back into care.³⁴

Over seventy percent of the states that completed the survey are spending their own funds above and beyond the 20 percent mandatory match. Some of these state dollars are being spent on services and supports for which Chafee funds cannot be used, most notably maintenance payments, monthly cash stipends, and emergency cash assistance. However, states are also spending their own dollars on Chafee-eligible services and supports, including transitional housing, housing subsidies, other housing-related expenses, driver's education or driver's license fees, and college scholarships—which suggests that the current authorization of \$140 million may be insufficient or that some states have not been allocated a sufficient share.³⁵

Conclusion

Our review was undertaken to document the range of state policies and programs designed to help young people making the transition out of foster care. We made no judgments about the wisdom of specific policies or programs, in part because we had no data on youth outcomes. Thus, we cannot make any recommendations as far as legislative changes are concerned. However, we do believe that states only stand to benefit from

³⁴ Unfortunately, we could not examine the number of young people taking advantage of this option due to missing data from more than two-thirds of the states that allow reentry.

³⁵ Again, missing data made it nearly impossible to say anything about the amount of state funds being spent.

knowing what other states are doing and, where appropriate, adopting or adapting another state's approach.

The inability of states to report the number of youth of different ages who are currently in care or the number who aged out in each of the past two years is especially disconcerting given the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requirements with which states will soon be forced to comply. It also has implications for the ability of states to engage in service planning or program development for transitioning foster youth.

Finally, it is too soon to know what impact the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 will have on state policies or programs designed to help young people during this transition. However, there could be significant changes in both policy and practice regarding extended foster care, which would, in turn, have implications for the provision of independent living or transitional services and supports. Consequently, another comprehensive review of state policies or programs may soon be warranted.

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Appendix A: Survey Instrument

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) has contracted with the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children to conduct a comprehensive, nationwide review of policies and programs designed to support youth transitioning out of foster care. As part of that review, Chapin Hall is administering a web-based survey. The purpose of the survey is to collect up-to-date information about those policies and programs from state independent living services coordinators in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The survey includes questions about:

- (1) Conditions under which youth can remain in foster care after their 18th birthday;
- (2) Provision of independent living and transition services;
- (3) Opportunities for youth to re-enter care; and
- (4) Use of state dollars to supplement federal Chafee funds.

The survey takes approximately 25 minutes to complete. You can exit the survey and resume work at a later time, but your browser must have cookies enabled in order to do so. Responses to the survey questions will be aggregated and a report will be prepared for WSIPP and the Washington State Legislature which commissioned the review. Individual respondents will not be named in the report, but the states they represent may be identified.

Note that the third page of the survey instrument asks for a variety of personal contact information (i.e., name, agency, position, mailing address, email address and phone number). We are collecting this information in the event that responses to any of the survey questions require clarification. The personal contact information will not be used for any other purpose and will not be included in the report.

If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please contact either Amy Dworsky, the Principal Investigator, or Judy Havlicek, her Research Assistant. Their contact information is listed below. We greatly appreciate your participation.

Amy Dworsky, Ph.D.
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Judy Havlicek, M.S.W.
Research Assistant
773-256-5116
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Please read the following:

I understand that this is a web-based survey of state child welfare service administrators and that the purpose of the survey is to collect up-to-date information about the policies and programs designed to support foster youth transitioning out of the child welfare system in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. I also understand that my responses to the survey questions will be included in a report prepared for the Washington Institute for Public Policy and the Washington State Legislature.

1. Do you consent to participate in this web-based survey?

- Yes
- No

Please provide us with the following contact information. We are collecting this information in the event that we need to ask you to clarify responses to any of the survey questions.

2. Please provide the following contact information.

Name of person completing survey	
Title or position of person completing survey	
Agency name	
Agency street address	
Agency City/Town	
State	
ZIP code	
Work email address	
Work telephone number	

The first few questions are about circumstances under which youth in your state can remain in foster care after their 18th birthday. By "in foster care," we mean under the care and supervision of the child welfare system as defined by your state. This may include out-of-home care placements that do not qualify for federal reimbursement under Title IV-E. Thinking about the laws in your state...

3. Are there any circumstances under which youth in your state can remain in foster care after their 18th birthday?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

4. Under what circumstances can youth remain in foster care after their 18th birthday?

Select all that apply.

- Foster youth is on track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED.
- Foster youth is enrolled in college or a vocational program.
- Foster youth has physical or mental disabilities or other special needs.
- Foster youth is receiving mental health or substance abuse treatment.
- Foster youth is pregnant.
- Foster youth is parenting.
- Court has determined that it is in the best interest of the youth to remain in foster care.
- Foster youth petitions the court to remain in foster care.
- Other (Please explain in text box below)
- Do not know

5. Which of the following requirements must youth comply with in order to remain in foster care after their 18th birthday?

Select all that apply.

- Foster youth must sign a voluntary placement agreement.
- Foster youth must be living in an approved or licensed placement.
- Foster youth must be employed.
- Foster youth must be enrolled in school.
- Foster youth must be employed OR enrolled in school.
- Foster youth must pay for a portion of his or her room/board.
- Foster youth must participate in services and be in compliance with his/her case plan.
- There are no requirements.
- Other (Please explain in text box below)
- Do not know

6. Are there any circumstances under which youth in your state can remain in foster care after their 19th birthday? *Remember that we are using the term "in foster care" to mean under the care and supervision of the child welfare system as defined by your state. This may include out-of-home care placements that do not qualify for federal reimbursement under Title IV-E.*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

7. Under what circumstances can youth remain in foster care after their 19th birthday? *Select all that apply.*

- Foster youth is on track to graduate from high school or obtain a GED.
- Foster youth is enrolled in college.
- Foster youth has physical or mental disabilities or other special needs.
- Foster youth is receiving mental health or substance abuse treatment.
- Foster youth is pregnant.
- Foster youth is parenting.
- Court has determined that it is in the best interest of the youth.
- Foster youth petitions the court to remain in care.
- Other (Please explain in text box below)
- Do not know

8. Which of the following requirements must youth comply with in order to remain in foster care after their 19th birthday?

Select all that apply.

- Foster youth must sign a voluntary placement agreement.
- Foster youth must be living in an approved or licensed placement.
- Foster youth must be employed.
- Foster youth must be enrolled in school.
- Foster youth must be employed OR enrolled in school.
- Foster youth must pay for a portion of his or her room/board.
- Foster youth must participate in services and be in compliance with his/her case plan.
- There are no requirements.
- Other (Please explain in text box below)
- Do not know

9. At what age do youth in your state become ineligible to remain in foster care?

- 20th birthday
- 21st birthday
- 22nd birthday
- 23rd birthday
- 24th birthday
- 25th birthday
- It depends on the county in which they live.
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in text box below)
- Do not know

The next couple of questions are about your state's child welfare system.

10. How would you describe your state's child welfare system? Is it state supervised and administered, state supervised and county administered, or something else?

- State supervised and administered
- State supervised and county administered
- Something else (Please explain in text box below)

11. How many children and youth in your state are currently in foster care? *By "in foster care," we mean under the care and supervision of the child welfare system as defined by your state. This may include out-of-home care placements that do not qualify for federal reimbursement under Title IV- E.*

Please enter the number of children and youth or "DK" if you do not know in the text box.

12. How many of the youth currently in foster care are....?

Please enter the number of youth or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

17 years old?	
18 years old?	
19 years old?	
20 years old?	
21 years old?	
At least 22 years old?	

