

Independent Living 101 Training Hosted by

Ohio Independent Living Association (OHILA)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Transition Age Youth Programs

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Provisions of Independent Living (IL)
- PCSA Legal Involvement with Youth
- IL Assessments and IL Plan
- IL Funding
- o IL Services and IL Skills Toolkit
- IL Classes
- Credit Reports
- o NYTD

Agenda

- Transition Planning
- Education Training Voucher (ETV)
- Young Adult Services
- o Bridges
- o Q & A



OHILA

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ODJFS

Shelly Boyd – Policy Developer Shelly.Boyd@jfs.ohio.gov OHILA

Ohio Independent Living Association

Our Mission: The Ohio independent living association (OHILA) exists to provide leadership, advocacy, training and networking opportunities for independent living programs and youth throughout the state of Ohio. This professional support is committed in serving and preparing Ohio's youth for independent living and transitioning into adulthood.

How to be Involved: There are no membership fees or applications to participate in OHILA. Meetings are held quarterly in conjunction with the Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OYAB). Currently due to COVID-19 in person meetings are not possible, but we do meet virtually. Meetings are held at 11 am the 3rd Thursday of January, April, July and October. In person meetings end at 2 pm and are held at the Quest Center (8405 Pulsar Place) in Columbus.

What to Expect: Our meetings consist of a legislative update provided by a Transition Age Youth Programs representative, guest speakers, and roundtable discussions. Our hope is that everyone in the room shares their experiences, both positive and negative, to help support workers in other counties and private agencies to improve the outcomes for youth in care.

Transition Age Youth Programs

Program Oversight

- Independent Living Services (IL)
- IL Funding (Chafee & TANF/IL)
- Credit Reports for Youth in Foster Care
- National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)
- o Transition Planning
- Educational Training Voucher Program
- Young Adult Services

Provisions of IL

OAC Rule 5101:2-42-19

- IL Services are to provided to all youth who are in the custody of a PCSA or PCPA, once they have reached the age of 14.
- Youth age 14 and older in care are to receive a copy of the "Foster Youth Rights Handbook" Form #JFS01677.
- The PCSA or PCPA has 60 days from the time the youth attains the age 14 to conduct a life skill assessment.



PCSA Legal Involvement with Youth

PCSA Legal Involvement with Youth

<u>All</u> youth in the custody of a child welfare agency age 14 and above must be provided independent living services.

This includes all custody types Voluntary Agreements for Care, Temporary Shelter Custody, Temporary Custody and Permanent Custody.

IL Assessments

Casey Life Skills Assessment

sey life skills life skills assessment		ca	sev	me	SKI	
Name				Date		
Daily Living						
Are the following statements like me	No	Mostly No	Somewhat	Mostly Yes	Yes	
I know where to go to get on the Internet.						
I can find what I need on the Internet.						
I know how to use my email account.						
I can create, save, print and send computer documents.						
I know the risks of meeting someone in person that I met online.						
I would not post pictures or messages if I thought it would hurt someone's feelings.						
If someone sent me messages online that made me feel bad or scared, I would know what to do or who to tell.						
I know at least one adult, other than my worker, who would take my call in the middle of the night if I had an emergency.						
An adult I trust, other than my worker, checks in with me regularly.						
When I shop for food, I take a list and I compare prices.						
I can make meals with or without using a recipe.						
I think about what I eat and how it impacts my health.						
I understand how to read food product labels to see how much fat, sugar, salt, and calories the food has.						
I know how to do my own laundry.						
I keep my living space clean.						
I know the products to use when cleaning the bathroom and kitchen.						
I know how to use a fire extinguisher.						

Daniel Memorial Life Skills Assessment

EXAMPLE OF OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: MONEY MANAGEMENT 1. You have \$5.00 and want to buy something in a drug store for \$1.79. How much will you have left? 1. Three dollars, one dime, one nickel and four pennies 2. Two dollars, one quarter, one dime and four pennies 3. Three dollars, two dimes and one penny 4. Three dollars, one dime and one penny 2. Which is a necessity? 1. Makeup 2. Deodorant 3. Food 4. Television 3. Which sale price is the best savings, if the regular price is \$1.00? 1. \$.60 2. 8.75 3. 5.80 4. 8.45 4. You earn \$600.00 per month (\$150 per week) in income. Your monthly expenses are Rent = \$150.00, Utilities = \$35.00, Bus fare = \$20.00. Your weekly expenses are \$50.00 for food. Based on a four (4) week month, how much doyou have left? 1. \$345.00 2. \$195.00 3. \$290.00 4. \$400.00 5. What is "take-home pay?" 1. The total amount of the payroll check before taxes 2. The total amount of the payroll check after taxes 3. Money in your bank account after the deposit 4. Your allowance for the week 6. What is a disadvantage of having automatic payment(electronic transfer) from you checking account to pay one of your monthly bills? 1. You don't need to write checks 2. You save money on postage 3. You will not get charged for potential late fees 4. You give up certain control of you checking account 7. Julio has budgeted \$100.00 a month for a car payment. He decided to visit Joe's Auto Sales and looks at 4 different cars. Which payment plan is within Julio's budget? 1. \$30.00 per week 2. \$120.00 per month 3. \$25.00 per week 4. \$40.00 per week

Independent Living Services

- 1. Academic Support
- 2. Post Secondary Education and Supports
- 3. Career Preparation
- Employment or Vocational Training
- Budget & Financial Management
- 6. Housing, Education & Home Management Training

- 7. Health Education & Risk Prevention
- 8. Family Support & Healthy Marriage Education
- 9. Mentoring
- **10**. Supervised Independent Living
- **11.** Room, Board & Financial Assistance

