



**Tom C. Rawlings**


Director



**GEORGIA RESILIENT.** YOUTH-CENTERED. STABLE. EMPOWERED.

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**JOHN H. CHAFEE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD**



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To provide eligible youth with opportunities to successfully prepare for adulthood through appropriate referral resources and connections provided by community partners. For years, adolescents who left foster care have experienced significant challenges in successfully transitioning to adulthood.

Georgia recognized that without appropriate services, planning and support, these youth demonstrated higher rates of homelessness, unemployment, poverty, delinquent or criminal behaviors, and dependence on various types of public assistance.

In response to these identified transition challenges, Georgia implemented standards in support of Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) and Education Training Vouchers (ETV).



# OUR MISSION



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To ensure youth are stable, healthy,  
connected, employed, and educated.



**OUR  
VISION**

# Fostering Connections Act of 2008

- Requires that a transition plan is developed for youth exiting foster care
- Must be developed at least 90 days before the youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, or the age required by the state for aging out of care
- Must be developed with the youth, their case manager, and other representatives of the youth's choosing
- Should include elements such as housing, education, employment, mentoring, and continued supporters.

# Eligibility Requirements:

Young people in foster care ages 14-21 may be determined eligible for the Independent Living Program when the following criteria are met:

- The youth has been adjudicated as dependent or as a child in need of services (CHINS) by a Georgia Juvenile Court; and
- The youth is or was in foster care for at least (6) months prior to reaching the age of 18;
  - *All eligible youth must be in care at some point on or after their 14th birthday. A youth could accumulate the six months prior to 14 years old and be eligible for some after care services.*
- Youth 18-21 is a citizen and/or permanent legal resident of Georgia.



The GARYSE Chafee Program focuses on building the following protective and promotive factors for youth in foster care, based on the Youth Thrive Framework:

- **They are physically and emotionally healthy**
  - *Assuring the youth can meet their own physical and mental health needs by ensuring access to health insurance*
- **They become hopeful, optimistic, compassionate, curious, and resilient**
  - *Avoidance of High-Risk Behaviors: Empowering youth to be productive and responsible members of the community*
- **They are able to form and sustain caring, supportive, and committed relationships**
  - *Ensuring youth have permanent social connections with responsible and supportive adults and peers*
- **They are successful in school and work**
  - *Achievement of high school diploma, GED, & hopeful completion of a secondary education program*
  - *Financial self-sufficiency through employment and community service opportunities that allow the youth to develop job readiness skills*
- **They are able to obtain and maintain stable housing to prevent homelessness**



**We don't have much time!**

**Intact Families**

18 Years

216 Months

939 Weeks

6,574 Days

157,776 Hours





## We don't have much time!

Intact Families	FC ILP-14+
18 Years	4 Years
216 Months	48 months
939 Weeks	209 Weeks
6,574 Days	1,461 Days
157,776 Hours	35,064 Hours



## We don't have much time!

Intact Families	FC ILP-14+	Average Time In Care 14-17 Years
18 Years	4 Years	About 2 Years
216 Months	48 months	21.47 Months
939 Weeks	209 Weeks	94 Weeks
6,574 Days	1,461 Days	658 Days
157,776 Hours	35,064 Hours	15,792 Hours



How are we  
preparing them?

# Planning

## *Written Transitional Living Plan (WTLP)*

The WTLP is a written description of the programs and services that will assist the youth in preparing for the transition from foster care to independent living. Should be developed with the youth during a Transitional Round Table.

The WTLP serves as the guidepost to the internal and external programmatic connections necessary to support the youth's success.

### ***The WTLP must be completed within 30 day of:***

- A youth 14 years of age or older entering foster care; or a youth in foster care reaching 14 years of age;
- A youth reaching 18 years of age and participating in Extended Foster Care (EFC)
- A youth's participating in EFC after exiting custody at 18 years of age or older;
- Identifying additional needs for a youth with an existing WTLP, including those identified upon completion of the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA);
- New outcomes and tasks being ordered by the court; or g. The WTLP outcomes being achieved.