The next few questions are about youth of different ages who exit foster care in your state not because they have achieved permanency (i.e., reunification, adoption, legal guardianship), but rather because they have reached (or are about to reach) the age of majority or because they have become too old to remain in foster care under state law.

13. What is the age of majority for young people in your state? That is, at what age are they considered to be adults and legally responsible for their actions?

- 18 years old
- 19 years old
- 20 years old
- 21 years old
- Do not know

14. During each of the two most recent state fiscal years, FY2006 and FY2007, approximately how many youth in your state exited foster care not because they had achieved permanency but because they had reached (or were about to reach) the age of majority or because they had become too old to remain in foster care under state law? Remember, we are using the term "foster care" as defined by your state. This may include out-of-home care placements that do not qualify for federal reimbursement under Title IV-E.

Please enter the number of youth or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

Fiscal Year 2006	
Fiscal Year 2007	

15. Thinking about the young people in your state who exited foster care during FY 2006 because they had reached (or were about to reach) the age of majority or because they had become too old to remain in foster care under state law, how many were....?

Please enter the number of youth or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

Fiscal Year 2006	
Fiscal Year 2007	

16. Thinking about the young people in your state who exited foster care during FY 2007 because they had reached (or were about to reach) the age of majority or because they had become too old to remain in foster care under state law, how many were....?

Please enter the number of youth or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

17 years old?	
18 years old?	
19 years old?	
20 years old?	
21 years old?	
At least 22 years old?	

17. In your state, does the court retain legal jurisdiction over youth who remain in foster care after their 18th birthday?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable--Youth cannot remain in foster care after their 18th birthday under any circumstances.
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in the text box below)
- Do not know

18. In your state, does the court retain legal jurisdiction over youth who remain in foster care after their 19th birthday?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable--Youth cannot remain in foster care after their 19th birthday under any circumstances
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in the text box below)
- Do not know

The next few questions are about the Chafee-funded independent living or transition services for which foster youth and/or former foster youth in your state are eligible.

19. What is the MINIMUM age at which foster youth in your state become eligible for Chafee-funded independent living or transition services?

- Before age 12
- 12 years old
- 13 years old
- 14 years old
- 15 years old
- 16 years old
- 17 years old
- 18 years old
- It depends on the county in which they live.
- There is no minimum.
- Do not know

20. In your state, are foster youth eligible to receive Chafee-funded independent living or transition services regardless of their permanency plan?

- Yes
- No
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in the text box below)
- Do not know

21. In your state, are foster youth who are placed with a permanent legal guardian eligible for Chafee-funded independent living or transition services?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable---Permanent legal guardianship is not a placement option in your state.
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in the text box below).
- Do not know

22. Under the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (FCIA), states must use at least some of their Chafee funds to provide after-care services and supports to young people who have aged out of foster care and are not yet 21 years old. Approximately how much of its Chafee funds did your state use to provide those after-care services and supports during each of the two most recent state fiscal years, FY 2006 and FY 2007?

Please enter a number or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

Fiscal Year 2006	
Fiscal Year 2007	

23. In your state, approximately how many 18 to 21 year olds received Chafee-funded after-care services and supports during each of the two most recent state fiscal years, FY2006 and FY2007?

Please enter the number of young people or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

Fiscal Year 2006	
Fiscal Year 2007	

24. In your state, are 18 to 21 year olds eligible for Chafee-funded independent living or transition services if they were NOT in foster care on their 18th birthday?

- Yes
- No
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in the text box below).
- Do not know

25. In your state, are 18 to 21 year olds who were eligible for Chafee-funded independent living or transition services while they were in foster care eligible for after-care services and supports if their discharge outcome was....?

	Yes	No	It depends on the situation (Please explain in text box below)	Do not know
Reunification with family				
Adopted				
Legal guardianship				

The next set of questions is about supervised independent living. Supervised independent living may include any or all of the following: scattered-site or semi-supervised apartments, clustered or supervised apartments, shared homes, adult roommate apartments, specialized foster homes, host homes, boarding homes or subsidized housing.

26. In your state, is supervised independent living a placement option for youth in foster care? *Remember that we are using the term "in foster care" to mean under the care and supervision of the child welfare system as defined by your state. This may include out-of-home care placements that do not qualify for federal reimbursement under Title IV-E.*

- Yes
- No
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in the text box below)
- Do not know

27. What is the MINIMUM age at which foster youth in your state become eligible for supervised independent living?

- Age 14
- Age 15
- Age 16
- Age 17
- Age 18
- Age 19
- Age 20
- Age 21
- It depends on which county they live in.
- Do not know

28. Which, if any, of the following are eligibility requirements for supervised independent living in your state?

- Youth must pay for some portion of their rent/room and board.
- Youth must be enrolled in school.
- Youth must be working.
- Youth must participate in services and otherwise be compliant with case plan.
- Other (Please explain in text box below)
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in text box below)
- There are no eligibility requirements for supervised independent living.
- Do not know

29. Please indicate whether each of the following supervised independent living placements is an option for foster youth in your state before their 18th birthday, an option for foster youth in your state after their 18th birthday, or not an option.

You can select both "before 18th birthday" and "after 18th birthday" if both apply.

	Before 18th birthday	After 18 th Birthday	Not an option	Do not know
<u>Scattered-Site or Semi-Supervised Apartments:</u> Foster youth live alone or with a roommate in an apartment usually rented from a private landlord.				
<u>Clustered or Supervised Apartments:</u> Foster youth live alone or with a roommate in an apartment located in an building with live-in or overnight staff supervision that is often agency-owned.				
<u>Shared Homes:</u> Several foster youth live together in and take responsibility for a house that is agency-owned or rented with minimal supervision or live-in adults.				
<u>Adult Roommate Apartments:</u> Foster youth share an apartment with an adult roommate who serves as a mentor.				
<u>Specialized Foster Homes:</u> Foster youth live with foster parents who are specially trained to teach independent living skills.				
<u>Host Homes:</u> Foster youth rent a room and share facilities in a home that is not licensed for foster care.				
<u>Boarding Homes:</u> Foster youth live in a room and share kitchen facilities with minimal supervision.				
<u>Subsidized Housing:</u> Foster youth choose their own living arrangement and receive a stipend to pay for living expenses.				
<u>College dormitory/residence hall</u>				

The next few questions are about Medicaid coverage for young people who are aging out of foster care.

30. The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 gave states the option (sometimes referred to as the Chafee option) of extending Medicaid coverage to former foster youth until their 21st birthday. Has your state extended Medicaid coverage to former foster youth until their 21st birthday?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

31. Which, if any, of the following are eligibility criteria that former foster youth must meet in order to qualify for this extended Medicaid coverage?

Select all that apply.

- Youth must complete an application.
- Youth must have been in foster care on his or her 18th birthday.
- Youth must be in college and/or a full-time student.
- There are no requirements; youth are automatically eligible.
- Other (Please explain in text box below)
- Do not know

32. In a number of states that have NOT exercised the Chafee option, at least some former foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 are eligible for Medicaid or other public health insurance through other programs. Please indicate which, if any, of the following are ways that your state extends Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage to at least some 18 to 21 year old former foster youth.

Select all that apply.

- Youth may qualify for coverage under a state 1115 waiver.
- Youth may qualify for coverage as “medically needy”.
- Youth may qualify for coverage under the state's S-CHIP program.
- Youth may qualify for coverage under a program that is 100% state funded.
- Other (Please explain in text box below)
- None of the above
- Do not know

The next couple of questions are about individual development accounts or other matched-savings plans for foster youth.

