

## **YOUTH AGING OUT SURVEY ISSUE: HOUSING**

What housing options does your state provide specifically for youth aging out of the system?

### **Alaska**

Alaska allows youth leaving custody to apply for two months rent at 100%. The third month rent is paid at 50% and the fourth month is paid at 25%. There are transitional living programs available to youth aging out of the system in the major population areas. These programs are also available to homeless youth, so are not dedicated solely to youth aging out.

### **Arizona**

Youth in Arizona may voluntarily remain in a foster care setting while pursuing education, training, employment and other goals, until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Any youth who leaves care at age 18 or older may request to return to care up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Arizona also provides aftercare services for youth who do not elect to remain in care with financial assistance available to help with room and board related costs. Former foster youth may receive up to \$1,800 per year for assistance in obtaining or maintaining housing related costs, including other room/board type costs, such as food, clothing, furniture, etc.

Although the state does not operate transitional housing facilities, there are a number of community supported transitional housing programs in the state where youth may be referred when in need. State policy does not permit a youth to be discharged to a state of homelessness. Case managers are required to ensure an adequate living arrangement is in place as part of the overall discharge plan.

### **Colorado**

Colorado provides some independent living arrangements depending on the youth needs while in care. Youth between the ages of 18-21 and emancipated from care can receive housing supports from Chafee. Youth 18-22 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless might receive housing through 100 section 8 rent vouchers provided by the Supportive Housing and Homeless Program (SHHP).

### **Connecticut**

We currently refer approximately 10% of our aging out youth to State adult service providers. The rest of the youth who leave currently must resolve housing issues on their own or with the support of family, life long supports or mentors. Workers can assist informally.

The DCF has recently begun a Governors' initiated collaboration with the State Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Mental Health and Addictive Services (DMHAS) to fund supportive Housing Units for former foster youth between the ages of 18 to 24. This initiative is currently in the contracting phase with the first group of selected programs and in the RFP phase for additional slots.

### **District of Columbia**

The Rapid Housing Program is a part of the menu of services offered to youth transitioning from care at the age of 21. The program is available to youth who are employed or have a viable employment plan, upon transitioning from care. Youth are provided with financial assistance over a period of 1 year. The amount of financial assistance offered is based on a spending plan which includes specific increased contributions made by the youth. Additionally, an Aftercare Specialist assists youth with identification of housing and counseling around complex housing issues.

## **Delaware**

Youth aging out of foster care in Delaware have several options for housing specifically designed for their unique needs. A limited number of transitional housing slots are available in Kent and New Castle Counties. West End Neighborhood House, Inc administers the program in New Castle and Elizabeth Murphey School administers the program in Kent. West End Neighborhood House also administers a permanent housing program for former foster youth who have two or more mental health disabilities. Delaware also provides aftercare living arrangements (host home agreements usually with fosters parents) as a transitional housing option.

## **Florida**

Florida provides an educational and living expense stipend for young adults attending school full-time. This program is funded through a combination of Chafee, ETV and State funds depending on the school attended and budget issues. In addition, emergency funds can be provided for young adults who are homeless or to prevent homelessness whether attending school or not. A third program for young adults provides funds for housing and other expenses based on a transition plan. The young adult is not required to attend school full time but must be working on a plan for transition and self-sufficiency.

In addition, young adults are permitted to continue to reside in their foster homes after the age of 18. Once they turn age 18 the payment for board rate must come out of one of the sources discussed above. The young adult may lease with the foster parent or have a portion paid directly to the foster parent.

Also, Florida Statute requires at age 17 that the caseworker report to the courts where the youth will live upon his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and how he or she will pay for housing. So it is expected that some planning occur to identify housing resources.

Florida is a community-based care state made up of 22 lead agencies. Many of these agencies have developed housing resources, but the types of resources vary from agency to agency.

## **Indiana**

Youth in any out-of-home placement at age 17 ½ are referred for transition services to help prepare them for housing and employment options when their case is dismissed at age 18 or older. Through these services, the youth are made aware of the availability of room and board assistance up to \$3,000 until age 21 if they remain in foster care until age 18. When the youth's wardship case is dismissed, the youth must complete the Voluntary Services Application and Service Agreement for IL services to continue which include room and board funding as well as case management. Youth may also access up to \$1,000 to purchase items needed for their apartment through Emancipation Goods and Services. Youth attending post-secondary institutions may access the Education and Training Voucher program for housing assistance.

Specific Programs include:

\*Fostering Independence Program in Indianapolis—combines transitional housing and supportive services to help meet needs of former foster youth

\*Chrysalis Academy—voluntary residential transition program offering young men between the ages of 18 and 24 the opportunity to learn skills needed to become self-sufficient. This provides a home rather than an institutional setting.

\*Transitional Living Program in Mishawaka—provides longer term residential services to homeless youth ages 16-21 for up to 18 months. The goal is to help youth make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

\*Stepping Stones Transitional Living Program in Bloomington— provides a structured environment where young people can prepare to take steps for transition.

## **Iowa**

**PAL:** In July of 2006, the Iowa Legislature passed legislation, referred to as Preparation for Adult Living (PAL), which is a stipend for youth who have aged out, who are living away from home, working or going to school, and who are cooperating with Iowa's aftercare program, the Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN). The monthly stipend can be as much as \$540 per month and can be used to facilitate the accomplishment of their transition goals, developed with a Self Sufficiency Advocate. There are already nearly 100 participants in the new Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program. PAL can be used to continue to pay a monthly stipend for youth to continue to live with their foster parents, in a supervised apartment, or a dorm room.

**IFA Rent Subsidy Program:** Jointly administered by Iowa Finance Authority and DHS, the Aftercare Rent Subsidy Program helps teens who are aging out of the state paid foster care system find and maintain safe, decent and affordable rental housing. The Rent Subsidy Program is available to youth participating in Iowa's aftercare program. The Rent Subsidy Program has two components, a Direct Rent Subsidy program and a Transitional Housing program.

**The Direct Rent Subsidy** supports the self-sufficiency goals of youth who have aged out of foster care and teaches life skills relative to renter rights and responsibilities. Youth can receive a subsidy for rent, which cannot exceed \$350 per month. Those who receive the rent subsidy must be motivated to obtain and retain steady employment and must sign a 12-month lease. The PAL program (above) creates an appealing alternative to the Aftercare Rent Subsidy Program for youth who have aged out of state paid foster care after May 1, 2006.

**The Transitional Housing Rent Subsidy** provides rental units that the Iowa Aftercare Services Network member agency rents or subleases to a youth coming out of the foster care system. The amount of transitional apartment subsidy is based on the lesser of the actual rent or 100 percent of the fair market rent under guidelines of the applicable HUD low-rent housing program in the county where the rental unit is located. These units are useful in urban areas where start-up rent costs are prohibitive. More information on the Iowa Aftercare Services Network and the rent subsidy program can be found at 1-800-443-8336.

## **Kansas**

Kansas has a few Transitional Living Programs and some scattered site type of settings that are through outside agencies. Kansas provides monthly subsidy for room/board for youth who have "aged out" of foster care.

