

The Chafee Independent Living Program

NYTD Services:

Helping Youth with Education,
Employment and Preparation for
Independence

Chafee Independent Living Program
South Carolina Department of Social Service

PL 206-189 Section 477

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999

- All states must have an Independent Living (IL) Program
- Increased funding (Federal 80%- State 20%)
- Not an alternative to permanency planning

Five Broad Purposes

- Identify children who are expected to be in foster care to age 18 and help them make a transition to self-sufficiency.
- Help these children receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment.
- Help them prepare for and enter post-secondary training and education institutions
- Provide personal and emotional support for children aging out of foster care
- Provide a range of services and support for former foster care recipients between ages 18 and 21 to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001

- Added a sixth purpose to make available vouchers for education and training, including post secondary learning and education to youth who have aged out of foster care.

South Carolina Department of Social Services

- DSS is the state agency designated to administer the Chafee Independent Living and Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) programs.
- Administered through a central office and supervised in 46 county offices, 15 offices in 4 regions for Intensive Foster Care & Clinical Services, and 4 regional Adoption offices which oversee day to day provision of services.

Independent Living Staff at Central Office

- Provide technical assistance to county and regional offices
- Review and approve all individual IL funding applications statewide
- Develop/coordinate services with agencies and community organizations
- Develop and implement IL trainings
- Develop program for either regional IL forums or annual statewide forum

Positive Youth Development

- Identifying interest
- Developing skills
- Experiencing competence
- Gaining a sense of self-worth
- Having a voice in one's life- empowerment

Supporting Youth in Successfully Transitioning to Adulthood

- The Fostering connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
- Ensuring that services are available and accessible to youth
- Youth specific training for agency staff, service providers, and foster parents
- Development of policies and programs that promote the development of strong permanent relationships
- Providing data to guide decisions on state and federal levels

Independent Living Goals

- Mandatory part of each child's case plan between the ages of 13 and 21
- Concurrent with permanency goals
- Individualized Case Plans with *Specific Goals* and the steps to achieving those goals

Transition Planning

- Human Services Procedure Manual Sec. 832.01.01
- Planning should take place at least 90 days prior to emancipation
- Ensure that critical skills are learned and services are in place

Prior to Development of a Formal Plan (Beginning the Process)

- Purposefully prepare and engage the youth
- Inform youth of the purpose and importance of the transition plan
- Encourage youth to use their voice by actively participating in their transition planning
- Assist youth in identifying future goals and the services needed to achieve those goals
- Inform youth of their right to invite others that are significant to them and will support them as they transition to independence and beyond.

Formal Transition Planning Meeting (The Event)

- Required during the period 90 days prior to the youth's 18th birthday
- If youth is not leaving care at age 18, the meeting must be held again 90 days prior to the planned exit from care
- Plan must be formalized and focus on immediate services and skills youth will need when emancipated

Topics reviewed should include:

- Housing
- Health Insurance (if in foster care, Medicaid eligibility continues to age 21)
- Health Care Proxy
- Education (post secondary and vocational)
- Mentoring
- Continued Support Services
- Workforce Supports
- Employment Services
- Health Education
- Identification of adults who will be part of youth's support system

P.A.T.T.Y – DSS form 30206

Providing Assistance to Transitioning Youth

- Used as a planning tool at the transition planning meeting (the event) with those youth age 17 and older
- Also used with youth, ages 18-21 who have aged out of care and who need aftercare services
- Identifies areas in which services and skills are needed

Agreement for Continued Placement of Persons 18 to 21 Years of Age

- DSS form 30136
- At the planning meeting, youth are to be informed of the option to remain in care while continuing to work on education, job skills or when the youth has a disabling condition.

Follow Up

- Progress is evaluated and the Transition Plan updated monthly until youth leaves care and for a minimum of 6 months after youth leaves care
- Dictation is to be recorded in CAPSS for transition and aftercare services on a monthly basis

NYTD – The National Youth in Transition Database

The Foster Care Independence Act (1999) also requires that the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) track Chafee funded services and develop outcome measures to assess the state's performance.

What are NYTD Services?

NYTD Services are those services provided by and/or paid for by the state Chafee Foster Care Independent Living program agency.

Note: An IL service is considered provided by the state Chafee agency if it is delivered (1) by state agency staff, (2) By an agent of the state including foster parents and group home providers, or (3) pursuant to a contract between the state agency and a public or private provider.

NYTD Services Fall Into 14 Broad Categories

- Independent Living Needs Assessment
- Academic Support
- Post-Secondary Educational Support
- Career Preparation
- Employment Program or Vocational Training
- Budget and Financial Management
- Housing Education and Home Management Training
- Health Education and Risk Prevention
- Family Support and Healthy Marriage Education
- Mentoring
- Supervised Independent Living
- Room and Board Financial Assistance
- Education Financial Assistance
- Other Financial Assistance.

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