



Tom C. Rawlings
Director



GEORGIA RESILIENT. YOUTH-CENTERED. STABLE. EMPOWERED.

JOHN H. CHAFEE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

Programmatic Overview

Presented by:
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To provide eligible youth with opportunities to successfully prepare for adulthood through appropriate referral resources and connections provided by community partners. For years, adolescents who left foster care have experienced significant challenges in successfully transitioning to adulthood.

Georgia recognized that without appropriate services, planning and support, these youth demonstrated higher rates of homelessness, unemployment, poverty, delinquent or criminal behaviors, and dependence on various types of public assistance.

In response to these identified transition challenges, Georgia implemented standards in support of Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) and Education Training Vouchers (ETV).



OUR MISSION

To ensure youth are stable,
healthy, connected,
employed, and educated.

A large orange circle with a thin grey drop shadow, containing the text 'OUR VISION' in white.

**OUR
VISION**

Eligibility Requirements:

Young people in foster care ages 14-21 may be determined eligible for the Independent Living Program when the following criteria are met:

- The youth has been adjudicated as dependent or as a child in need of services (CHINS) by a Georgia Juvenile Court; and
- The youth is or was in foster care for at least (6) months prior to reaching the age of 18;
 - *All eligible youth must be in care at some point on or after their 14th birthday. A youth could accumulate the six months prior to 14 years old and be eligible for some after care services.*
- Youth 18-21 is a citizen and/or permanent legal resident of Georgia.



The GARYSE Chafee Program focuses on building the following protective and promotive factors for youth in foster care, based on the Youth Thrive Framework:

- **They are physically and emotionally healthy**
 - *Assuring the youth can meet their own physical and mental health needs by ensuring access to health insurance*
- **They become hopeful, optimistic, compassionate, curious, and resilient**
 - *Avoidance of High-Risk Behaviors: Empowering youth to be productive and responsible members of the community*
- **They are able to form and sustain caring, supportive, and committed relationships**
 - *Ensuring youth have permanent social connections with responsible and supportive adults and peers*
- **They are successful in school and work**
 - *Achievement of high school diploma, GED, & hopeful completion of a secondary education program*
 - *Financial self-sufficiency through employment and community service opportunities that allow the youth to develop job readiness skills*
- **They are able to obtain and maintain stable housing to prevent homelessness**

Key Service Points

- **Eligibility Age 14 years and up**
 - 6 Months In Care, non-consecutive
 - Exited Care Prior ILP Eligible
 - Youth enrolled upon eligibility
 - **Served Up to 21st Birthday**
 - Post-secondary fiscal support can extend to 26th birthday
 - **TeenWork Internship Program**
 - **Money Matters**
 - Credit Checks for youth 14-17
 - Opportunity Passport (IDA) for youth 16-21
 - **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**
 - NYTD=Everyone Counts!
 - Education and Training
-
- **TRTs**
 - Serves as a support to field staff and participant to discuss Chafee eligibility, services and community resources
 - **Casey Life Skills Assessment**
 - Foundation of the Written Transitional Living Plan
 - **CPA / CCI Providers**
 - ILP/TLP
 - Majority of Placements
 - Skills Development
 - **GYOI-MAAC**
 - EmpowerMENT
 - Youth Town Hall Meetings



Time To Prepare Adolescents in Care

Intact Families

18 Years

216 Months

939 Weeks

6,574 Days

157,776 Hours



Time To Prepare Adolescents in Care

Intact Families	FC ILP-14+
18 Years	4 Years
216 Months	48 months
939 Weeks	209 Weeks
6,574 Days	1,461 Days
157,776 Hours	35,064 Hours



Time To Prepare Adolescents in Care

Intact Families	FC ILP-14+	Average Time In Care 14-17 Years
18 Years	4 Years	About 2 Years
216 Months	48 months	21.47 Months
939 Weeks	209 Weeks	94 Weeks
6,574 Days	1,461 Days	658 Days
157,776 Hours	35,064 Hours	15,792 Hours

Written Transitional Living Plan (WTLP)

The WTLP is a written description of the programs and services that will assist the youth in preparing for the transition from foster care to independent living. Should be developed with the youth during a Transitional Round Table.

The WTLP serves as the guidepost to the internal and external programmatic connections necessary to support the youth's success.

