

## Chafee Older Youth Programs

Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFCP) offers assistance to help current and former foster care youths achieve self-sufficiency. Grants are offered to States and Tribes who submit a plan to assist youth in a wide variety of areas designed to support a successful transition to adulthood.

Every foster youth who meets the following criteria are eligible for Chafee services in Missouri. Youth must be:

- Between the age of 14-23
- Currently in the legal custody of the Children's Division and in out-of-home placement
- No longer in legal custody of the Children's Division on or after the age of 18 but are not yet 23
- Age 16 or older and left foster care for adoption or guardianship after this age

When Chafee services are requested for an eligible youth they will be assigned to a regional Chafee program that will in turn appoint a Chafee Specialist (sometimes referred to as a Chafee Worker). The services these workers offer includes:

- Help getting a high school diploma
- Help finding and applying for colleges
- Career exploration and training
- Finding and keeping a job
- Training in daily living skills
- Help finding a place to live
- Help with budgeting and financial management skills
- Substance abuse prevention
- Preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention)
- Emotional support through mentors
- Crisis intervention funds (to help with rent and utilities, food)
- Financial, housing, and other appropriate supports and services for young people 18-21 formerly in foster care

As an advocate serving older youth, it can be valuable to ask if Chafee services are being rendered and if not, advocate for your assigned youth to be referred to Chafee. Whether the youth will age-out of foster care or be found a permanent home, the services and skills offered through Chafee can help close the opportunity gap faced by foster children.

