

FEDERAL and OKLAHOMA STATE
PROGRAMS
Available to YOUTH in TRANSITION
DRAFT as of June 21, 2010

1. Chafee Foster Care Independence program (CFCIP)—funds available to foster youth who are between ages 16 – 18 in an out of home foster care placement who are likely to exit care and for eligible former foster youth who exited care on their 18th birthday until age 21; services available include housing, Medicaid, and/or supportive services; administered through **Oklahoma Department of Human Services**.¹
 - a. Room and board
 - b. Chafee Medicaid pathway option—youth ages 18 to 21 in foster care who do not qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP may be eligible for Medicaid coverage through this pathway
 - c. Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) program—for former foster youth who are in trade, technical, college and university programs; currently available to youth who were adopted from foster care at age 16 or older and youth who emancipated from foster care; vouchers must be obtained and school started by age 21, vouchers must be used by age 23.
 - d. Housing Assistance available to foster youth
 - e. Oklahoma Independent Living Program/Yes I Can!: assists eligible youth who have aged out of OKDHS or tribal custody; go to www.nrcys.ou.edu. The Yes I Can line is 1-800-397-2945
 - f. No federal funding available for youth who are former juvenile justice custody.
2. Tribes may enter into cooperative agreements with states for the tribe to provide independent living services to youth who belong to or are eligible to belong to a tribe.

¹ “According to the definition of a child care institution, which is a foster care placement option at 45 CFR 1355.20, ‘detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent’ are not considered foster care placements. Therefore, a youth who is placed in a detention facility is not considered to be in foster care. If the youth has never been in foster care, Chafee funds cannot be used to serve him/her.” *Child Welfare Policy Manual*

Payments to tribes can be made from CFCIP funds. There is no federal funding available for youth who are former juvenile justice custody.

3. Youth Involved with or at risk of Involvement in Juvenile Justice – services available to youth in the custody of the **Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs**.
 - a. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State Formula Grant (OJJDP)
 - b. Title V Local Community Prevention Incentive Grants (OJJDP)
 - c. Two future transitional living homes are planned: one in Butler operated through a contract with SWOSU and one in Muskogee operated through a contract with Muskogee County Youth Services.
4. Service recipients of the **Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS)**
 - a. Community Mental Health Centers – there are 21 Community Mental Health Centers located in the 21 service areas throughout Oklahoma. Mental health and substance abuse services are available to transition age youth who are former foster care youth or who are still in foster care who have a mental health diagnosis. Go to www.odmhsas.org and click on “Find Programs and Services in Your Area” or call 1-800- 522-9054.
 - b. Discharge Planning Subsidy Program – provides funds used to assist very low income individuals 18 and over with mental health or co-occurring illness and substance abuse disorders who are discharging from OJA custody or aging out of foster care access and maintain housing. The discharging facility or agency must make the referral for this assistance. All referrals are coordinated through **Hope Community Services in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, (405)634-4400**.
 - c. Various transition services and wrap-around services are available to transition age youth (17 - 24) who have a mental health diagnosis. These services are available in the following six locations:
 - Cleveland and McClain County Transitional Services, Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health Center, 405-573-3811
 - Grand Lake Mental Health Center (Rogers, Craig, Delaware, and Ottawa counties, aka Tri-County), 918-342-0770
 - Oklahoma County Transitional Services, North Care – Oklahoma Kids CareNet, 405-858-2882
 - Oklahoma County, HOPE Community Services, 405-634-4400
 - Tulsa County, Associated Centers for Therapy (ACT), 918-492-2554
 - Muskogee County, Green Country Behavioral Services, 918-682-8407
 - d. Oklahoma Healthy Transitions Initiative (OHTI) – Two pilot projects funded by a SAMHSA grant awarded in 2009 to ODMHSAS are ongoing in Tulsa and in Norman. The pilots will aid youth ages 16 – 25 with serious mental health conditions and their

- families connect with local resources needed to transition to adulthood. For information about OHTI in Tulsa, contact the Associated Centers for Therapy (ACT) (918-492-2554) or Youth Services of Tulsa (918-582-0061) and in Norman, contact the Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health Center (405-573-3811).
- e. Young Adults in Transition (YAT) Support Line has been created to link resources and support to those transitioning to adulthood, ages 18 – 25. The line is open 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Call 1-800-522-8336 to speak to a Transitional Advisor who will help find resources and supports in local communities.

5. Education

- a. General Education Development (GED) programs (Oklahoma State Department of Education/OSDE) – 405-521-3321 or 1-800-405-0355
- b. Oklahoma’s Promise: Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP) – go to www.okhighered.org or www.okcollegestart.org for information. Students must apply by age 15.