33. Can foster youth in your state participate in an Independent Development Account (IDA) or other matched-savings plan such as the Jim Casey Opportunity Passport?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

34. Does your state use any of its Chafee funds to support these Individual Development Accounts or other matched savings plans for foster youth?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

The next few questions are about housing assistance for young people in your state who are "aging out" of foster care.

35. Under the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (FCIA), states can use up to 30% of their Chafee funds to pay for the "room and board" of young people between the ages of 18 and 21. Does your state use any of its Chafee funds to pay for the "room and board" of young people between the ages of 18 and 21?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

36. For which of the following expenses related to "room and board" does your state allow its Chafee funds be used?

- Rent
- Security deposits
- Utilities
- Food
- Furniture
- Other housing-related expenses (Please explain in text box below)
- Not applicable--Your state does not use any of its federal Chafee funds to pay for "room and board."

37. Does your state use any of its federal Chafee funds to pay for the "room and board" of youth while they are still in foster care?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

38. Federal legislation has made youth aging out of foster care eligible for time-limited (18-month) housing vouchers as well as other services under HUD's Family Unification Program (FUP). Does your state have a Family Unification Program for former foster youth?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

39. Does your state give former foster youth priority access to Section 8 housing vouchers?

- Yes
- No
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in text box below)
- Do not know

40. Are there any other housing programs for foster youth or former foster youth in your state of which we should be aware?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

41. Please describe that/those housing program(s).

The next couple of questions are about opportunities for young people in your state to re-enter care after being emancipated or discharged to independent living.

42. In your state, are there any circumstances under which young people who have been emancipated or discharged to independent living can re-enter foster care?

- Yes
- No
- It depends on the situation (Please explain in the text box below)
- Do not know

43. Under what circumstances can young people in your state who have been emancipated or discharged to independent living re-enter foster care?

44. During the two most recent state fiscal years, FY 2006 and FY 2007, approximately how many young people who had been emancipated or discharged to independent living in your state re-entered foster care?

Please enter the number of young people or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

Fiscal Year 2006	
Fiscal Year 2007	

The next few questions are about your use of state funds to supplement federal Chafee dollars or to provide services and supports for which Chafee dollars cannot be used.

45. Under the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (FCIA), states are required to make a 20% matching contribution to draw down their Chafee funds. Does your state use any of its own funds to supplement your federal Chafee dollars or to provide services and supports for which your Chafee dollars cannot be used APART FROM THE 20% MATCHING CONTRIBUTION THAT YOUR STATE IS REQUIRED TO MAKE?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

46. Are any of those state funds used to provide independent living or transition services and supports for which your Chafee dollars cannot be used?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

47. Which of the following independent living or transition services and supports does your state use its own funds to provide?

Select all that apply.

- Tuition waivers for public colleges or universities
- College scholarships
- Foster care maintenance payments for youth who are at least 18 years old
- Transitional housing
- Housing subsidies
- Emergency cash assistance
- Other housing costs (e.g., first month's rent, security deposits, utilities, or household start-up purchases)
- Monthly stipends for foster youth who are still in care but preparing to age out
- Monthly stipends for former foster youth who have aged out
- Individual development accounts
- Driver's education or driver's license fees
- Other (Please explain in the text box below)
- Do not know

48. How much of its own funds (apart from the 20% matching contribution) did your state spend on independent living or transition services and supports in each of the two most recent state fiscal years, FY 2006 and FY 2007? Remember NOT to include the 20% matching contribution that your state is required to make.

Please enter a number or "DK" if you do not know in each text box.

Fiscal Year 2006	
Fiscal Year 2007	

This is an opportunity for you to provide us with any additional information about policies and programs designed to support your state's foster youth during their transition to adulthood.

49. Please tell us about any other policies or programs designed to support your state's foster youth during their transition to adulthood that have not yet been mentioned.

Thank you for participating in this survey. We appreciate the time you took to share the information about policies and programs designed to support your state's foster youth during their transition to adulthood.

Appendix B: Number of current foster youth 17 and older by age in years

Number of foster youth	Age 17		Age 18		Age 19		Age 20		Age 21		Age 22+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	0	0.0	2	4.4	6	13.3	7	15.6	19	42.2	29	64.4
1 to 149	4	8.9	10	22.2	13	28.9	16	35.6	11	24.4	4	8.9
150 to 299	5	11.1	5	11.1	4	8.9	3	6.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
300 to 599	7	15.6	4	8.9	4	8.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
600 to 899	3	6.7	3	6.7	1	2.2	2	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
900 to 1,199	3	6.7	2	4.4	1	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1,200 to 1,499	4	8.9	1	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1,500+	4	8.9	2	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Do not know	15	33.3	16	35.6	16	35.6	17	37.8	15	33.3	12	26.7
Total	45	100	45	100	45	100	45	100	45	100	45	100

Appendix C: Definitions of supervised independent-living placements

Scattered-site or semi-supervised apartments: Foster youth live alone or with a roommate in an apartment usually rented from a private landlord

Clustered or supervised apartments: Foster youth live alone or with a roommate in an apartment located in a building that is often agency-owned and has live-in or overnight staff supervision

Shared homes: Several foster youth live together in and take responsibility for a house that is agency-owned or -rented, with minimal supervision or live-in adults

Adult-roommate apartments: Foster youth share an apartment with an adult roommate who serves as a mentor

Specialized foster homes: Foster youth live with foster parents who are specially trained to teach independent living skills

Host homes: Foster youth rent a room and share facilities in a home that is not licensed for foster care

Boarding homes: Foster youth live in a room and share kitchen facilities with minimal supervision

Subsidized housing: Foster youth choose their own living arrangement and receive a stipend to pay for living expenses

College dormitory or residence hall

Appendix D: Age until which foster youth can remain in care and circumstances under which they can remain

State	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 18th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 18th birthday	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 19th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 19th birthday	Age at which youth are ineligible to remain in care
AK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not often that youth choose to remain in care, but if they want to and have a stable placement, they usually can remain in care until age 19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is case specific, but youth can usually remain in care if the Regional Independent Living Specialists do not feel they are ready to be on their own. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More difficult to justify, but it is considered on a case-by-case basis. 		
AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth may remain in foster care until age 21 if it is deemed in their best interest by the court and/or their social worker. 				
AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults may remain in foster care after their 18th birthday if they sign an agreement which complements their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and demonstrate personal responsibility for preparing for the transition to adulthood. All young adults who are in an approved out-of-home care placement when they turn 18 are eligible to remain under the supervision of the department during the period of the agreement. 	<p>Young adults must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work cooperatively with their CPS Specialist; Participate in an educational, vocational training, or employment program; Prepare for financial self-sufficiency by working or participating in employment readiness activities; Participate in services recommended by a health care professional or identify other strategies to address their physical and mental health needs; Maintain a safe living arrangement; Participate in activities to help them develop permanent connections with supportive adults; Report any changes in their living arrangement, education, training, employment, or health status to their CPS Specialist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as circumstances under which youth can remain in care after 18th birthday 		

Appendix D: Age until which foster youth can remain in care and circumstances under which they can remain

