

2018 FosterClub All-Star Announcement



Carson Long from the 44th Circuit has been selected to represent Missouri as our 2018 FosterClub All-Star!! He will be going to Seaside, Oregon for the six week internship and then onto flight school in Washington State. He is super excited for the opportunity!!!! Congratulations Carson!!

"My name is Carson Long. I'm 19 years old, and currently live in Mountain Grove, MO. I have been in foster care for about 3 years now, and I wouldn't be where I am today without their help and support. I have been selected for the 2018 foster care All-Star Internship, and am extremely excited. Wendy Donley, my caseworker has done so much for me, and was the one that thought of me,(Thank you Wendy)! From where I was to where I am now is leaps and bounds, and I am so grateful for all the help and support that I have received from foster care, foster parents,..etc, and I am excited to see what my future holds in the next couple of years!

Sincerely Carson Long, Foster Club All Star



The FosterClub All-Star Internship Program was founded on the belief that youth who have successfully transitioned from foster care to responsible young adulthood are best suited to impact the transition of their younger peers. Since 2004, FosterClub All-Stars have been reaching out to other foster youth through conferences, training, and events. Missouri has sponsored a young person for this opportunity since 2006.

Interns receive leadership training, help improve outcomes for foster youth transitioning out of care, educate peers and industry professionals, and change public perceptions about foster youth across the nation at conferences and events all summer long. The internship is a seven week paid experience in Seaside, Oregon for youth 18-24. If this sounds interesting to you, apply next year! Applications are typically accepted from January 1st until the middle of February. For more information: <https://www.fosterclub.com/all-star-internship>

How to find us

Did you know the Children's Division has a website all about Older Youth? If you go to dss.mo.gov/cd you will see a box for the Older Youth Program. There is information about the Chafee program, Transitional Living Program, educational assistance, car insurance, and the State Youth Advisory Board. If you leave care there is information on receiving aftercare services as well as how to come back into care if you find yourself in a position where you need assistance.

On this website you will also find a link for the "[What's it all About](#)". This handbook was put together with input from youth in care and will answer some questions you may have. It covers all kinds of topics, such as court, your rights, and how to access the resources available to you as an Older Youth in care.

Finally, we recommend going to dss.mo.gov/cd, clicking on Older Youth Program and bookmarking this page. If you ever have any questions or need help you can go to the website and click on the "[Contact Us](#)" button and you will find contact information for any Older Youth Transition Specialist in Missouri.



If you live in the St. Louis Region, you have an opportunity to save money and possibly purchase your first vehicle.

In 2017, Epworth Children & Family Services OY services established an innovative relationship with the Frank Leta Auto Group in St. Louis and the LETA Charitable Foundation to assist youth in the Chafee program with car purchases.

Epworth was already partnered with United Way to offer youth in the Chafee program an asset building tool designed to enable youth to save towards a targeted amount, also known as an Individual Development Account (IDA). Program participants must be employed and willing to participate in 16 hours of Financial Literacy classes offered through the University of Missouri-St. Louis Education Extension program. The youth have a maximum of 24 months to save money in this account toward the purchase of a United Way approved asset which includes a vehicle purchase.

The LETA Charitable Foundation provides additional funds to match youths' IDA savings, and the dealership sets youth up with a used car in good condition and a service plan. Employees of the Frank Leta Auto Group assist youth in finding cars that meet their needs and educate them on the car buying experience. Once a vehicle is identified, the LETA Charitable Foundation donates an additional \$3000 for the youth's car purchase.

Many youth also have received free extended warranties, lifetime oil changes, free car washes, new tires, and maintenance packages. If this sounds like something you are interested in and you are in St. Louis, speak to your Epworth Chafee Specialist about this.

Did you know it is Law to have a Campus Tour before leaving foster care?

SB 205 (2013) became a State Law on July 1, 2014. Children 15 years of age or older who are in the foster care system or the Division of Youth Services program shall receive a visit to a state university, community or technical college, or an armed services recruiter before being adopted or terminated by foster care. The visit shall include an entry application process, financial support application and availability, career options with academic or technical training, a campus tour, and other information and experience desired by the child. The visit shall not be required if waived by the youth's family support or treatment team.

