

Summary of Process

1. At age 14, Independent Living Assessment and Plan.
2. At age 14, youth should be referred to Life Skill Classes.
3. At age 14, youth should obtain a State I.D.
4. Each youth is encouraged to obtain employment and start a savings account.
5. Youth will need to be referred to Youth Transition Services Department six months prior to needing housing and at the beginning of their senior year for college-bound youth.
6. Youth will attend an annual Life Skills Conference.
7. Once a youth has been prepared for independent living, financial assistance is available to ease the transition to independent living.
8. At case closure, an aftercare referral will be made.
9. Post Emancipated Youth services are available to assist during challenging times until the youth's 21st birthday.

Caseworker Name & Number:

Supervisor Name & Number:



855 West Mound Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223
(614) 278-5972
(614) 229-7000 (24 hrs.)

childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov

A Road Map for the Choices to Come

The transition from childhood to adulthood can be challenging and sometimes painful for children and those who try to help them. This experience is much more difficult for children in the child protection system. As they try to navigate from agency care to living on their own, older teens soon realize that they lack the skills necessary to accomplish a smooth transition. They need help or advice, but often don't know where to go or to whom to turn.



Journey To Independence



As a Newly Independent Adult, Youth Have Rights and Responsibilities



Youth Need to Be Aware of Obstacles to Success



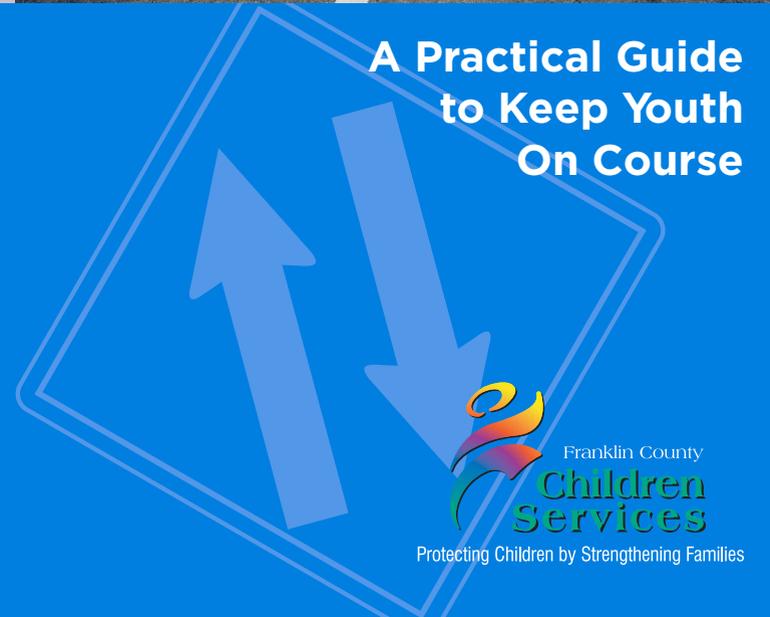
- At 18 years of age, a youth is legally an adult.
- Youth have adult expectations, responsibilities and consequences.
- Youth must obey the law and its authority.
- Youth should establish goals.
- Youth need to have character and be honest.
- Youth should put forth their best effort to learn and attend school or work.

- Alcohol and drugs
- Poor self-control or self-discipline
- Self-doubt or low self-esteem
- Immaturity; poor judgement/decision-making
- Irresponsible sexual relationships
- Lack of interest in education
- Poor work ethic or bad work attitude
- Violating the law or disobeying authority
- Gangs and gang lifestyle

The goals of the Youth Transition Services Department are to assist and support youth 14 and older in skill development for independent living and to empower those youth to make positive, healthy choices in the years to come.

For more information, contact:
Franklin County Children Services
Youth Transition Services
855 West Mound Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223
(614) 278-5972

A Practical Guide to Keep Youth On Course



The Mission

The mission of **Franklin County Children Services' Youth Transition Services Department** is to provide the highest quality of services, counseling and life skills instruction to every young adult transitioning out of Children Services care; and to help them prepare for **productive independence**.

Requirements for Participation:

- In Children Services' custody
- 14 years old or older
- In an out-of-home placement
- Participate directly in their Independent Living Plan

Youth Transition Services Provided:

- Assessment/Independent Living Case Planning
- Life Skills Training
- Host Homes
- Transitional Living
- Independent Living

After care services provide guidance and support to those young adults seeking their own pathway for independence and healthy living on their own.

Program services include assistance with:

- Independent living preparation
- Rent and living situations
- Apartment search
- Rental application fees
- Rent and utility assistance
- Furniture and housewares (pots, pans, dishes, silverware, etc.)
- Groceries
- Job/trade assistance
- College grant assistance
- College application fees and entry test fees
- Dorm set up
- Bus passes and transportation
- Banking



Assessment and Planning:

All youth 14 and older under the custody of Franklin County Children Services are required to receive an independent living assessment and independent living case plan.



Staff Responsibilities

The Youth Transition Services caseworkers are dedicated to helping youth make the most of their opportunities for a successful transition to independence.

- Staff provide assistance with daily living skills, including budgeting, banking, housekeeping, child care, education, resource referrals and job readiness.
- Staff are committed to being fair and honest in their efforts to assist youth on the path to independence.

Host Homes:

A host home is a living arrangement in which an approved caregiver agrees to provide housing and life skills instruction to youth participating in the program. The adult's role is to teach the youth about independent living and serve as a role model to the child or children in their home.

Transitional Living:

Transitional Living is a generally-supervised living arrangement for youth 18 years old and older. During the day youth should be attending school, studying for the GED or working. Staff monitor the activities of the youth and provide job and educational assistance.

Life Skills Training

All Children Services youth 14 and older are eligible to participate in this 10-week training program.

Life Skills Training is designed to provide youth with the necessary skills for independent living.

The Life Skills curriculum includes topics such as budgeting, money managing and shopping, job readiness and much more. Adult Life Skills Training is required for all youth who are in the custody of Franklin County Children Services and age 14 and over.



Independent Living

In the Independent Living program, young adults who meet income requirements are eligible to lease an apartment in the community.

Staff assist youth in establishing themselves in the community and the neighborhood most suited to their culture, preferences and income level. Although this is the most independent stage for youth in the program, staff still continue to check on the youth at least weekly and provide the case management services as needed.

Young adults must provide proof of income, demonstrate responsible behavior and adhere to program rules and expectations.

Post Transition Youth Services

These are time-limited services provided to youth who have transitioned out of the child welfare system. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Vocational assessment training
- Job search assistance
- Independent living skills (refresher) training

If a youth is unwilling to participate or accept personal responsibility, he or she cannot receive services.

Therapeutic Arts Program (TAP)

TAP incorporates traditional and non-traditional methods to provide participants with the opportunity to increase their self-awareness, self-esteem and self-reliance.