State	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 18th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 18th birthday	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 19th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 19th birthday	Age at which youth are ineligible to remain in care
MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It depends on the unique circumstances of the youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most cases the youth must be either employed or enrolled in school. 	Same as circumstances under which youth can remain in care after their 18th birthday.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as requirements for youth to remain in care after their 18th birthday. 	
MO		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most but not all situations, youth must participate in services and otherwise be in compliance with their case plan. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most but not all situations, youth must participate in services and otherwise be in compliance with their case plan. 	
MS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any reason determined by the court. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any reason determined by the court. 	
NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A youth must be in school or a vocational training program full-time to sign a CARS agreement, which is a contract between the local DSS and the young adult that allows him/her to stay in a licensed placement with state assistance for the board rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adult must do his/her part to maintain the stability of the placement or work constructively with the provider and agency to work out difficulties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as circumstances under which youth can remain in care after their 18th birthday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as requirements for youth to remain in care after their 18th birthday. 	
ND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster youth can voluntarily "sign" themselves into foster care after age 18 for any number of reasons if they are a full-time student. Corrections system can extend a court order and keep youth in foster care past their 18th birthday for a number of reasons too. 				
NE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth age out of the system at age 19. 			
NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can remain in care until their 21st birthday as long as they are following their plan and continue to work toward their goals. 				
NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth consents to remaining in care. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth is enrolled in school or a vocational program and consents to remaining in care. 		
OH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered case by case, county by county. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth usually exit foster care at age 18, but there are circumstances under which full-time students can remain in foster care.

Appendix D: Age until which foster youth can remain in care and circumstances under which they can remain

State	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 18th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 18th birthday	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 19th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 19th birthday	Age at which youth are ineligible to remain in care
PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth was adjudicated dependent before 18th birthday, is engaged in a course of instruction or treatment, and requests that the court retain jurisdiction until the course has been completed. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth was adjudicated dependent before 18th birthday, is engaged in a course of instruction or treatment, and requests that the court retain jurisdiction until the course has been completed. 		
SC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged in education or employment, or unable to care for self. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged in education or employment, or unable to care for self. 	
TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only adjudicated delinquents can be held until their 19th birthday. 				
TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must complete a voc-tech program within two years that will result in a degree or certification and allow the youth find a job. 				
UT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court has determined that it is in the best interest of the youth to remain in foster care. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court has determined that it is in the best interest of the youth to remain in foster care. 	
VA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The age of majority is 18, but youth may continue to receive foster care/independent living services on a voluntary basis if they are enrolled in school or a vocational program. 			
VT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary extended care services including foster care maintenance payments can be provided until a youth's 22nd birthday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be eligible for extended care services, youth must participate in 40 hours of Productive Time each week, which can include secondary or post-secondary education, vocational education, employment, community involvement, job search, therapeutic activities, or other activities specified in the youth's Voluntary Services Agreement. 			

Appendix D: Age until which foster youth can remain in care and circumstances under which they can remain

State	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 18th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 18th birthday	Circumstances allowing youth to remain in care after 19th birthday	Requirements for remaining in care after 19th birthday	Age at which youth are ineligible to remain in care
WA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be enrolled in college or a vocational program to be eligible for the Foster Care to 21 program. 	
WY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth with developmental disabilities can remain in care until age 21. 			

Appendix E: Maintaining court jurisdiction when young people remain in foster care beyond the age of majority

State	Child welfare system	Court retains jurisdiction after 18th birthday	Court retains jurisdiction after 19th birthday
AR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court can retain or relinquish jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court can retain or relinquish jurisdiction.
FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are contracted out to “community based care lead agencies,” which are responsible for the provision of services based on the community's system of care. 		
HI		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurisdiction can be extended by the court, usually to ensure high school graduation or compliance with another stipulation. 	
KS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State supervised, but administered through contracts with child welfare agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court determines whether or not youth remain in custody. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court determines whether or not youth remain in custody.
KY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State supervised but regionally administered. 		
MN			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court can continue jurisdiction until the age of 19 if a determination is made that it is in the best interest of the youth to do so.
MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State supervised but administered by the judicial circuit. 		
ND		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State does not retain custody if youth sign themselves into foster care, but does retain custody if the corrections system extends a court order. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State does not retain custody if youth sign themselves into foster care, but does retain custody if the corrections system extends a court order.
NV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State supervised, but county (Clark and Washoe) and state (rural regions) administered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If remaining in foster care is in the best interest of the youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If remaining in foster care is in the best interest of the youth.
NY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must consent to remaining in care past age 18. 	
OH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The court can retain legal jurisdiction under special circumstances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court can retain legal jurisdiction under special circumstances.
SC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the youth's circumstances and/or continuing education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the youth's circumstances and/or continuing education.
WY			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If youth are in a placement and will complete an educational program, or have a mental or physical disability,

Appendix F: Eligibility for Chafee-funded services

State	Eligible for Chafee-funded services regardless of permanency plan	Eligible if placed with legal guardian	Eligible if not in care on 18th birthday	Eligible if discharge outcome was reunification, adoption, or guardianship
AL				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible if they exit foster care on or after their 18th birthday.
AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who have been identified as "likely" to age out of foster care. Youth who are 16 and older with a permanency goal of adoption. Residents who were in a state or tribal foster care program at age 16 or older are eligible for Chafee funded services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the guardianship is finalized after the youth's 16th birthday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who were in the custody of a state or tribal foster care system AND in an out-of-home care placement at age 16 or older are eligible to receive transitional living support services. 	
CA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must have been in a foster care placement sometime between the ages of 16 and 18 and before guardianship was established. Youth whose legal guardian is a relative are eligible regardless of the age that guardianship was established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must have been in foster care sometime between their 16th and 18th birthdays. 	
CO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who were in foster care at age 18 and are under age 21 are considered emancipated and therefore eligible. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who were in care on their 18th birthday but reunify with family are eligible. Youth are also eligible if they are adopted at age 16 or older.
CT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can receive certain services such as life skills, mentoring, and work/learn programming if they reside in a guardian's home. 		
DC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth for whom legal guardianship is established after their 15th birthday are eligible for Chafee-funded independent-living or transition services. 		

Appendix F: Eligibility for Chafee-funded services

State	Eligible for Chafee-funded services regardless of permanency plan	Eligible if placed with legal guardian	Eligible if not in care on 18th birthday	Eligible if discharge outcome was reunification, adoption, or guardianship
FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be in state custody. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who are placed with a legal guardian by the court after age 16 and were in foster care for at least six months immediately prior to this placement are eligible for the Road-to-Independence Program after age 18 if they meet the other requirements. 		
HI		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who were participating in services prior to the establishment of legal guardianship may continue to participate in services with the permission of their legal guardian if services are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who were participating in a state-funded higher education program prior to exit from care may receive supportive services from ILP providers through purchase of service [POS] contracts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who are placed with a legal guardian or adopted and youth who were participating in a state-funded higher education program prior to exiting care may receive POS ILP supportive services.
IA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who are placed in a subsidized guardianship arrangement after age 16 are eligible for ETV funding as well as support from Transition Planning Specialists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for aftercare services if they were at least 17.5 years old when they left care. • Youth are eligible for ETV funding if they were adopted or placed a subsidized guardianship arrangement after age 16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for aftercare services if they were at least 17.5 years old when they left care. • Youth are eligible for ETV funding if they were adopted or placed a subsidized guardianship arrangement after 16 years of age.
KS				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for services, regardless of their discharge outcome, if they were in care on their 18th birthday.
KY				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they were reunified after the 18th birthday.

