



Independent Living Services

ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Children and Families

Office of Child Welfare

January 31, 2022

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

Ron DeSantis
Governor

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Purpose: To Report on Activities for SFY 2020-2021

This report provides accountability information on Postsecondary Education Services and Support and Aftercare Services (PESS) referenced in section 409.1451(6), Florida Statutes (F.S.), as follows:

1. An analysis of performance on the outcome measures developed under this section reported for each Community-Based Care lead agency (CBC).
2. A description of the Department's oversight of the program, including, by lead agency, any programmatic or fiscal deficiencies found, corrective actions required, and status of compliance.
3. Any rules adopted or proposed under this section since the last report.

Although Extended Foster Care (EFC) is not referenced in section 409.1451(6), F.S., this report also provides outcome and oversight information for young adults continuing in foster care.

The table below depicts the number of young adults served in each program, by CBC, over the last two State Fiscal Years (SFYs). This year's annual report numbers are calculated using different data reports. This change accounts for any variation from data previously published.

Number of Young Adults Receiving Independent Living Services by Program Type, CBC, and SFY						
CBC	2019-2020			2020-2021		
	Aftercare	EFC	PESS	Aftercare	EFC	PESS
Brevard Family Partnership	17	33	25	23	41	28
ChildNet-Broward	32	138	78	38	143	71
ChildNet-Palm Beach	20	122	61	15	139	53
Children's Network of SW Florida	5	50	44	2	76	57
Citrus Health Network	18	238	205	10	245	249
Communities Connected for Kids	16	21	23	11	12	15
Community Partnership for Children	15	49	46	0	47	35
Eckerd Community Alternatives	62	113	43	58	134	43
Eckerd Community Hillsborough	53	102	83	49	116	57
Embrace Families	50	91	50	44	126	54
Families First Network	21	70	21	15	80	23
Family Integrity Program	3	9	2	0	6	5
Family Support Services of North Florida	21	65	29	32	100	25
Heartland for Children	15	57	7	12	75	11
Kids Central, Inc.	14	35	15	24	37	27
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	1	11	15	0	9	13
Northwest Florida Health Network	18	35	34	11	56	29
Partnership for Strong Families	16	12	15	10	17	18
Safe Children Coalition	14	29	13	12	39	19
Statewide	411	1280	809	366	1498	832

**Source: OCWDRU #1089, FSN Data Repository

Independent Living Services Outcomes

The intent of each summary is to provide a better understanding of each program's scope and the nuances within independent living services. The descriptions of each independent living program available to former foster youth are not intended to detail all eligibility criteria for receiving services.

Each program is designed to assist young adults in reaching principal outcome areas as they move toward self-sufficiency. The examination of programs considers the following federal outcome areas: increasing financial self-sufficiency, improving educational attainment, increasing connections to caring adults, reducing homelessness, reducing high-risk behavior, and improving access to health insurance.

Department analysis of CBC's performance in administering young adult transition services also considers Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) available data, National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) surveys, and other oversight activities.

As part of the 2021 legislative session, the Office of Continuing Care was created. Through the creation of the Office of Continuing Care, the Department plans to build off current programming to connect young adults with community resources and opportunities to assist them in their journey to self-sufficiency. The Office of Continuing Care will be a part of Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity; it will be staffed by peer advocates and will offer free, one-on-one help for youth who are about to transition, or have recently transitioned, out of foster care, aiming to make the leap into adulthood a positive experience. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 26 years old who have or will age out of the foster care system in Florida, are able to receive services that include accessing special services available to former foster youth, a support system to help with next steps, and connections to existing resources in their community.

Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS)

Eligible young adults 18-22 years of age in PESS receive \$1,256 per month and other supports necessary to become self-sufficient. Federal John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee program) funding helps pay for participant housing and other expenses necessary to cover the cost of attendance while enrolled in school or a vocational training program. After the initial application process, eligibility requires that these students are enrolled in nine credit hours or the vocational equivalent; and, if meeting academic progress according to the Florida Bright Futures educational institution, the students may continue to receive the assistance. Some exceptions to credit hours and progress may apply for those students with a diagnosed disability or other recognized challenging circumstances.