The WTLP must be completed within 30 day of:

- A youth 14 years of age or older entering foster care; or a youth in foster care reaching 14 years of age;
- A youth reaching 18 years of age and receiving Extended Youth Support Services (EYSS);
- A youth's participating in EYSS after exiting custody at 18 years of age or older;
- Identifying additional needs for a youth with an existing WTLP, including those identified upon completion of the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA);
- New outcomes and tasks being ordered by the court; or g. The WTLP outcomes being achieved.



What's
the
plan?

Transitional Meetings

The transitional meeting jointly develops specific plans to address permanent connections, housing, health insurance/health needs, education, job skills, independent living skills.

During these meetings – the youth's Written Transitional Living Plan is reviewed and discussed.

All transitional meetings begin at age 16 and must be held every six months after the initial meeting and continued through the youth's 18th birthday.



Case Life Skills Assessment

- The Division utilizes the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) to assess the life skills, strengths and vulnerabilities of youth ages 14-17 in foster care.
- It is administered within 15 calendar days of a youth ages 14 -17 entering foster care or a youth in foster care turning age 14.
- It measures a youth's confidence in their future and permanent connections to supportive adults
- Designed to be free from gender, ethnic or cultural biases
- The results of the CLSA are incorporated in the WTLP – and supportive life skills workshop trainings are provided to support identified needs



Life Skills Workshops

The goal of the GARYSE/The Chafee Program Life Skill workshops are structured to provide ILP eligible youth with opportunities to learn valuable life skills designed to assist them in being self-sufficient when they decide to leave foster care at 18 or age out at 21.

Workshops are offered monthly in each DFCS Region



Life Skills Workshops Focus Topics....



Academic Support



Mental and Physical Well-being
Awareness



Post Secondary Education Assistance



Career Preparation

Life Skills Workshops Focus Topics....



How to build health
relationships



Budgeting and Financial
Management



Household Management

Preparing for Transition

The Pathway to
Independence



Pathway to Independence

Placement Options

Young people in foster care receive greater benefit if placed in relative or foster home settings.

When this is not possible, alternative placement options are sought such as Child Caring Institutions, or what is also known as group homes. These are congregate care settings where youth share a living space with other adolescents.

Next we will discuss how youth transition from these group home settings to living independently.



Transitional Living Placements

- Transitional Living Placements (TLP) are not regular foster home placements but are designed to support the youth living independently after they leave foster care.
- These programs support youth who are ready for some independence but are not yet ready to live on their own.
- Young people identified for a TLP placement must be at least 16 years of age, with any permanency plan and have been assessed to be invested in and able to benefit from the TLP.
- These placement settings are designed to prepare youth for adult like responsibilities before being transitioned into a place of their own.



Transitional Living Placements

Transitional living placements may be offered through a variety of residential on-campus living arrangements where youth have the opportunity to practice independent living skills with decreasing degrees of care and supervision.

The young person must follow program rules for their safety and success.



Life Coaches

- Youth in TLP programs must have a life coach.
- Life coaching is a practice that helps people identify and achieve personal goals.
- Life Coaches help the young person to set and reach goals using a variety of tools and techniques.
- Life Coaches model life skills (e.g., assertiveness, communication, conflict management, problem solving and decision making) and provide activities for youth to practice life skills and provide appropriate feedback to the youth.



Independent Living Programs

Independent Living Programs (ILP) are different from TLP in that youth may live in an alternative living arrangement (i.e., community-based housing) rather than a group home, or other residential type facility.

All ILP youth must eventually transition into independent housing. This placement provides the opportunity for youth to experience decreased care and supervision as they become responsible for their own care.

The goal of an independent living placement is to prepare youth to become socially and financially independent from the foster care system. Independent living placements shall begin no earlier than a youth's 18th birthday.

FY19 RBWO Minimum Standards



Independent Living Programs

To transition to an Independent Living program the young person must be at least 18 years of age and have elected to participate in Extended Youth Support Services (EYSS).

Youth must be also be deemed invested in and able to benefit from ILP.

Youth in Extended Youth Support Services must include that youth must be employed at least part time (15-20 hrs. /week) or attending school full-time.

Young people are ideally placed in single occupancy housing by the 13th month of participation in the program. Single occupancy housing is defined as a youth living alone or with a roommate of their choice and sharing the cost of living expenses.



A group of four young adults (two men and two women) are smiling and posing in a desert landscape. They are wearing sunglasses and casual clothing. The background shows a desert with mountains and a vehicle. The image has a warm, golden-hour lighting.