## **Louisiana**

If the youth is continuing to procure an education, we can pay the youth a board rate for rent, pay the foster home a board rate for the youth to remain, pay a facility up to 3 months for a youth to complete a program, provide supervised apartment living and for some pay a graduated rental assistance.

**Maine**

Contracted agency transitional living  
Coordination with Maine State Housing  
Voluntary (V-9) agreements with youth that allow board payments to relatives, foster parents and landlords  
College and dorm payments through ETV

**Maryland**

Maryland's housing options for youth between 18 years of age but not yet 21, range from semi-independent living programs to living in their own apartments.

**Michigan**

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has \$3 million worth of contracts to expand housing assistance programs for foster youth as part of local communities' 10 year plan to end homelessness. MSHDA developed 8-10 homeless youth projects across the state. Funds can be used to provide rental assistance for youths ages 18 to 24, for a maximum of two years.

MSHDA and MDHS are in the process of developing housing education information available to youth on the internet and through trainings that the youth are performing. The information will include how to access safe and affordable housing such as information on available subsidized or affordable housing, how to negotiate a lease with a landlord, understanding conditions normally found in a standard lease, as well as tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities. Plans are in place to hold regular workshops on housing around the state with youths trained to be peer educators.

The Housing Resource Center, located in the city of Detroit, will administer a pilot project that will provide information and referral on available quality affordable rental units to former foster youth in Detroit. Youth will receive a two year subsidy, supportive services, and eviction prevention services to assure that they sustain their housing over the long-term. This will be a One-Stop Resource Center.

Youth In Transition (YIT) – Michigan's Chafee funding. Up to a lifetime limit of \$1,000 for first month's rent and security deposit as well as another lifetime limit of \$1,000 for start up goods such as furniture and household goods.

Independent Living (IL) – Independent Living youth are placed in an approved living situation such as an apartment and receive a biweekly stipend in the amount of \$255.78 for housing costs. The housing must be approved by the foster care case manager as safe and appropriate and the youth agrees to participate in an Independent Living Agreement. The foster care case manager visits with the youth at least monthly.

Structured Independent Living (SIL) – This is a similar program as the IL program with the addition of the foster care case manager visiting the youth on a weekly basis.

Education and Training Voucher (ETV) – Youth who participate in the ETV have graduated from high school or received a GED and are participating in post-secondary education or training. The ETV can assist youth in payment of rent and other housing expenses up to \$5,000.

Michigan Department of Human Services has developed a website for youth, [www.michigan.gov/FYIT](http://www.michigan.gov/FYIT), which is scheduled for release on the internet by the end of April 2007. This website has many links that will assist youth in finding appropriate housing options.

### **Minnesota**

Minnesota does not have a specific state level housing option for youth aging out of care. Minnesota is a state supervised/county administered system and so local agencies have the responsibility to link youth to housing in their communities. In general what occurs is that youth are referred by county social workers to community-based agencies that represent a wide range of housing resources provided either directly or purchased through housing providers.

### **Mississippi**

This is up to the youth as to where they wish to be housed upon leaving care. There is a Transitional Independent Living Plan component in the Mississippi Automated Child Welfare Information System (MACWIS). This component captures various areas for continued assessment, to include housing opportunities once the youth is leaving care. Youth have an opportunity to be placed in the Independent Living Placement option, while in care. This is a placement such as an apartment, house, or rooming house with supervision from a licensed placement agency. A youth who is age 17, has obtained a high school diploma, certificate of attendance or GED and is in the custody of MDHS may be placed through an agency licensed for independent living placements. Once they have entered this placement option, while in custody, than they have an opportunity to maintain their current living arrangement once their case is closed.

### **Montana**

Eligible youth can access financial assistance with deposits, set up fees and up to 3 months of Chafee funds for room and board.

### **Nebraska**

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services offers a Transitional Living Program in 6 areas of the state that provide apartments for youth while they are making the transition to independent living.

### **New Jersey**

New Jersey keeps kids in care until 21 if they wish to remain open cases. Therefore they will be eligible for foster care payments.

In addition, over the last several years, we've partnered with the New Jersey Home Mortgage Finance Agency and the Department of Community Affairs (NJ's housing department) to create a number of safe, supported housing programs throughout the state. For the first time we are creating permanent housing in several of our areas, as well as transitional living programs, as well as various apartment models.

### **New Mexico**

NM has five transitional living programs located in different areas of the state contracted to provide transitional living housing for eligible youth. Various communities also have community funded and administered housing options. Job Corps is also a resource. We are working on a plan to develop a Section 8 look-alike to further meet housing needs of transitioning youth.

## **New York**

**Supervised Independent Living programs (SILPS)** assist older youth in making the transition to self-sufficiency. Supervised Independent Living is a type of agency-operated boarding home program whereby youth under supervision live on their own in the community in apartments or homes that more closely approximate the type of living quarters youth will be residing in after they are discharged. To participate in the program, youth must be between 16 and 21 years of age, have been in foster care for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the placement in the program or have been in the care and custody or the custody and/or guardianship of the local commissioner of the social services district in a status of trial discharge.

**Preventive Housing Services** are mandated if a youth has a goal of discharge to Another Planned Living Arrangement with a Permanency Resource and has been in foster care for at least 90 days, is prepared for discharge and is able to be discharged only if preventive housing services are provided. Preventive housing services may be provided regardless of the age of the foster child, up to the age of 21. A youth may receive up to \$300 per month for a period of 36 months.

**Chafee Room and Board Services** are available for youth over the age of 18 who have aged out of foster care and have not yet attained the age of 21. Room and board services are defined as money for rent, ongoing maintenance (e.g. utilities), furnishings and start-up costs generally associated with renting an apartment, (e.g. money for security deposits on apartments or a utility deposit. In addition, former foster youth attending a post secondary educational or vocational training program and who are eligible for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program may be able to use some of their ETV funds for housing when there is an identified unmet financial need.

**Housing Subsidy Section 8 vouchers statewide.** In New York City, the housing agency offers priority to youth leaving foster care to obtain Section 8 vouchers and apartments in the NYCHA complexes.

**Other:** A new initiative, New York New York III, a supportive housing initiative, will for the first time have 200 beds for youth leaving care with no co-occurring issues (e.g., mental health). There will be up to 400 beds in other categories for youth (not just those in care). These will be located in NYC.

In New York City, there are three other supportive housing programs options where a youth can live and transition into the community.

## **North Carolina**

Our state provides up to \$1000 per year to young adults who aged out of foster care in order to rent (or purchase) housing in the area of their choosing. These funds may only be used for “rent, rent deposits, room and board arrangements, or down-payments on dwelling”. Other funds are available to help with other related expenditures, such as utility deposits or payments, furniture, household goods, etc.

## **North Dakota**

North Dakota uses Chafee Room and Board funding to provide financial assistance, and services and support from an IL Coordinator to youth aging out of the system for rent, utilities, and deposits. Approximately 65 youth per year age out of the foster care system.