Outcome area: Increasing financial self-sufficiency

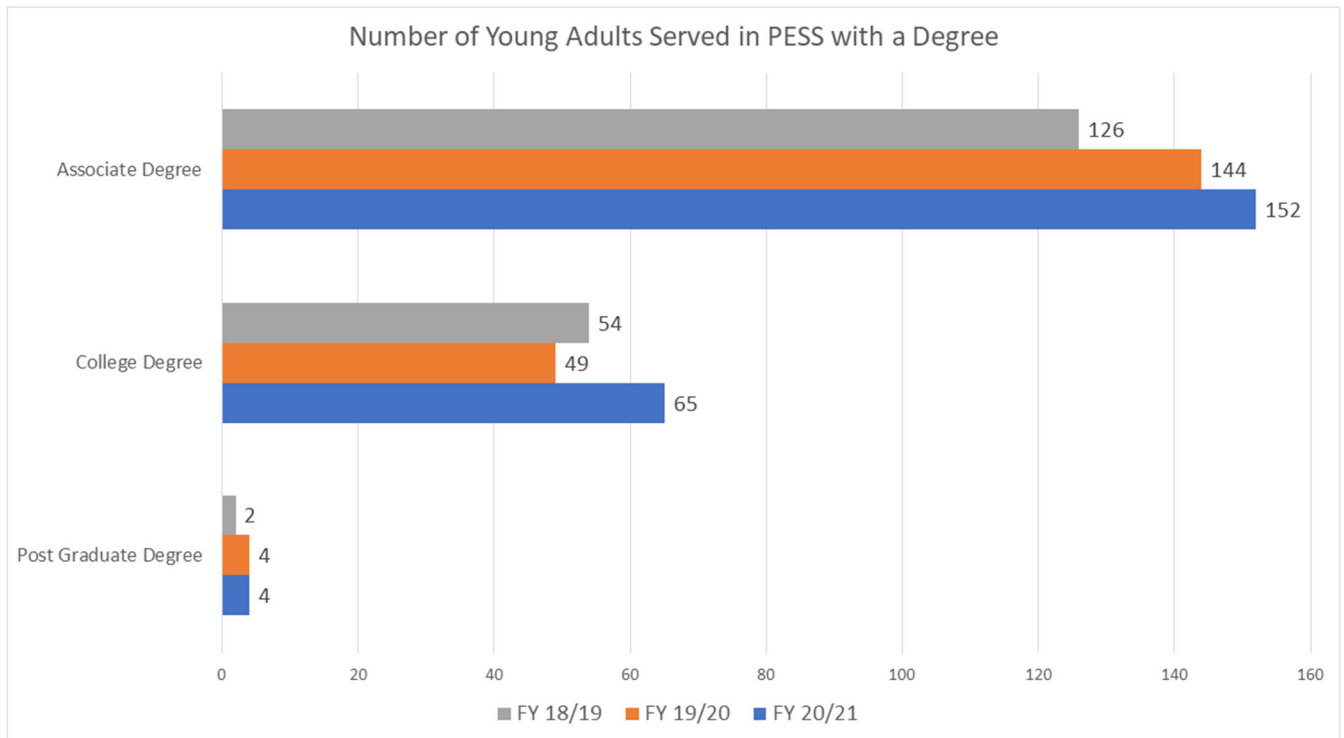
Financial self-sufficiency can be achieved through many ways. Youth in foster care or out-of-home care are required to have a transition plan (My Pathways to Success Plan) completed prior to turning 18 years of age, pursuant to section 39.6035, F.S. This plan contains the goals, choices, and decisions for obtaining or maintaining the services necessary to successfully transition to adulthood. Those services include, but are not limited to, budgeting, employment, and education. In addition, life skills assessments are completed on a youth prior to turning 18 to provide staff a concise overview of the services and supports the youth will need as they transition into adulthood. The plans and assessments allow for staff to determine the young adult's ability to successfully manage their funds and move toward financial self-sufficiency.

