

YOUTH AGING OUT SURVEY ISSUE: CREATIVE FUNDING

What creative or alternative funding strategies has your state implemented for programs and initiatives targeting youth?

Arizona

The Division partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation to co-locate VR Counselors at two local CPS offices, one in Phoenix and one in Tucson. These offices house case managers who provide services exclusively to older youth in care who will likely reach the age of majority while in care.

Colorado

Family-to-Family (Child Welfare as a “Community Concern” Reform)
Collaborative Management/House Bill 1451 (Cross-Systems Reform)
Project 1:27 (Faith-Based Partnerships Initiative)
State Youth Council of State Workforce Development
YES! Academy
Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers

Connecticut

The state has focused on agency partnerships which have allowed many agencies to benefit from programming and expertise of other state agencies. Through these initiatives we have cut away a lot of duplication of services, been able to enhance positive programs and services and share knowledge. The DCF has worked closely with the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Mental Retardation, Education, Connecticut Housing and Finance Authority, Economic Development and Rehabilitative Services to name a few. The DCF has also partnered with private and community agencies to offer Summer Employment, Work to Learn and summer camperships.

Indiana

Indiana has partnered with private and public agencies to implement programs and initiatives targeting youth (i.e. Connected By 25 is a joint project with Indiana Dept. of Child Services, United Way and other private entities).

Iowa

Shared Youth Vision: Iowa is applying for a grant from the Department of Labor to pilot collaborative community efforts to address needs of system-involved youth. The shared youth vision team will work with public-private coalitions in Dubuque and Buena Vista Counties, to implement strategies to increase partnerships, build capacity, and integrate services and resources to improve outcomes among youth ages 14 to 21 who are involved in or who have aged out of Iowa’s Child Welfare / Juvenile Justice system. Locally-led efforts to convene stakeholders and engage partners are critical to coordinate and expand services and supports for system-involved youth. If selected, five key activities will be implemented as part of the project, including improving and integrating strategies and services to prepare system-involved youth for adulthood with efforts to connect these youth with permanent, positive relationships.

Maine

In early 2004 Maine was selected to be a site for the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. A planning grant was developed by the USM Muskie School and accepted by Jim Casey. The grant is a three year grant and we are in the third year of the grant. Maine was selected as a site due to the strong youth leadership program, program and funding support for youth continuing in voluntary care after age 18, and for being the only rural and statewide site participating in the initiative. This initiative allows

older youth in care to create a matched savings account. Youth can earn up to \$1,000 a year and have that amount matched.

Minnesota

The state received a federal adoptions opportunities activities grant in January 2004 that provides child-specific recruitment efforts to find adoptive families for youth under state guardianship who are between the ages of 13 – 17. Youth are active participants in developing their own individualized recruitment plans as well as directing their recruitment teams.

Mississippi

The MDHS-DFCS Independent Living Program continues to make efforts to maximize the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funding, Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, and Title VI-B funds. Because much of the services are contracted to other providers, this allows the use of more funds directly for the youth.

Missouri

The Missouri Treasurer's office has established a college savings and investment program for Missourians to contribute to a 529 college savings account for foster children of Missouri. The program, known as BELIEVE was established in December 2005. The Children's Division assists the Treasurer's office in identifying youth in foster care that are college bound.

Nebraska

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has been the recipient of a Federal Family and Youth Services grant titled "Positive Youth Development". The grant assists youth in developing and maintaining healthy lifestyles through positive role modeling, opportunities to give back to the community and developing youth leadership.

The collaboration between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation also allows a broader attention to programs targeted to preparing youth for independent living and an ability to pursue private funding to expand efforts.

New York

In addition to Chafee funds, New York participates in the federal ETV Program. We have funded approximately 900 youth each year over the past three years.

North Carolina

Use of allowable in-kind match to increase access to Federal Chafee Funds left unmatched by state dollars.

Ohio

Ohio has supplemented its Chafee dollars with an Independent Living Initiative under TANF. This began through executive order of the Governor for SFY 2007 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007), and this initiative has been proposed to continue for the next state biennium. \$2.5 million in TANF funds were allocated to PCSAs to support the provision of IL services and assistance to youth ages 16 and older who are in the agency's custody and young adults ages 18 to 21 who have emancipated from the agency's care

Tennessee

Tennessee has utilized public/private partnerships and existing federal programs such as Americorps and Habitat for Humanity to provide services for our youth as alternatives to providing the services solely as a state agency. The use of these organizations has significantly impacted our ability to provide options for our youth.

Virginia

There is an increase in the number of community services grants available to keep youth in the community and limit the occurrences of out-of home placements.

Washington

The FCTC partnership has raised over \$3 million dollars (public agencies provide matches, either in kind or funds, when possible).

Please describe the strategies in place in your state and how they have improved outcomes

Arizona

Older youth in care benefit from co-location through expedited referrals and service delivery. Co-location also allows for more expeditious information sharing between the CPS case manager and the VR Counselor, which is essential eligibility determination and service delivery.

Colorado

Family-to-Family (Child Welfare as a “Community Concern” Reform); Helps stabilize youth so they can continue education and work goals without moving around in placements outside their community.

Collaborative Management/House Bill 1451 (Cross-Systems Reform) helps youth be collaboratively managed with multiple agency goals in sync.

Project 1:27 (Faith-Based Partnerships Initiative) provides older youth opportunities for permanent connections through adoption.

State Youth Council of State Workforce Development provides youth employment and education connections.

YES! Academy provides homeless Chafee –eligible youth a community-based opportunity to access services they may choose not to access through a county.

Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers provides a temporary solution to end youth homelessness through the 18 months free rent voucher (82% successful completion rate)...many female youth have used this to escape domestic violence and prevent removal of their infants due to potential neglect concerns.

Connecticut

Obviously the more sharing of dollars and expertise allow youth to receive enhanced and additional services. In the past one agency might not talk with another and youth would receive either no programming or duplication of programming. With these partnerships we can ensure more opportunities, strengthening of best practices and distribution of knowledge.

Indiana

Indiana utilizes Chafee funding to decrease to number of homeless youth aging out of care. ETV funds are also used to expand a young person’s level of education and/or training.

Iowa

Request for proposals include the bidders addressing specific outcomes and desired results, how those will be measured, and what indicators will be utilized. Contracts in Iowa are outcome based/evidence based.

Maine

As of March 2007, nearly 200 youth were enrolled in the matched saving program (Opportunity Passport). We expect to have 225 youth enrolled by the end of April 2007. Youth enrolled in the Opportunity Passport are expected to participate in a financial literacy training in order to be eligible for matched savings. Linkages with community businesses and programs have been developed for what are called "door openers." An example of a door opener would be a grocery store chain reserving slots for employment of youth in care, or a local car repair shop offering discounted parts and labor rates for youth in care. MYOI coordinators are located in southern Maine, central Maine, northern Maine, and eastern Maine. An MYOI youth board has been established and oversees funds distributed to meet the needs of older youth in care in a planned manner. An adult MYOI partnership board has also been established comprised of individuals from the business community, the various state departments, and the private sector. Bangor Savings Bank has arranged for any youth in care in Maine to be able to electronically deposit and manage their Passport funds for any banking institution in Maine and another statewide banking institution recently joined the MYOI effort. Many youth have already reached their yearly matched savings goal and have purchased an asset such as a car, computer, car insurance, and other needed assets. The initiative has proven to be very successful in Maine.

The overall goal of MYOI is to develop lasting partnerships with public and private organizations and the business community. A private non-profit organization, Jobs for Maine's Graduates has agreed to sustain the initiative beyond the third year of the Casey grant and there is a sustainability plan in place. The objectives of MYOI coincide with the DHHS Office of Child and Family Services reform goal that all older youth in care will have adequate life skills and lasting community and permanency connections in place when they leave care. The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative site review team came to Maine in January 2007 and was impressed with how well Maine was doing with respect to the goals of the initiative. A number of older and former youth in care attended the meeting.

Minnesota

The strategies employed for this project engage eligible youth as active participants in developing their own individualized recruitment plans as well as directing their recruitment teams.

Since commencement, The Homecoming Project (THP) has served 80 youth and 28 youth have gained permanence through the project. Of these 28 youth, 11 have been legally adopted, six have permanent connections without legal adoption, and 11 are in pre-adoptive placements.

Mississippi

MDHS/DFCS is the agency responsible for administering the Chafee Foster Care Independent Program (CFCIP) and the Educational Training Vouchers (ETV) Programs. The Independent Living Program utilizes a contracting agency, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth (SCSCY). The contractor provides a wide array of independent living services in the PREPARE Program (Providing Resources, Education and Preparation to Adolescents Reaching Emancipation).

The mission of the Independent Living Program is to provide youth and young adults in care with an array of services and resources to assist and guide them in making a successful transition to become independent adults.

This partnership has improved outcomes because they share the responsibility towards meeting the mission of the program to provide youth and young adults in care with an array of services and resources to assist and guide them in making a successful transition to become independent adults. One significant outcome that has improved is the number of ETV recipients that are utilizing the ETV program. This has

had a significant effect on youth receiving more information about the benefits of the program and how to maintain the funding.

Missouri

The BELIEVE program will improve post-secondary outcomes in foster children. The Missouri MOST program (Missouri Savings for Tuition) provides tax-free college savings and investments for Missourians and is available for any Missouri individual or entity wanting to establish an account on behalf of a beneficiary. An individual, custodial, or entity account can choose the child to sponsor, decide how much to invest each year, and set up a MOST investment account. By making these contributions, participants are eligible for a tax deduction for the amount they have contributed (up to \$8,000 each year per taxpayer).

Nebraska

With regard to the Positive Youth Development Grant, Nebraska has worked with the Native American community in an 11 county area in western Nebraska. Strategies include development of accessible community centers which provide cultural activities and teachings such as drum groups dance groups and Native American arts, increasing avenues for positive self expression, involving these youth in civic matters and providing the Sons and Daughters of Tradition curriculum for youth.

An example of the benefit of the collaboration between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is shown in the Foundation's recent notice of funding of a proposal to the Nebraska Independent Colleges. This partnership will provide mentorship, scholarships, skills and exposure for foster youth with the 11 colleges in Nebraska.

New York

OCFS has used our training contract with the Adolescent Services Resource Network to provide opportunities for Youth Voice and partnerships with local departments of social services and voluntary agencies in an effort to respond to the needs of youth and promote the development of life skills.

North Carolina

Chafee funding allows states to count room and board paid on behalf of eligible youth to count as in-kind match for funds. North Carolina tracks state dollars paid for room and board for young adults remaining voluntarily in care while attending school. These dollars are used to match the entire ETV grant and a portion of the general Chafee grant. State funds which had been designated as a portion of the match are used to draw down additional dollars for county LINKS programs.

Ohio

The allocation is to be used to expand PCSAs efforts to enable youth who have, or who will, emancipate from foster care to gain the skills necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and lead productive lives in the community.

Washington

The FCTC strategy involves a collaborative effort between private and public agencies to provide services to dependent foster youth and youth exiting care to assist in improving educational outcomes.

Name and contact information of state individual regarding creative funding issues

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