In 2005 – 2006 we had used Chafee Room and Board funding to operate Transitional Living Apartments for youth aging out of the system. We discovered that the youth most in need of these apartments were

youth who had needs that far out- weighed the intended purpose of the apartments i.e. mental health issues, developmental disabilities, history of sexual offenses. Our program was not set up to provide the amount of structure and supervision necessary. After a year of operation, we made the decision to terminate our leases on these apartments. Chafee has continued to collaborate with the Child and Family Teams of these youth to come up with plans to meet the individualized housing needs of these youth.

In the past, Youth Works, a private agency within our state, was receiving the Federal Transitional Living Program Grant. They were the sole recipient of the TLP Grant within our state, and were not awarded this grant three years ago.

Currently, another private organization (PATH) is in the process of applying for this Federal Transition Living Program Grant. If the organization is successful in receiving the grant, Chafee and TLP will collaborate on a transitional housing project, which provides more structure and supervision to the youth in need.

### **Ohio (State)**

Local Public Children Service Agencies (PCSA) are responsible for conducting life-skills assessment for each youth in substitute care who has attained the age of 16 or whom the agency feels is ready to receive IL services. The assessment establishes the need for certain services, and is based on an objective tool completed by the youth (or on the youth's behalf), with documented input from the youth, his/her caregiver, and the case manager. The assessment is to be completed no later than 90 days after the youth turns sixteen years old or 90 days from entering into agency custody. For emancipated young adults, agencies are directed to develop a mutually agreed upon written plan for the provision of services identified as being needed based on an evaluation of the young adult's strengths and needs once the emancipated young adult requests Independent Living services from the local PCSA. This plan is to outline the responsibility of the young adult and the agency, and is signed by the young adult and a representative of the agency as an indication that the young adult will take personal responsibility for achieving independence.

A lot of the counties utilize an assessment provided by the Casey for youth services that has a supplement to the assessment that addresses homelessness. It outlines the youth/young adult current living situation, their health, employment and education.

Best practice standards are for housing to be arranged post emancipation and secured prior to the actual date of emancipation.

### **Ohio (Non-State)**

Local Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) assists with housing options on a case by case basis. Some agencies seek scattered housing for emancipating youth. Some help with first month's rent, some may provide an ongoing housing subsidy. Housing for these youth is a huge challenge with few solutions.

### **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma has several transitional living programs that are operated through private non-profit and faith-based organizations. These are located primarily in the metropolitan areas. In addition there are five Runaway and Homeless Youth grantees currently in Oklahoma. As youth are working on their IL case plan they are advised of these options for housing that they may pursue after they exit care. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse currently has a state funded one year grant

that provides transitional living services (housing and support) to youth with mental health issues in seven regions around the state. Custody youth with mental health diagnosis can access these services. The Oklahoma Independent Living Program utilizes Youth Development Funds (from Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program funds-CFCIP) to provide housing needs to eligible youth. Youth can receive assistance with housing and utility deposits, furniture, and household items and then receive up to six months rent over the period from ages 18 to 21 years of age. There is also housing through HUD but few of our youth have successfully navigated that system with its long waiting list.

## **Oregon**

Oregon participates in the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and through this federal grant provides “Chafee Housing Services” for youth aging out of the foster care system.

## **South Carolina**

Voluntary Placement Agreement: Foster youth eighteen or older, no longer subject to court jurisdiction, and he or she needs continued placement arrangements, can sign an Agreement for Continued Placement of Persons 18 – 21 years of age, provided:

The foster adolescent age 18 requests to remain in the agency’s care

The youth has no other alternative permanent plan option available and is not yet ready for emancipation

The youth is enrolled in a GED program, or is a full-time student in a post secondary education setting or in vocational preparation training

### **Emancipation (Housing Assistance)**

The South Carolina Independent Living Program utilizes Chafee funds to assist with emancipation expenses for youth establishing a residence after becoming 18 years old and up until age 21. The youth must be employed and demonstrate means for maintaining housing after funds are depleted. Youth receive assistance with the following:

- Phone deposit
- Electric, gas or water deposit (deposits are based upon the county utility agencies)
- Furniture (limited to \$1,500 unless foster youth has a child or is pregnant. In the latter case, \$2,00 will be available)
- Rental assistance will be for up to 6 months at the following rate:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> months - 100%
  - 4<sup>th</sup> month - 75%
  - 5<sup>th</sup> month - 50%
  - 6<sup>th</sup> month - 25%
  -

Youth who are at least 6 months pregnant or have a child less than one year of age can be awarded 6 months of full rental assistance.

Referrals to Department of Mental Health and Department of Disability and Special Needs when youth are transitioning from foster care and need specialized services and housing.

The Department of Social Services also utilizes Chafee funds to assist youth who are in emergency housing situation and/or at risk of homelessness.

## **Texas**

An increase in transitional living opportunities is needed to help meet the growing need for safe and affordable housing and provide some stability for youth aging out of care. Some of our current housing options include referrals to Texas Transitional Living grantees of the Family and Youth Services Bureau for transitional housing for former foster youth and partnerships with local housing authorities on behalf of youth aging out of foster care. Local communities also organize efforts to provide short- and long-term housing opportunities for young adults, for example:

- relationships with apartment complexes for referral of former foster youth
- partnerships with local apartment complexes giving priority to PAL-referred youth, and providing discounted rent and mentoring for youth
- a project of two community homeless shelters that would result in a transitional living and resource center that would also house 75 youth
- a local collaboration providing 6 units to youth aging out of care
- a local partnership providing housing for single mothers as they work and pursue vocational training at Angelina College
- a new Housing Coalition, which was initiated in September 2005 to bring additional community partners to help youth access safe and affordable housing
- housing programs for dedicated to youth aging out of the foster care system
- local partnerships with HUD
- set-aside vouchers from Section 8 housing for former foster care youth
- residential housing scholarships for former foster care youth attending college
- housing referrals as a result of a formal partnership between the Dept. of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and local workforce boards.

## **Vermont**

We offer Chafee funding for housing and our Youth Development Coordinator help youth find housing. We also have two shelter programs. One has 3 beds and the other has 4 beds.

Our Governor has proposed a bill that would extend foster care to age 22. The bill is making its way through the legislative process this session.

## **Virginia**

In Virginia, a youth may continue to receive services to age 21. Therefore, youth may remain in their foster care placements. State and local funds are utilized for youth transitioning in their own apartments and other independent living arrangements. This funding is known as the Independent Living stipend. Some localities coordinate services with the local public housing authorities. Others partner with private providers that offer supervised or semi-supervised apartments for foster care youth. Also, Virginia utilizes the federal Chafee funds (room and board) for eligible youth age 18 and older.

## **Washington**

DSHS-Children's Administration utilizes the Federal Chafee grant to help provide some housing assistance to youth exiting foster care. Youth would need to meet eligibility criteria and demonstrate a need.

Washington State offers the Foster Care to 21 Program to youth who have aged out of the foster care system and are pursuing post secondary education. Youth must apply for this program and be accepted in order to remain in foster care until age 21. Youth get their housing assistance by remaining in their foster homes. This program is limited to 50 youth in 2006, 100 in 2007 and 150 in 2008.