On April 2, 2018, Cat Leonard, the Chafee Lead Specialist in the SE Region, had 66 older youth living in the Southeast Region attend a Local Youth Advisory Board (LYAB) meeting that included a Campus Tour of Mineral Area College. On the Campus tour, the youth were encouraged to learn about the enrollment process, see the campus, career options and find out there are many available tuition programs to help all youth attend college. If you have a great idea for the LYAB please share with your Chafee Specialist or TLP Specialist. We want your input and would love to see you on a Campus Tour or LYAB soon.



Several youth attended a campus tour at Mineral Area College recently.

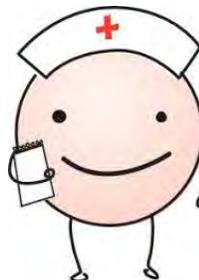


You have left foster care; you have been informed you have medical coverage, now what?

The Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth program through Children's Division was extended to age 26 in August, 2014. To receive this coverage a youth must have been in foster care under the responsibility of the state of Missouri on their 18th birthday or any time during the 30 day period before turning 18. Gathering information on your medical care really starts before you leave foster care. This should be a large part in your exit planning for your future. While gathering the necessary documents for your future, you will want to make sure that you know what type of medical coverage you are enrolled in – and what cards you will need. The majority of the time, you will have two cards. One will be your Missouri HealthNet card, which covers prescriptions and behavioral health needs (counseling). The other will be your Managed Care card – this will vary youth to youth depending on what plan you are enrolled in. This card covers your medical, dental, and vision needs. Your Children's Service Worker can order a new Missouri HealthNet card, but you must order your own Managed Care card.

After leaving foster care, your Children's Service Worker will update the data system with the address you are living at. It is important to keep your address updated until you turn 26 because this is how MO HealthNet knows which coverage region you are living in and how to help select providers if needed. This is also helpful because you will want to be updated on any changes which may occur within the Missouri HealthNet/Managed Care system. If you move after leaving care, you can contact any Children's Division Children's Service Worker or Children's Division Social Service Supervisor and let them know you need to update your address. This must be done in the Children's Division computer system – it cannot be updated by Family Support Division or Missouri HealthNet.

There may be a time you are asked to enroll or reenroll in a Managed Care plan – if you do not select a plan, a plan will be selected for you. Selecting a plan can be scary. The suggested first place to start is contacting all of the medical providers you have or the clinic you go to when you get help and ask them what Managed Care plan they take. If they take all three, then you would want to go to the website for each plan and look at their benefits. All of the plans must offer the same medical coverage. To sign up for a plan, call the Missouri HealthNet Managed Care Enrollment Helpline at 1-800-348-6627, and they will walk you through the process.





What's Happening in Franklin County?

Exciting times, that's what! In Franklin County there is a partnership consisting of Children's Division staff, CASA, Juvenile Office, Chafee program, foster parents and other community people. They meet once a month to work on various topics and projects, as well as involve themselves in other activities.

Here's a look at what's happening:

First is Your Money Your Goals (YMYG) training for older youth. Franklin County has been working on this project for the last year and are excited about its roll out. It has been a welcome addition to their monthly meetings. The classes last for 6 sessions. Here's the cool part: When you complete the classes, the Franklin County Community Resource Board has approved awarding \$100 to open a savings account at a bank of your choosing. The next rollout phase is underway with providing training to foster parents in hopes that the learning doesn't stop when a youth leaves the office but will continue at home. This is where youth will have additional opportunities to practice new found money management skills.

Several youth and adults recently attended Child Advocacy Day in Jefferson City. Attendees were motivated to get involved in advocating for other youth across the state and it inspired 6 of the youth who participated to want to join the Regional Youth Advisory Board.

Franklin County is currently working with a group to develop regularly scheduled panel discussions with community members, judges, GAL's, and CASA so all can better advocate and be a voice for youth in the hopes of achieving timely permanency.