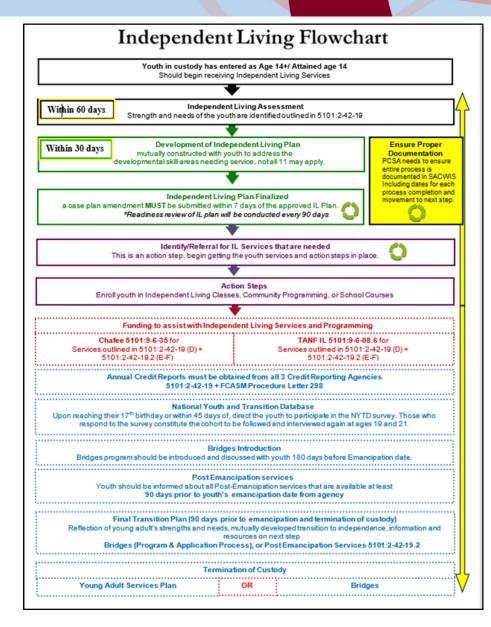
IL Plan

Independent Living Plan

- A written IL plan must be developed within 30 days of Life Skills Assessment.
- Services are to be based on the developmental age of the youth.
- Input from the youth, the youth's case manager, caregiver and significant others in the youth's life is required.
- Document the youth's strengths, limitations, resources and services to be provided.
- The case plan amendments <u>must</u> be submitted within **7 days** of the approved IL plan.
- The plan needs to be reviewed at least every **90 days** until the agency terminates custody.
- The goal of the plan is to help youth achieve self-sufficiency.







IL Funding

Independent Living Funds

\$ CHAFEE \$

- 5101:9-6-35 Chafee Allocation
- Youth in agency custody who has attained the age of 14
- Adults 18-21 who emancipated from PCSA custody
- Purchase of a CAR not to exceed \$28,000 (must support the youth self-sufficiency plan)
- Can be used to support salary of Independent Living Staff
- Only 30% of the allocation can be used for Room and Board



- o 5101:9-6-08.6 TANF IL
- Youth in agency custody who has attained the age of 14
- Adults 18-21 who emancipated from PCSA custody
- Purchase of a used car youth should be employed
- Pay for car repairs (\$2000 max)
- Furniture (\$1000 max)
- Cannot be used for staff salaries

IL Funding

Independent Living Funding Cycles

JUL – AUG - SEPT- OCT – NOV – DEC - JAN -FEB -MAR – APR - MAY - JUN – JUL- AUG - SEPT

TANF IL Funds are on the STATE FY that begins on July 1st and
ends on June 30th

Chafee Funds are on the FEDERAL FY that begins on October 1st and ends of September 30th



IL

Services

Academic Support

Services

Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

Purchasing materials for extracurricular activities for your youth sports, plays, mock trial etc.

Post-Secondary Educational Support

Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

Making college survival kits for your young adults, or even making sure more intense tutoring supports are available if needed.



Career Preparation



Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

This is a great opportunity to ensure your young adults have business casual and professional attire for interviews as well as success in their future careers.

"Dress for Success"



Employment Programs



Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

Supporting your young adults in programs like CCMEP purchasing their supplies that they may need to be Successful in the program.



Budget & Financial Management



Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

Help your youth start saving accounts, write checks, cash checks. Create incentive programs. Give them money to practice budgeting.

Housing

Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds



Services

** after you reach your 30% Chafee mark for housing you may begin to use your TANF IL for housing

Whether or not your young adult is considering Bridges you can help them locate housing and pay deposits, first month rent and any other start up fees.



Home Management



Some examples could be purchasing dish sets, cookware sets and even vacuums







Meal Planning

Shopping list	
Milk (() Apples Eggs & Toilet rolls Bananas () Bread	



Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

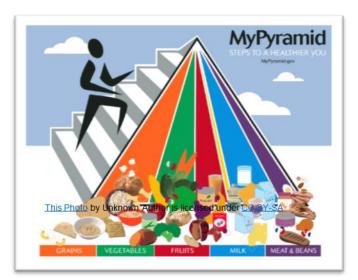
This has the potential to be more than groceries, enroll youth into cooking classes, and/or provide them with a nutritionist