- c. Private vendors

Examples: A+nywhere Learning System – 7506 N. Broadway Extension
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
1-800-222-2811 or 1-800-34-APLUS
www.amered.com

New Chance – perhaps is no longer an active program (was formerly a program for young mothers to help them obtain their GED)

Career Academies – google Oklahoma career academies

- d. Programs through the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council—for youth on an Individual Education Program (IEP); The Zarrow Center is piloting a disability awareness and self-advocacy skills program using the “Me!” curriculum through a 6/1/09-5/30/10 contract with OKDHS for Transition Success; students are Moore Public School students on an IEP between the ages of 15 and 21; the contract is renewable. Call 405-521-4910 for information regarding the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council.
- e. Career Tech (Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education) – state office located in Stillwater; go to www.okcareertech.org for information concerning

29 technology centers operating on 57 campuses, 398 school districts, 25 skills centers, and 3 juvenile facilities.

- f. Pell Grants (Office of Federal Student Aid) – google Pell Grant qualifications; funds given to qualified students to help pay for post-secondary education
- g. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (OFSA)-- Cost Reduction Act as of 2009 allows certain youth who have been in foster care to claim independent status when applying for federal financial aid. Young people who claim independent status are exempt from including information about parents' income and assets. FAFSA can be filed online (google FAFSA) or through school financial aid offices; go to www.fafsa.ed.gov
- h. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (OFSA) – need based grants for low-income post-secondary students
- i. Perkins Loan Program (OFSA) – federal low interest loans given to students with exceptional financial need; student begins the process by filing a FAFSA application.
- j. Federal Work Study programs – funds earned through part-time work to help pay for post-secondary education; available at institutions of higher learning through the school financial aid office; student begins process by filing a FAFSA application.
- k. Charter Schools – public schools established by contract with sponsors; often promote a specific curriculum and are operated by parents, teachers, and other interested community members; an authorized district's board of education or area Career Tech school board may sponsor a charter school. Call 405-521-3333 for information and charter schools near you.
- l. University of Oklahoma online high school for distance learning – go to <http://ouilhs.ou.edu>
- m. See below under **Employment** for education-related services available through the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.
- n. www.caseylifeskills.org

6. Employment

- a. Programs through the U.S. Department of Labor and the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission
 - Job Corps
 - YouthBuild
 - WIA Youth Program

Job Corps

Job Corps programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. There are four Job Corps centers in the state of Oklahoma:

Guthrie
3106 W. University
Guthrie, OK 73044
Tel: (405) 282-9930
Fax: (405) 282-9501
<http://guthrie.jobcorps.gov>

Talking Leaves
P O Box 1066
5700 Bald Hill Road
Tahlequah, OK 74465
Tel: (918) 456-9959
Fax: (918) 207-3489
<http://talkingleaves.jobcorps.gov>

Treasure Lake
1111 Indianhoma Road
Indianhoma, OK 73552
Tel: (580) 246-3203
Fax: (580) 246-8222
<http://treasurelake.jobcorps.gov>

Tulsa
1133 North Lewis Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74110
Tel: (918) 585-9111
Fax: (918) 592-2430
<http://tulsa.jobcorps.gov>

From the Job Corps website:

“Through a nationwide network of campuses, Job Corps offers a comprehensive array of career development services to at-risk young women and men, ages 16 to 24, to prepare them for successful careers. Job Corps employs a holistic career development training approach which integrates the teaching of academic, vocational, employability skills and social competencies through a combination of classroom, practical and based learning experiences to prepare youth for stable, long-term, high-paying jobs.”

YouthBuild (HUD)

There are four YouthBuild program locations in Oklahoma:

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Community Development Support Association, Inc. 2615 E. Randolph Enid, OK 73701	(580) 242-6131
Eagle's Nest / Oklahoma City YouthBuild 3301 SW 17th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73108	(405) 601-5516
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. 209 N. 4th Hugo, OK 74743	(580) 326-3351
Tulsa Technology Center School District #18 3420 S. Memorial Tulsa, OK 74145	(918) 828-1000

From the website, www.youthbuild.org:

“YouthBuild program funds are distributed directly by the federal government through a competitive process to local community-based organizations that run YouthBuild programs in their neighborhoods....

“In YouthBuild programs, low-income young people ages 16–24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people. Strong emphasis is placed on leadership development and community service.

“All YouthBuild students are poor and many have had experience with foster care, juvenile justice, welfare, and homelessness. Participants spend 6 to 24 months in the full-time program, dividing their time between the construction site and the YouthBuild alternative school. Community- and faith-based nonprofit organizations sponsor most programs, although some are sponsored by public agencies. Each

YouthBuild program raises private and public funds to support itself. Primary support comes from the U.S. Department of Labor through a dedicated federal line item.”

