



ATTENTION Former Foster Care Youth-- Do You Need Chafee Aftercare?

What is Chafee Aftercare?

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. Aftercare services are available as a part of this. Aftercare services are flexible, short term and used as a safety net to meet the needs of the youth after they have exited Children's Division custody. The needs and array of services vary depending on the need of the former foster youth.

Am I Eligible?

If you left foster care after the age of 17.5 but have not yet reached age 21, you are eligible for the same independent living services as current foster children. In addition, the following services may be available:

- **Support services** provide referrals to resources. This support service may be one-on-one contact for guidance or to just talk to someone you trust about what is happening in your life. You should have an identified personal advisor who could be a community member, co-worker, job mentor, friend, someone you recognize who has a personal interest in you and truly cares about you.
- **Emergency funds** are considered short-term assistance that will enable you to continue with your efforts to become independent. This might include: auto repairs, utility payments, food and rent. Throughout our adult lives, we may encounter emergency or crisis situations. When this occurs, we look to our family or friends for assistance. Some of you may not have these resources. These funds can be used to assist when possible.
- **Educational Assistance** the Missouri Education and Training Voucher program offers funds, up to \$5000 or the Cost of Attendance, to former foster youth to enable you to attend accredited colleges, universities, and vocational training institutions.

- **Healthcare Assistance** MO HealthNet is automatically available to age 26 for former foster youth to provide medical and behavioral health care coverage.
- **Job training** may consist of a referral to a training site with possible financial assistance during the training period. Training in an occupation may enable you to find more than a part time job and become self-sufficient.
- **Housing** (room and board expenses) would be considered as a safe shelter that could best meet your needs. These funds are meant to be flexible and short term, 90 days or less, to stabilize a particular situation. The funds may be used for a variety of reasons as a support, not as an on-going supplemental funding source. This may include any or all of the following: food, rent, security deposits, utility deposits, start-up kits which can include supplies and necessary furniture.

How Do I Receive Services?

To access the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program aftercare services or obtain more information about these services, you will need to contact your local Children's Division office. Children's Division staff will ask you to complete an application. The application contains identifying information, housing situation, current/future needs, medical/mental health needs, employment, education, goals, financial status, and available resources. The local staff will send the referral to the Older Youth Transition Specialist, who will connect you to Chafee resources in your area. Your local contact information is:



County Office:

Phone Number:

Children's Division
 Department of Social Services
 P.O. Box 88
 Jefferson City, MO 65103
AskCD@dss.mo.gov

****AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EMPLOYER****