Washington State has many local housing projects that serve youth in general and foster youth transitioning out of care can utilize these programs. This would also include some from our faith based community.

The contracted Independent Living Programs which are located around Washington State collaborate with their local housing authorities and other local housing programs to refer youth aging out of foster care to the available programs.

### What services does your state provide to assist youth in maintaining current living arrangements?

#### **Alaska**

Youth who left custody before turning eighteen are eligible for subsidized adoption and guardianship until they reach eighteen. They are then eligible for financial assistance for clothing to find jobs and furniture to maintain their living arrangements. Emergency food is available but limited to \$100 per month for three months.

#### **Arizona**

Some financial assistance for housing related costs (including room and board) is available through the aftercare program (see above). Youth who desire to remain in foster care after turning 18 may do so on a voluntary basis. Youth may remain in care (to age 21) to support their transition to adulthood, as long as they are actively participating in services. Youth who remain in care past age 18 are encouraged to transition from a supervised living situation (i.e. foster home, group home) to the Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP). The ILSP provides a monthly stipend to assist youth in care with living expenses. Youth in care may receive the IL Subsidy while completing high school or pursuing post-secondary educational, vocational or employment training.

Youth who remain in care past age 18 as well as former foster youth may apply for the state Education and Training Voucher (ETV) when enrolled or enrolling in eligible post-secondary education and training programs. The ETV may be used to assist with housing expenses in addition to traditional education expenses, such as tuition, books and fees.

#### **Colorado**

### **7.305 INDEPENDENT LIVING AND CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS (CFCIP)**

#### **7.305.1 INDEPENDENT LIVING [Rev. eff. 12/1/00]**

Independent Living includes programs and services to prepare youth in out-of-home care for the transition from a structured living environment to living on their own. Services for all children in out-of-home care should include efforts to build life skills competency; however, such services are mandatory for youth age

16 and over. Other planned permanent arrangements through emancipation as a permanency goal shall only be used for youth who are 16 to 21 years of age (see Section 7.301.24, O).

### **7.305.2 DEFINITIONS [Rev. eff. 4/1/01]**

"Emancipation" - For purposes of the Colorado Children's Code and the delivery of social services, emancipation is considered to occur when a youth reaches age 18 and is no longer under the jurisdiction of the court, or is married, or enters military service.

"Independent Living Arrangement (I.L.A.)" - A placement in foster care defined by the Colorado Children's Code, where a youth lives independently in the community under the supervision of the county department. Receiving funds is not a necessary condition for a youth to be in an I.L.A. Youth shall receive casework services on I.L.A. with or without receipt of the I.L.A. stipend.

"Independent Living Assessment" - An evaluation of the youth's daily living skills. This assessment should document the youth's strengths, needs, as well as capacity and motivation to learn the appropriate skills.

"Independent Living Plan (I.L.P.)" - An addendum to the discrete case plan that includes those services designed to promote or enhance a youth's capacity to make a successful transition from out-of-home care to living independently and maintaining self-sufficiency.

### **Connecticut**

The goal of the DCF Adolescent Bureau is to ensure that every youth leaves our care with a post secondary diploma, vocational skill or employment position which will allow them to earn a livable wage. To that we allow youth to remain in voluntary care until the age of 23 if pursuing a college degree, 21 if involved in a vocational training program and for one year following their graduating from high school or receiving their GED if in an employment situation or employment training program. With the above goals in mind we want all of the young people who leave us to have the option of remaining in their current housing situation and assuming all responsibilities, finding similar housing or entering a supportive housing arrangement where they may receive up to two years of some rental subsidy and case management support.

### **District of Columbia**

As a youth prepares to transition from care, an Aftercare referral is made for community supportive services. During the year leading up to a youth's exiting from care, an Aftercare Specialist is assigned and a transition plan is developed which include obtaining and sustaining housing for the long term. The Aftercare Specialist work in partnership with the child welfare Social Worker and the youth to ensure that supports are in place for a smooth transition.

### **Delaware**

Delaware contracts with IL service providers that assist youth in developing life skills to maintain housing; and help youth in identifying housing options, including prospective roommates. Youth also receive funds for rent, utilities and security deposits.

## **Florida**

As mentioned previously, young adults are permitted to continue to reside in their foster homes after the age of 18. Once they turn age 18 the payment for board rate must come out of one of the sources discussed above. The young adult may lease with the foster parent or have a portion paid directly to the foster parent.

In addition, some youth may qualify for the Subsidized Independent Living program. This program is for youth in foster care age 16 or 17. These youth may live in certain arrangements that are not required to be licensed and are provided a monthly stipend to assist in paying bills. This helps to have some youth prepared and living on their own prior to aging out.

## **Indiana**

If a youth is placed in a foster home, the youth and the foster parents are made aware that they can develop a “host home arrangement” if both are amenable to an arrangement of this type to allow the youth to remain in the foster home after their case is dismissed.

Youth who are placed in a scattered site apartment at age 18 through a licensed child placing agency and are referred to an IL service provider in order to provide assistance in maintaining the apartment or moving to a more affordable apartment if needed.

## **Iowa**

**Transition Planning Specialists:** The Iowa Department of Human Services employs eight Chafee-funded Transition Planning Specialists, who by working with the DHS or Juvenile court caseworker, develop a transition plan for every youth 16 or older who is expected to “age out” of Iowa’s state paid foster care system. The TPS work with local DHS offices to assist the caseworkers at all phases of the transition process. TPS are particularly active in the transition review process, wherein each transition plan is reviewed and must be approved by a team of professionals. Housing needs are addressed as well as relationships, health, education, employment, or other issues to support the young person in transition.

Youth in foster care over the age of 16 may be approved to enter a Supervised Apartment Living program if the arrangement is part of the youth’s transition plan. In many cases, this SAL setting is an apartment rented by the youth or by an agency on behalf of the youth. Youth may remain in SAL through the age of 18. Some may stay longer in order to complete a high school diploma or GED. This arrangement creates an opportunity for youth to remain in the same apartment and be served by the same provider as they transition to the services of Iowa’s aftercare program.

The PAL program, described above, allows eligible youth, who cooperate with the aftercare program, to use the monthly stipend to continue to pay a foster parent or relative rent in order to remain in that home for up to three years leaving state paid foster care.

For youth who are not already connected to an aftercare provider and who plan to take advantage of PAL, Iowa DHS has created a “Pre-PAL option”, which allows ten visits, prior to entering PAL, with an aftercare provider to develop goals, find housing, or access resources which will smooth the transition to adulthood.

**Kansas**

Kansas provides monthly subsidy for room/board for youth who have “aged out” of foster care. Kansas also provides services to youth including budgeting to help youth be self-sufficient in maintaining their living arrangement. Youth also receive life skills to help them prepare for maintaining their own living arrangement. Youth may also access federal programs for housing.

**Louisiana**

We will pay the previous foster home a retainer if the youth is away at college so that the youth can return during semester and holidays. We will pay the youth a monthly amount if they live in a dorm and will also pay youth a monthly amount if they are living in their own apartment. If they remain in the foster home to continue their education, we either pay the foster parent or pay the youth who has made an agreement with the foster parent to pay directly for their care.

