

Chafee Services

JACKSON COUNTY CASA

Agenda

What is Chafee

Who is eligible

What services are available

What are the roles of Children's Division & CASA

After care services

Older Youth Chafee Program

The older youth program incorporates the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, federal legislation which introduced the John. H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program to each state.

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program in Missouri is provided by a contract agency; LINC services.

Transitional living services are provided through Cornerstones of Care, Pathways program, and Stepping Stones a contracted agency.

Who is Eligible?

Youth Between the ages of 14-21

Currently in the legal custody of Children's Division

No longer in legal custody of the Children's Division on or after the age of 17.5 but are not yet 23
(Chafee after care services)

Age 16 or older and left foster care for adoption or guardianship and are not yet 23.

What's the Process?

Every young person age 14 and up must be referred to Chafee. The CD worker for the youth is responsible for making the referral. The only youth who do not receive Chafee services are youth who are mentally incapacitated.

There are 4 Chafee workers in the KC region.

Each Chafee worker handles a caseload of approximately 100 youth. They are required to meet with 80% of their youth once a quarter. This time includes face-to-face, emails, referrals, text, phone calls, etc.

Only a CD worker can make a Chafee referral, they must fill out 2 forms for the referral the FST Guide and IAP (Individualized Action Plan) goals.

Once the forms are complete, they are sent to the OY Specialist, Laquisha Maxville at CD, she reviews them and sends them to LINC, and a Chafee worker is assigned within 24 hours. The Chafee worker has 30 days to make contact with the youth.

What services are available through Chaffee?

Help getting a high school diploma- including Hi Set

Help finding and applying for colleges

Career exploration and training

Securing and maintaining employment

Life Skills

Housing assistance

Budgeting & financial management skills



Available Services Cont.

Graduation Expenses (cap, gown, invitations)

Driver's Education- 8-10 hours of instruction

Assistance with obtaining state Identification

Driving Permits

Work clothes

ACT Testing

College courses in High School



Chafee Worker Responsibilities

Chafee responsibilities do not replace the responsibilities of the youth's CD worker, Chafee works in conjunction with the CD worker.

Chafee workers should be invited and attend FST and PPRT meetings.

Chafee workers should complete the Individual Life Skills forms and update youths goals.

Ensure CD workers are doing exit planning

Schedule campus tours (colleges, tech schools, vocational rehab, military, etc.)

Ensure that youth 14-17 have a credit report ran, and youth 18+ have support to run their own credit report.

CASA & CD Roles

There are several things CASA does and CD does that overlap. Our youth benefit from the extra support.

Independent Living Needs Assessment: The independent needs assessment may address knowledge of basic living skills, job readiness, money management abilities, decision making skills, goal setting, task completion and transitional living needs.

Academic Support: Chafee shall provide academic support which may include assisting the youth completing high school, applying or studying for HiSet exam, HiSet prep, tutoring, homework help, technology skills development, advocating and planning for the youth's educational goals. CASA can help with these needs and fill in the gaps.

Post-Secondary Education Support: Chafee & CASA assist youth college applications SAT/ACT prep, provide information about financial aid and scholarships and college tours.

CASA & CD Roles Cont.

Employment Programs or Vocational Training Training to build skills for a specific trade, vocation or career through classes or on-site training, including apprenticeships, internship, and summer employment programs.

Emergency Request: CASA can sometimes provide emergency requests. Each request is unique and should go through your CASA team. If it's something your youth needs, it never hurts to ask.

Workshops- CASA offers various workshops for OY throughout the year.

Advocacy- It is our role at CASA to advocate for the best interest of our youth. That can look different for all cases, we are here to help find resources, brainstorm and help meet the needs of our youth how ever we can.

Additional OY Supports

Within CD is The Royals Unit:

Eligibility for program: aging out of care to independence in the next 12 months.

Aging out of care in the next 12 months, reside in an Independent Living Arrangement (ILA) or Transitional Living Site (TLS). Youth in care who is going to be a parent or already a parent. Youth in residential who would benefit additional support.

Housing, resources, healthy relationships, employment, education, etc.

Visit 2-4 x month, learn to advocate for self, youth ran FST

Additional Programs

MISSOURI ALLIANCE

For youth ages 14 and up who need additional assistance.

Weekly meetings with trained professionals. Monthly FST meetings.

This older youth worker takes the place of the case manager

Does not have to be a Mo Alliance youth, we can ask for a referral be made to the program for our youth.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS YOUTH PROGRAM- CCYP

For youth ages 17-26.

Helps older youth in foster care navigate the struggles of approaching adulthood without a solid support system.

Can serve youth who have aged out of foster care.

*Peer-to-Peer Mentor Program with former foster youth

Chafee After Care Services

After care services are flexible, short term and used as a safety net to meet the needs of youth who have exited Children's Division Custody.

If the youth left care after the age of 17.5 and have not reached 23 they are eligible for services. It is intended to be a 90 day service, and youth will receive their previous Chafee worker. They can access it as needed during that time frame.

Services include; emergency funds, educational access, healthcare assistance is automatically available to former foster youth until the age of 26 to provide medical and behavioral health care coverage, job training and housing.

There is an after care application that needs to be filled out to access services.

CASA can help with some of the same services and serve our youth until the age of 26.

Challenges

Communication is a challenge with several different organizations working with our youth.

It is difficult for Chafee worker to build significant relationships with our youth due to their lack of time to make contact with the number of youth on their caseload. Chafee workers like for their youth to reach out to them and advocate for what they need.

We can help our youth feel confident to advocate for themselves by modeling advocacy and being present when they contact their Chafee worker for support.

CASA team and Older Youth Coordinator are also available to answer questions and help navigate the process.

Questions?

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