



Preparing Youth for Success: The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

What is the John H. Chafee program?



The Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood is a resource that you may use while in care and when transitioning out of care.

Exiting out of placement (or leaving care) can be scary and intimidating. The right tools, resources, and support can make independence more exciting. Each county uses Chafee funds in different ways to help youth achieve self-sufficiency. The Chafee resources listed below mainly focus on providing a bridge to become an independent and successful adult.

Section 1

[What should I know about the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood?](#)

There are many resources in New York State that can support your pathway to independence while in foster care and when you are exiting out of care. Understanding what Chafee is and if you are eligible can be important to your success.

Section 2

[How do I keep my Medicaid after I transition out of care?](#)

Youth may be eligible to keep Medicaid insurance coverage until age 26. This covers vision, dental, primary doctor, some mental health services, and emergency room visits.



NEED TO KNOW SERIES

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Section 3

[Is there housing support for me under Chafee that will assist me to begin living on my own?](#)

It is important to know that counties use Chafee funds in different ways and are mainly used to assist a young person to achieve self-sufficiency. This may include helping you pay for the security deposit for an apartment or help you pay for utilities such as electric, heating, or water service.

Section 4

[How does the Education and Trainer Voucher \(ETV\) Program help with college or vocational training?](#)

If you are interested in attending college or a vocational (skill based) school, then you should learn about the Education Training Voucher (ETV) and how it can help you afford college or other needs you may have while in college.

Section 5

[How can Chafee services and resources help teach me how to be more independent?](#)

Aging out of foster care can be scary and exciting at the same time. Under Chafee, there are Independent Living Services that can help you in many areas. There are also supports that New York State counties have for learning life skills.

Section 6

[What does Trial Discharge and Re-Entry mean to me if I am turning 18?](#)

A trial discharge is a safety net while you explore independence for your future. Learn more about Trial Discharge and Re-Entry into Foster Care.

Pro Tips

- Medicaid is a form of health insurance. You will need this to go to the emergency room, doctor, dentist, and/or therapy.
- The term “transitioning” is used to describe the process of aging out of or exiting foster care between the ages of 18 and 21 years old. In New York State, youth age out of foster care at 21. At the age of 18 your foster care agency must get your consent (agreement) to remain in care until 21 if you do not want to exit out of foster care at 18. When you consent to remaining in foster care you also consent to being in school or employed unless you are unable to do either.