



IMPROVING OUTCOMES AFTER FOSTER CARE.



## Ohio Statewide Resource List for Foster Youth

### 1.) Bridges

Former foster youth who “age out” of the system between 18-21 years old can apply for extended supports. They must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a.) Enrolled in college or other post-secondary school
- b.) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment
- c. Employed at least 80 hours a month
- d.) Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a physical or mental health condition

Learn more at: <http://bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov/index.stm>

### 2.) CCMEP (Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program)

This state program provides workforce supports to low-income Ohioans ages 16 to 24, through a combination of TANF and WIOA funds. 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>

### 3.) Job Corps

Free education and vocational training program that includes housing for young people ages 16 through 24 to improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training. This program provides free housing. Please visit: [www.jobcorps.gov](http://www.jobcorps.gov)

### 4.) Legal Help

Capital Law School’s Foster Youth Advocacy Center provides free assistance to current/former foster youth with accessing healthcare, public benefits, housing or insurance, expunging criminal records and/or obtaining social security card, birth certificate, or other personal documents. Foster Youth Advocacy Center: (614) 236-6768, [fyac@law.capital.edu](mailto:fyac@law.capital.edu)

### 5.) Medicaid until age 26

After being initially signed up for Medicaid at age 18, former foster youth must stay in touch with Medicaid, so that they don’t lose services between ages 19-26. Contact the Medicaid Hotline: 1-800- 324-8680, or youth can apply/renew online at [www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov)

### 6.) 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.*

## **7.) FAFSA**

Youth should fill out the FAFSA as an “independent student” if they fit into one of these three categories, according to the *2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act*:

- a.) Student is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court, at any time when the student was 13 years of age or older
- b.) Student is an emancipated minor or is in legal guardianship as determined by the court in their state of legal residence
- c.) Applicant is verified as an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of homelessness and self-supporting

## **8.) ETV Funds (Ohio Education and Training Voucher Program)**

Current/former foster youth ages 18-25 who are accepted or enrolled in pursuing higher education can apply to receive up to \$5,000 a year for expenses related to college, university and vocational training programs. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Young people are eligible if they fit into one of the three categories listed below:

- a.) Student was adopted from U.S. foster care at age 16 or older
- b.) Student was in foster care, legal custody or guardianship to a kinship caregiver at or after age 16
- c.) Student has or will “age” out of foster care between ages 18-21

To remain eligible for ETV funding, youth must show progress toward a degree or certificate. Learn more at: [www.fc2sprograms.org/ohio/](http://www.fc2sprograms.org/ohio/)

## **9.) OHIO Youth Advisory Board (Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio)**

The OHIO YAB is a statewide organization of young people (aged 14-24) who have experienced foster care. We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care. We hold statewide quarterly meetings for teens and young adults with a foster care history; the dates are listed at: [www.fosteractionohio.org/yab/](http://www.fosteractionohio.org/yab/)

## **10.) Columbus State Community College**

Current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Columbus State Community College can join the CSCC Scholar Network. This program provides ongoing mentorship, peer support, and leadership experience. Learn more at: <https://www.csc.edu/services/foster-youth/>

## **12.) Central State ~ Emerging Scholars Mentoring Program**

Freshman attending Central State who have a foster care history can participate in Seeds2Success workshops for foster youth to attend with their mentors, Power Hour study tables and a Helping Hand by connecting them with local professionals. Contact: Zakiya Brown, (937) 376-6414, [zbrown@centralstate.edu](mailto:zbrown@centralstate.edu)

### **13.) Sullivan-Deckard Scholars Opportunity Program**

Current and former foster youth can apply for this Cleveland-based opportunity. Scholars receive professional guidance, educational support, and peer mentoring as important components of the program structure. Please visit:

[www.csuohio.edu/engagement/sullivan-deckard-scholars-opportunity-program](http://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/sullivan-deckard-scholars-opportunity-program)

### **14.) Tri-C ~ Reach Scholars Mentoring Program**

This opportunity is available for current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College. The program pairs students with a faculty or staff member to provide encouragement and support the student's progress towards degree completion. Please visit: [www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/foster-youth-scholars.html](http://www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/foster-youth-scholars.html)

### **15.) Wright State University ~ Independent Scholars Network**

Current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Wright State University can apply for this program. ISN offers a bridge to students who emancipate from foster care or disengage from the adoption process into their new home at Wright State. ISN offers a wide range of services, including help with living arrangements and employment opportunities. Please visit: [www.wright.edu/student-affairs/student-resources/independent-scholars-network](http://www.wright.edu/student-affairs/student-resources/independent-scholars-network)