

Statewide Resources, Organized by Category of Young Adult Need

These resources are organized to reflect the specific requirements for the provision of independent living services to youth in custody, in the order that they are listed in *Ohio Administrative Code: 5101:2-42-19*.

Additional space is provided for the Bridges Liaison to add local resources in their county or region.

1.) Academic support

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
ACT Fee Waiver	Free registration for up to two ACT tests	Foster care teens and young adults are eligible.	Contact your high school guidance counselor.
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	Requires schools and child welfare agencies to abide by specific guidelines and provide resources to ensure improved educational outcomes for children in foster care.	Specifically exists to support the educational needs of foster youth	Please contact Thomas Capretta, (614) 752-1615, fostercare@education.ohio.com Or visit http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-Improvement/Foster-Care
SAT Fee Waiver	Free registration for up to two SATs, two SAT Subject Tests, and four college application fee waivers	Foster care teens and young adults are eligible.	Contact the College Board's Midwestern Regional Office, (866) 392-4086

--	--	--	--

2.) Post secondary educational support

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
ETV Funds (Ohio Education and Training Voucher Program)	Up to \$5000 a year for qualified school related expenses.	Young person must at least 18 but younger than 21 to apply for the first time.	Please visit: www.statevoucher.org
FAFSA	Emancipated foster care youth should fill out the FAFSA as an "independent student."	An orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court, at any time when the student was 13 years of age or older	2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act
Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG)	Up to of \$672 to assist with college living expenses.	Foster youth at community colleges are eligible for OCOG funds, and can use these funds for housing if	Please contact Tamika M. Braswell, (614) 728-8862, tbraswell@regents.state.oh.us

		needed, in addition to other college-related expenses.	
Ohio Reach	Several Ohio colleges and universities have Reach Campus Liaisons and/or College Mentoring Programs	Current or former foster youth who are pursuing post-secondary education.	Contact Will Murray, Ohio Reach Coordinator Public Children Services Association of Ohio (614) 224-5802
Pratt Center Scholars	Scholarship opportunities, academic support services and professional development activities	Current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Cleveland State University	Contact The Pratt Center – Fostering Success and Leadership - Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement, Cleveland State University, (216) 687-9394
SACWIS form for College	Help students with a foster care history verify their eligibility for Financial Aid.	SACWIS letter, created by ODJFS, for county agencies to provide youth in order to confirm "independent status" on the FAFSA.	Contact the county of origin.
Central State Emerging Scholars Mentoring Program	<i>Seeds2Success</i> workshops for foster youth to attend with their mentors, <i>Power Hour</i> study tables and a <i>Helping Hand</i> by connecting them	Freshman attending Central State who have a foster care history	Please contact Zakiya Brown, (937) 376-6414, zbrown@centralstate.edu

	with local professionals		
Columbus State Scholar Network (CSSN)	A network of support, including a five-day conference, ongoing mentoring, monthly Lunch & Learn Workshops, peer-to-peer support and other campus resources	Current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Columbus State Community College	Please visit: http://www.csc.edu/campus-life/seal/foster-youth-support.shtml
Sullivan-Deckard Scholars Opportunity Program	Scholars receive professional guidance, educational support, and peer mentoring as important components of the program structure	Current and former foster youth can apply for this opportunity.	Please visit: https://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/sullivan-deckard-scholars-opportunity-program
Tri-C Foster Scholars Mentoring Program	Pairs students with a faculty or staff member to provide encouragement and support the student's progress towards degree completion.	Current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College	Please visit: http://www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/foster-youth-scholars.html
Wright State University Independent Scholars	A bridge for students who emancipate from foster care or disengage from the	Current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Wright	Please visit: http://www.wright.edu/student-affairs/student-resources/independent-scholars-network

Network	adoption process, including help with living arrangements and employment opportunities.	State University.	
---------	---	-------------------	--

3.) Career preparation

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP)	Workforce support low-income Ohioans ages 16 to 24, that combines TANF and WIOA resources and funds.	Current and former foster youth ages 16 to 24	Each county has a designated "lead agency" that is responsible for managing CCMEP. A list of county lead agency contacts is available at: http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/CCMEP/docs/County-Lead-Agency-List.stm
Ohio Means Jobs	Resources include a career interest survey and online backpack to save job opportunities.	All Ohio residents	Please visit www.ohiomeansjobs.com