Outcome area: Improving educational attainment

During SFY 2020-2021, the Department contracted with Educate Tomorrow Corporation, a 501(c)(3) organization, to administer the Positive Pathways Program (Positive Pathways). Positive Pathways was established to coordinate, develop, and maintain a network of postsecondary supports in efforts to improve outcomes and career transitions for former foster youth eligible for the Department's Tuition and Fee Exemption (tuition exemption). This work is a continuation of support, networking, and collective impact that began in 2013 with the establishment of Florida Reach and in response to section 409.1452, F.S., relevant to the collaboration with the State University System (SUS), Florida College System (FCS), and Department of Education.

SUS and FCS reported an improvement in degree attainment for students utilizing the tuition exemption for SFY 2020-2021.

The following chart shows the number of young adults served in PESS during SFY 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 who have an educational record in FSFN reflecting degree achievement.



Outcome area: Increasing connections for caring adults

Young adults in PESS must have previously established supportive adults through transition planning, EFC, Guardianship, or Adoption to help them succeed. Still, supportive structures such as Positive Pathways, faith-based initiatives, and other not-for-profits continue to offer young adults in PESS the chance to meet new individuals and grow their social capital.

Moving forward, the Office of Continuing Care will utilize peer advocates for youth who are about to transition or have recently transitioned out of foster care, helping to make the maturation into adulthood a more positive journey.

Outcome area: Reducing homelessness

Young adults participating in PESS receive financial assistance to help secure housing and utilities. The statutory stipend amount of \$1,256 is available to help cover living expenses. The Community Based Care lead agencies can also leverage community resources and partnerships to assist young adults in locating affordable housing in the cities where they are attending school.

Outcome area: Reducing high-risk behavior

Young adults in PESS receiving services remain in contact with a child welfare professional on an as-needed basis, at which time service needs can be identified. The young adult may request non-financial additional services anytime throughout the program period to reduce the risk. Additionally, through Positive Pathways, young adults may have access to more student services through campus-based programs designed to support former foster youth. The

Department is also exploring opportunities to integrate resources between the Office of Continuing Care and the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

Outcome area: Improving access to health insurance

Young adults participating in PESS have access to Medicaid. Depending on whether the young adult turned 18 in the legal custody of the Department, was adopted at age 16 or 17, or was placed in guardianship at age 16 or 17, will determine if the young adult's Medicaid is managed by the CBC. Young adults in the legal custody of the Department at age 18 continue to receive Child-in-Care (CIC) Medicaid until the age 21. Young adults who turned 18 in the legal custody of the Department and were receiving Medicaid when they turned 18 are automatically eligible for Medicaid until the age of 26 years old.

Aftercare Services (Aftercare)

To be eligible for Aftercare per s. 409.1451, F.S., a young adult must have reached the age of 18 while in the legal custody of the Department, but not yet have turned 23-years-of-age. The services provided are based on a needs assessment and intended to be temporary in nature. Services are often used as a bridge to EFC and PESS and may include mentoring, tutoring, mental health, substance abuse, counseling, and financial assistance. Allowable expenses are covered by federal and state funding.

Outcome area: Increasing financial self-sufficiency

Traditionally young adults are offered financial literacy skills training through DFS and may request financial assistance through an Aftercare application. The amount of financial assistance must be for specific purposes and are provided to the vendor for items like rent or utilities until a young adult can successfully manage their expenses and allocated assistance.

Although young adults are not required to seek employment or attend school as an ongoing condition to eligibility, they must make efforts to complete activities to become self-sufficient. These types of activities, as part of a comprehensive plan, will assist with transitioning the young adult toward financial self-sufficiency.

The following table provides the number of young adults who received Aftercare for SFY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and had a recorded period of employment.

Number of Young Adults Receiving Aftercare Services with Recorded Employment, CBC, and SFY		
CBC	2019-2020	2020-2021
Brevard Family Partnership	2	5
ChildNet-Broward	2	9
ChildNet-Palm Beach	0	3
Children's Network of SW Florida	3	0
Citrus Health Network	2	3
Communities Connected for Kids	0	0
Community Partnership for Children	8	2
Eckerd Community Alternatives	8	11
Eckerd Community Hillsborough	16	13
Embrace Families	5	8
Families First Network	10	4
Family Integrity Program	1	0
Family Support Services of North Florida	3	9
Heartland for Children	1	6
Kids Central, Inc.	4	6
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	0	0
Northwest Family Health Network	7	1
Partnership for Strong Families	1	0
Safe Children Coalition	6	2
Statewide	79	82
Source: OCWDRU #1169, FSFN Data Repository		

HOPE Florida - A Pathway to Prosperity is also now available to youth transitioning out of foster care. This program utilizes care navigators that work directly with youth on an individualized path to prosperity. Specifically, care navigators work with customers to identify their unique and immediate barriers to prosperity, develop long term goals, map out and actively work together to accomplish goals to self-sufficiency. They accomplish this by ensuring all sectors of the community have a seat at the table, including the private sector, and the faith-based community, not-for-profits, and government entities are a part of the solution.

