

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b> <b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 11:</b> Older Youth Services <b>Section 29:</b> Transition to Successful Adulthood Services (TSA)	
	<b>Effective Date:</b> October 1, 2024	<b>Version:</b> 1

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## POLICY OVERVIEW

Transition to Successful Adulthood Services (TSA) provides independent and interdependent skills, tools, and resources necessary to emerge into successful adulthood to eligible youth who have a case plan goal of Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement (APPLA) (see Definitions) and are expected to age out of foster care (see Definitions).

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## PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) provides TSA for eligible youth 17.5 years of age to 21 years of age who are in foster care as a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or adjudicated delinquent with a case plan goal of APPLA.

The Family Case Manager (FCM) or Older Youth Case Manager (OYCM) will:

1. Submit a referral to TSA through the case management system (i.e., KidTraks) for youth 17.5 to 21 years of age with a case plan goal of APPLA;
2. Monitor the youth's placement and maintain contact in accordance with policy 8.10 Minimum Contact;
3. Facilitate Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings and/or case plan conferences in accordance with policies 5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings and 5.08 Developing the Case Plan/Prevention Plan;
4. Conduct Transition Services Plan (TSP) (see Definitions) meetings to address the Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (see Definitions), which may occur during a CFT Meeting (see policy 11.06 Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood);
5. Refer additional services to ensure the youth's behavioral health and social/emotional learning needs are addressed. These services include but are not limited to:
  - a. Home-based therapy/counseling,
  - b. Mental health services,
  - c. Vocational rehabilitation, and
  - d. Parenting or fatherhood engagement services.
6. Ensure the Older Youth Services (OYS) Provider (see Definitions):
  - a. Has at least one (1) face-to-face contact with the youth per week during the first 60 days, and
  - b. Has at least one (1) check in (i.e., phone call or text) with the youth per week during the first 60 days, and

- c. Hosts a Successful Adulthood Team Meeting within 60 days of referral and then every 60 days thereafter to review the youth's transition services learning plan (learning plan) (see Definitions) progress, and
- d. Establishes ongoing face-to-face contact and check ins with the youth during the initial Successful Adulthood Team Meeting.

**Note:** After the first 60 days of TSA, the minimum contact for visits with the youth by the OYS Provider is once every 30 days.

7. Attend the Successful Adulthood Team Meetings that are hosted by the OYS Provider to address the youth's learning plan progress;
8. Determine if the youth is eligible for Older Youth Case Management (see policy 11.18 Eligibility for Collaborative Care). If the youth is determined to be eligible for Older Youth Case Management, follow the procedures in policy 11.22 Voluntary Collaborative Care (CC) Agreement; and

**Note:** Only the OYCM is able to make Older Youth Case Management referrals.

9. Refer the youth for Voluntary Older Youth Services, if requested, upon case closure (see policies 11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services).

**Note:** Only the OYCM and Independent Living (IL) specialists are able to make Voluntary Older Youth Service referrals.

The FCM or OYCM Supervisor will:

1. Ensure all appropriate referrals are completed; and
2. Assist the FCM or OYCM through regular case staffing (see Definitions).

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## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

#### Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

APPLA is only an option for youth 16 years of age and older when all other permanency plan options have been thoroughly exhausted and found to not be in the child's best interest. APPLA refers to a situation in which DCS maintains care and custody responsibilities for the youth, and DCS places the youth in a setting in which the child is expected to remain until transitioning to adulthood, such as:

1. With resource parents who have made a commitment to care for the youth permanently, but are not moving toward adoption or guardianship, or
2. Other long-term placement setting that meets the youth's needs as the youth transitions to adulthood, and
3. Receiving OYS (see Definitions) that will lead the youth to successful adulthood living after emancipation from the child welfare system.

### Case Staffing

Case staffing is a systematic and frequent review of all case information with safety and risk, stability, permanency, and well-being as driving forces for case activities.