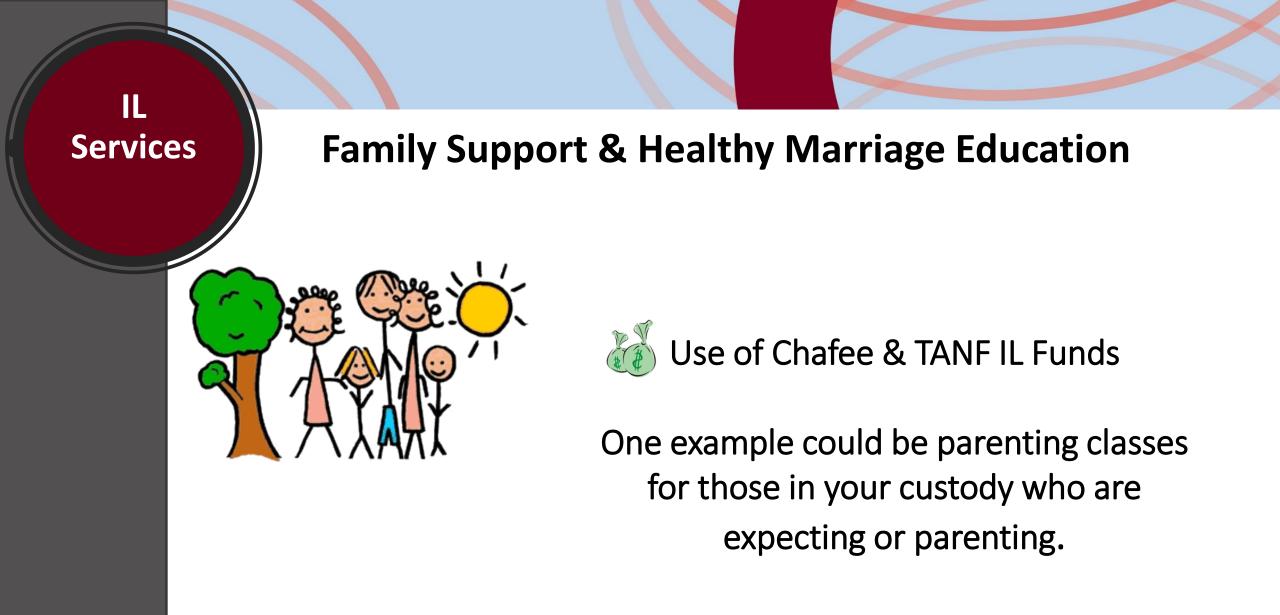


Health Education/ Risk Prevention

Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

Providing your youth/ young adults with a Fitbit, and/or fitness coaches. Even enrolling your youth into classes at local recreation centers.



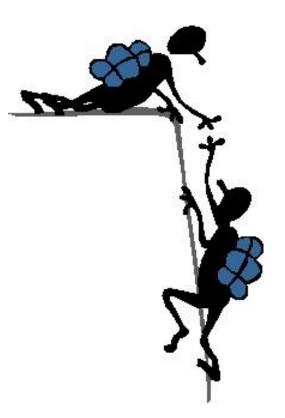


Mentoring

Use of Chafee & TANF IL Funds

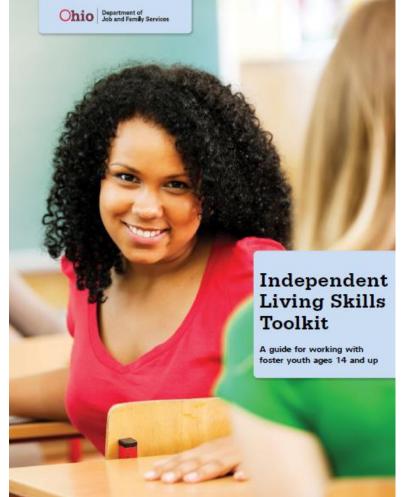
Encourage your youth and young adults to seek out Mentoring programs and participate as mentor-ee or even an mentor.

You can Incentivize participation!



IL Skills Toolkit

Independent Living Skills Toolkit



- IL Skills Toolkit was designed to be a resource guide for Independent Living staff, caregivers and service providers to improve life long outcomes for transitioning foster youth.
- The toolkit structure mirrors OAC 5101:2:42-19 "Requirements for the Provision of Independent Living Services to Youth in Custody", focusing on the 11 IL services.
- Each service is divided into 11 sections in the toolkit, detailing information, recommendations and resources for supporting normalcy and making sure the youth in your care have the knowledge and skills needed to be self- sufficient beyond the age of 18.

IL Skills Toolkit

Independent Living Skills Toolkit

Post-Secondary Educational Support

Post-secondary education means any education beyond high school. That can include education at four-year colleges, community colleges, vocational schools or trade programs. Most sustainable career paths require some form of postsecondary education.

Entrance Exams

Most four-year colleges require applicants to submit scores from one of the following tests, and many award scholarships to students who score well. Both tests are typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. The last chance for seniors to take them is usually in September, prior to submitting college applications. Chafee and TANF independent living funds can be used to pay for study guides, test preparation courses and exam fees. See the Appendices for more information.

- ACT The ACT contains multiple choice tests covering four areas: English, math, reading and science. The ACT's writing test is optional and does not affect the composite score. For more information, visit act.org.
- SAT The main sections of the SAT are critical reading, writing and math. Most questions are multiple choice, except for some math problems. In addition, the writing section has an essay question. For more information, visit collegeboard.org.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a test used to determine qualification for the military and to assign test takers to military jobs. It often is offered to students when they are in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades, although anyone eligible for enlistment may take it. The entire test is three hours long. It typically is administered in a computerized format at Military Entrance Processing Stations or Military Entrance Test sites. In the computerized version, questions become harder or easier based on earlier answers. For more information and practice tests, visit official-asvab.com.

Test Preparation

OhioMeansJobs.com offers a variety of free college entrance and career preparation practice tests. If they haven't already, youth should visit OhioMeansJobs.com, click on the icon for K-12 students (the image of the cardinal in a graduation cap) and register a free account. Here are some other ways to help youth prepare for important tests:

Help them locate test preparation materials, study guides and/or test preparation services in their community. 5

Make sure they're aware of test application due dates, fees and fee waiver options they may be eligible for as a current or emancipated foster youth.

- The toolkit also contains dollar symbols through out the document outlining all the activities that may qualify for Chafee and TANF IL funding.
- The Appendices section of the toolkit provides more guidance regarding funding

IL Skills Toolkit

Incentive Examples

Academic Support

- Passing Grade Level......\$50
- Receiving an award at school...... \$25
- Significant grade or school behavior improvement......\$25

Budget and Financial

Management

- Opening a checking account \$25
 Completing the bill
- Security Number \$15
- Complete your taxes (assisted by IL worker) \$25

Career Preparation

- Obtaining a job.....\$50
- Completing one-on-one
- Appropriate participation in a professional meeting (SAR, CR).... \$20
- Meeting with a recruiter \$25

Employment and

Vocational Training

- Accepted into Vocational Program.. \$25
- Completing a Vocational Program... \$25

Family Support and Healthy Marriage

 Fairfield County Job & Family Services provided these examples of incentives it offers to youth in foster care for completing various independent living activities.

Note: All incentives require verification by the Independent Living Worker before payment is made. Some incentives also require prior approval.

