

Older Youth Pandemic Relief



State Spotlight: Implementation in Iowa



FosterClub

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Summary of the Law and Implementation Updates
3. Importance of LEx Leadership in Implementation
4. State Spotlight: Implementation in Iowa
5. Q&A

Presenters and Hosts



Laticia Aossey
LEx Leader



Carol Behrer
Youth Policy Institute of Iowa



Doug Wolfe
Iowa Department of Human Services



Jennifer Pokempner
Youth Law Center



Dominique Freeman
FosterClub

Summary of Provisions

- Extended Services (Moratorium)
- Re-Entry, including an obligation to notify and develop a public awareness campaign
- Chafee
 - Increase of \$400 million w/\$50 million in ETV
 - Eligibility through age 26
 - Lift 30% cap on room and board (“housing”)
- Education & Training Vouchers (ETV)
 - Increased max award from \$5000-\$12,000
 - Waive the enrollment requirement
 - Waive the requirement to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
 - Youth are eligible even if they attend at less than full time status
 - ETV can fund costs outside of the Cost of Attendance (COA)

Updates on Implementation

- May 2021: [Supporting Foster Youth & Families through the Pandemic Webpage](#)
- March 9, 2021: [Children's Bureau Program Instruction](#)
- Jan 15, 2021: [Children's Bureau Information Memorandum](#)



LEx Leadership
Laticia Aosse



PANDEMIC RELIEF

for Iowa Foster Care Youth and Alumni

Doug Wolfe, Iowa Department of Human Services

Carol Behrer, Youth Policy Institute of Iowa



lowaaftercare.org

What we will cover:

- Iowa Context
- Youth Engagement in Planning and Decision-Making
- Range of Supports and Opportunities being Offered
- Direct Payments to Young Adults
 - Process
 - Marketing and Outreach
 - Progress to Date
- Activities still on the table

Iowa Context – Existing Infrastructure

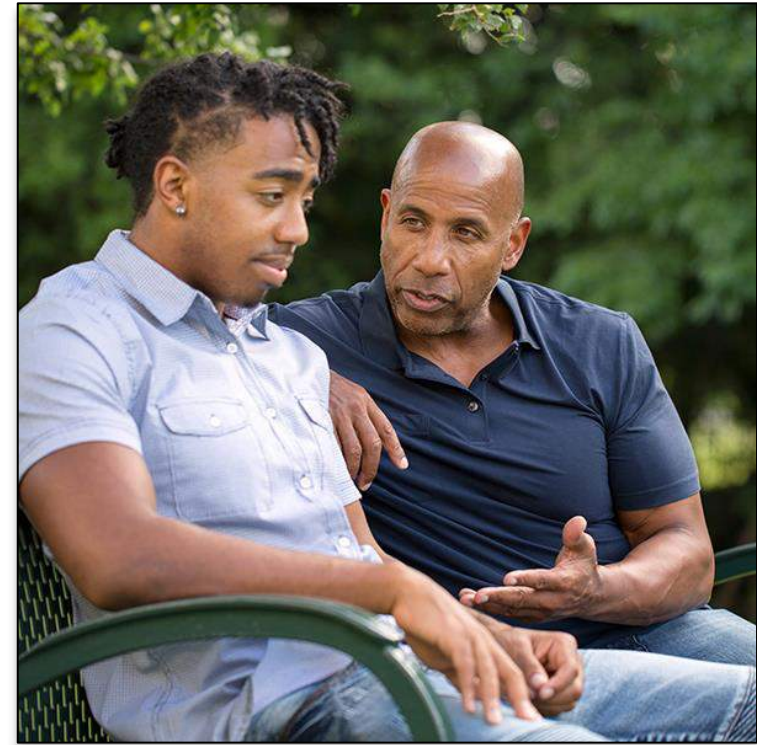
- Overview of Chafee Eligible Population
- Foster Care Youth Council – AMP
- Aftercare Services for Young Adults who Age-Out
 - Iowa has not formally extended foster care
 - Services and Monthly Stipends (statewide, voluntary)
 - Contract with private providers (Iowa Aftercare Services Network)
- ETV administered by Iowa College Aid
- Rent Subsidy Program administered by Iowa Finance Authority in cooperation with Aftercare Network

Early Decisions/Determinations

- Legislative action unnecessary
- Involve young people (and other stakeholders) in planning
- Utilize existing infrastructure and state contracts
 - Bolster existing services
 - Expedience
- Include direct payments to young adults
 - Majority of CAA supplemental funding
- Respect Congressional intent/broad definition of eligible youth
(up to age 27)

Youth Engagement

- Focus Groups (AMP)
- Survey of Aftercare Participants
- AYE Group Discussion
- Input from other stakeholders (e.g., foster parents, providers, etc.) on needs of youth in care



Survey Results

Input from 378 Young People

- 85% willing to provide personal information via a secure on-line registration process;
- 81.5% able to receive a payment electronically and 65% preferred a direct deposit to their bank account;
- 52% would put payment toward housing costs;
- 34% recommended supporting as many young people as possible, while 35% recommended a combination of broad distribution and prioritizing those with the greatest need.