Workforce Investment Act Youth Program

Funds for the WIA Youth Program are distributed by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) to 12 local workforce investment areas within the state. Eligibility for the program is generally limited to young people, age 14 to 21, who are economically disadvantaged.

From the OESC website:

“Oklahoma is deeply committed to strengthening its Youth Activities under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). With the implementation of WIA, Oklahoma established local Youth Councils that work closely with community programs and the educational system to ensure that needs of local youth are met.

“Not only can youth learn about the world of work (and often find their first job) through local youth programs; but can also participate in academic enrichment, leadership development, and college & career exploration. Special programs are available for school dropouts, homeless youth, runaways, youth in or aging out of foster care, pregnant and/or parenting youth, offenders, youth with disabilities, youth who may be basic skills deficient, and youth in need of additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

“The following 10 services are offered to Oklahoma’s youth, ages 14 to 21:

- ◆ Tutoring, study skills training, and instruction leading to secondary school completion, including dropout prevention strategies;
- ◆ Alternative secondary school offerings;
- ◆ Summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning;
- ◆ Paid and unpaid work experience including internships and job shadowing;
- ◆ Occupational skills training;

- ◆ Leadership development opportunities, which may include such activities as positive social behavior and soft skills, decision-making, teamwork and other activities;
- ◆ Supportive services which may include assistance with work tools, uniforms, child care, or transportation;
- ◆ Adult mentoring for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months;
- ◆ Follow-up services; and,
- ◆ Comprehensive guidance and counseling which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling and referral, as appropriate.

For eligibility and application information - contact your local Workforce Office.
www.workforceok.org/locator.htm

JOBSTART – a nonprofit community organization that specializes in career services to match employers with employees (not sure whether it is active in Oklahoma), 416-800-5527

- b. **Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services:** The School-to-Work program provides transition services for students with physical, mental, or visual disabilities that promote movement from school to post-school activities and is based upon the individual student’s needs, preferences and interests; these services are available to any student who can document a disability according to eligibility purposes, including those on IEPs and 504 plans. Services include:
- Vocational Assessment and Evaluation
 - Individualized Plan for Employment
 - Vocational Counseling and Guidance
 - School Work Study
 - Work Site Learning
 - On-the-job training
 - Supported Placement
 - Employment and Retention
 - Job Placement
 - Ticket to Work (if receiving SSI or SSDI)—for individuals with disabilities who receive SSI or SSDI; only over 18 eligible; qualified individuals receive a “ticket” in the mail that can be used to obtain vocational rehabilitation, employment, or other support services from an approved provider of their choice; call 405-951-3400 for information

Contact a local **Department of Rehabilitation** Services Counselor, talk with a high school counselor, or call the statewide toll-free number at 1-800-487-4042 or visit www.okrehab.org.

- c. Youth Transition into the Workplace (SAMHSA) – a federal grant opportunity; google youth transition into the workplace
- d. National Guard ChalleNGe program (DOD) – skills training and mentoring program for at-risk youth (available in Oklahoma); 1-877-295-0932 Thunderbird Youth Academy
- e. Youth Build (HUD)—very low income youth the opportunity to obtain GED and training in homebuilding skills to qualify them for careers in building industry (See previous section on **Employment**).
- f. Child Care Assistance through OKDHS – go to www.okdhs.org or call 1-888-521-2778
- g. Oklahoma Office of Disability Concerns – see contact information below under **Transportation**

7. Housing Support

- a. Family Unification Vouchers (Housing and Urban Development/HUD)—available to youth ages 18 to 21 who left foster care at age 16 or older; Oklahoma City Field Office, 301 NW 6th Suite 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, 405-609-8509 or 1-800-955-2232.
- b. Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HUD)—through local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to award rental-subsidy vouchers to individuals who seek to rent privately owned housing. Section 8 also funds housing projects, such as group homes for persons with disabilities.
- c. Runaway and Homeless Youth program (Administration for Children and Families/ACF)—funding for private community groups that provide shelter, outreach and transitional living services to youth
- d. OKC Metropolitan Fair Housing Council (405) 232-3247
- e. Oklahoma Housing Finance Authority (OHFA)— 405-848-1144, 405-842-2471 (rental assistance), 405-848-7471 (TDD)
 - HUD’s Continuum of Care homeless assistance program
 - Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS
- f. Homeless Prevention and Rapid Pre-Housing grants awarded by Oklahoma Department of Commerce; go to www.okcommerce.gov or call 405-815-5339 or 1-800-879-6552
- g. Shelter Plus Care (HUD)—rental assistance for homeless persons with disabilities and some supportive services; 405-842-2471