Franklin County is working on Team Building and what that means. They are using William Muirs' "Superchicken Model"

Here's a link to a TED ED video for a better explanation. https://www.ted.com/talks/margaret_heffernan_why_it_s_time_to_forget_the_pecking_order_at_work#t-304322 . This video explains the importance of everyone coming together to achieve a common goal.

Franklin County: We are all working together to help each other grow!

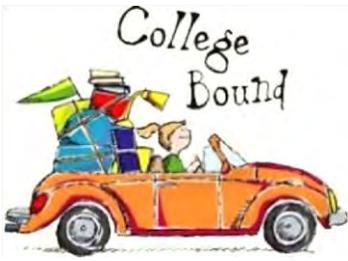


The Children's Division and Chafee Providers, and some residential staff have some new tools to help you understand how to work with money so that you can be prepared when you become responsible for yourself. Your Money, Your Goals is a set of resources to teach you how to be smart with your money so you can meet your needs, take care of your obligations and have some of the things you want too!

Goals: Depending on your age your financial goals will be different. They could range from having enough to buy a snack or burger, to having enough to get a certain pair of shoes, get your hair done, to saving up for a car, earning a regular paycheck, being able to pay rent, buy groceries. All of these are important, because whatever your goal is, it's important to you.

Chances are, someone in your life may already be talking with you about some of these things. You deserve to understand how to make money and how to make money work for your life. If you have any money related questions, please ask your Children's Service Worker or Chafee Worker for guidance. Trust me, even most adults don't have all of this figured out and we all needed someone to help us learn the basics. We can keep learning together and we are here for you and want you to be financially capable so that when you're earning your own money and responsible for yourself you can meet your needs, pay your bills and even have some left over for the fun stuff.





HEADED *for* COLLEGE

If you are planning on attending college during the 2018-19 school year, you will need to complete both the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the ETV (Educational Training Voucher)!

- The FAFSA application can be found at: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- In order to complete the FAFSA, you will need to first create a FSA ID which can be done by going to: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>
- Once the FAFSA application has been completed and submitted, you then are able to apply for the ETV.
- The ETV application can be found at: <http://www.fc2sprograms.org/missouri/>
- For the 2018-19 school year, the ETV application must be completed after July 1st of 2018.
- Both the FAFSA and ETV are first come first serve programs, so you will want to complete the applications as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on available funds.



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Kansas City Area Supports for Young Adults leaving Foster Care

One of the most challenging times for any young person is transitioning from your childhood environment to being independent in the world. It's normal for you to realize there are things you don't know and to need some guidance. For most that means relying on family for support. Young adults in foster care are no different; however you may or may not have many natural options. If you live in the Kansas City area, you have access to programs that can help support you as you transition. Each agency is listed below with some general services they provide.

Local Investment Commission (LINC)

LINC is the provider for the Children's Division's Chafee Older Youth Program in Jackson, Clay and Platte counties. The goal of the program is to help young adults who may remain in foster care until age 18 make the transition to self-sufficiency through the services offered. Services for young adults in care include: getting your license, paying for graduation expenses, startup kits for dorms or first apartments, helping find jobs, providing supports and life skill training classes. For young adults age 17.5 – 21 no longer, Chafee provides Aftercare services. This short-term emergency program helps with emergency/crisis intervention, housing/room and board, educational assistance, employment training and assistance and other support services, such as life skills, transportation, health care, mentoring and supports.

The programs are delivered statewide through the Children's Division. Each region has its own Chafee Provider. Contact your local Older Youth Adult Transition Specialist through the Children's Division for assistance and talk to your Children's Service Worker about this service.

The Community Connections Young Adult Project (CCYP)

CCYP is a program through the agency Fosteradopt Connect. The program was designed to assist young adults ages 17 - 26 with supports as you navigate from foster care to adulthood. The staff is adults who were once in foster care so they have a unique understanding of what you might be facing. Services focus on housing, education, employment, food pantry and the Clothing Closet. They also have a car they use to teach young adults to drive. For more information contact Fosteradopt Connect at (816)350-0215.