Outcome area: Improving educational attainment

A young adult applying for Aftercare shall also complete the Aftercare Services Plan to address education. The form guides in the determination of educational needs, as well as postsecondary goals and technical training. Ideally, the young adult will feel encouraged to set long term goals to attain an education and become familiar with the types of financial aid and the tuition exemptions available to assist on their journey to self-sufficiency. The following table portrays the number of young adults that received Aftercare during SFY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and had a recorded achievement of H.S. Diploma or GED.

CBC	2019-2020		2020-2021	
	H.S. Diploma	GED	H.S. Diploma	GED
Brevard Family Partnership	4	2	3	5
ChildNet-Broward	8	1	13	10
ChildNet-Palm Beach	0	2	9	1
Children's Network of SW Florida	1	1	1	0
Citrus Health Network	2	0	5	1
Communities Connected for Kids	2	2	0	0
Community Partnership for Children	0	0	0	0
Eckerd Community Alternatives	19	12	23	13
Eckerd Community Hillsborough	10	26	12	16
Embrace Families	22	12	15	10
Families First Network	4	1	3	1
Family Integrity Program	1	1	0	0
Family Support Services of North Florida	6	5	7	7
Heartland for Children	0	0	0	0
Kids Central, Inc.	7	3	9	3
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	0	1	0	0
Northwest Florida Health Network	9	3	4	4
Partnership for Strong Families	1	3	2	1
Safe Children Coalition	5	3	6	3
Statewide	101	78	112	75
Source: OCWDRU #1091, FSFN Data Repository				

Outcome area: Increasing connections to caring adults

The After Services Plan allows the young adult and child welfare professional to list the person(s) responsible for providing support to the young adult. Through the ongoing planning process, supportive adults, such as extended family, friends, clinical, child welfare professionals, faith-based initiatives, and other not-for-profits may be identified to help the young adult accomplish the documented goals and grow their social capital. If possible, these connections to caring adults will continue to be cultivated throughout the young adult's case, regardless of which program the young adult is linked.

Outcome area: Reducing homelessness

Young adults participating in Aftercare may receive financial assistance to help secure housing and utilities. Like PESS, CBCs can leverage community resources and partnerships to assist young adults in locating affordable housing.

Outcome area: Reducing high-risk behavior

The Aftercare Services Plan allows the young adult and child welfare professional to list the person(s) responsible for providing services. Since the services are administered through the referral process, it is likely that the young adult will have contact with multiple providers. Follow up on the outcome of the service referrals is reviewed every three months, when needs are reassessed. The Department is also exploring opportunities to integrate resources between the Office of Continuing Care and the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

Outcome area: Improving access to health insurance

Young adults in Aftercare continue to receive Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Although Medicaid coverage continues until 26-years-old under the ACA, young adults in Aftercare continue to receive Medicaid until the age 21. Young adults who turned 18 in the legal custody of the Department and were receiving Medicaid when they turned 18 are automatically eligible for Medicaid until the age of 26 years old.

Extended Foster Care (EFC)

Effective January 2019, EFC policies were substantially revised to standardize the service delivery across the state and align with Title IV-E federal funding requirements. Eligible young adults have the option of remaining in foster care until the age of 21, or until the age of 22 if they have a disability. EFC is a voluntary program that requires the young adult to participate in school, work, or a work training program, and reside in a supervised living arrangement in accordance with federal and state guidelines.

Services include regular case management visits, case planning, transition planning, monitoring of life skills development, and judicial oversight as required. The program utilizes Title IV-E federal funds to help pay for room and board and other allowable expenses such as child-care for young adults who are parenting, clothing for work or school, school supplies, and essential services needed to support the young adult's transition to independence.

