



FUNDING RESOURCES FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides flexible funding for distribution to states through grants for program services for youth who are likely to remain in foster care and those who have aged out of foster care up to 21 years of age. However, gaps in services remain because states, and their individual counties, continue to struggle with the challenge of providing all eligible youth “aging out” of foster care with consistent access to independent living and aftercare services.

Each Ohio county child welfare agency can use up to 30% of its Chafee allocation to provide room and board for young people between the ages of 18-21 who have emancipated from the foster care system. And, they cannot require the young person to remain in foster care until age 21 in order to receive those services.

HUD's Family Unification Program (FUP) is administered through local level partnerships between public housing authorities and public child welfare agencies. HUD frequently issues a notice of funding availability inviting public housing authorities (PHAs) to apply for up to 100 Section 8 vouchers for FUP. Youth age 18 or older who left foster care after the age of 16 are eligible for FUP vouchers. In order to apply for this funding, the child welfare agency and public housing authority must sign a memorandum of understanding documenting that these systems will work in partnership.

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are special matched-savings accounts, designed to help people establish a pattern of regular savings in order to purchase an asset, such as a home. Counties have the option of using existing TANF funds for IDA matching funds. In addition, Assets for Independence (AFI) is a discretionary demonstration five year grant available through US Health and Human Services that allows community-based and government agencies to enable low to moderate income individuals to develop savings habits for a specific asset purchase.

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