Jackson County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Older Young Adult Program

This program is for current and former youth in foster care, ages 14 – 21 that had CASA as their Guardian ad Litem (GAL) in Family Court. The program offers another layer of support for young adults in care with a focus on independence. They offer life skills classes, taking young adults on college tours and assist with connecting young adults to other community agencies. For more information contact CASA at (816)984-8200.

Youth Education Success (YES)

The YES program is part of Cornerstones of Care. They work with young adults ages 14 to 23 who want to pursue some type of secondary education. They assist with enrollment to programs, providing tutors and finding additional funds to pay for education programs. They also try to find mentors to provide long term support to young adults. For more information contact Chad Harvey at Cornerstones of Care at (816)541-6452.

We want to make sure that every youth in foster care in Kansas City knows about these programs while in care no matter their permanency plan. Each program is voluntary so young adults can choose how much support they need. With the availability of these programs no young person should to be alone as they navigate this important passage of life.

Missouri's Child Advocacy Day 36th Anniversary



Child Advocacy Day is when foster youth all over the state go to the capitol building in Jefferson City to show state legislatures what WE want to happen or to change within the foster care system. We show the state legislatures what we want by making a brochure every year to present to them.

On this year's Child Advocacy Day the youth that came had the opportunity to speak to representatives and senators in a hearing room at the Capitol in Jeff City. The youth that felt comfortable speaking in front of everyone to the representatives spoke out about what would make an impact for us. They had the chance to make a difference by sharing their stories about what has happened to them and how the bills we brought up would be beneficial to us.

- We spoke to Senator Denny Hoskins, Representative Sarah Unsicker, Representative Jeffery Justus, Representative David Wood, Representative Tim Remole, and with Senator Jeannie Riddle.

The bills we brought to attention were: House Bill 2426, House Bill 1767, Senate Bill 805, and House Bill 1470. Each bill brought up, brought up many stories with them.

- With House Bill 2426 youth expressed how they had been separated from their siblings and not notified of an adoption. Youth also spoke on how they were no longer allowed to see/speak to their siblings because by law they were no longer siblings. Some youth were not even aware of even having a sibling until years later when they happened to hear about them through a foster parent or case manager.
- Along with House Bill 1767 the talk of psychotropic medications was a big discussion piece. Many youth were able to share their experiences with it and how it had affected them.

Overall, at this year's event there was more opportunities opened for youth to express how they felt about each of the bills brought to attention. There was much more involvement when placed in the hearing room setup, which allowed for the youth a chance to be with their peers and speak out. Each representative and senator we spoke to seemed to really take in our stories into consideration about how each bill would potentially help us. Each rep and senator seemed able to connect to us on a personal level when we spoke about the pre adoption arrangements, because each had siblings. The whole day was extremely impactful and went very well.

Submitted by Faith Burtenshaw, State Youth Advisory Board Co-Chair, Northeast Region and Jordan Collins, State Youth Advisory Board Member, Southwest Region

**Be the voice.
Be the change.**

Did you know there are Local Youth Advisory Boards around the state you can attend?



Local Youth Advisory Board (LYAB)

If you are involved in the Chafee program or a Transitional Living program, you are eligible to participate in a Local Youth Advisory Board. Each region in the state has a board and some regions have several. The activities at each meeting vary but the boards are for you to learn about things that interest you, particularly advocacy and your rights in foster care. Some meetings will be social in nature, and some will be spent planning an event or giving back to your community through volunteer work. LYAB are a great way to meet other youth in foster care, especially if you feel like no one else knows what it is like to be in foster care. Some youth who show leadership at the LYAB are selected to attend the State Youth Advisory Board. These youth attend both LYAB and SYAB with the purpose of sharing information between the two groups.

