



Resource Knowledge BINGO

Answer Key

1.) Adoption Assistance Connections to age 21 (AAC)

Support for adoptees between ages 18-21, if they meet the [specific eligibility criteria](#). Only youth who were adopted between ages 16-17 are eligible. AAC parameters are based on federal criteria. Ohio is not restricted from expanding the parameters, but the state would not receive a federal match of IV-E funds.

2.) Aftercare

Young adults between ages 18-21 who “aged out” of foster care but do not currently qualify for Bridges can reach out to the county who previously had custody of them. Each of Ohio’s 88 county public children services agencies is required to provide Youth Adult Services to 18, 19 and 20-year-olds who age out of foster care and request help.

3.) Bill of Rights

Youth in foster care should be given a [Foster Youth Rights Handbook](#). There is a one-page [Foster Youth Bill of Rights](#) as well.

4.) Bridges

Supports for young adults between ages 18-21 who “aged out” of foster care. They are [required to be in school, have a job, are in a job program, or have a health problem that makes it hard to go to school or work](#).

5.) CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) vs. GAL (Guardian ad Litem)

A CASA is a trained volunteer. A GAL is a professional appointed by the court.

6.) Chafee Funds

[Here’s a list of ways](#) that this flexible federal funding to support current and former foster youth can be spent to support them in developing life skills and preparing for the future.

7.) CCMEP

Statewide program to support low-income young adults ages 14-24 with budgeting, career coaching, helping in finding employment. [Their website](#) includes a list of Youth Services Providers and county agency leads.

8.) ETV

Current/former foster youth ages 18-25 who are accepted or enrolled in pursuing higher education can apply to receive up to \$5,000 a year for expenses related to college, university and vocational training programs, [if they fit the eligibility criteria](#).

9.) FAFSA

Youth should fill out the FAFSA as an "independent student" if they fit into one of these three categories, according to the *2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act*:

- a.) Student is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court, at any time when the student was 13 years of age or older
- b.) Student is an emancipated minor or is in legal guardianship as determined by the court in their state of legal residence
- c.) Applicant is verified as an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of homelessness and self-supporting

10.) FYI Housing Vouchers

Designed by Ohio foster care youth and alumni, the national Foster Youth Independence program provides on-demand housing vouchers to public housing authorities for young adults under age 25, with a history of foster care. It requires public child welfare agencies and public housing authorities to partner together -- sadly not all of Ohio's 88 PCWAs and 75 PHAs have signed on.

11.) Job Corps

Education and vocational training program that includes free housing for young people ages 16 through 24 to improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training. Ohio has sites in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Dayton.

12.) Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program Connections to 21 (KGAP C21)

Support for youth between ages 18-21 who experienced kinship care, [if they meet the specific eligibility criteria](#). These parameters are based on federal criteria. Ohio is not restricted from expanding the parameters; but the state would not receive a federal match of IV-E funds.

13.) Ohio Medicaid

Youth who age out of foster care in Ohio are [eligible for Ohio Medicaid coverage](#) until they turn 26. After being initially signed up for Medicaid at age 18, former foster youth must stay in touch with Medicaid, so that they don't lose services.

14.) Ohio Reach

[Ohio Reach](#) provides scholarships, emergency funds and information about which colleges and universities are supportive of the needs of foster care youth and alumni.

15.) Youth Advisory Board

A group of current and former foster youth (typically ages 14-24) who provide their lived experience to shape policies and advocate for better services and support for youth transitioning to independence.

16.) Youth Ombudsman

The [Youth Ombudsman](#) works independently from children services and placement agencies to help youth solve problems and to advocate for their rights to be protected while in foster care.