4.) Employment programs or vocational training

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
Job Corps	Free education and vocational training program that includes housing.	Young people ages 16 through 24 who have not yet attained a high school diploma or GED.	Please visit: www.jobcorps.gov

5.) Budget and financial management

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)	Matched-savings accounts, designed to help people establish a pattern of regular of savings in order to purchase an asset, such as a home.	Counties have the option of using existing TANF funds for IDA matching funds.	Center for Social Development: OHIO IDA Legislative History: http://ohiocdc.org/ida.html
Ohio Benefit Bank	Free tax help and assistance in applying for benefits	There is also a Universal Youth Transition Plan on the OBB website that youth can use to save vital documents and	Please visit: www.ohiobenefits.org

		plan for their future.	

6.) Housing and home management

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
FUP Vouchers (HUD's Family Unification Program)	Section 8 vouchers for youth ages 18+ who left foster care after the age of 16.	Not every county has this allocation. Their local child welfare and public housing agencies have to apply.	Contact your local housing agency.

7.) Health education and risk prevention

Medicaid	Medicaid until age 26	After being initially signed up for Medicaid at age 18, former foster youth must	Contact the Medicaid Hotline: 1-800-324-8680, or youth can apply/renew online at
----------	-----------------------	--	--

		stay in touch with Medicaid, so that they don't lose services between ages 19-26.	www.benefits.ohio.gov
Ohio Minds Matter	Mental health information, including decision-making tools	Resource guide designed specifically by and for Ohio foster youth regarding medication.	Please visit: www.ohiomindsmatter.org/
Social Security	SSI eligibility	Emancipating foster care youth with disabilities can submit SSI applications up to 90 days before federal foster care payments are supposed to end.	SI 00601.011: "Filing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Applications for Disabled Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care"

8.) Family support and healthy marriage education

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
Healthy Start and Healthy Families	Healthcare for needy families.	Ohio Medicaid offers two programs for children, families and pregnant women with limited income to get health care.	Medicaid Consumer Hotline: 1-800-324-8680
Ohio Child Care	Parent assistance	There are child care	Please visit: www.occrta.org

Resource and Referral Organization	in finding affordable child care.	resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies serving all 88 counties in Ohio.	
TeenParent.net	Resources to support pregnant and parenting foster youth	Pregnant and parenting foster youth	Please visit: www.teenparent.net
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	Nutritional education and support.	Income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby.	Please contact your local Jobs and Family Services Office.

9.) Mentoring

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information

10.) Room and board financial assistance

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
Chafee funds	A county can use up to 30% of its Chafee allocation to provide room and board.	Young people between the ages of 18-21.	Bridges participants do not qualify for Chafee – but if a young person is ineligible for the Bridges program, you can refer them to their county to ask about Chafee funding.

11.) Vital documents and legal assistance

Resource	Benefits	Eligibility	Additional Information
Capital Law School's Foster Youth Advocacy Center	Free assistance with accessing healthcare, public benefits, housing or insurance, expunging criminal records and/or obtaining social security card, birth certificate, or other personal documents	Current or former foster youth ages 16-25	Contact the Foster Youth Advocacy Center: (614) 236-6768, fyac@law.capital.edu
iFoster	Provides a "Digital Locker" where	Current or former foster youth, ages 16+	Please visit: www.ifoster.org

	foster youth can store all their vital records		
Ohio Benefit Bank	A resource that helps transitioning youth apply for housing, healthcare, food stamps and other forms of assistance including free tax services.	The Universal Youth Transition Plan on the OBB website allows youth to upload copies of important documents like birth certificate, high school diploma/GED, driver's license and social security cards.	Please visit: www.ohiobenefits.org
Ohio Legal Aid	Legal assistance	Low-income Ohioians	Please visit: http://ohiolegalaid.org

12.) Additional tools

Bodner, C. (2006). Permanency pact: A free tool to support permanency for youth in foster care. Seaside, Oregon: FosterClub.

Resource to Inspire Guide through Casey Life Skills