Recently, HOPE Florida: A Pathway to Prosperity established statewide access to support for youth and young adults transitioning out of care. The Office of Continuing Care, under the umbrella of Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity, is staffed by care navigators with lived experience and offers free, one-on-one help for young people who are about to or have recently transitioned out of foster care, aiming to make the leap into adulthood a positive experience. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 26 years old and who age out of the foster care system in Florida, may receive services that include accessing special services available to former foster youth, a support system to help with next steps, and connections to existing resources in their community

Outcome area: Increasing financial self-sufficiency

Young adults in EFC are encouraged to participate in financial literacy programs as part of the transitioning planning process to promote self-sufficiency. Section 39.6035, F.S., requires youth in transition are provided with information for the financial literacy curriculum offered by the

DFS. Young adults can continue taking the DFS online courses and any other free banking classes to increase their knowledge of handling money.

Through the creation of the Office of Continuing Care, DCF plans to build off current programming to connect young adults with community resources and opportunities to assist them in their journey to financial self-sufficiency.

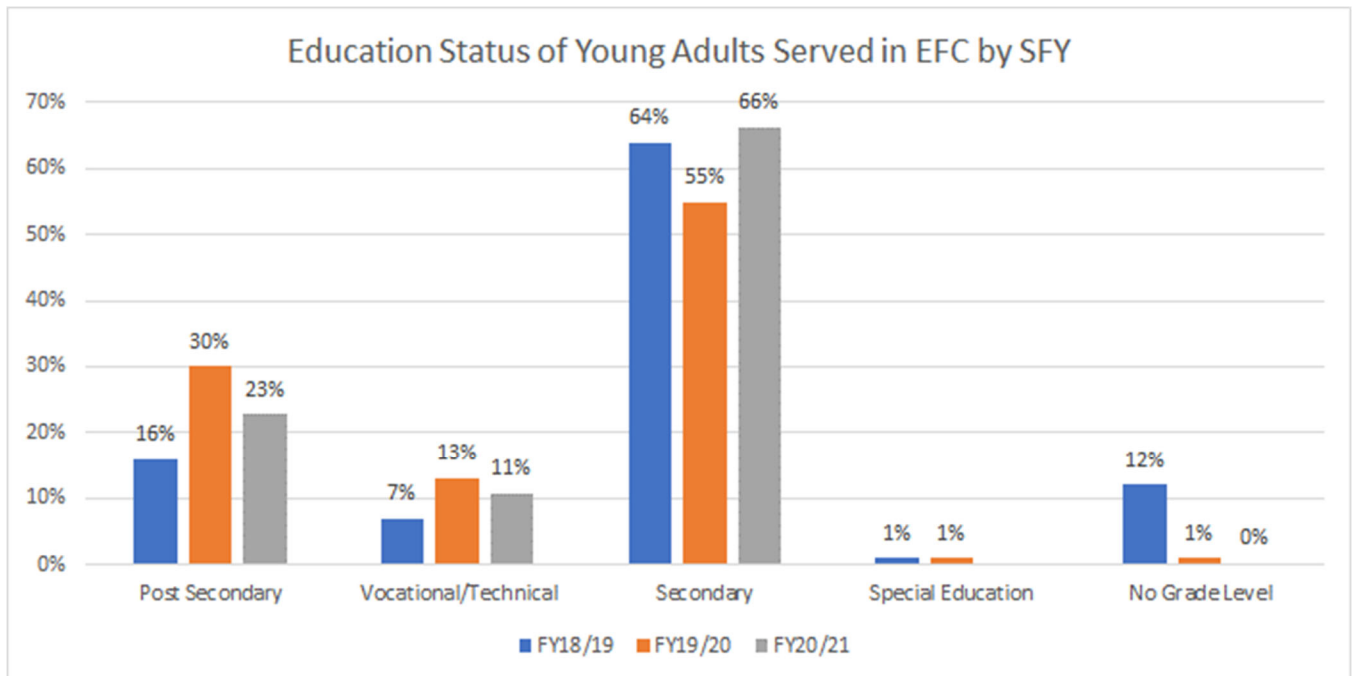
The following table provides the number of young adults that participated in EFC for SFY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and had a recorded period of employment.