Appendix F: Eligibility for Chafee-funded services

State	Eligible for Chafee-funded services regardless of permanency plan	Eligible if placed with legal guardian	Eligible if not in care on 18th birthday	Eligible if discharge outcome was reunification, adoption, or guardianship
LA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the youth exits care after age 16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth receiving services prior to age 18 may continue to receive services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth adopted after age 16 can continue to receive services. Youth age 16 or older who request services can receive them through independent-living providers.
MN				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible for services if they were adopted after age 16 or if legal guardianship was established and the county maintained an open case until age 18.
MO		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible for ETV funds if legal guardianship was established after age 16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must have been at least 17.5 years old when they left care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible for ETV funds if legal guardianship was established after age 16.
NC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If legal guardianship was established on or after their 13th birthday. 		
NH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth remain eligible for services until the guardianship is finalized and the case is closed. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible if they were at least 18 years old when these discharge outcomes occurred.
NJ			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many services are available to homeless youth, including former foster youth who left care before their 18th birthday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible if there was a subsidized adoption or they were adopted and the adoption was disrupted.
NM				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are NOT eligible if they achieved reunification or guardianship prior to turning 18.
NY			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible if they were discharged to their own responsibility. 	

Appendix F: Eligibility for Chafee-funded services

State	Eligible for Chafee-funded services regardless of permanency plan	Eligible if placed with legal guardian	Eligible if not in care on 18th birthday	Eligible if discharge outcome was reunification, adoption, or guardianship
OH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency would no longer have custody of a youth who is placed with a legal guardian, so the youth would not be eligible for independent living services. 		
OR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible if they had been in care for at least 180 days prior to the guardianship. • Counting stops once youth leave their placement unless they are on runaway status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who were in care for at least 180 days after their 14th birthday remain eligible for life skills training, ETV, and ILP Discretionary Funds, but not housing assistance, until age 21. • Youth must be at least 18 years old when they age out to receive Chafee-funded housing assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who were in care for at least 180 days after their 14th birthday remain eligible until age 21.
PA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible if they were placed in a PLC/SPLC situation after age 16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 18 to 21 are eligible for Chafee services if they were in foster care after age 16. 	
SC				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are only eligible for aftercare services if they were still in care at age 18. • Adoptees who were at least 16 when they were adopted are eligible for the ETV.
TN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who were adopted or who exited care to subsidized guardianship after their 15th birthday are eligible for ETV funding. • Youth are also eligible for ETV funding and other limited expenditures if they exited after age 16 regardless of their permanency outcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for the Transitional Living program if they were in foster care for at least 365 days after their 14th birthday or for at least one day after their 17th birthday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for ETV funding if they were adopted or exited to permanent guardianship after their 15th birthday.

Appendix F: Eligibility for Chafee-funded services

State	Eligible for Chafee-funded services regardless of permanency plan	Eligible if placed with legal guardian	Eligible if not in care on 18th birthday	Eligible if discharge outcome was reunification, adoption, or guardianship
TX		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These youth are NOT eligible for Chafee-funded IL services, but they are eligible for services and support provided by any of the 10 Transition Centers that serve transitioning youth and alumni from age 16 to 25 in 7 of the 11 service regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted youth may be eligible for the ETV Program if there was a subsidy agreement with the Department of Family & Protective Services. • Some youth may also be eligible for PAL case management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth adopted from foster care at age 16 and older are eligible for ETV. • Youth reunified with family may be eligible for case management services.
VA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not a legal guardianship. If custody is transferred to a family member, the youth is no longer in foster care and is ineligible for Chafee-funded independent-living or transition services. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for the ETV Program if they were adopted at age 16 or older.
WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth adopted before age 16 are not eligible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible if their case is kept open by the Children's Administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible if they returned home within a year of their 18th birthday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible if they returned home within a year of their 18th birthday, if they were adopted after the age of 16, or if they had an open dependency guardianship case.
WY			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for services and training, but NOT for housing. Youth are eligible for ETV if they were in care for at least one year after their 14th birthday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible for services if they were adopted after age 16. Youth who exited through reunification or legal guardianship are eligible for assessment, individual and group support, and ETV if they were in care for at least one year after age 14. • Youth are not eligible for housing assistance or Medicaid if they did not age out of care.

Appendix G: Eligibility for supervised independent living

State	Supervised independent living is an option	Eligibility requirements for supervised independent living	Independent-living options
AL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualized Service Plan teams decide when this living arrangement is appropriate. Their case plan would include gradually increasing youth responsibility and independence. 	
AZ		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are eligible to participate if (1) they are an adjudicated dependent, the subject of a dependency petition, or at least age 18 and in extended care through a Voluntary Foster Care Agreement; (2) in out-of-home care and in the Department's custody; (3) at least 17 years old; and (4) employed, a full-time student, or engaged full-time in a combination of education, employment, and/or therapeutic services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Living and Learning Home" is a shared home in Phoenix, run by Florence Crittenton, in which youth who receive an IL subsidy may live, but the Department does not contract for their services.
CA			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional housing programs are county implemented. • Some counties have programs that begin at age 16, whereas others only have programs for emancipated youth. • Some counties have no programs, whereas others provide at least one, if not most, of these options.
FL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be at least 16 and not yet 18, adjudicated, and have spent at least six months in foster care. They must also be able to demonstrate independent living skills. 	
HI		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds and resources are very limited, so few youth can participate. 	
IA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must live in a setting approved by the provider or DHS. 	
IN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be enrolled in school and/or working. 	

Appendix G: Eligibility for supervised independent living

State	Supervised independent living is an option	Eligibility requirements for supervised independent living	Independent-living options
MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an option in very few counties. Housing programs are run and funded by nonprofit agencies, and counties try to close cases of youth in these programs. • One urban county received a grant to develop a scattered-site transitional housing program with support services. • The program was licensed by the Department of Human Services so it is eligible for federal IV-E reimbursement. • Youth are placed there if they are at least 16 years old, will be aging out of care, and have repeatedly run away from their placements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most programs require youth to pay a portion of their rent, be working and/or going to school, and be in compliance with a case plan. • Some transitional housing programs are for unique populations, like recovering chemically dependent youth, teen parents, or youth with serious mental illness. 	
MO			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent living arrangements are typically for youth ages 18 and older, although there are exceptions. • Transitional living group homes are licensed and operated by a residential child care agency for youth, ages 16 through 18, who have a plan of independent living. • Transitional living single/scattered-site apartments are an approved and contracted living arrangement for youth, ages 18 through 20, who have a plan of independent living and have demonstrated an ability to live independently with an array of supportive services. • Host homes and adult-roommate apartments fall into the category of transitional living advocate programs.

Appendix G: Eligibility for supervised independent living

State	Supervised independent living is an option	Eligibility requirements for supervised independent living	Independent-living options
MS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It depends on the amount of the rent, or whatever the state pays. 	
ND		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different programs have different criteria. 	
NJ		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the program is HUD funded, the youth must follow the HUD requirements, which may include working and paying 30 percent of their income for rent. Some programs that are not HUD funded also require youth to pay for a portion of their rent. Most programs put these funds into an account for after the youth leave care. Youth are encouraged to be working and/or going to school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can remain in permanent HUD-funded housing after their 21st birthday. Agencies usually purchase an apartment or convert a house into apartment(s) with the help of HMFA funds, special needs housing, state rental assistance, and HUD money.
NM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TLPs have their own policies. CYFD requires youth to be in school or employed. 	
NV			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Couch surfing, weekly and longer-term motel or apartment rentals, homeless and domestic violence shelters, halfway houses, transitional living centers, and living with family members.
OH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are assessed individually and must be under the care and supervision of the agency. 	
OR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must have court permission, engage in 40 hours of productive time (employment and/or education) per week, and have been in a substitute care placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no specialized foster homes. Housing programs allow youth to find their own living arrangements. Youth can live in that "approved placement" if it is deemed safe and appropriate by their caseworker.
PA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must be at least 16 and adjudicated dependent or delinquent to participate in an SIL program. SIL placements should be the most appropriate and in the best interest of the youth. Youth must be working at least part-time, in an educational/vocational program, have a needs assessment, and be involved in the development of their IL case plan. 	
SC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent living rooms or apartments in a licensed facility.