Health Education

and Risk Prevention

- Successfully completing PREP...... \$50
 Able to correctly write
- (Domestic Violence Awareness) ... \$25

Housing, Educational

and Home Management Training

- Assisting with a home project (prior approval required)\$20
- Basic Household Needs Exercise... \$20

Mentoring

 Voluntary community service \$25 (2-hour minimum; not court-ordered or required for a class)

Post-Secondary

Educational Support

- College visit\$25
- Complete the ACT...... \$25
- College Application......\$25

Room and Board Financial Assistance

 Saving half of recommended startup funds by emancipation \$500 (Savings of \$1000)

Additional Items

(multiple categories):

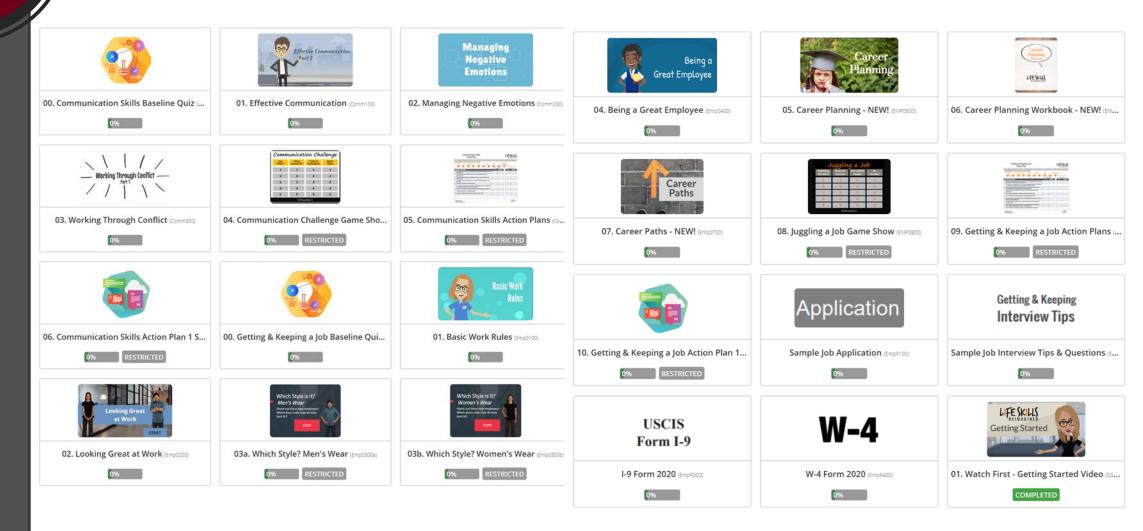
- Complete an Independent Living Class/ Group activity......\$10-\$20
- Attend Fostering Pathways
- to Success Conference \$75
- Set and reach an individual goal of choice as approved......\$25

Independent Living Classes

Life Skills Reimagined

- Online course work that can be completed at the youth's own pace.
- Worker can track their progress online.
- 5 Courses Communication Skills, Getting & Keeping a Job, Personal Finance, Independent Living, and Resiliency

Life Skills Reimagined Courses



The Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)

PREP

 PREP is a statewide initiative aimed to reduce teen pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections in the state of Ohio for youth 14-21 years of age residing in foster care and the juvenile justice systems.

Trainers

• Reach out to your District representative



Ohio PREP District Contacts



<u>Northwest District 1</u> - Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Defiance, Henry, Wood, Allen, Paulding, Putnam, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Erie Huron, Hancock, Richland, Ashland, Wyandot, Crawford, Van Wert **Coordinator: Dr Julie Chaya – Richland County Health Department** (419)774-0098 | jchaya@richlandhealth.org

Northeast District 2 - Trumbull, Portage, Mahoning, Stark, Wayne, Holmes; Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Medina, Summit, Columbiana, Coordinator: Erin Lark – Cuyahoga County Board of Health (216) 201-2001x1326 | elark@ccbh.net

<u>Southeast District 3</u> - Vinton, Athens Gallia, Meigs Lawrence, , Coshocton, Muskingum, Perry, Morgan, Washington, Noble, Monroe, Belmont, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson; Carroll, Tuscarawas Coordinator: Tammy Derden- Nationwide Children's Hospital (614)355-0658 | tammy.derden@nationwidechildrens.org

<u>Southwest District 4</u> - Butler, Hamilton, Warren, Clermont, Clinton, Brown; Montgomery, Greene, Preble, Ross, Adams, Scioto, Pike, Jackson, Highland, Fayette **Coordinator: Jodi** Harding - Lighthouse Family Youth Center (513) 487-7107 | jharding@lys.org

<u>Central District 5</u> - Morrow, Knox, Union, Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway, Hocking, Madison, Licking, Fairfield; Auglaize, Shelby, Mercer, Miami, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Logan, Hardin, Marion. Coordinator: Tammy Derden- Nationwide Children's Hospital (614)355-0658 | tammy.derden@nationwidechildrens.org

Create Your Own IL Classes

- Research the different domains and create your own PowerPoint
- Google key terms, for example: self-esteem for teens handouts, healthily relationship for teens, etc.

It's My Move - <u>http://itsmymove.org/</u>



Transitioning from Foster Care

Research shows that young adults leaving the system are more likely to have health problems, have no health insurance, report being homeless at least once and have a history of unemployment and financial hardship. Many are alone for the first time after years of out of home care and are actually afraid to live alone.

Transitioning foster youth often do not have the advantages of a healthy, supportive family, yet they are expected to cope with adult situations when they are not fully prepared to do so. It's My Move is a new approach that is designed to honor the young adult's responsible choices and good decision making while gradually phasing them into independence. Supporting those decisions is critical to their future success and the future strength of our community. It's My Move gives them a safety net and a chance to turn things around if they stumble along the way.

