

RESOURCE GUIDE TO ACCOMPANY YOUTH DEVELOPED DISCHARGE HEARING FORM

HOUSING PLAN/DAILY EXPENSES

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	More Information
Chafee funds	A county can use up to 30% of its Chafee allocation to provide room and board for emancipated foster youth.	Young people between the ages of 18-21 who have emancipated from the foster care system.	Questions and Answers on the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
FUP Vouchers (HUD's Family Unification Program)	PHAs (Public Housing Authorities) can apply for Section 8 vouchers for youth ages 18+ who left foster care after the age of 16.	Administered through local level partnerships between public housing authorities and public child welfare agencies. Partners must submit memorandum of understanding between child welfare agency and PHA to apply for this funding.	RFP's available at: www.hud.gov
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	Federally funded program to help low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating.	Low-income Ohioans.	Call HEAP toll-free at (800) 282-0880 during regular business hours (7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday.
Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)	Matched-savings accounts, designed to help people establish a pattern of regular of savings in order to purchase an asset, such as a home.	Counties have the option of using existing TANF funds for IDA matching funds. In addition, Assets for Independence (AFI) is a discretionary demonstration five year grant available through US Health and Human Services that allows community-based and government agencies to provide program services that enable low to moderate income individuals to develop savings habits for a specific asset purchase.	Center for Social Development: OHIO IDA Legislative History: http://ohiocdc.org/ida.html

EDUCATIONAL/VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	More Information
ETV Funds (Ohio Education and Training Voucher Program)	Up to \$5000 a year for qualified school related expenses. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students. To remain eligible for ETV funding, youth must show progress toward a degree or certificate.	Youth must either have been in foster care on their 18th birthday and aged out at that time, or adopted from foster care with the adoption finalized after his/her 16th birthday, or will have his/her foster care case closed between the ages of 18 and 21. Youth must at least 18 but younger than 21 to apply for the first time. You may reapply for ETV funds, if you have a current grant, up to the age of 23. Must be enrolled in a degree, certificate or other accredited program at a college, university, technical, vocational school.	Please visit: www.statevoucher.org

FAFSA	Emancipated foster care youth should fill out the FAFSA as an "independent student."	Youth must fit into ONE of these categories: a.) An orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court, at any time when the student was 13 years of age or older OR b.) An emancipated minor or is in legal guardianship as determined by the court in their state of legal residence OR c.) Verified as an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of homelessness and self-supporting	2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act
Job Corps	Free education and vocational training program that includes housing.	Young people ages 16 through 24 who have not yet attained a high school diploma or GED.	Please visit: www.jobcorps.gov
Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG)	Up to of \$672 to assist with college living expenses.	Foster youth at community colleges are eligible for OCOG funds, and can use these funds for housing if needed, in addition to other college-related expenses.	Please contact Tamika M. Braswell, (614) 728-8862, tbraswell@regents.state.oh.us
Ohio Reach	Statewide initiative to increase the number of foster care youth who enroll in and graduate from college.	Foster care teens or emancipated youth should find out if the college or university they are attending or applying for has an Ohio Reach Liaison to support their success on campus.	Please visit: http://ohioreach.wikispaces.com
SACWIS form for College	Help students with a foster care history verify their eligibility for Financial Aid.	SACWIS letter, created by ODJFS, for county agencies to provide youth in order to confirm "independent status" on the FAFSA.	Form is available at: http://ohioreach.wikispaces.com
Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds	Employment preparation and support.	Ohio foster care youth, between 14 – 21 years old, are 100% eligible for local workforce programs that are funded by WIA funds.	Please visit: www.jobstop.org

EMPLOYMENT/CAREER			
Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	More Information
Dress for Success	Provides women with professional attire for employment.	Eligible to females only.	Dress for Success has offices in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Warren-Youngtown.
Ohio Benefit Bank	Free assistance in filling out taxes	Low-income Ohioans.	Please visit: www.ohiobenefits.org

HEALTH			
Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	More Information
Medicaid	Foster care youth who "age out" of foster care in Ohio are eligible for	After being initially signed up for Medicaid at age 18, former foster youth must stay in touch with Medicaid, so that they don't lose services at age 19 or 20.	If your local Medicaid office is not aware of this provision, please contact the Medicaid Hotline: 1-

	Medicaid until their 21st birthdays.		800-324-8680
Social Security	SSI eligibility	Emancipating foster care youth with disabilities can submit SSI applications up to 90 days before federal foster care payments are supposed to end.	SI 00601.011: "Filing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Applications for Disabled Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care"

CHILDREN (IF APPLICABLE)			
Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	More Information
Healthy Start and Healthy Families	Healthcare for needy families.	Ohio Medicaid offers two programs for children, families and pregnant women with limited income to get health care.	Medicaid Consumer Hotline: 1-800-324-8680
Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Organization	Parent assistance in finding affordable child care.	There are child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies serving all 88 counties in Ohio.	Please visit: www.occrra.org
Ohio Parent Information Network	Free parenting information and support	All Ohioans.	Please visit: www.oh-pin.org
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	Nutritional education and support.	Income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants, and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition.	Please contact your local Jobs and Family Services Office.

LEGAL			
Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	More Information
Capital Law School	Free Legal Clinic	Current or former foster youth between ages 16-25 who need help with understanding legal papers , accessing healthcare, public benefits, housing or insurance, expunging criminal records and/or obtaining social security card, birth certificate, or other personal documents	Contact the Foster Youth Advocacy Center: (614) 236-6768, fyac@law.capital.edu

TOOLS FOR BUILDING KEY CONTACTS			
Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	More Information
Foster Care Alumni of America	Lifelong connections for foster care youth	National membership organization for adults (ages 18+) who lived in foster care, kinship care, or other out-of-home placement as children or youth.	FCAA national: www.fostercarealumni.org Ohio chapter: www.fcaa-oh.org
Ohio Youth Advisory Board	Statewide organization of young people (ages 14-24) who have experienced foster care.	Current and former foster youth in Ohio between ages 14-24 years old.	Please visit: www.pcsao.org/ohioyouth.htm