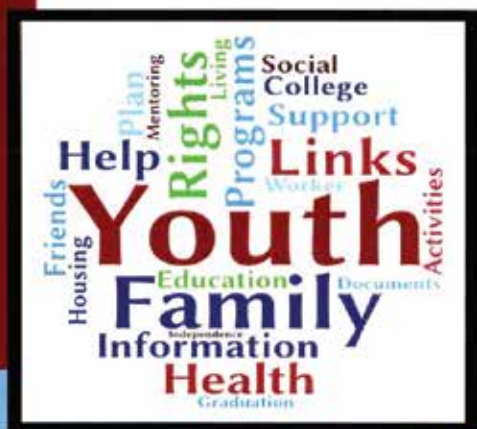


MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES



**Montana Chafee
Foster Care
Independence Program
(CFCIP)**

Child and Family Services Division



Why CFCIP?

Youth in, or previously in, the foster care system face significant challenges as they attempt to make the transition to adulthood on their own.

National Statistics*

- 415,129 children were in foster care on Sept. 30th, 2014, a 4% increase from 2012.
- Every year, more than 18,000 youth age out of foster care when they reach 18 or complete high school.
- The 2010 Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth research project showed that most youth who had aged out of foster care were faring poorly compared to other youth in the general population.

24.4% had no diploma or GED – compared to the 7.3% of the general population.

52% were unemployed – only 24.5% of the general population youth were unemployed.

*All statistics come from the FosterClub Website (<http://www.fosterclub.com/article/foster-care-statistics>) and Jim Casey's *Foster Care to 21: Doing it right*.

Montana CFCIP Offers Great Opp

Eligibility Requirements

- Between the ages of 14-21, currently, or previously, in foster care, and likely to "age out" of the foster care system; or
- Adopted or placed into guardianship from foster care after reaching age 16.

Services Offered

- Life skills instruction
- Education/Vocational assistance
- Individualized transitional living plans
- Life Skill Assessments
- Mentors
- Education and Training Vouchers through Reach Higher Montana
- Youth Advisory Board opportunities

Assistance With

- Obtaining a high school diploma or a high school equivalency degree (HSED);
- Acquiring volunteer experience;
- Enrolling in life skills groups;
- Locating and applying for housing;
- Finding a mentor;
- Enrollment in other activities intended to increase life skills and employment; and
- Obtaining full- or part-time employment.

opportunities for Youth!

Attend the annual “A Step Ahead—Building a Path to Success” Youth Summit held on a Montana college campus every year in June! Learn life skills, network with other youth, prepare for college or the world of work, and engage in group activities. Look for registration in March!



Participate in National or State activities, such as the Foster Club All Star Program and youth panels to educate adults about working with youth in the child welfare field.



Work to prepare for your post-secondary education. Learn about financial aid, resources on campus, getting involved in school activities, and how to sign up for Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) that offer eligible youth up to \$5,000 per year for school costs, and more!



Apply to be on the Youth Advisory Board! The selected youth will have the opportunity to learn more about child welfare, provide insight on improving the Chafee program, network with peers, and be leaders throughout the state!



What is Montana CFCIP?

- Assists youth who are likely to remain in foster care achieve self-sufficiency
- Aids youth in foster care as they prepare for and enter post-secondary training and education institutions
- Provides mentorship opportunities and promotes interaction with dedicated adults
- Provides financial, housing and employment education and other support and services
- Assures that youth recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and making the transition from adolescence to adulthood
- Makes available vouchers for education and training to youth who have aged out of foster care
- Limited cash stipends available for:
 - Education/Work
 - Counseling and Medical
 - Household Setup
 - Extracurricular and Skill Building Activities



SERVICES ARE PROVIDED
ACROSS THE STATE! CONTACT
YOUR LOCAL PROGRAM OR
THE STATEWIDE OFFICE FOR
MORE INFORMATION.

*The Montana Chafee
Foster Care Independence
Program helps youth in
foster care achieve
self-sufficiency.*



Healthier People. Healthier Communities.

Department of Public Health & Human Services

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