Fifty Years of Discovering What Kids Need to Succeed Search Institute is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities.

http://search-institute.org/



Casey Life Skills

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Credit Reporting Requirements

Credit Reporting Requirement

EQUIFAX CRA EXPERIAN CRA TransUnion CRA

OAC Rule 5101:2-42-19 FCASPL 330

- Must be requested annually for each youth in custody age 14 and older
- At least one request needs to be submitted prior to the first SAR after the youth turns 14
- Any inaccuracies must be reported to the OAG

Updated Credit Reporting Agencies Contact Information

EQUIFAX CRA

Equifax CRA provides access to credit report histories through the Equifax e-Port system. Each agency is required to have a password protected profile with a primary contact person to obtain youth credit reports through e-Port.

To establish a profile, the agency director must send the name and e-mail address for the primary contact person (i.e., staff person who will be requesting youth credit reports) to Laurie Valentine, Independent Living, Transition Age Youth Manager at Laurie.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov

TransUnion CRA

Agencies are able to obtain credit report histories from TransUnion CRA through the TransUnion Direct database. The agency is responsible for executing a no-cost agreement with TransUnion for access to the system.

Requests may be completed electronically individually or by multiples (batch) of no more than 50. Contact the individual listed below for more information on executing an agreement with TransUnion CRA:

Megan Moyer at fostercare@transunion.com or (714) 680-7268

Updated Credit Reporting Agencies Contact Information

EXPERIAN CRA

We have now established a new electronic process with Experian CRA. You now have the option of sending the requests via mail or electronically, as described below.

Send the required information manually by mail to:

Experian National Consumer Assistance Center PO Box 9701 Allen, Texas 75013

Experian recommends using USPS Priority, UPS or FedEx for tracking. Sensitive information may be redacted from the court order as long as the identification of the minor remains intact. The CRA's response will be "No Record" or the credit report will be sent to the requestor (agency) through regular mail. For security purposes, the envelope will **not** indicate that it is from Experian. There is no charge for this process.

To sign up for Experian's electronic data base send your inquiry to publicsectorsupport@experian.com and include the following information: agency name, county, contact name, address (e-mail and regular mail), phone number, and state. Experian will have the agency complete a membership application and sign an "Agreement for Credit Reports for Foster Youth." Following the approval, Experian's Membership department will set up an online account and contact the county's designated contact for final installation and setup. There is no charge for this sign up or for this service. OAG ID Theft Notification & Affidavit Minors



Consumer Protection Section Office 800-282-0515 Fax 866-364-2065

IDENTITY THEFT NOTIFICATION AND AFFIDAVIT (MINOR)

Please Note: Information you submit with your Notification and Affidavit is considered public information and may be released as part of a public records request. Efforts will be made to safeguard information you are providing as protected by law.

E-II Marrie		
Full Name:	Agency:	
E-mail Address:	Daytime	Phone: ()
Work Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
	Minor's Information	
Full Name:	Date of	Birth:
Current Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
	Check All That Apply	
□ I did <u>NOT</u> authorize anyone to described on my credit report.	use my personal information to seek t	the money, credit, loans, goods, or servic
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www.OhioAttomeyGeneral.gov

OAG Consumer Protection Section

> Ohio Attorney General David Yost Consumer Protection Section Office: 800-282-0515 Fax Affidavits: 866-364-2065

Credit Reporting Contact

Credit Reporting Questions and Contact

Laurie Valentine

Independent Living Program Manager Laurie.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov

What is NYTD?

NYTD stands for the National Youth in Transition Database. NTYD is a database system that stores information from a series of surveys that are given to youth who have received Independent Living Services.

NYTD is authorized by the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act P.L. 106-169 and is federal program administered in all 50 states.

The goal is to determine if independent living services are adequately preparing and supporting youth during the transition from foster care to independent adulthood.

The NTYD survey is given to foster youth at age 17. The same youth are asked to take the survey at age 19 then 21 to see what services they use or need, and how we can make the transition to independence easier.

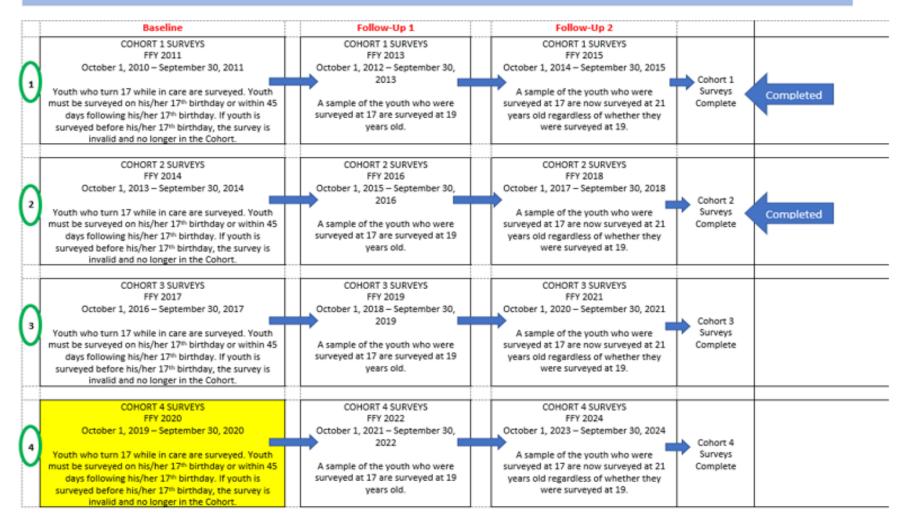
The NYTD survey matters because if your states do not comply, they will lose Chafee funds which pay for housing, education, and independent living programs.

What information is collected in NYTD?

States are required to collect data on youth and the services they receive. They are also required to survey youth preparing to exit foster care and youth who have left foster care.



NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE FLOWCHAR



*FFYA = October 1st – March 31st *FFYB = April 1st – September 30th



COHORT 4 SURVEYS

FFY 2020 October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

Youth who turn 17 while in care are surveyed. Youth must be surveyed on his/her 17th birthday or <u>within</u> 45 days after his/her 17th birthday. If youth are surveyed <u>before his/her 17th birthday or</u> <u>more than 45 days following his/her 17th birthday, the survey is</u> <u>invalid and no longer in the Cohort.</u>

Practical Strategies for Tracking & Locating Youth

<u>o</u> Tracking Young Adults

Send letters	Phone call	Text	E-mail
Face-to-Face visit	Family Members	ibers Friends	
Jail/Prison	Social Media	Google/Bing	

o <u>Incentives</u>

County PCSAs can use their Chafee or TANF IL funds to give young adults cash incentives to take the NTYD survey.

NYTD CONTACT

 Policy Related <u>Transitional-Youth-</u> <u>Programs@jfs.ohio.gov</u>

NYTD

 SACWIS Related Chris Beach <u>Christopher.Beach@jfs.ohio.gov</u> IL Transition Planning

Final Transition Planning

OAC Rule 5101:2-42-19

- At least 180 days (6 months) prior to youth's emancipation, youth are provided information on post emancipation services and eligibility criteria to enroll in the Bridges Program. 5101:2-42-19.2
- It is mandated that 90 days prior to a youth's emancipation (*Best Practice is at least 180 days prior to emancipation*) The PCSA or PCPA works with the youth to develop a final transition plan. The plan is to be youth driven and as detailed as the youth chooses.

IL Transition Planning

Final Transition Planning

The plan includes information such as:

- Option to receive post emancipation services
- Health Care
- Employment Services
- Secondary and Post secondary education & training
- $\,\circ\,$ Obtaining and paying for housing
- Budgeting for necessary living expenses
- Obtaining a credit report
- Registering for selective services
- Information on obtaining a drivers licenses

Young Adult Services

Young Adult Services

OAC Rule 5101:2-42-19.2

- Requirements to receive YAS services
- Types of Services available
- Financial & Educational Assistance

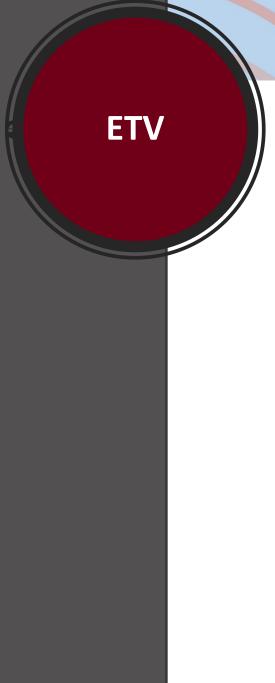
ETV

Education Training Voucher

Education Training Voucher (ETV) is program that provides up to \$5,000 per year for academic and career training.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Youth must either be in foster care on or after their 18th birthday
- Youth was adopted from foster care and the adoption finalized on or after the 16th birthday.
- Young adults age 18 to 25 who emancipated from care.
- Youth's custody is transferred to relative on or after the youth's 16th birthday
- Youth is a U.S. citizen or a qualified non-citizen
- Youth has personal assets worth \$10,000 or less.
- Youth must have graduated from high school and must be accepted into/enrolled at a college, university, technical or vocational school. To remain eligible for ETV funding, youth must show progress toward a degree or certificate.



Education Training Voucher

- o Tuition & Fees
- o Books
- O Computers
- O School Supplies
- O Housing
- o Meal Plans
- o Transportation
- O Child care

Education Training Voucher

ETV

For more information or to apply for an education and training voucher go to: https://www.fc2sprograms.org

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Mike DeWine, Governor Kimberly Hall, Director Office of Families and Children



Bridges: What is it?

 Bridges is a voluntary program designed to provide housing and case management supports to emancipated young adults.

 Bridges can assist with stable housing and offer support in working towards educational, employment and other personal independence goals.

Bridges: Housing Options

o Host Homes

- In-Home
- Supportive In-Home
- O Community Housing
- o Supportive Community Housing
- o Leased Housing
- o College Room & Board
- o Emergency Housing
- o Non-Paid

Bridges: Who's eligible?

- Left the custody of an Ohio PCSA at the age of 18, 19, or 20 years old.
- Young adults who turn 18 when in the care & placement responsibility of an Ohio Title IV-E Juvenile Court
- Young adults who turn 18 when in the care & placement responsibility of DYS <u>and</u> are in a IV-E reimbursable placement setting.
- Must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:



Bridges: Eligibility Criteria

 Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;

- Enrollment in school to receive high school diploma
- Enrollment in GED program

 Enrolled in an institution that provides post- secondary or vocational education;

- Public or Private 4 year college or university
- Community College
- Vocational Programs
- Technical Schools



Bridges: Eligibility Criteria

 Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;

- CCMEP
- Job Corps
- Job skills training

• Employed for at least eighty hours per mont

- Regular Employment
- AmeriCorps
- Internship/Externship

 Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a medical condition, which incapacity is supported by regularly updated information from a qualified practitioner.



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Frequently Asked Questions You may be eligible for Bridges if you are not yet 21 and if you left the Ohio foster care system at age 18, 19 or 20. In addition, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- · Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential
- · Enrolled in college or other post-secondary school
- · Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment
- Employed at least 80 hours a month
- · Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a physical or mental health condition

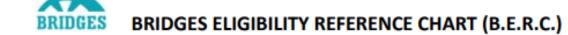
Be prepared to provide documentation – such as a class schedule, a paystub or letter of participation from an exployment program – showing that you meet at least one of the eligibility criteria mentioned above. Please refer to this <u>documentation chart</u> for more information.