What's  
the  
plan?

# Transitional Meetings

The transitional meeting jointly develops specific plans to address permanent connections, housing, health insurance/health needs, education, job skills, independent living skills.

During these meetings – the youth's Written Transitional Living Plan is reviewed and discussed.

All transitional meetings begin at age 16 and must be held every six months after the initial meeting and continued through the youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.



# Case Life Skills Assessment

- The Division utilizes the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) to assess the life skills, strengths and vulnerabilities of youth ages 14-17 in foster care.
- It is administered within 15 calendar days of a youth ages 14 -17 entering foster care or a youth in foster care turning age 14.
- It measures a youth's confidence in their future and permanent connections to supportive adults
- Designed to be free from gender, ethnic or cultural biases
- The results of the CLSA are incorporated in the WTLP – and supportive life skills workshop trainings are provided to support identified needs



# Life Skills Workshops

The goal of the GARYSE/The Chafee Program Life Skill workshops are structured to provide ILP eligible youth with opportunities to learn valuable life skills designed to assist them in being self-sufficient when they decide to leave foster care at 18 or age out at 21.





# Life Skills Workshops Focus Topics....



Academic Support



Mental and Physical Well-being  
Awareness



Post Secondary Education Assistance



Career Preparation





# Life Skills Workshops Focus Topics....



How to build health relationships



Budgeting and Financial Management



Household Management



# Supporting Opportunities for Normalcy

The Pathway to  
Independence

# Opportunities for Normalcy

The GARYSE Chafee Program can provide fiscal support for youth to participate in activities that foster normalcy and independence. Such as:

- Engagement in extracurricular activities – *such as Band, Sports, School Clubs, etc.*
- Driver's Education Fees, Driver's License, and State ID
- Attendance to Prom
- Graduation Fees – *school pictures, class ring, senior portraits, yearbooks, announcements and invitations*
- Summer School attendance
- Providing Laptops/Computers



# Preparing for Transition

The Pathway to  
Independence



# Pathway to Independence

## *Placement Options*

Young people in foster care receive greater benefit if placed in relative or foster home settings.

When this is not possible, alternative placement options are sought such as Child Caring Institutions, or what is also known as group homes. These are congregate care settings where youth share a living space with other adolescents.

Next we will discuss how youth transition from these group home settings to living independently.



# Transitional Living Placements

- Transitional Living Placements (TLP) are not regular foster home placements but are designed to support the youth living independently after they leave foster care.
- These programs support youth who are ready for some independence but are not yet ready to live on their own.
- Young people identified for a TLP placement must be at least 16 years of age, with any permanency plan and have been assessed to be invested in and able to benefit from the TLP.
- These placement settings are designed to prepare youth for adult like responsibilities before being transitioned into a place of their own.



## Transitional Living Placements

Transitional living placements may be offered through a variety of residential on-campus living arrangements where youth have the opportunity to practice independent living skills with decreasing degrees of care and supervision.

The young person must follow program rules for their safety and success.



# Life Coaches

- Youth in TLP programs must have a life coach.
- Life coaching is a practice that helps people identify and achieve personal goals.
- Life Coaches help the young person to set and reach goals using a variety of tools and techniques.
- Life Coaches model life skills (e.g., assertiveness, communication, conflict management, problem solving and decision making) and provide activities for youth to practice life skills and provide appropriate feedback to the youth.





# Independent Living Programs

Independent Living Programs (ILP) are different from TLP in that youth may live in an alternative living arrangement (i.e., community-based housing) rather than a group home, or other residential type facility.

Ideally, all ILP youth should eventually transition into independent housing. This placement provides the opportunity for youth to experience decreased care and supervision as they become responsible for their own care.

The goal of an independent living placement is to prepare youth to become socially and financially independent from the foster care system. Independent living placements shall begin no earlier than a youth's 18th birthday.



