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.) Foster Youth Independence Program
Designed by Ohio foster care youth and alumni, and approved by HUD Secretary Ben Carson in 2019, this national program provides on-demand housing vouchers to public housing authorities to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under age 25, with a history of foster care.

4.) 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

5.) 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) 236-7236, fyac@law.capital.edu

6.) 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

www.fosteractionohio.org
7.) 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.) 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

9.) 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 ages18-21

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

10.) 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/

11.) 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:
www.https://www.cscc.edu/services/foster-youth/

12.) Central State ~ Emerging Scholars Mentoring Program
Freshman attending Central State who have a foster care history can participant 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. Please
contact: Dr. Sonia Hunt, (937) 376-6649, shunt@centralstate.edu
13.) Cleveland State University ~ Fostering Success and Leadership Programs
These three programs are designed for youth who are aging out of foster care or experienced foster care and aspire to pursue an undergraduate degree.

- **Sullivan-Deckard Scholars Opportunity Program:** 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)

- **Helen Packer Scholarship Program** provides an opportunity for youth who have experienced foster care to pursue an undergraduate degree

- **Pratt Center – Fostering Success and Leadership** is designed to provide academic support services, personal and professional development activities for CSU students who have exited foster care and are pursuing a Bachelor's degree

14.) Cuyahoga Community College ~ Reach Scholars Mentoring Program
Current or former foster youth who are admitted and enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College can apply for a mentor. This program pairs students with a faculty member or staff member to provide encouragement, connection to College resources, and emotional support to ensure that the reach scholar makes academic progress toward 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)

16.) Franklin County ~ Scholar House 3
Designed by current and former foster youth, Scholar House 3 will open in September 2020, and provide housing and supportive services to 30 former foster youth between ages 18-24. Consistent with the Scholar House model, residents are expected to maintain full-time status at an accredited two or four-year College or University.

17.) Hamilton County ~ Higher Education Mentoring Initiative
This program provides Hamilton County foster youth with a long-term academic mentoring relationship that begins in high school and is focused on awareness of, preparation for, and completion of post-secondary education and training.

www.fosteractionohio.org