Participant Responsibilities 🕨





	Eligibility Criteria	Examp	oles of Qualifying Activities	conside	Current Documentation are examples, other documentation may be ared on a case by case basis. Multiple documents requested to show eligibility.
	Completing a secondary education (High School) or a program leading to equivalent credential	traditional, non-tr accredited) • Participating in a	ool to receive high school diploma (i.e. raditional, alternative – must be GED program program by the Department of Education	• Class • Atter	Iment letter Schedule ndance Report e Report
equal 80 • Eligibilit		uired amount of hours f participant remains er	ossible attendance monthly. If combining with an guideline will be required to produce at least 80 h prolled in an educational institution.		
50.000	Enrolled in an institution that provides post- secondary (College) or vocation education for 7 or more credit hours	 Public or Private college or universities (in-state or out-of-state) Community College (in-state or out-of-state) On-line studies offered through a licensed institution Vocational Program Technical Schools Graduate School 		 Enrollment letter Class Schedule Grade Report Statement of Account displaying Housing Deposit, Enrollment Fee, or other costs paid for current or upcoming semester) Attendance/Participation Report 	
an addit Eligibilit		ass work and projects.)	For a noncredit course of study such as certification		onversion ratio of 1:3 (For every hour spent in class ms 20 hours a week will be the expectation.
Jenools	Employed for at least 80 hours per month.	AmeriCorps AT ENRO Military Reserve/National Guard Internship/Externship (Paid/ Unpaid) for the end		tubs current within 30 days NROLLMENT ONLY : Written verification, on oyer letterhead, that includes a point of contac ne employer, number of hours the participant is duled weekly/monthly, and their start date.	
Suggested average of 20 hours per week, but hours may fluctuate.					
	Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment for at least 80 hours per month.		 Work force preparation classes (CCMEP) Job Corps Job Shadowing / Skills Training classes Apprenticeship / Mentoring Volunteering Resume/Interview skills classes/training Substance abuse / Mental health treatment Domestic violence/date violence program Parenting classes 		 Attendance current within 30 days AT ENROLLMENT ONLY: Written verification letter, on program's letterhead, that includes description of program and/or activity, duration (e.g. six-week program) including start dates and number of hours per month, and a point of contact. Each activity must be fully explained.



 Suggested average of 20 hours per week, but hours may fluctuate. 			
Unable to participate in the activities detailed above due to a mental or physical health condition documented by a qualified practitioner. ¹	 Young Adult's condition may be short or long term. 	 The Bridges Disability Verification form must be completed by a qualified practitioner.¹ This form can be obtained from your Bridges Liaison. This form must be completed within 90 days of Bridges Application submission to be sufficient proof of eligibility. AT ENROLLMENT ONLY: A copy of the applicant's Social Security award letter and supportive documentation. <u>The award letter must have been effective within the past 180 days.</u> ¹An assigned Bridges Liaison or Bridges Supervisor does not meet criteria as qualified practitioner. 	

¹ If a young adult qualifies for the program because they have a disabling mental or physical condition documented by a qualified practitioner, this eligibility criterion cannot be combined.

Warm Handoff & 5101:2-42-19

- At least 180 days (6 months) before the young adult's 18th birthday:
 - PCSA worker educates the young adult on Bridges and the program's eligibility criteria.

 Assess young adult's individual needs, including if linkage to other support systems need to be made (e.g. Developmental Disabilities)

• Is the young adult still in high school and will graduate by their 18th birthday?

Warm Handoff & 5101:2-42-19

At least 90 days <u>before termination of PCSA Custody or emancipation of a</u> <u>young adult</u>:

- PCSA worker will refer young adult (if interested) to Bridges
- PCSA worker will assign the Bridges Representative(s) to the case in SACWIS;
- Bridges Representative will share information about the program and what documentation is needed to apply.
- PCSA worker will discuss the final transition plan with Bridges Representative;
 - Bridges is not the young adult's final transition plan
 - What is the young adult's plan for housing upon emancipation? Leverage county resources to ensure housing during the Bridges enrollment process.
 - Bridges cannot provide funds to young adult until application is approved.
- PCSA worker & Bridges Representative will continue to <u>meet and collaborate</u> until the young adult emancipates and the PCSA's custody is terminated.



http://bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov/index.stm

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If you're transitioning from foster care

Talk with your children services caseworker about your interest in Bridges. He/She will contact a Bridges representative three months before you leave foster care to coordinate services. The Bridges representative can help you complete the application and gather any documents you'll need.

If you aged out of foster care

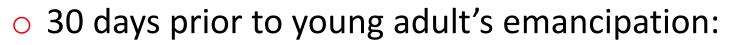
If you aged out of foster care and are under 21 or know someone who is, please contact a Bridges representative using the appropriate form below. If you are over 21 and need supports, please visit <u>Other Resources</u>.

Paths to Apply:

- · Young Adult: Submit your information using this interest form.
- · PCSA Caseworker or Adult Supporter: Submit a referral using this referral form
- A Bridges representative will contact you within 2 business days.
- · For more information or questions, contact your local Bridges Offices.



Warm Handoff & 5101:2-42-19



- Bridges provider agency is assigned and the Bridges Supervisor or Liaison will reach out to connect with PCSA and referred young adult
- Determine if one of the eligibility criteria can be met for the young adult to be enrolled in the bridges program upon the young adult emancipating from care.
- Continue to include the Bridges Regional Coordinator, Bridges Supervisor and/or Bridges Liaison in transition planning for young adult

Warm Handoff & 5101:2-42-19



- PCSA worker is to ensure the young adult has all documents required to enroll in the Bridges program – please consult with Bridges Supervisor and Liaison to review if documentation is appropriate
- Ensure that the young adult's person profile in SACWIS is completely up to date (i.e. address, contact info, medical providers, diagnosis, medication, education, income – SSI, Soc Sec)

Remember...

• Until the young adult emancipates, the PCSA remains responsible for:

- Case Management
- Visitation requirements
- Final transition plan

• A young adult is not enrolled in Bridges until the application is approved

- Once PCSA enters custody term date in SACWIS, Bridges Application can be processed to ODJFS for approval.
- Remember, Bridges cannot provide funds to young adult until application is approved.
- PCSA should plan ahead to provide resources to the young adult should there be a delay in Bridges enrollment.