# Independent Living Programs

To transition to an Independent Living program the young person must be at least 18 years of age and have elected to participate in Extended Youth Support Services (EYSS).

Youth must be also be deemed invested in and able to benefit from ILP.

Youth in Extended Youth Support Services must include that youth must be employed at least part time (15-20 hrs. /week) or attending school full-time.

Young people are ideally placed in single occupancy housing by the 13th month of participation in the program. Single occupancy housing is defined as a youth living alone or with a roommate of their choice and sharing the cost of living expenses.





*Fiscal Supports for  
Former Foster  
Youth*

# Post-Foster Care Resources

# Post Foster Care Resources

*Child Welfare Policy Section 13.11*

The GARYSE Chafee Program provides the following Post Foster Care (PFC) services, as funding permits, to ILP eligible youth:

1. **Transitional Living Supportive Services:** Provides eligible youth with supportive services to assist in the development of daily living skills and supports the youth's transition from foster care to self-sufficiency;
2. **Emergency Financial Assistance:** Provides eligible youth with emergency financial assistance for up to 90 days in order to stabilize living conditions and/or personal circumstances;
3. **Post-Secondary Education Financial Support:** Provides eligible youth or youth who were adopted from foster care at age 16 or older with funds to provide financial support toward the completion of post-secondary education



# Independent Living Specialist

*Our Role in Supporting Youth Transition*

# Independent Living Specialist

Supports ILP eligible youth in foster care with connection to resources and supports

Works closely with case managers, placement providers, supportive connections, and external partners.

Processes fiscal requests for ILP related services

Attends TRTs, reviews WTLP's, and supports monthly life skills trainings





Extended Foster Care for Young People Ages 18-21

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# Extended Foster Care Provisions – County Letter August 2020

- A. Can remain in care until age 21
- B. Can return up until age 20 (*removes requirement of 6 months after 18<sup>th</sup> birthday*)
- C. Signing of VPA – within 5 days of 18 birthday, or their request to return to EFC if they previously opted out.
- D. Engagement with juvenile court – submission of court report to include the WTLP
- E. Establishes EFC criteria:
  - 1. Completing a secondary education or program leading to an equivalent
  - 2. credential (e.g. high school or GED);
  - 3. Enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education;
  - 4. Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment;
  - 5. Employed for at least 120 hours per month;
  - 6. Employed for 80 hours per month, provided that they are engaged in one of the activities described in 1-3 above or can only work 80 hours per month due to a medical condition; or
  - 7. Incapable of doing any of the activities described in 1- 4 above due to a medical condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the case plan of the young adult.

Next, we will discuss the Consolidated Appropriations Act that has allowed exceptions for EFC due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.





Public Private Partnerships

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# The State GA RYSE/Chafee Program Team

**Director: Candis Jones, LAPC**

*Candis.jones@dhs.ga.gov*

**State Independent Living Program Specialists:**

Region 1: Jershaun Roberts

Region 2: Fallecia Gee

Region 3: Shakeria Jones

Region 4: Gerrica Morton

Region 5: Jo Thomas

Region 6: Latrice Bakon

Region 7: Larissa Thompson

Region 8: Angela Davis

Region 10: Leslie Blease

Region 11: Caitlin Giles

Region 12: **Vacant** (*L. Bakon*)

Region 13: Simone Adderly (Cobb); Shante

Campbell (Clayton); Hannah Harris (Gwinnett)

Region 14: Barret Askew & Kathleen Edwards

Dekalb; Contessia Hoover (Fulton)

State ILP Supervisor: Takisha Hossley

State ILP Supervisor: Steven Kinney

Business Operations Specialist: Tara Kelly

Program Consultant: Erika Dennis

Credit Reporting Specialist: Devin Martin

Administrative Assistant: LaShone Simmons

Additional Information on the  
GARYSE Chafee Program may be found  
by accessing:

[www.GARYSE-ILP.org](http://www.GARYSE-ILP.org)