### Foster Care

Foster care is 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parent, guardian, or custodian and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility.

### Older Youth Case Management

Older Youth Case Management is DCS' extended foster care program that allows eligible young adults who are or were in the foster care system to voluntarily remain under the care and placement of DCS in order to continue to finalize their transition plan and independent living goals. The program is for DCS and Juvenile Delinquent (JD) youth 18 to 21 years of age and allows them to continue receiving services (see policy 11.18 Eligibility to Participate in Collaborative Care).

### Older Youth Services (OYS)

The purpose of OYS is to:

1. Assist identified youth who are expected to remain in foster care until their 18th birthday or after in making the transition to self-sufficiency;
2. Help identified youth receive the necessary education, training, and services to overcome potential barriers to employment;
3. Help youth prepare for and enter post-secondary education and/or training programs;
4. Provide personal and emotional support for youth aging out of foster care;
5. Assist youth in locating and identifying community resources that will be available to the youth after DCS involvement has ended; and
6. Encourage positive personal growth in older youth through "teachable moments".

### OYS Provider

The OYS Provider has a contract with DCS and coordinates services with the youth and evaluates progress with the youth by tracking and adjusting independent living service needs.

### Successful Adulthood Learning Plan (Learning Plan)

The Learning Plan is an individualized plan based on the Life Skills Assessment results and strongly driven by the youth's input. Unlike the Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood, the youth and the contracted OYS Provider develop the learning plan. The Learning Plan must include specific tasks that would aid the youth in meeting their independent living goals.

### Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood

A Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood is a plan that details what services and supports youth and young adults need to transition into adulthood successfully. It is a comprehensive and personalized plan federally required to be completed once a youth turns 14 in foster care and is updated every six (6) months.

### Transitional Services Plan (TSP)

The Transitional Service Plan (TSP) defines what services are needed for a youth/young adult to transition into adulthood successfully. The transitional service plan is federally required to be completed 90 days before the youth's 18th birthday.

### **Forms and Tools**

- [Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood \(SF 55166\)](#)
- Older Youth Services & Collaborative Care Program Service Delivery and Protocol – available on the [Older Youth Initiatives](#) webpage
- Older Youth Services Service Standards – available on the [Older Youth Initiatives](#) webpage

## Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)
- [5.08 Developing the Case Plan/Prevention Plan](#)
- [8.10 Minimum Contact](#)
- [11.02 Eligibility for Older Youth Services](#)
- [11.06 Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood](#)
- [11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services](#)
- [11.08 The Chafee Program Room and Board Services](#)
- [11.10 Education and Training Voucher Program](#)
- [11.18 Eligibility for Collaborative Care \(CC\)](#)
- [11.22 Voluntary Collaborative Care \(CC\) Agreement](#)

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## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 675: Definitions](#)
- [42 USC 677: John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)

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## PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 11.29

*Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.*

### **Older Youth Services Protocol**

The Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) program encompasses Older Youth Services (OYS), Older Youth Case Management, Voluntary Services, and Transition to Successful Adulthood Services (TSA). Youth participating in these services should be provided instruction, experiential learning, coaching, mentoring, and monitoring in services that include, but are not limited to (see the Older Youth Services and Collaborative Care Program Service Delivery and Protocol and the Older Youth Services Service Standards):

1. Education;
2. Employment;
3. Financial and Asset Management;
4. Physical and Mental Health;
5. Housing;
6. Activities of Daily Living; and
7. Youth Engagement.

### **Voluntary Older Youth Services**

All youth aging out of foster care and former youth who are 18 years of age up to 23 years of age are eligible for Voluntary OYS, including Room and Board (R & B) assistance and the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program (see the Voluntary Older Youth Services Summary and policies 11.02 Eligibility for Older Youth Services, 11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services, 11.08 John H. Chafee Foster Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood [the Chafee Program] Room and Board Services, and 11.10 Education and Training Voucher Program).

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