

Chafee Services by Category

John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

Signed into law in December 2009, the Foster Care Independence Act:

- Provides for flexible funding for distribution to States through grants for program services for youth.
- Provides opportunities for States to serve youth who are likely to remain in foster care and those who have aged out of foster care up to 21 years of age.
- Enables youth to make better choices and accept greater responsibility for their own lives.
- Enables older youth (18-21) to receive housing assistance if needed.
- Provides States the option of allowing these young people to remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. [\(Please note that: The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has since extended Medicaid support for former foster youth to age 26, and that the 2018 Family First Prevention Act allows states the option of making Chafee services available until age 23, but not every state is currently pursuing this option\).](#)

Since the enactment of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, state child welfare agencies have made great strides in implementing independent living programs. However, many gaps in services remain. 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.

Approved Chafee Spending Categories

The following information is compiled from the Frequently Asked Questions III” (FAQ III) about the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) and the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV Program), authored by the National Foster Care Coalition.

Educational and Training Voucher Program

The Education and Training Voucher Program is a federally funded, state-administered program designed to help youth who were in foster care pursue post-secondary opportunities, including vocational training programs.

[\(Please note that: The 2018 Family First Prevention Act allows states the option of extending eligibility for Education and Training Vouchers until age 26, but not every state is currently pursuing this option\).](#)

1. Life Skills Assessment

Approved Areas of Spending

- Life Skills Inventory

Examples:

- Ansell Casey Life Skills Inventory
- Daniel Memorial Life Skills Inventory

2. Finances and Money Management

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance
- Budgeting Classes

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Individual Development Account (IDA)
- Books, Calculators and Other Related Materials for Class
- Any Guest Presenters
- Trips to Financial Institutions for Supportive Class Time

3. Education

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- All Fees Associated with GED, ACT, SAT, and other Tests
- All Fees Associated with Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Deposits and Application Fees
- Tutoring
- Credit Recovery

- Summer School
- School Participation Fees (Sports, Clubs)
- Tuition for PSEO and Vocation Programs

4. Job and Career

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Uniforms for Jobs (Scrubs, Required Shoes, etc.)
- Employment Inventories
- Resume Writing
- Job Preparation (Customer Service Training, Word Processing, etc)
- Mock Interview Preparation/Job Coaching
- Assistance to Job Sites (Transportation, Hands-On Support, etc.)
- Technology Training

5. Housing and Home Management

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Classes on Leasing and Mortgages
- Furniture, Household Goods
- Rent/Deposit for Housing
- Deposit and First Month's Payment for Utilities
- How to Obtain/Clean Credit Reports
- Moving and Storage
- Bridges Program

- FYI/FSHO

7. Self-Care and Health

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Physicals
- Prescriptions, When Medicaid is Unavailable
- Classes on Personal Health and Hygiene
- Classes on Self-Protection
- Creating Personal Health Histories
- Maintaining a Log of Current Medications
- Tracking Medical Fitness, Including Dental and Vision
- Coping with Stress
- Gym Membership
- Transportation to appointments

8. Human Sexuality and Family Planning

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Classes on Nutrition
- Healthy Relationships
- Prevention of STD's
- Pregnancy Prevention
- Couples Counseling
- Prenatal Classes

- Domestic Violence Counseling

9. Personal Decision Making and Communication Skills

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Classes in Public Speaking
- Remedial English Courses
- Asset Inventories
- Leadership Training
- Emotional Resiliency Training
- Youth Advisory Boards
- National Conference Opportunities

10. Legal Issues

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Record Expungement
- Classes for Legal Aid
- Assistance with Credit Cleanup
- Classes that Address any Legal Paperwork that Holds a Youth Accountable

11. Cooking and Cleaning

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials

- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Cooking Classes
- All Materials for Youth to Keep Related to Cooking (Pots, Pans, Dishes, etc.)
- Preparation of Cookbook
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hands-on Help with Cooking/Cleaning, Including One-on-One Support

12. Etiquette

Approved Areas of Spending

- Classroom Materials
- Class Presenters
- Stipends to Reward Youth Attendance

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Formal Etiquette Classes
- Formal Dinners
- After 5 Clothing
- Professional Dress/ID Cards
- Practice at Upscale Restaurants

13. Recreation/Community Connections

Approved Areas of Spending

- Supports for Self Sufficiency

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Sibling Outings
- Specials (Bowling, Art Class, Summer Camp, etc.)
- Mentoring Programs/Activities
- Fees for Participation in Community Activities

14. Aftercare

Approved Areas of Spending

- All Funds Related to Life Skills Categories through Age 23

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Rent/Deposit for Housing
- Deposit Fee for Utilities
- Furniture
- Household Goods
- Book Fees/Supplies for Post-Secondary Education Opportunities (PSEO)
- Car Repairs/Insurance/Transportation
- Interview Clothing
- FYI/FSHO

15. ETV

Approved Areas of Spending

- All Supplemental Educational Expenses

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Tuition
- Housing
- Transportation
- Food
- Medical
- Childcare

16. Youth Boards

Approved Areas of Spending

- All Services Related to Support and Educate Youth

Can Use Chafee Funding to Pay for:

- Youth Council Meetings
- Name Tags
- Brochures
- Training (Advocacy, Leadership and Strategic Sharing)