Number of Young Adults in EFC with a Recorded Period of Employment, by CBC and SFY		
CBC	2019-2020	2020-2021
Brevard Family Partnership	9	13
ChildNet-Broward	23	24
ChildNet-Palm Beach	13	8
Children's Network of SW Florida	15	17
Citrus Health Network	71	60
Communities Connected for Kids	4	1
Community Partnership for Children	1	1
Eckerd Community Alternatives	22	24
Eckerd Community Hillsborough	38	30
Embrace Families	29	53
Families First Network	40	46
Family Integrity Program	4	4
Family Support Services of North Florida	28	45
Heartland for Children	10	22
Kids Central, Inc.	13	12
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	5	5
Northwest Florida Health Network	15	20
Partnership for Strong Families	1	1
Safe Children Coalition	7	9
Statewide	348	395
Source: OCWDRU #1169, FSFN Data Repository		

Outcome area: Improving educational attainment

Achieving a diploma can assist in establishing a solid foundation that will prepare youth for their future. Education attainment is a key CBC Scorecard measure developed to monitor a youth's capacity for independent living.

The following chart reflects the percentage of young adults that received EFC services during SFY 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021, and their most recent educational status in FSFN. There are 26 grade level options ranging from Preschool to Post-Graduate Degree, including categories of None, Non-Graded, Not Applicable, and Unknown. Due to the variation in data, the information has been analyzed and grouped accordingly.



Outcome area: Increasing connections to caring adults

The permanency goal for young adults in EFC is to transition to independence. To achieve this goal, young adults must have a transition plan (My Pathway to Success Plan) that includes the names of supportive adults committed to helping young adults on their path to success. The Shared Living Plan is an additional method used to capture individuals assisting the young adult in preparation for achieving their goals. This promotion of identifying and collecting information on specific supportive people ensures child welfare professionals are increasing young adults’ connections to caring adults while participating in EFC. The Department has recently identified a platform through the Family Support Network Participant category to capture supportive adults and connections. Under this category, the participant’s name and role can be documented to reflect those connections developed and maintained by the youth in a systematic format.

Outcome area: Reducing homelessness

Effective January 1, 2019, all young adults in EFC are documented as residing in out-of-home placements called Supervised Living Arrangements in FSFN. Prior to placement, child welfare professionals must utilize a standardized form to assess the appropriateness of the living environment. The Supervised Living Arrangement Assessment for Extended Foster Care ensures that young adults reside in the most suitable living arrangement. The young adult may reside under the following supervised living arrangements: Licensed Foster Home, Licensed Group Home, Transitional Living Program, Assisted Living Facility, Shared Housing, Shared Housing-Host Home, and Individual Housing.

While young adults participating in EFC are not considered homeless, young adults who choose to opt-out of the program or terminate from the program are at risk of homelessness. Aftercare

Services provides young adults terminated from EFC an opportunity to bridge back into the program. Services may include temporary financial assistance to avoid homelessness.

Outcome area: Reducing high-risk behavior

Young adults in EFC receive the same level of case management supervision as youth in foster care. Child welfare professionals conduct monthly home visits to assess the young adult's safety and well-being. Well-being may be monitored through ongoing assessment of life skill development. The Life Skills Progress Documentation Log was implemented in 2019 and utilized to track the following skills: Academic Support, Post-Secondary Educational Support, Career Preparation, Employment Programs or Vocational Training, Budget and Financial Management, Housing Education and Home Management Training, Health Education and Risk Prevention, Family Support and Healthy Marriage Education, Mentoring, and Supervised Independent Living. In addition, the Department is exploring opportunities to integrate resources between the Office of Continuing Care and the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

Outcome area: Improving access to health insurance

Young adults in EFC continue to receive CIC Medicaid until age 21. Young adults who turned 18 in the legal custody of the Department and were receiving Medicaid when they turned 18 are automatically eligible for Medicaid until the age of 26 years old.

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

In 2010, the Administration for Children and Families established the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), which requires states to comply with two distinct data collection activities.

Served Population: The first data collection activity requires states to track the independent living services and supports provided to the youth and/or young adults identified in the state's served population.