Appendix G: Eligibility for supervised independent living

State	Supervised independent living is an option	Eligibility requirements for supervised independent living	Independent-living options
TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a limited basis and through a handful of providers 		
TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by resources in each FPS region. Programs may be licensed to provide supervised independent living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs exist, but there is no way to track them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract providers and partners provide a range of options.
UT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Transition to Adult Living (TAL) placement may be an alternative to out-of-home care when it is determined that such a placement is in the youth's best interest. • Youth must be at least 16 years old; the placement must be approved by the regional director or designee; and an assessment must be completed by the caseworker and reviewed by the Child and Family Team. • The youth must agree to a contract outlining responsibilities and expectations. • The Child and Family Service worker must visit the youth a minimum of two times a month or as deemed appropriate by the Child and Family Team. 	
VT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a few cases, placements in single-room-occupancy supervised transitional housing through Spectrum Youth and Family Services site programs may be approved. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended care services include foster care maintenance payments for youth, ages 18 to 22, in foster home settings or adult supportive partner living arrangements.

Appendix H: Eligibility for Medicaid or other health care coverage

State	Eligibility for Medicaid	Other ways to qualify for coverage
AK		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alumni can qualify for Under 21 Medicaid, but there are restrictions on how much they can earn.
AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must be otherwise Medicaid eligible (i.e., a legal resident of the state). 	
CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual redetermination must be completed to verify that the youth is still a resident and wants Medicaid coverage. 	
FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who exited foster care on their 18th birthday and youth who were adopted or placed with a legal guardian by the court after age 16 and spent at least six months in foster care are eligible for the Road-to-Independence Program if they meet the other requirements. Youth receiving the Road-to-Independence stipend are eligible for Medicaid. 	
IL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility must be determined by Illinois Public Aid. Youth may be eligible if they are determined to be disabled.
LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules and procedures for implementing the Chafee option are being developed. 	
MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no eligibility requirements except age. 	
NM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must participate in at least one IL service. 	
PA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must apply for medical assistance in their county.
TN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who receive voluntary post-custodial services are automatically eligible.
TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are automatically enrolled while they are still in care and maintain eligibility until age 21. An application is required if a young person relocates from another state. 	
VT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth must meet the income eligibility criteria. If they are not eligible for Medicaid because their income is too high, they are automatically covered by the Vermont Health Access Plan (VHAP) or Catamount Health. 	
WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible youth must call a toll-free number. 	

Appendix I: Housing assistance for former foster youth

State	Other housing-related expenses	Priority access to Section 8	Other housing programs
AR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of HUD rules varies across the state. Some HUD offices grant priority access, and others do not. 	
AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds may be used to pay for the housing costs of youth who voluntarily remain under DCYF care and supervision after turning 18. No Chafee funds can be used to pay for the housing costs of youth under age 18 who are still in care. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional Living Programs include Tumbleweed, Inc., A&A Cottages, and HomeBase Youth Services in Phoenix; and Open Inn, Inc., Our Family Center, and Intermountain Centers for Human Development in Tucson.
CA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each county implements its programs differently. There is a HUD program in Richmond that specifically targets former foster youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) allows foster youth ages 16 to 18 to live on their own or with a roommate. The funding sharing ratio for THPP is 50/30/20 (federal/state/county). The Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus) is similar but serves former foster youth ages 18-24). THP-Plus is fully funded with state general funds. • Both programs require that youth receive services identified in their transitional plan.
CO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic household set-up items. 		
DC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority access depends on the availability of vouchers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rapid Housing Subsidy assists youth aging out of foster care with housing costs for up to one year after they leave care.
DE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated housing program for single moms.

Appendix I: Housing assistance for former foster youth

State	Other housing-related expenses	Priority access to Section 8	Other housing programs
FL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth have been given priority access in some areas of the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing programs include Pembroke Pines in Broward County; the Village Transitional Living Program in Seminole County; and Villages of Hope, Turtle Nest Village, and Vita Nova of Renaissance Village in Palm Beach County.
GA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If vouchers are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a program funded through city housing dollars.
IA			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the PAL program for youth who left foster care at 18 or older, there is an Aftercare Rent Subsidy program. • DHS and private aftercare providers partner with the state's Finance Authority to subsidize the housing expenses of youth who leave foster care after reaching age 17.5 and are participating in the state's Aftercare Program.
IL			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Youth in Housing Program with two components. • Financial Assistance Program provides security deposits and first month's rent. • Housing Advocate Program helps youth locate low-income housing.
KS			
MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone hook-up or basic cell phone service. 		
MS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furnishings. 		

Appendix I: Housing assistance for former foster youth

State	Other housing related expenses	Priority access to Section 8	Other housing programs
NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing expenses for young adults who aged out are limited to rent, security deposits, room and board, and down payments. Youth who did not age out (as well as those who did) can be helped with other housing-related expenses. 		
NH			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing programs include Nashua Children's Home Transitional Living Program, Dover Children's Home PILOT House Program, and the Child and Family Services Transitional Living Program.
NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This funding is combined with funding from other sources for youth supported housing/transitional housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster youth may be eligible for Section 8 or state rental assistance, but there has not been any new FUP money or Section 8 vouchers. 	
NM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds can be used for anything that helps a youth establish/maintain housing or another living situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One county housing authority is just beginning to give priority access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TRANSITIONS Permanent Supportive Housing project is a state-funded, Section 8-like program for 20 youth in Albuquerque. • The Department is requesting another 50 vouchers from the legislature to expand the program to other parts of the state.
NY			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth aging out of care are eligible for a state and locally funded housing subsidy of up to \$330 per month for up to three years. • Foster care funds may also be used to pay college room and board expenses up to the amount a foster family would be paid.

Appendix I: Housing assistance for former foster youth

State	Other housing-related expenses	Priority access to Section 8	Other housing programs
OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding can be used for utilities, including telephone service, deposits, or housing application fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority access varies across counties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a state-funded Independent Living Subsidy Program that is considered a form of substitute care. • Youth must be at least age 16 and in state care, have court approval to participate, have 40 hours of productive time per week, be involved with a Contracted ILP Provider, and demonstrate financial need (< \$512/month).
PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses related to setting up a household may be covered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some counties work with the Housing Authority to give foster youth priority access. 	
SC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Housing Finance and Development Authority provided a one-year allocation for rental assistance for youth transitioning out of foster care.
TN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority access is available in some municipalities but is not widespread. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a residential program that provides graduated levels of support for youth with an SED diagnosis.
TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility deposits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some areas of the state give priority access to foster youth, and some do not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 18 to 21 years of age can be referred to the seven Texas Transitional Living grantees for transitional housing as appropriate. Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) and other Child Protective Services (CPS) staff in each of the 11 service regions continue to work with local housing authorities on behalf of youth aging out of foster care. Local communities are organizing efforts to provide short- and long-term housing opportunities for young adults.