Key Takeaways from Stakeholder Engagement



- Keep it Simple (low barrier access)
- Make it Meaningful
- Combine spreading the money around with providing extra support for those who need it
- Don't forget youth under age 18, still in care -- Help restore normalcy

Expanded Supports & Opportunities

- Moratorium and Re-Entry
- ETV Increase
- Foster Funds and Kinship Funds (for youth still in care)
- Enhanced Services for Young Adults (ages 18-27) via Aftercare (emergency financial assistance)
- Increase in Rent Subsidy Program

Direct Payments to Youth: Big Picture

Who should receive it?

- Agreed to broad eligibility parameters
 - Age 18 – 26
 - Exited foster care at age 17.5 or older
 - Do not have to be receiving other services
- Rough estimate of eligible population (500/year x 9 years)

4,500 young people

How much?

- Meaningful amount – enough to make a difference
- One-time payment (with option for a second round)
- Rough estimate of % who we could reach
- Don't over-commit

\$ 750.00 payment

Direct Payments to Youth – The Details

- Apply via an online, secure portal
- Verification of Eligibility by DHS Chafee Staff
- Specific eligibility criteria/questions
- Making Payments – contract with Aftercare lead agency (YSS)
- Additional Support Offered
- Contact person for questions and trouble-shooting

Application Information

Eligibility Verification

- Age and Foster Care Involvement
 - Threshold questions
- First and Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Name change
- Aged Out of Another State

Payment Issues

- Contact Information:
 - Address, Phone, Email
- Method of Payment
(Direct Deposit or Check)
- Financial Institution (if DD)
 - Routing & Account Numbers
- Options of Follow-up and Special Arrangements for Payment

Marketing and Outreach - Website



lowaaftercare.org/pandemic-relief/

Marketing and Outreach - Other

- Direct Contacts (Aftercare, NYTD)
- Social Media
- Flier
- Community Networking
- Word of Mouth
- Email
- Earned Media

Outreach Examples

A social media post featuring a young man in a blue t-shirt and glasses, smiling and holding a water bottle. The background is a blurred indoor setting. The text is overlaid on the image.

You may be eligible for
a one-time payment of
\$750

PANDEMIC RELIEF
for Iowa Foster Youth and Alumni

IOWA Department of HUMAN SERVICES | yss | IOWA AFTERCARE SERVICES NETWORK | iowaaftercare.org/pandemic-relief/

Social Media Post

A flier with a dark green header and a photo of a young woman wearing a blue surgical mask and a yellow shirt. The text is in white and yellow.

PANDEMIC RELIEF
for Iowa Foster Youth and Alumni

Are you age 14-26
and experienced foster care as a teen?

If so, you may be eligible for pandemic relief, including financial support.

- ✓ No requirement to leave foster care due to age, effective until September 30, 2021.
- ✓ Option to re-enter foster care for those who aged out between Jan. 26, 2020 and April 20, 2021.
- ✓ Funding for foster parents, kinship care givers, and contracted providers, to benefit youth (ages 14-18) in placement.
- ✓ One-time pandemic relief payment of \$750 for eligible youth and young adults ages 18-26. Apply online.
- ✓ Increased financial aid for college students for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ✓ Emergency financial assistance and supportive services to help eligible young adults recover from the pandemic.

iowaaftercare.org/pandemic-relief

Scan the QR code for more information

IOWA Department of HUMAN SERVICES | yss | IOWA AFTERCARE SERVICES NETWORK

Flier

Progress to Date

- Application Portal Opened May 10, 2021
 - **322** Young People signed up in the first 3 days; **466** by end of first week
- As of June 6
 - **848** Young People have Applied
 - 670 Determined Eligible; 89 Ineligible
 - 326 Requested a follow-up contact
 - **580** Payments made (about 60% via Direct Deposit or cash apps)

Looking Ahead

Continued Outreach

- Target – 50% of Eligible Population

Still on the Table

- Transportation – Drivers Licenses
- Housing – Exploring down payment help for home ownership
- Second round of payments
- Evaluation / Feedback Loops

Questions?

Doug Wolfe

dwolfe@dhs.state.ia.us

Carol Behrer

cbehrer@ypii.org



lowaaftercare.org/pandemic-relief/