*Fiscal Supports for
Former Foster
Youth*

Post-Foster Care Resources

Post Foster Care Resources

Child Welfare Policy Section 13.11

The GARYSE Chafee Program provides the following Post Foster Care (PFC) services, as funding permits, to ILP eligible youth:

1. **Transitional Living Supportive Services:** Provides eligible youth with supportive services to assist in the development of daily living skills and supports the youth's transition from foster care to self-sufficiency;
2. **Emergency Financial Assistance:** Provides eligible youth with emergency financial assistance for up to 90 days in order to stabilize living conditions and/or personal circumstances;
3. **Post-Secondary Education Financial Support:** Provides eligible youth or youth who were adopted from foster care at age 16 or older with funds to provide financial support toward the completion of post-secondary education

Post Secondary Financial Support

The GARYSE Chafee Program funds Post Secondary Financial Support through the Federal Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program as well as State Independent Living Program college funding, Services that may be funded through these programs include:

- Application fees
- Registration fees
- Tuition Assistance (*vocational school and colleges only – no private high school*)
- Room and Board
- Course books and supplies
- Tutoring
- Testing
- Stipends

The ETV Program is managed by our partners at JW Fanning Institute



ETV Eligibility

- Meet ILP eligibility requirements;
- Be between the ages of 18 and 21 years old and participating in the EYSS program;
- Be between the ages of 18 to 23 years old and not participating in the EYSS program;
 - If the youth meets the eligibility requirements stated above, but graduated high school between the ages of 20-22, the youth will be assessed for post-secondary state funding support.
- Adopted from foster care after his or her 16th birthday

NOTE: If a former foster youth requests ILP post-secondary funding on the date of their 21st birthday, the youth must provide documentation that supports their previous enrollment in a full-time post-secondary educational or training program at least 6 months prior to their 21st birthday.





Independent Living Specialist

Our Role in Supporting Youth Transition

Independent Living Specialist

Supports ILP eligible youth in foster care with connection to resources and supports

Works closely with case managers, placement providers, supportive connections, and external partners.

Processes fiscal requests for ILP related services

Attends TRTs, reviews WTLP's, and supports monthly life skills trainings





Connected by 21 (CB21)

Extended Foster Care for Young People Ages 18-21

Eligibility Requirements



Age 18-21



Been in care for 6 months with 1 of those days being after the age of 14



In an education setting (i.e. High School, GED Program, College/Technical School or University)



Working a minimum of 120 hours per month (30 hours per week)



****Young adults who have a medical condition that eliminates their ability to work or to go to school are also eligible for this program.*

What are we
aiming to
provide?

Flexible Housing Options

- Foster Home
- College Campus/Dormitory
- TLP/ILP Setting

An Assigned Connections Advisor

- Assisting youth in finding safe housing
- Supporting their individual goals
- Identify training opportunities needed to develop their skill set
- Practical solutions to potential challenges that they may face

Possible Monthly Stipend

- Funds to cover living expenses, i.e. food, utilities, transportation, etc.



Orange Duffle Bag Initiative (ODBI)



Money Management International (MMI) – formerly known as ClearPoint



Education Training Vouchers (ETV)- UGA Fanning Institute



Multi-Agency Alliance for Children

Life Skill Workshops

Individual Development Account (IDA)

Public/Private Partnerships

The State GA RYSE/Chafee Program Team

State Director: Candis Jones, LAPC

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State Independent Living Program Specialists:

Region 1: Jershaun Roberts

Regions 2 and 9: Wynecoka Thompson

Region 3: Shakeria Jones

Region 4: Gerrica Morton

Region 5: Jo Thomas

Region 6: Latrice Bakon

Region 7: Larissa Thompson

Region 8: Angela Davis

Region 10: Leslie Blease

Region 11: Caitlin Redmon

Region 12: Estelline Beamon

Region 13: Gary Frazier/Shante Campbell

Region 14: Takisha Hossley/Barret

Askew/Kathleen Edwards/Contessia Hoover

Business Operations Specialist: Tara Kelly

Credit Reporting Specialist: Erika Dennis

Credit Reporting Specialist: Devin Martin

State ILP Supervisor: Veronique Grice

State ILP Supervisor: Steven Kinney

Additional Information on the
GARYSE Chafee Program may be found
by accessing:

www.GARYSE-ILP.org