Florida's served population is defined as those youth and young adults who are between the ages of 13-22, who have received at least one independent living service during the 6-month federal reporting period, regardless of their foster care status or placement type (a young adult who has reached age 23 is no longer considered part of the served population).

Outcomes Population: The second data collection activity requires states to collect Outcome Information by directly surveying youth and young adults. The NYTD Outcome survey developed by the Administration for Children and Families is a longitudinal study that surveys the same group of young people over a period-of-time to establish a "cohort." Each NYTD survey cohort is comprised of youth who completed the NYTD survey at age 17 and are again surveyed at age 19 and age 21.

The Administration for Children and Families collects Outcome Information from each cohort across 6 domains: financial self-sufficiency, experience with homelessness, educational attainment, positive connections with adults, high-risk behavior, and access to health insurance.

Since 2010, Florida has reported NYTD Survey Outcomes on three distinct cohorts (youth/young adults who completed the NYTD survey at ages 17, 19, and 21). In 2021, Florida began surveying young adults aged 19 who are part of the fourth NYTD survey cohort and will complete their final NYTD survey when they turn age 21.

In October 2022, Florida will establish its fifth NYTD survey group or cohort by surveying youth who are in Florida's foster care system on their 17th birthday.

Oversight Activities

The contracts that the Department holds with Community Based Care lead agencies include expectations to administer all services in accordance with federal guidelines, Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code. Florida has structured statutory requirements for EFC, PESS, and Aftercare around establishing client eligibility, standards of progress, payment disbursement, and due process and appeals. Requirements in Florida Administrative Code further detail the framework for how the array of independent living services is administered, including: application and discharge procedures, transition planning, and documentation requirements.

1. Contract Oversight

Contract monitoring is conducted by the Office of Contracted Client Services and the Department's Quality Office. The Quality Office monitoring is done through the ongoing completion of case reviews and monitoring of performance metrics. The Quality Office does not have any specific reviews as it relates to this population; however, they would be included in the Life-of-Case reviews, using the Quality Standards Review Guide created by the Quality Standards Workgroup, if they are pulled into a sample.

2. Financial Accountability

During SFY 2020-2021, the Department's Office of CBC and Managing Entity Financial Accountability provided technical assistance and oversight to DCF's CBC contract managers and CBC financial staff throughout the state to ensure payments were recorded accurately in FSFN. Independent living service payments were reviewed monthly to determine the following:

- Payment amounts adhere to the amounts prescribed in Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code.
- Young adult's eligibility within each program is appropriately documented in FSFN.
- Federal and state funds are paid only to eligible young adults based on age qualifications for the program in which the young adults have been approved.

The legislature appropriates approximately \$38 million each SFY for independent living services. The total appropriation includes the cost of the case management associated with the delivery of services to young adults and the supplemental room and board payment to foster care parents for providing independent life skills and normalcy supports to youth ages 13

through 17. If a CBC exceeds their independent living allocation, the excess comes out of their core funding.

At the beginning of the SFY, each CBC was evaluated for its agency's financial accountability of the funds provided by the Department including actual expenditures recorded for the prior SFY, any carry forward funds available, and the agency's submitted Cost Allocation Plan. The Cost Allocation Plan identifies how the funds for each program will be spent during the year by the CBC and is reviewed and approved by the Department. As needed, any identified fiscal issues are discussed with the CBC.

Quarterly reviews were conducted in addition to the technical assistance provided and monthly payment reviews. When payment records are selected, each CBC is required to provide supporting documentation used to support eligibility criteria entered into FSFN. The supporting documentation is also reviewed to confirm the amount of financial assistance determined by the CBC aligns with the eligibility and financial requirements that were completed.

3. Appeals

Young adults applying for or receiving independent living services through EFC, PESS, or Aftercare have the right to receive notice of adverse action and to resolve issues of program eligibility through the fair hearing process, pursuant to sections 39.6251(9) and 409.1451(4), F.S. The Office of Appeal Hearings reported that there was one appeal granted in SFY 2020-2021, upholding the program's eligibility determinations made by CBC.