**Maine**

Life Skills caseworker support

Board payments made in flexible methods

Support in applying for federal and state aid for post secondary education programs

**Maryland**

Maryland provides time limited financial services to youth between the ages of 18 and not yet 21 who have left care. These services vary depending on the specific need of the youth. Once the youth turns 21, Maryland does not provide any services. Maryland provides ongoing financial assistance to youth who remain in care. This is done through semi-independent living programs, which the state has a contract with them to provide these services. Maryland also provides financial assist to eligible youth through the semi-independent living stipend allowance (SILA) living in their own apartments, with a friend or dormitory setting. Maryland provides start-up items and furniture for youth in their own apartments. Maryland can also assist with the deposit and time limited rental assistance. Maryland provides food cards on a time-limited bases.

**Michigan**

Please see the answer to the first question.

**Minnesota**

Minnesota statute requires that within six months prior to the youth’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday the local social service agencies must notify youth in foster care, the youth’s parent or guardian and foster parents of the availability of benefits up to age 21 of the foster care program. Included in these benefits is foster care maintenance which would allow the youth to remain in care beyond his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Mississippi**

Youth are assisted in various ways. A **\$1,000.00** Start-Up Stipend is available to youth who leave care after turning age sixteen (16) and who have participated in the available Independent Living Program activities. The youth must have been in care for a minimum of six (6) months. This stipend may be requested during the six months prior to release from custody and up to the six months following release from custody. Acceptable purchases may include any items associated with the establishment of a home, such as, but not limited to: dishes, cooking utensils, appliances, linens, furniture, cleaning supplies, curtains, and rugs.

There are AfterCare Services available to youth. Special financial assistance will be provided for youth age 18 until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, who left custody on or after attaining age 18. These services are available to youth in crisis who need additional temporary assistance to continue in the process of transitioning towards self-sufficiency. The benefits can be distributed quarterly as long as a youth remains in need. Aftercare Services may include rent deposits, rent payments, utility deposits, utility payments, food and household supplies, and child care; they typically refer to items that relate to shelter or food. These are the most expensive and essential items that youth 18-21 may not be able to provide for themselves, with their own financial sources.

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program helps youth make the transition to self-sufficiency and to help youth receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment. The ETV Program is a federal program that provides supplemental resources to meet the *cost of attendance* in post-secondary educational and vocational programs, as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, for all youth aging out of custody. This program makes vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year available to eligible youth attending post-secondary education. The cost of attendance may include tuition, fees, equipment, materials, computers, housing, internships, school-related travel, transportation needs, childcare, room and board, healthcare, student loans, and re-imbursalment of educational needs to the applicant. All requests are requested through the Mississippi Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (MACWIS), which is housed by the Mississippi DHS-Division of Family & Children's Services.

### **Montana**

Everyone involved in the transitional planning for youth is encouraged to assist and educate the youth about extending foster care if graduation is not completed by age 18.

### **Nebraska**

The NE Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) funds the Child Saving Institute in Omaha and Cedar's Youth (Freeway Station) in Lincoln. Both agencies serve both state wards and non-state wards. The NHAP assists with those youth who are not state wards. [They may be runaways or the agency may be working with the family to ensure the youth do not become homeless.] Youth living independently youth may be referred to an independent living specialist who assists the youth with issues that confront youth attempting to become self sufficient.

### **New Jersey**

All our housing for aging out youth must contain a variety of services such as life skills, counseling, case management, etc. In addition, we have created a case management component called after care. These contracted agencies assist youth in obtaining, housing, employment and further education. We have wraparound funds for up to \$4,000 per youth to pay for furniture, driving lessons, security deposits, and 4 months rent. Under the Medicaid Extension for Young Adults, youth who were in a paid out of home placement can continue to receive Medicaid until the age of 21 after they have left care. Youth also have the ability to access funding for post-secondary education through the NJ Scholars Program.

### **New Mexico**

We provide "semi-independent living" maintenance payments to eligible youth 16-21, which comes to approximately \$500 per month. We also provide case management and IL support to help them deal with landlord/lessee and other housing challenges.

## **New York**

**Aftercare services** are provided to former foster care youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years and include financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate supports and services. Every youth discharged to Independent Living must remain in the status of trial discharge for at least 6 months where custody of the youth is retained and certain requirements for casework contacts and services apply. This trial discharge period may continue until a youth reaches the age of 21. If a youth loses housing during the period of trial discharge, the social services district must assist the youth to find other appropriate housing or replace the youth in a foster care setting, if necessary. In addition, when custody ceases, the district must maintain supervision of the youth until the youth is 21 years of age.

**SILP** apartments must be visited in their unit an average of twice per week during each 90-day period. A minimum of one visit per month is mandatory. At the time of each youth's admission, a discharge plan is developed for the youth with an anticipated date of discharge of 6 to 12 months after admission. In addition to supervision and counseling, youth have a range of independent living services available to them in the areas of employment, vocational training, use of community referral agencies, job search and home management skills such as budgeting, shopping, cooking and cleaning.

When a youth is receiving **Preventive Housing Services**, the youth must remain on a trial discharge basis where custody of the youth is maintained and certain requirements for casework contacts and service provision apply.

Youth receiving **Chafee Room and Board Services** must be supervised. A district that opts to provide Chafee room and board services must establish written policies and procedures that address: (1) the categories of youth that will be provided room and board services; (2) the maximum levels of funding for the provision of room and board assistance; (3) the expenses that will be covered under the room and board program; (4) the maximum dollar amount that will be paid to a youth and the length of time the youth will be eligible for such assistance; (5) any stipulations related to employment or school.

## **North Carolina**

LINKS Social workers are required to offer services to all young adults who aged out of care until they are 21. This sometimes involves negotiating with landlords, problem solving, teaching life skills, helping with employment issues, etc.

## **North Dakota**

Our state's foster care system utilizes the wraparound process, consisting of the Child and Family Team, and Single Plan of Care. We have a Regional IL Specialist/Coordinator in each region who participates in all Child and Family Team Meetings to assist with a plan to address the needs, including housing needs, of all youth who have been identified as likely to age out of care. Chafee funds and services are available to supplement the individualized plans. We also provide youth with various household items to assist them with setting up their first apartment. Our state also allows youth to sign themselves into foster care for the purposes of meeting their educational goals.

**Ohio (State)**

Ohio is currently utilizing \$2.5 million TANF dollars for youth independent living services. The allocation is to be used to expand PCSAs efforts to enable youth who have or will emancipate from foster care to gain the necessary skills to achieve self-sufficiency and lead productive lives. One of the services available to young adults is security deposits, utility deposits, and rent and utility payments for up to four months when there is a clear plan that the young adult will be able to maintain ongoing payments beyond those for which he or she has received assistance from the PCSA.

**Ohio (Non-State)**

Individual case planning services, determined on a case by case basis.

**Oklahoma**

Prior to exiting care youth have opportunities to learn about housing options, locating affordable housing, budgeting for housing through workshops offered at teen conferences and seminars. Care providers are encouraged to work with youth around the life skills involved in locating/budgeting for housing.