Appendix I: Housing assistance for former foster youth

State	Other housing-related expenses	Priority access to Section 8	Other housing programs
UT			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt Lake County provided \$80,000 for 10-12 housing vouchers in 2008.
VA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few local departments of social services have established partnerships with their Public Housing Authority and participate in FUP. Foster youth with children may be given priority access to Section 8 in some localities. 	
VT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few youth have been approved for FUP. Many counties are not aware of this program, and some DCF offices have reported that FUP money is no longer available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional Living Program is funded by national and state runaway and homeless youth coalition dollars.
WA			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent Youth Housing program provides housing vouchers to former foster youth in four counties. • Project Ladder provides housing vouchers to former foster youth in another county.

Appendix J: Circumstances under which former foster youth can reenter care

State	Circumstances under which former foster youth can reenter care
AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can reenter care if they are living in a situation where there is an identifiable risk of harm.
AR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth may reenter if a judge reverses an emancipation or case closure.
AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth may reenter under the same conditions as voluntary continued care for 18- to 21-year-olds.
CO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A petition can be filed on behalf of a youth who is not yet 18, and a court can determine that it is in the youth's best interest to be placed in an independent-living arrangement, as might happen if a youth ran away.
CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can reenter care if they request services.
IA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can reenter Supervised Apartment Living to obtain a high school diploma or GED, or if they are at risk of becoming homeless. DHS approval is required.
IL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases may be reopened if emancipated youth lack resources (e.g., housing, community services) or if the cases were closed in error (e.g., attorney's failure to file the motion for extension, lack of testimony on behalf of the youth). This typically happens outside of Cook County because those cases are more likely to close before youth are 21 years old.
KY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who left care at age 18 can reenter within six months if they cannot make it on their own.
LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can reenter care if they meet the eligibility requirements for the 18- to 21-year-old program any time after aging out until age 21.
ME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who refused to enter into a Voluntary Extended Care Agreement can reenter.
MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can reenter care until the age of 21 if their parents' rights had been legally terminated, but they were not adopted.
MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can only reenter care if they are under age 18 and the court determines that it would be in their best interest.
NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85 of the state's 100 counties will allow young adults to reenter care. Youth can request permission to reenter if they are willing to be enrolled in school or a training program full-time. The agency must agree.
NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth cannot reenter care. A voluntary case can be opened, but there is no court involvement.
NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is difficult but possible, and there is no formal process. Youth who have left care have access to aftercare services and supports, including case management, supported housing, and Medicaid.
NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth over 18 can reenter care if they remained in custody on trial discharge.
SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can request permission to reenter care if it has been less than one year since they were discharged.
TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can enter into a voluntary post-custody agreement with the Department.
TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Return to Care Program allows some 18- to 20-year-olds who have aged out to reenter care to obtain a high school diploma or GED (until age 22), to attend a vocational or technical program (until age 21), or during college breaks for at least one but no more than four months (until age 21).
VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can reenter care within 60 days of discharge, and local departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies must resume provision of independent-living services.
VT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary extended care services, including foster care maintenance payments, can be provided until a youth's 22nd birthday. Youth must be between the ages 18 and 22; agree to live in a home-like environment with a supportive, appropriate, and approved adult partner; pursue education, vocational training, or employment; and sign a voluntary services agreement.
WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth can reenter via the Foster Care to 21 program within six months of leaving care if they are enrolled in a post-secondary education program.

Appendix K: Use of state funds and other policies or programs designed to support transitioning foster youth

State	Use of state funds	Other policies or programs designed to support foster youth during their transition to adulthood
AK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four Regional Independent Living Specialists (RILS), and the state pays 50 percent of their salaries. • RILS are responsible for meeting with older youth to discuss available resources and for participating in case reviews to ensure that youth have an exit plan that will address their needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenant House provides support and life skills training to foster youth and alumni.
AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state appropriated funds during the last two fiscal years (a) to increase the number of youth in the ETV program and (b) to increase the monthly stipend for youth in the Independent Living Subsidy Program. • These appropriations are not permanent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETV is another support available to current and former foster youth.
CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ILP Program provides services to youth in the Kinship Guardian Assistance Program (KinGAP) who were in foster care for at least one year before guardianship was established. • State funding is also used to pay for the Educational Training Voucher Program; the Transitional Housing Program, which provides housing and services to foster youth (ages 16-18) and former foster youth (ages 18-24); and the Emancipated Youth Stipend (EYS), which can be used to help meet immediate needs (e.g., housing, education, employment services, etc.) of youth who have aged out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because the foster care system is county operated, other services are provided at the county level.
CO		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes adoption of youth through the Heart Gallery, a traveling art photo exhibit. • Youth Empowerment Systems (YES!) Academy is a cluster of transitional living services.
DC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At age 20, foster youth must be referred to a community-based collaborative agency that will provide aftercare services once they leave care at age 21. • Transition plans must be assessed quarterly. • Social workers must work with the collaborative agency, youth, and other stakeholders to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

Appendix K: Use of state funds and other policies or programs designed to support transitioning foster youth

State	Use of state funds	Other policies or programs designed to support foster youth during their transition to adulthood
FL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-independent Living Services for all youth ages 13 to 15. • Life Skills Services for all youth ages 14 and 15. • Subsidized Independent Living Program is an option for youth ages 16 and 17. • Services for 18 to 22 year old former foster youth include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Road to Independence Program helps youth who are pursuing higher education full-time pay for school. • Aftercare Support Services are available to any former foster youth and are provided by community-based care agencies. • Transitional Support Services critical to self-sufficiency are available on a short-term basis to former foster youth who were in care when they turned 18. • Community-based care agencies that have Independent Living Services Programs include CBC of Seminole and Hillsborough Kids Incorporated. • Hillsborough County has created an “Independent Living Court” to ensure that youth are provided with all of the services for which they are eligible. • Focus on employment opportunities for youth who exited foster care, including state jobs.
GA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written transitional living plan.
HI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a 100 percent state-funded higher education stipend that is equal to the prevailing board rate for former foster youth ages 18 to 26. Youth who attend an accredited institution can receive up to \$529 per month for as many as 60 months, including summer and semester breaks, if they are employed or engaged in volunteer work or community service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS supports POS ILP contracts for services. • Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition of current and former foster youth. • Youth Circle is involved in youth-driven conferences related to IL planning, safety net for aftercare, family finding. [OK?] • Luncheon at Washington Place for foster youth who have completed high school.
IA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS is required to provide foster youth with their birth certificate and help them obtain a Social Security card by age 18. The Public Health Department waives the cost of the birth certificate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth council called Elevate, with approximately 300 youth in eight chapters across the state, has influenced legislation, improved practice through training, and changed the way the state looks at youth development.
IL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement Alternative Contract (PAC) allows youth to select an alternative placement with the department's approval. • Adolescent Foster Care refers to foster parents who specialize in specific needs, housing, life skills, independent-living skills, and transitional services for youth in care.
IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a few counties are involved in Connected By 25

Appendix K: Use of state funds and other policies or programs designed to support transitioning foster youth