State Youth Advisory Board (SYAB)

The State Youth Advisory Board meets quarterly on weekends in Columbia. This year the SYAB is planning a Youth and Adult Leadership and Empowerment conference to be held summer 2019. SYAB members plan the entire 3 day conference agenda. Each member is responsible for developing and implementing a workshop for the conference as well as general sessions and fun activities. The SYAB attends Child Advocacy Day annually in the spring to meet with legislators. SYAB develops talking points for things they would like to see changed by law prior to the event. The board provides input on many topics for Children's Division and other agencies and members are asked to be a part of workgroups for Children's Division. To be a member of SYAB, youth must be nominated to participate from their participation at the local level. This will depend on the structure of your LYAB – you will be voted by members to be the representative or you will be recommended by your Chafee Provider. Once you come to the SYAB meeting, you will be interviewed and voted on by members for participation. Members must commit to one year.

How to Get Involved with Your Local Youth Advisory Board:

Kansas City Region/LINC

Jackson/Clay/Platte counties -

The Kansas City Area Youth Advisory Board meets from 6:00pm – 7:30pm on the third Thursday of each month. Dinner and transportation are provided. The board gathers once monthly for dinner and a meeting where they plan and sometimes conduct their advocacy efforts. The board currently serves as the youth voice for a county wide Systems of Care Committee and provides input and feedback about life in foster care at the local and state levels with every opportunity that presents itself; a member of the board has spoken to large audiences at a national conference and an international training. They are developing a presentation for general audiences to reduce stigma about youth in foster care and are currently partnering with leadership from the Care Portal network to help educate faith leaders who partner with Children's Division in providing aid directly to foster youth and families. Traveling to Jefferson City on Child Advocacy Day where they speak to state legislators about issues of importance to foster kids like you is a favorite event for members every year. Call Karen at (816)889-5050 if you are interested in attending a Kansas City meeting.

Northeast Region/Family Facets

The NE Region RYAB meetings are held once a quarter. There is no set date for the meetings and the date is normally scheduled at the end of each meeting. They usually take place on Saturdays from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The meetings are held at the Wright City Parks Department or Pizza Hut, which is centrally located for most of the Region. The RYAB is currently seeking new members and topics of interest. At the next meeting, youth will be discussing how to increase members and deciding on dates for the Leadership Team Building Training. In the past, youth have worked on the Homeless Count, and discussions on local community service projects such as visiting nursing homes and working with local food pantries. Transportation and lunch is provided. NE Region youth should contact their Chafee Advisor to get more information on the meeting date and transportation. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kim Crawford at (314)805-9335 or Shelby Hubbard (660)734-0171.

Northwest Region/Preferred Family Healthcare

PFH hosts LYAB's quarterly and BLAST classes monthly in Harrisonville, Marshall, Sedalia, and Trenton. Each month a different life skill topic is worked on: auto maintenance, healthy living, post-secondary prep, pre-employment skills, budgeting, self-advocating, etc. Contact Kari Twombly for more information at (417)438-2003 or ktwombly@pfh.org.

Southeast Region/Preferred Family Healthcare

St. Francois/Madison/Iron/Reynolds/Washington/Ste. Genevieve counties – Meetings are held at various locations in the community on a quarterly basis. Transportation is not provided but food typically is. Activities vary but something done recently was a training on credit, budgeting, and saving and youth attending received free school supplies.

Contact Cat Leonard for more information at caleonard@pfh.org or (573)431-5507.

Cape Girardeau/Perry/Bollinger/Scott/Mississippi/New Madrid/Pemiscot counties – Meetings are held the second Saturday of the month in Cape Girardeau. A recent activity was a ping pong tournament with an X-Box as the grand prize, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place. Contact Art Williams for more information at arwilliams@pfh.org or (573)334-9344 ext. 526 for more information.

Butler/Stoddard/Dunklin/Ripley/Carter/Wayne counties – Meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 5:00p.m. Contact Bonnie Jaggie for details at bjaggie@pfh.org or (573)776-1941.

Crawford and Dent counties – Contact Breana Martina at bmartia@pfh.org or Zakary Maedgen at zmaedgen@pfh.org for more information. Both can also

be reached at 573-341-2606.