Total Number of Independent Living Program Appeals

SFY 2019-2020: 11

SFY 2020-2021: 53

Number of EFC (Only) Appeals*

SFY 2019-2020: 0

SFY 2020-2021: 16

Of the 53 appeals in SFY 2020-2021, 28 were withdrawn, 17 were abandoned, six were denied (Department's action was upheld), and two were dismissed.

*The Department was granted flexibility through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act - 42 U.S.C. §5121 *et seq.* to allow any young adult whose employment and education eligibility for EFC was affected by the pandemic to remain eligible for EFC. The waiver has been in effect for the State of Florida since May 22, 2020 and ended December 31, 2021.

Rule Promulgation

There were no rule promulgations in SFY 2020-2021.

Department Plans

The Department recognizes that the transition into adulthood can be tough for young people. For current and former foster youth, it can be even more difficult without an existing support system. As part of the Legislative Session in 2021, the Office of Continuing Care was created to

provide that support. Through the creation of the Office of Continuing Care, the Department plans to enhance programming to connect young adults with community resources and opportunities to assist them in their journey to financial self-sufficiency. The Office of Continuing Care will be a part of Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity; it will be staffed by peer advocates and will offer free, one-on-one help for young people who are about to transition or have recently transitioned out of foster care, aiming to make the leap into adulthood a positive experience. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 26 years old and have aged out or will age out of the foster care system in Florida, are able to receive services that include accessing special services available to former foster youth, a support system to help with next steps, and connections to existing resources in their community.

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

In May 2020, the Department was granted approval to apply the waiver from §475(8)(B)(iv) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §5121 et seq.) relating to the required education and employment conditions for youth over age 18 to receive Title IV-E assistance. With the waiver, young adults whose employment and education eligibility for EFC was affected by the pandemic (as of May 22, 2020 through December 31, 2021) will remain eligible for EFC while the waiver is in effect.

Youth Bill of Rights and Expectations Brochure

The Department, in collaboration with partners, developed the Florida Rights and Expectations and the Foster Expectation brochures, which contain the children's Bills of Rights and expectations and can be found at the links below.

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/independent-living/foster-expectations.shtml>

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/independent-living/foster-rights-and-expectations.shtml>

The Department continues to work with key partners like CBCs, Florida Youth Shine, One Voice Impact, Florida Youth Leadership Academy, youth and young adults to enhance the content included in the brochures and youth-friendly delivery methods.

Chafee Consolidated Appropriation Act Division X - Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act

Florida was awarded funding from the federal government to support youth and young adults affected by the pandemic. Florida implemented the provisions for Chafee funding to service children, youth, and young adults, ages 14-23, in July 2021.

NOTICE OF FILING

Reporting Agency:	Department of Children and Families
Recipient Agency:	Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Minority Leaders
Subject:	2021 Independent Living Services Annual Report
Report Due Date:	January 31, 2022
Statutory Requirement:	s. 409.1451(6), F.S.
Abstract:	<p>This report provides information outcome measure and oversight activities related to the Independent Living Services Program for the calendar year 2020.</p> <p>Performance outcome measures continued to be evaluated for validity and effectiveness.</p> <p>Contract oversight and fiscal monitoring of community-based care lead agencies remained ongoing</p> <p>Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting: Department of Children and Families Office of Child Welfare 2415 North Monroe Street Suite 400 Tallahassee, FL32303 (850) 488-8762, email: HQW.FamilySafety@myflfamilies.com</p>

LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED REPORT – STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

REPORT TITLE	STATUTORY REFERENCE	SPECIFICATIONS
<p>Independent Living Services Annual Report.</p>	<p>s. 409.1451(6), F.S.,</p>	<p>409.1451(6), Independent living transition services Accountability. --</p> <p>The Department shall prepare a report on the outcome measures and the Department's oversight activities and submit the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the committees with jurisdiction over issues relating to children and families in the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than January 31 of each year. The report must include:</p> <p>(a) An analysis of performance on the outcome measures developed under this section reported for each community-based care lead agency and compared with the performance of the Department on the same measures.</p> <p>(b) A description of the Department's oversight of the program, including, by lead agency, any programmatic or fiscal deficiencies found, corrective actions required and current status of compliance.</p> <p>(c) Any rules adopted or proposed under this section since the last report. For the purposes of the first report, any rules adopted or proposed under this section must be included.</p>