- h. Community Action Agencies of Oklahoma
- i. Tenant-based Rental Assistance (HUD)— programs that provide financial assistance to individual households in order to enable them to rent market-rate units; 405-842-2471
- j. www.apartmentguide.com
- k. www.affordablehousingonline.com

8. Healthcare

- a. SoonerCare – go to www.okhca.org to enroll in Medicaid; Sooner Care helpline 1-800-987-7767
- b. Medicaid – available to former OKDHS foster youth who are receiving SSI; 405-522-7300
- c. Google healthcare for the homeless
- d. S-CHIP – State Children’s Health Insurance Program (for children in families of modest income but too high to qualify for Medicaid) – go to www.okhca.org
- e. Insure Oklahoma – employer sponsored insurance program through OHCA
- f. Ticket to Work – applies to disabled individuals who are able to work, these individuals may be eligible for Medicaid or Medicare; contact Oklahoma DRS 405-951-3400 or 1-800-845-8476 or Oklahoma Benefits Planning and Assistance 405-325-8310 (TDD) or 1-866-608-8873 (TDD)
- g. Planned Parenthood – check local telephone listings or go to www.plannedparenthood.org for information
- h. Oklahoma Blood Institute – assistance with blood type inquiries

9. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

- a. Drug Courts – Call 405-522-8993 for information
- b. SoonerCare – go to www.okhca.org to enroll in Medicaid; 1-800-987-7767
- c. Medicaid – available to former OKDHS foster youth who are receiving SSI
- d. Community Mental Health Centers (see ODMHSAS above)
- e. HOPE Community Services:
 - Cleveland and McClain County Transitional Services, Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health Center, 405-573-3811
 - Grand Lake Mental Health Center (Rogers, Craig, Delaware, and Ottawa counties, aka Tri-County), 918-342-0770
 - Oklahoma County Transitional Services, North Care – Oklahoma Kids CareNet, 405-858-2882
 - Oklahoma County, HOPE Community Services, 405-634-4400

- Tulsa County, Associated Centers for Therapy (ACT), 918-492-2554
 - Muskogee County, Green Country Behavioral Services, 918-682-8407
- f. Young Adults in Transition Support and Resource Line – For young adults ages 18 to 25 who need help finding resources and support during transition, call 405-522-8336 or toll free 1-800-522-8336

10. Transportation

- a. Local bus systems
- b. Oklahoma Office of Disability Concerns – 2401 NW 23rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73107; 405-521-3756, 405-522-6706 (TDD), 1-800-522-8224 (TDD)
- c. Bicycles

11. Basic Supports

- a. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamps – go to www.okdhs.org or call 405-521-3444
- b. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – for families with inadequate income for nutrition, 405-271-4676 or 1-888-655-2942 (OKLAWIC)
- c. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - low income and a medical impairment (child criteria); low income and inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity (SGA) (adult criteria) 1-800-722-1212
- d. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) – amount of SSDI is determined by a formula based upon the number of quarters an individual has worked (eligible for Medicare if meet criteria for SSDI) 1-800-722-1212 (Medicare call 1-800-267-2323)
- e. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (ACF) – go to www.okdhs.org/okdhslocal/ to find a local office and to review eligibility
- f. Child care assistance through OKDHS – OKDHS may pay all or part of child care costs while parent works or attends school; 1-888-521-2778 or visit www.okdhs.org
- g. Faith based agencies
- h. Angel Food Ministries – food sold at discount rate; www.angelfoodministries.com or call 1-877-FOODMINISTRY
- i. Tribal councils
- j. Local food banks – contact local OKDHS for information on area food banks

12. Legal Services

- a. Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma – 2915 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73106, 405-557-0020; offices in Oklahoma City, Ardmore, Bartlesville, Weatherford, Hugo, Lawton, Muskogee, Norman, Tulsa, Stillwater; Northeastern Oklahoma hotline 1-888-534-5243 or 918-428-4357
- b. Oklahoma Disability Law Center – OKC (405) 525-7755, (800)880-7755; Tulsa (918) 664-5883, (800) 226-5883 – Persons with developmental disabilities and certain individuals with mental illness are eligible for services free of charge.
- c. Legal documents:
 - Department of Vital Statistics – National – www.nationalbirthcertificate.com or call 1-409-385-2438
 - Oklahoma Birth certificate – www.ok.gov/health/Birth_and_Death_Certificates
 - OKC: 1000 NE 10th, Room 117
 - Tulsa: 315 S. Utica
 - Social Security Administration – www.ssa.gov or 1-800-877-9977