The Youth Development Funds listed under the first question can be used to assist a youth in maintaining the housing they select as they exit care.

If youth are pursuing post secondary education that qualifies for Education and Training Voucher Program assistance, the youth can receive assistance from that funding source for room and board.

**Oregon**

The youth involved with the Chafee Housing Services are provided with an ongoing case manager and participation in the Independent Living Program – Skills Training. Through this support youth are able to access services and supports as well as having a case manager who may assist the youth in navigating community supports.

**South Carolina**

A case manager can open an Aftercare case that includes follow-up services for youth ages 18 - 21 leaving foster care in need of Aftercare services.

Technical assistance and services of the Independent Living Program are available for youth in voluntary placement agreements after age 18. The Department of Social Services also collaborates with the Foster Parent Association to retain the number for adolescent foster home placements and increase the specialized foster homes for youth. Directive memos are sent to county directors to work in collaboration with the Foster Parent Association to improve communication between DSS caseworkers, foster parents and youth.

**Texas**

Support Services, including learning how to obtain and maintain housing, are provided to youth preparing to age out of care.

Preparation for Adult Living staff, through a collaboration with public and private organizations, assist youth in identifying and developing support systems and housing for when they leave care.

Support through mentoring programs and peer to peer support networks.

Case Management is provided to eligible youth and helps connect the youth to needed resources, including housing.

Rules for a "Return to Care" program are currently under review. This rule would allow young people who have aged out of the child welfare system to return to the foster care placement up to the age of 22 to complete high school, up to the age of 21 to complete vocational training programs, or return to their foster home for short term stays during breaks from post secondary school. If passed, the effective date for this program would be September 1, 2007.

### **Vermont**

The Chafee housing contracts can last up to one year.

### **Virginia**

Mentoring services

Life skill training (financial management, budgeting, housekeeping)

Contract services with private providers (regular visits with youth in their own apartments)

Case management services

### **Washington**

DSHS-Children's Administration utilizes the Federal Chafee grant to help former foster youth maintain their current living arrangements. Youth can receive assistance with security deposits and rent. Youth would need to meet eligibility criteria and demonstrate a need.

Washington State offers the Foster Care to 21 program to youth who have aged out of the foster care system who are pursuing post secondary education so they can remain in their current living situation (usually their foster home). Youth apply for this program and once accepted can remain in foster care until age 21. This program is limited to 50 youth in 2006, 100 in 2007 and 150 in 2008.

There are some local and state funded projects that are available to youth that offer housing assistance, start up costs and case management services to youth who meet the established eligibility. This would also include the faith community who also offers similar programs to youth.

### What kind of funding is used to support youth housing services?

#### **Alaska**

Direct payment for rent comes from the CFCILP. Transitional living funds are from a HUD grant for supportive housing and another federal grant through CFS for homeless youth.

#### **Arizona**

The state uses funds through the State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) to support housing needs of youth 18-21.

#### **Colorado**

Colorado counties determine their independent living funding sources  
Chafee funds a portion of housing

SHHP- Supportive Housing & Homeless Program may provide an 18 month rent free voucher for homeless youth

### **Connecticut**

For youth who remain in care either through commitment or voluntarily all funding for there housing is paid for through our Board and Care funds. This includes a full continuum of housing of foster care, residential programs, group homes, transitional living programs, college dorms, job corps and independent living apartments with case management services.

### **District of Columbia**

Rapid Housing Program is funded through local dollars. Federal funding through the John H. Chafee Independence Program is used to support housing needs for youth who exit care between the ages of 18-21.

### **Delaware**

Chafee funds and state funds administered by the Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families; Community Development Block Grant administered by the City of Wilmington; Citigroup Grant monies; Good Samaritan Foundation monies; and private donors.

### **Florida**

A combination of funds are provided depending upon the young adult's educational setting or other efforts for self-sufficiency.

Federal sources: Chafee and ETV funds.

State funds.

Some community-based care agencies are able to secure private funding for a variety of resources, one of which being housing.

### **Indiana**

This funding is made available to youth in every county through contracted service providers using Chafee funds.

### **Iowa**

For FY 2007, Iowa's aftercare program (IASN) is funded with \$700,000 Chafee funding for services to support youth who have left state paid foster care. Iowa DHS also utilized the Mental Health Block Grant funding of \$100,000 in order to better serve youth in Aftercare with serious emotional disorders.

The Aftercare Rent Subsidy Program was established via Chafee funds, with \$150,000 transferred to the Iowa Finance Authority to administer the program. An average of 24 youth per month participate in this program.

Roughly 1.1 million state dollars were utilized to implement the PAL stipend and services for FY 2007. The PAL program creates an appealing alternative to the Aftercare Rent Subsidy Program for youth who have aged out of state paid foster care after May 1, 2006.

Salary and benefits for 8 DHS transition planning specialists and 1 program manager utilize Chafee funding of approximately \$600,000.

**Kansas**

Monthly subsidy for room/board is provided through Chafee funding. If a youth is receiving Education & Training Voucher (ETV) funds, those funds can be used for room/board payments as well.

**Louisiana**

State General Funds and if Chafee funds were not totally used for the Independent Living Services.

**Maine**

Maine State Housing funds  
Chafee funds  
State dollars

**Maryland**

John H. Chafee funds are used.

**Michigan**

Chafee, ETV Chafee, County Child Care Funds, State Ward Board and Care, and Michigan State Housing Development Authority funds.

**Minnesota**

The chart below outlines the wide array of housing funding in Minnesota that supports youth. In Minnesota most youth age-out of care at age eighteen. The below programs define youth as age 21 or younger.

<b>Housing Investments for Youth, Adults and Families in Minnesota (FY 2006)</b>			
<b>Name and Origin of Funding Source</b>	<b>State Department/Division</b>	<b>Amount of Funding committed for Runaway &amp; Homeless Youth</b>	<b>Amount of Funding committed for Homeless Adults and/or Families</b>
(State) Housing Trust Fund and other resources.	Minnesota Housing	\$810,000	\$9,007,698
(State) Publicly Owned Supportive Housing		\$0	\$2,960,000
(Federal) Housing tax credits (rounds 1 and 2)	Minnesota Housing	\$0	\$2,400,000

(State) Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program	Minnesota Housing	\$582,540	\$3,608,263
(State) Ending Long-Term Homelessness Supportive Services Funding	Department of Human Services - Adult and Family Services	NA	\$5,000,000
(State) Transitional Housing Program	Department of Human Services - Office of Economic Opportunity	\$274,250	\$1,566,750
(Federal) Emergency Shelter Grant Program	Department of Human Services - Office of Economic Opportunity	\$120,475	\$1,042,650
(State) Emergency Services Program	Department of Human Services - Office of Economic Opportunity	\$52,000	\$298,000
(Federal) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Transitional Housing Program (TANF THP)	Department of Human Services - Office of Economic Opportunity	\$33,750	\$1,293,250
(State) Healthy Transition to Adulthood and Homeless Prevention Grant Program	Department of Human Services - Child Safety & Permanency	\$700,815	\$0.00
(Federal) Title VII-B of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act (No Child Left Behind Initiative)	Department of Education	\$450,000	\$0.00
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$3,023,830</b>	<b>\$27,176,611</b>

### Mississippi

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program  
Title IV-B Part 1  
Child Welfare Services (CWS)

### Montana

Two programs in Montana are funded under the FYSB youth transitional living programs. They are Tumbleweed Runaway Program in Billings and HRDC.

