

Compare and Contrast: Chafee aftercare and Bridges extended foster care

Youth who “age out” of foster care in Ohio can seek support through either: (a.) Chafee aftercare services and (b.) Bridges extended foster care program. They aren’t allowed to utilize both programs at the same time, because this is considered ‘double-dipping’ when it comes to federal funds.

	Chafee aftercare services	Bridges extended foster care program
Eligibility Requirements	Youth must be younger than 21 years old and have emancipated from foster care.	Youth must be younger than 21 and emancipated from foster care. Youth must meet at least one of the following criteria: a.) Enrolled in and participating in post-secondary education b.) Working at least 80 hours a month c.) Participating in an employment program d.) Have a documented medical condition that prevents them from going to school or working
Voluntary Participation Agreement	Not required. Youth must request services, but do not need to sign a voluntary participation agreement.	Requestion. The young person must sign a voluntary participation agreement, indicating their willingness to participate and to fulfill certain responsibilities.
Court involvement	Not necessary.	A court must determine that participating in Bridges would be in the young person’s best interest and require that Bridges staff members made reasonable efforts to provide care and services.
Case management	Administered by county public children services agencies.	Administered by ODJFS through a contracted vendor.