25th Circuit/The Community Partnership

Maries/Phelps/Pulaski/Texas counties - There is not a set meeting date for the meeting as it depends on schedules but it typically is on a Saturday morning. The board usually meets bi-monthly or quarterly for about two hours. Transportation is not provided but the meetings are held at The Community Partnership's Office which is a centralized location. Snacks, drinks, or lunch (depends on the time of the meeting) are usually provided. Some of the things the board has done in the past includes: an art project for The Community Partnership's annual luncheon (each youth painted their own ceramic shoe); walked dogs for the humane society, rang the bell for the Salvation Army, had a lemonade stand for Take a Stand Against Child Abuse Day, and standard meetings to discuss policy changes and ideas.

If you are living in the 25th Circuit and interested in participating in the LYAB, let your Chafee worker know (Anna French or Amy Blake) and they can give you the details about the next meeting, expectations, purpose, etc. They can be contacted at 573-368-2849.

St. Louis Region/Epworth

St. Louis City/St. Louis County -

The St. Louis Board meets the last Wednesday of every month; from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. Dinner is provided at each meeting. Transportation is also provided, if needed. The slogan is "**Nothing About Us, Without Us**". The board focuses on advocating for youth in foster care, as well as completing youth-led community service projects and building leadership skills. Youth Board members have participated in training new foster parents, talking to legislators about Foster Care rights, serving dinner at homeless shelters, preparing groceries for individuals with cancer, and many other things!

There are a few ways for you to learn more and get involved in the LYAB. Epworth holds recruitment events a few times a year, so you could attend one of these. There are also brief presentations about the LYAB during life skills classes and you can talk to Youth Board members at that time. Youth are also recommended specifically by their peers or staff to participate. Lastly, youth can learn about the LYAB at the yearly Leadership Camp or Youth Conference. Please remember that Youth Board members must commit and serve a one-year term.

If you are interested in learning more about the Local Youth Board, please contact:

Andrea Fillben

Office: (314) 918-3483

Southwest Region/Preferred Family Healthcare

Springfield Office which covers the following counties:

- Greene
- Ozark
- Christian
- Taney
- Stone
- Douglas
- Lawrence (split with Joplin)
- Laclede
- Webster
- Wright
- Polk
- Dade
- Dallas

Meetings are held during Basic Life Awareness Skills Training (BLAST) class meetings. LYAB youth leave class the last 30- 45 minutes of class every other month to discuss future class topics, ideas and issues brought to them by other youth, SYAB topics etc. Transportation and food are provided. BLAST class is held the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. Class is primarily held at PFH; however there are some meetings and events held at a secondary location such as the local college, the YMCA camp ground, or community center. Each year the educational delivery method changes based on input of the LYAB, but the topics remain the same due to PFH desire to remain consistent in each region. Contact Loni Brewer for more information at Lbrewer@pfh.org or (417) 766-5353.

West Plains Office:

- Howell
- Oregon
- Ozark
- Shannon
- Douglas
- Wright
- Webster

The West Plains office is split between the Southeast and the Southwest regions. They are newly formed (May). Food is provided at the meeting and PFH is working on providing some form of transportation possibly through a partnership with local CD case managers. PFH is looking for secondary locations

(towns) to have a second meeting each month as their serving area is spread out and rural. Contact Tara Weaver for more information at Tweaver@pfh.org or (417)257-1545.

Camdenton Office:

- Camden
- Laclede
- Miller
- Morgan
- Benton
- Moniteau
- Hickory

Camdenton BLAST classes are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 5:30p.m. at the PFH office in Camdenton. Camdenton is currently looking at a potential second meeting location and date due to the rural and spread out nature of their serving area. They have had three BLAST class meetings thus far but have not yet had a formal LYAB meeting. Youth are still in the recruitment stage of forming the LYAB. For further information please contact Jaime Wisely at Jwisely@pfh.org or (573)346-2487.

Nevada's BLAST classes are held the fourth Monday of each month 4:30p.m.-6:30p.m. at the PFH office in Nevada. Contact information is Brenda Stryker at bstryker@pfh.org or (816)590-4521.

Joplin's Contact information is Christine Koelsch at ckoelsch@pfh.org or (417)659-9911.



You can find contact information for Children's
Division Older Youth Transition Specialists
throughout the state and Central Office staff
at this link:

<https://dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/counties.htm>