**Nebraska**

The funding used (see response #2) is the NE Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Funds and the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Emergency Shelter Grant: state and federal funds are used.

The Former Ward Program (paid for through state Child Welfare funds) can pay youth up to \$352.00 per month for room and board expenses for youth successfully attending school up to age 21.

**New Jersey**

A small bit of Chafee, TANF, state dollars, HUD funds, and State Rental Assistance.

**New Mexico**

SIL (see above), ETV, and "Start-up" funds are all used to support housing for youth in transition. Start-up funds are a lifetime of \$1500, usually expended at \$500 per year, 18-21, to help a youth to establish a household. SU funds pay for deposits, rent, furniture, utility hook-ups, and other items related to supporting a housing arrangement.

**New York**

Preventive Services funding (65% state-35% local, net of any federal funds; this is an uncapped state funding stream)

Up to 30% of a local social services district's Independent Living allocation may be used for Chafee Room and Board Services

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) may be used for housing by youth in the ETV program who are attending a post secondary educational and vocational training program who demonstrate a need for assistance with housing

Foster Care Maintenance payments for SILP programs. In addition, local districts may make Foster Care Maintenance Payments to a college on behalf of a foster youth when a foster youth is away at college. These payments must not be in excess of the amount that would be made to a foster family were the youth living in a foster home.

Section 8 Housing Subsidy

**North Carolina**

Chafee Foster Care Independence Funds. College students and young adults in other postsecondary programs may also receive housing assistance through Education Training Voucher Funds.

**North Dakota**

Chafee Room and Board funding

**Ohio (State)**

Ohio allows agencies to use up to 30% of Chafee funding for room and board for emancipated youth 18-21. Ohio reports this funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of transitioning youth.

Ohio's Independent Living program partners with public housing authorities.

### **Ohio (Non-State)**

Federal Chafee funds are allocated out to the 88 county public children services agencies, which provide the match to leverage the federal funds. The funds are distributed, based on number of youth aging out of foster care each year. Up to 30% may permissively be used for housing costs.

County agencies also use local levy or local general revenue funds to support all IL services, including housing support. This overdependence on local funding causes inequities across the state.

### **Oklahoma**

Non-profit housing is obtained through the organization's donations. State money is utilized for the transitional living program for youth with a mental health diagnosis. Federal dollars (CFCIP) are used for the youth development funds.

### **Oregon**

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program - federal grants funding.

### **South Carolina**

Funding sources available are:

- Chafee Foster Care Independence Funds

- Economic Services Funds

The Department of Social Services has received a one million dollar grant from the State Housing and Finance Development Authority to assist with identifying affordable and accessible housing for youth in transition from foster care. The agency's primary plan for utilization of the funds is targeted toward housing vouchers to reach a larger number of youth across the state. Protocol for youth access will be developed by SCDSS and the State Housing Authority and will be dependent upon regulations of the state housing authority. Financial accounts for youth will be further explored.

### **Texas**

Transitional Living Allowance (TLA) PAL services include transitional living allowances for those having aged out of care, up to \$1000 per eligible youth. These funds pay for rent or assistance to help a young person move into an apartment. They cannot receive more than \$500 at one time.

Aftercare Room and Board Assistance, up to \$3,000 per youth, based on need. This funding pays for living costs such as rent, groceries or utilities.

Education and Training Vouchers can cover the costs of housing.

Housing Authority subsidies.

Private provider subsidies, such as reducing the cost of rent for a youth who is either attending school, employed, or both.

**Vermont**

Chafee housing funds.

**Virginia**

Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) funding- state and local funding  
Chafee funds-federal funding

**Washington**

There are locally funded, state funded and some faith based funded projects that are available to youth that offer housing assistance, start up costs and case management services to youth who meet the established eligibility.

Federal Chafee funds can be used to help former foster youth with start up housing costs.

If housing is served by another agency, how does child welfare blend with that agency in serving youth?

**Alaska**

Depending on the services being granted by the HUD grantee in Anchorage and the ACF grantee in Juneau, child welfare coordinates independent living training with the providers and coordinates services and funding available to specific youth with the service providers.

**Arizona**

Some youth may be eligible to apply for Section 8 Housing through a local Housing Authority. Eligible youth are encouraged to submit applications, but due to the limited availability of vouchers, such is not guaranteed. Youth who are determined SMI eligible and are in need of supported housing are assisted to request this service through the responsible behavioral health system prior to exiting the foster care system. The youth's CPS case manager alone, or through the Child and Family Team (CFT) typically advocates for this service on behalf of the youth.

**Colorado**

Colorado Division of Child Welfare assists both private and public agencies providing verification of eligibility for FUP voucher based on youth's age and foster care placement history by the supporting county.

**Connecticut**

We are collaborating with the CT DMHAS to provide young adult supervised apartments for about 10% of the youth who eligible for there programming and agree to be voluntarily involved. In those situations DCF pays for the educational component of the program along with an agreed per client amount for services.

**District of Columbia**

We have a partnership with the Healthy Thriving Collaboratives to provide Youth Aftercare services to youth exiting care. Collaborative work begins one year prior to a youth's transition and then once a youth transitions from care Health Thriving Collaboratives work independently with the youth.

**Delaware**

The Department contracts with other agencies that administer and manage service delivery.

**Florida**

Resources are developed within each community. Housing is not served by any other agency. However, some youth are able to qualify for federal housing subsidies.

**Indiana**

Housing is provided by the Indiana Bureau of Development Disabilities Services for foster youth who qualify for their program. These youth are provided with Emancipation Goods and Services to assist them in purchasing items needed for their room.

In Marion County, Fostering Independence is a housing program for former foster youth which provides a dorm style housing for youth ages 18 to 25. This program is funded by the West Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Association and managed by the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Community Center. The youth's rent is subsidized through a mix of private and public funding allowing youth to pay \$50 a month for a private room and shared space with 3 other youths.

**Iowa**

The Iowa Aftercare Services Network Self-Sufficiency Advocates (SSA) meet face to face with the young person at least two times monthly. A primary responsibility of the SSA is to keep the young person connected to persons and services most likely to help him/her succeed. The SSA will have releases of information signed to collaborate with service providers, apartment managers, employers or others in the community.

Transition Planning Specialists are experts in the services available for youth in transition. They typically have good working relationships with youth serving agencies in the communities they cover. The Transition Planning Specialists assist the young person and the DHS caseworker by meeting with the transition team, including service providers when appropriate, provide information about existing services, and introduce members of the young person's transition team. The efforts of the transition specialist, coupled with the work of the DHS case manager, facilitates communication between agencies or programs serving the young person.