State	Use of state funds	Other policies or programs designed to support foster youth during their transition to adulthood
KS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kansas Foster Child Education Assistance Act waives tuition and fees for eligible youth who attend post-secondary institutions
KY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All foster youth age 12 and older must receive independent-living services, regardless of their permanency goal. • Services are provided by 12 regional Independent Living Coordinators, one Central Office specialist, and private child care contractors. • Services for youth ages 12 to 15 include soft skills and daily living skills taught by foster parents in the home. • Services for 16-year-olds include Life Skills classes taught in each region by Independent Living Coordinators or private contractors. • Services for 18- to 21-year-olds who extend their commitment with the Cabinet [?] are eligible for Life Skills classes, tuition assistance, and a tuition waiver. • 18- to 21-year-olds who left care are eligible for Life Skills classes, a tuition waiver, assistance with room and board, an Education Training Voucher (ETV) funding for college expenses, and Foster Youth Transition Assistance (FYTA) for working youth. • Kentucky Youth Connects (KYNEX) and Kentucky Organization for Foster Youth (KOFFY) are statewide groups that provide opportunities for current and former youth to educate the public and policy makers about the needs of youth in foster care, to change negative stereotypes about foster youth, to develop a mentoring program, and to create a speakers' bureau.
LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state pays for educational expenses not covered by PELL or ETV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Youth Vision Connections for Permanency ??Future [Not sure about the name of this organization.] plans to hire former foster youth as youth advocates.
ME		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Leadership Advisory Team (YLAT) for current and former foster youth.
MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster youth may be eligible for Minnesota State Grants for low-income post-secondary students, which are about half the size of a Pell Grant • Tuition waivers must be requested every year. They are given only to state wards and only at the discretion of the president of the college or university. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three local Youth Leadership Councils were started in 2008. • Court is now required to review the independent-living plan of each youth age 16 or older and assess progress toward or accomplishment of goals prior to discharge.
MS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock (My PAC).
NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach Scholarships provide the balance of the cost of attending any state university or community college for students who were adopted after age 12 and young adults who aged out of foster care until the student's 26th birthday.

Appendix K: Use of state funds and other policies or programs designed to support transitioning foster youth

State	Use of state funds	Other policies or programs designed to support foster youth during their transition to adulthood
NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drivers license fees are paid for out of wraparound funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have partnered with our Department of Community Affairs and NJ Housing Mortgage Finance Agency to fund a position at the Corporation for Supported Housing to gather data and provide technical assistance to programs.
NV		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otto Huth Scholarship Trust Fund. Youth Advisory Board Leadership Opportunities.
NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state's open-ended child welfare funding stream may be used to cover the costs of independent-living skills training, services, and supports over and above the state's Chafee allocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize use of ETV program. Youth in Progress, our foster care youth organization, is an important policy voice for youth that has guided the revisions to our guidelines on permanency planning for youth and clothing for youth in care.
OH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent-living services must be provided to foster youth ages 15 ½ through 18 when they are emancipated. Youth ages 18-21 may request independent-living services from their pre-emancipation agency. Youth adopted at age 16 or older and youth who were emancipated from foster care may apply for the ETV program.
OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System of Care funds are state general funds that can be used to assist youth with a variety of needs. Up to \$150,000 can be claimed as Chafee matching funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHS partners with the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to determine ETV eligibility and disburse awards, which has increased the number of former foster youth accessing post-secondary financial assistance. DHS case workers and ILP contractors are required to help youth develop a comprehensive transition plan by age 16 that addresses goals in six domains: education, employment, housing, health (mental and physical), community connections, and supportive relationships.
PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counties may request state funds to expand services to youth who are not eligible for Chafee-funded services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGA team members are integrated into state's Child Welfare Advisory Committee to continue the partnerships that were developed as a result of participation in the 2006-2007 National Governors' Association Policy Academy on Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care.
TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System operates on a voluntary post-custody basis that is similar to continuing foster care but "custody" is no longer an issue. Chafee funds are used to help youth who have been emancipated but need support if they have an educational or job-training plan with an approved program.

Appendix K: Use of state funds and other policies or programs designed to support transitioning foster youth

State	Use of state funds	Other policies or programs designed to support foster youth during their transition to adulthood
TX		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every youth age 16 and older receives Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) services which include life skills assessment, life skills training, educational/vocational services, and supportive services. • Transitional living allowance of up to \$1,000 helps youth who participate in PAL with start-up costs. • Aftercare room and board assistance provides up to \$500 per month (maximum of \$3,000) for rent, utilities, food, etc. • Case management helps youth with self-sufficiency planning and resource coordination. • Circles of Support (COS) assists young people age 16 and older to develop a transition plan and identify a caring adult. • Continuous Medicaid coverage to former youth through a single application until their 21st birthday. • Education & Training Voucher (ETV) Program. • MOU with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to further the objectives of PAL, streamline referrals, and treat former foster youth as a priority population. • Extended Care: Young people can elect to stay in care until age 22 to graduate from high school, or until age 21 to complete vocational training. • Texas Youth Connection is an informational website for current and former foster youth. • Texas Youth Hotline can help young adults under 21 years old locate services in their communities. • Transition centers located throughout Texas address the diverse needs of youth, ages 15 ½ to 25, who have aged out or are in the process of doing so. • Tuition and fee waivers cover the cost of public colleges, universities, or vocational programs for youth who age out or who were adopted at age 14 or older. • Youth Specialists are former foster youth hired in each DFPS region to advise local staff and communities on behalf of foster youth as well as to develop local youth councils and the statewide Youth Leadership Council (YLC). • YLC is made up of current and former foster youth and provides feedback to policy makers and program administrators. • Each year, DFPS conducts a survey of foster youth that focuses on services provided in preparation for adult living and an optional youth exit survey. • Annual Statewide Teen Conference for foster youth ages 16 and older provides a forum for focus groups and youth presentations to DFPS and CPS leadership.

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State	Use of state funds	Other policies or programs designed to support foster youth during their transition to adulthood
VA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tuition grant program covers tuition and fees at any community college. • Great Expectations helps foster youth throughout the state complete high school and pursue a community college education. • State recently established a chapter of the Foster Care Alumni of America and has a statewide Youth Advisory Council composed of foster youth (ages 15-21).
VT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidental Living Grants provide small monetary awards to pay for minor one-time or initial expenses incurred by youth during the transition to adulthood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Lester Scholarship provides \$3,009-\$5,000 per year. • College of St. Joseph offers free room and board, mentoring, and full tuition. • Vermont Foster Adoptive Family Association offers \$20,000/year for post-secondary education or vocational training.
WA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Care to 21 allows youth to stay in foster care while they pursue post-secondary education. • Children's Administration Educational Advocates help foster children in public schools access resources for better outcomes. • Foster Care to College offers educational seminars to help foster youth prepare for college and mentoring. • Passport to College involves youth 14 and older in educational planning in conjunction with the Higher Education Coordinating Board and provides scholarships to former foster youth of up to \$6,700. • Children's Administration has contracted with six community agencies to provide Supplemental Education (SETuP) supports to prepare 14- to 18-year-olds for post-secondary education. • College Bound Scholarship pays for tuition not covered by other financial aid and up to \$500 toward books at a public two- or four-year college. • Education Institute trains foster parents to help foster youth succeed in school. • Regional summits to develop community partnerships to support academic success for foster youth. • Web site with resources for current and former foster youth. • Make it Happen is a four-day summer program that provides college campus experience, access to college resources, and interactive workshops on college admissions and financial aid. • Governor's Scholarship provides youth with \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year that can be renewed for up to four additional years to complete a BA. • Medicaid to 21. • Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP) provides housing vouchers and assistance with rent, utility payments, move-in costs, and case management. • Alumni of Care Peer to Peer Mentoring provides outreach to foster youth and alumni to engage them in services and encourage applications for ETV.