**Kansas**

Youth are also encouraged to apply for HUD programs if available and have potential to meet youth's needs.

**Louisiana**

We RFP our supervised apartments and therefore have a contract.

**Maine**

## Collaboration

### **Maryland**

Maryland contracts with several semi-independent living programs to provide independent living services. Maryland works close with the agency's staff collaborating to ensure that the youth's needs are being met. In addition to the agency providing case management services, Maryland provides case management services.

### **Michigan**

Michigan has numerous contracts with agencies that provide housing services to foster care youth. DHS case manager's work closely with these agencies to secure appropriate services to this population.

### **Minnesota**

There is no single agency responsible for the housing needs of youth that are aging out of foster care. The "blend" of child welfare and housing resources generally takes place at a local level and is not uniform across the state.

### **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), which is known for Providing Resources, Education and Preparation to Adolescents Reaching Emancipation (PREPARE). The main goal 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.

There is also the Shared Youth Vision collaboration agreement. This is a Federal Collaborative Partnership which includes representatives from the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor, as well as the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Social Security Administration. This is utilized to help identify the neediest youth as foster youth, drop outs, juvenile offenders, children of incarcerated parents, and migrant youth.

### **Montana**

The Tumbleweed Runaway Program is also the state contractor that oversees the Chafee program. They assist youth in completing ACLSA and transitional living plans.

**Nebraska**

Youth access the Department of Housing and Urban Development directly. Health and Human Services is beginning partnering efforts with the Nebraska Department of Labor on the Shared Youth Vision which addresses needs of disadvantaged youth. The collaboration effort is taking place through the America's Promise initiative with one of the promises being that youth have safe places. This includes a vision for every child and youth being physically and emotionally safe everywhere they are, and would include living with their families or in their own residence.

**New Jersey**

The agencies are all private non-profits and work with the child welfare staff if the case is still open. In addition, the Adolescent Services Unit meets with the housing agencies quarterly. The agencies participate in the data collection project administered through the Rutgers School of Social Work.

**New Mexico**

This is not applicable at this point. However, there are plans and efforts in place as we speak to strengthen collaboration around housing for our youth.

**New York**

Local districts that utilize vouchers under Section 8 have an MOU with local Section 8 housing authority.

**North Carolina**

N/A

**North Dakota**

Youth aging out of the foster care system must meet the same requirements as the general population regarding access to Public Low-Income Housing Assistance.

**Ohio (State)**

Through collaborative efforts from the local PCSAs, each evaluates other resources that are available to emancipated youths.

**Ohio (Non-State)**

The Ohio Department of Development could use some of the Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars for Youth Shelter services. But due to inadequate funds to meet the need, the OHTF is fully used for adult and family shelter services, transitional housing, and other essential services.

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma communicates with all the known housing resources. Many of the program directors participate in the Oklahoma Adult Advisory Board that was organized around custody youth. An individualized plan is developed between the housing resource and the Yes I Can Network (the aftercare services component funded through CFCIP) to determine payment sources. Often the programs split the cost or housing cost paid by the agency providing the housing will be offset by CFCIP funds or WIA funds that support education and employment.

**Oregon**

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program is implemented through the Department of Human Services, Children, Adults, and Families (Oregon's Child Welfare Organization).

**South Carolina**

The Department of Social Services collaborates with youth who are also clients of Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and the Department of Mental Health in making referrals for needed housing assistance. Procedures are currently being finalized for DSS referrals to DDSN. A timeframe for DSS applications and for response from DDSN is being established. A defined statewide process will be of support in transition planning of youth with disabilities.

The Department of Social Services is in the process of developing an Independent Living Website that should be operational in 2007. This site will provide youth in foster care and youth who have transitioned from care with housing resource options. Serving as a youth directory, the Web Site will enable access to other service agencies throughout South Carolina. Additionally, the youth newspaper, Youth Connected, is being re-established after several years of dormancy to address issues posed by youth and about youth, including housing needs and resources.

The Independent Living Program has identified the importance of collaborating with colleges throughout South Carolina to arrange college tours to provide youth with a picture of college life, including the benefits of living on campus and the off campus housing opportunities available.

**Texas**

DFPS collaborates at the state and local levels and relies on local partnerships to promote and maintain safe and affordable housing options for youth.

**Vermont**

N/A

**Virginia**

- Regular meetings with the FAPT (Family Assessment Planning Teams) to review youth's progress in placement/living arrangement
- Case management/visitations by foster care workers
- Regular contact between the local department of social services' staff and agency/placement staff

**Washington**

DSHS – Children's Administration collaborates with the housing authorities to facilitate the provision of housing services to youth aging out of foster care.

Name and contact information of state individual regarding youth housing issues

**Alaska**

Gus Smith - grant coordinator for HUD grantees in Alaska:

Gus Smith  
c/o HUD  
3000 C St.  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 677-9800

The Transitional Living Grant in Juneau is coordinated out of Region X in Seattle:

Craig Lyons  
c/o Juneau Youth Services  
P.O. Box 32839  
Juneau, AK 99803

**Arizona**

Beverlee Kroll  
Independent Living Coordinator  
2328 W. Guadalupe  
Gilbert, AZ 85233  
(480) 545-1901  
[bkroll@azdes.gov](mailto:bkroll@azdes.gov)

**Colorado**

Andrew Johnson, Homeless Youth Coordinator, SHHP, (303) 866-7367  
Shirley Dodd, Chafee Coordinator, (303) 866-4539  
Ricardo Matthias, Adolescent Services Specialist, (303) 866-3151  
Bob Coulson, Adolescent Services Administrator, (303) 866-4706

**Connecticut**

Frank Martin  
IL Coordinator, DCF  
(860) 550-6592

Kim Somaroo-Rodriquez  
Supportive Housing Coordinator, DCF  
(860) 560-7078

**District of Columbia**

Nicholette Smith-Bligen  
Administrator, Office of Youth Development  
400 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20024  
(202) 727-7666

Elaine Dozell-Richardson  
Collaborative Program Manager  
400 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 442-4246

**Delaware**

Truman Bolden, Independent Living Program Manager;  
(302) 633-2638  
[truman.bolden@state.de.us](mailto:truman.bolden@state.de.us)

**Florida**

Housing issues are handled by each individual community.  
State contact for independent living:  
Joel Atkinson  
(850) 921-4118  
[Joel\\_Atkinson@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Joel_Atkinson@dcf.state.fl.us)

**Indiana**

Cassandra Porter  
402 W. Washington St, Rm W364  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 234-4211

**Iowa**

Holli Miller  
1305 E. Walnut  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
(515) 281-6786  
[hnbolen@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:hnbolen@dhs.state.ia.us)

**Kansas**

Not listed

**Louisiana**

Celeste Skinner  
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[cskinner@dss.state.la.us](mailto:cskinner@dss.state.la.us)

**Maine**

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**Maryland**

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311 W. Saratoga Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
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### **Michigan**

Shannon Gibson  
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Mary Magnusson is the director of the State's Coalition for Homelessness in general. The Regional Independent Living Coordinators and Dawn Pearson are the contacts regarding housing relating to Youth aging out of foster care.

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