Remember... (5101:2-42-19)

• Also, prior to emancipation the PCSA is to:

- Coordinate & obtain necessary documents from:
 - Health Department (birth certificate)
 - Social Security Administration (original social security card)
 - Bureau of Motor Vehicles (state ID)
- Provide the youth with copies of:
 - Copy of the Final Transition Plan
 - Health records & education records
 - Letter verifying youth emancipated from foster care (SACWIS generated)
- Document in SACWIS the date that this information was provided to young adult

The intended goal of the warm hand off process is to create a transparent shift, when custody terminates, from the custodial agency (PCSA, Title IV-E court, DYS) to Bridges.

Custodial Agency Best Practice

A Bridges referral does not alleviate the custodial agency's transitional planning requirements as outlined in OAC 5101:2-42-19.

6 Months Prior to Emancipation	90 Days Prior to Emancipation	30 Days Prior to Emancipation	Emancipation
 Provide information to the youth about Bridges which is a voluntary program available to young adults who left foster care in Ohio at ages 18, 19 or 20. Provide information on the eligibility criteria for Bridges. Program is for young adults who are either in school, working, participating in an employment program, or have a medical condition that prevents them from going to school or working. Provide information that Bridges provides guidance and support as the young adult transitions to 	 If your agency's youth is interested in Bridges, the referral link can be accessed as early as 90 days prior to emancipation at <u>http://bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov/index.stm.</u> The custodial agency is not required to refer every emancipating youth to Bridges. Custodial agency to complete the final transition plan, including a housing plan for the youth upon emancipation. Leveraging agency resources to ensure housing during the Bridges enrollment process. <u>A Bridges referral should not be considered the final transition plan.</u> <u>Bridges cannot provide funds to the young adult until their application is approved.</u> This process could take up to a month or 	 Communicate with the assigned Bridges provider the information about the youth and their final transition plan. The Bridges provider is assigned 30 days before emancipation. Continue to include the Bridges representative in transition planning. Determine if one of the eligibility criteria can be met for the youth to be enrolled in the bridges program upon the youth emancipating from care. Assist youth in collecting the required documentation (30 days of paystubs, school enrollment letter etc.) See the Bridges Eligibility Reference Chart (BERC) for eligibility criteria and 	 Communicate any changes to the Bridges provider. Enter the custody termination date into SACWIS; this enables the Bridges application to be submitted by the Bridges provider. Any post emancipation services provided by the custodial agency during the application and approval process should be documented in the Bridges case. The referring custodial agency will be notified when the application has been final approved, if an application has been denied, or the young adult voluntarily decides to not
 adulthood after emancipation from foster care. Assess the fit of Bridges with the young adult's individual needs, including if a link as with an other 	 Ionger if acceptable documentation is not provided. Assign the Bridges Regional Coordinator to the on-going case (see attached). Communicate the scheduled emancination 	 e Ensure the youth's person profile in SACWIS is completely up to date; i.e. address_contact information_medical 	 participate in Bridges. The young adult may still receive Young Adult Services (YAS) from their county PCSA if

Best Practices for a Successful Warm Handoff into Bridges

The intended goal of the warm hand off process is to create a transparent shift, when custody terminates, from custodial agency (PCSA, Title IV-E court, DYS) to Bridges.

Bridges Provider Best Practice

90 Days Prior to Emancipation 30 Days Prior to Emancipation

• Ninety (90) days prior to emancipation the Regional Coordinator will be assigned to the open SACWIS case.

• The role of the Regional Coordinator during this time is to share information about Bridges and how Bridges aligns with the transition plan that has been created by the custodial agency and the potential applicant. The Regional Coordinator is available to participate (in person or via phone) in transition planning meetings.

• Communicate with youth and Caseworker regarding Bridges eligibility criteria and required documentation for enrollment.

• Thirty (30) days prior to emancipation the Regional Coordinator will open a Bridges case in SACWIS and assign the Bridges Supervisor & Liaison. This will allow for continuation of planning with the youth and the custodial agency.

• The final transition plan may include a potential monthly budget, which will inform the housing plan, ensuring sustainability for the youth. It also allows the liaison to begin the application in SACWIS before emancipation to ensure timely submission upon termination from the agency's custody.

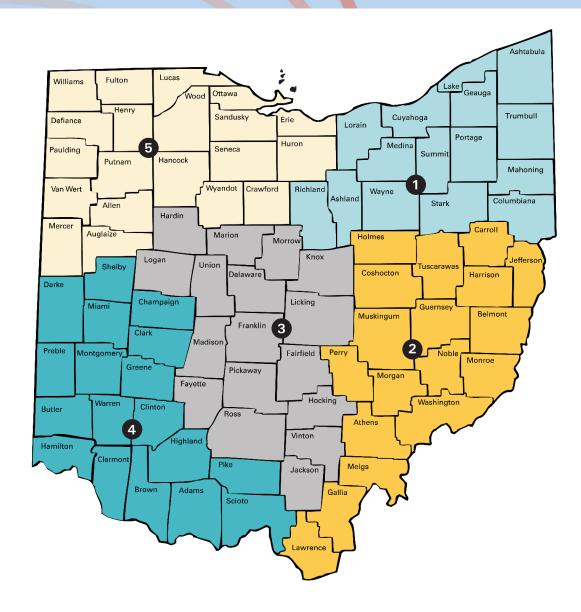
• ODJFS will attempt to process <u>complete</u> applications within 2 – 3 business days. This time frame is not guaranteed.

• Once the young adult's application has been fully approved or denied, the Bridges provider will communicate this to the custodial agency.

For more information about Bridges, visit: <u>bridgestosuccess.ifs.ohio.gov/index.stm</u>



Bridges: 5 Regions & Grantees



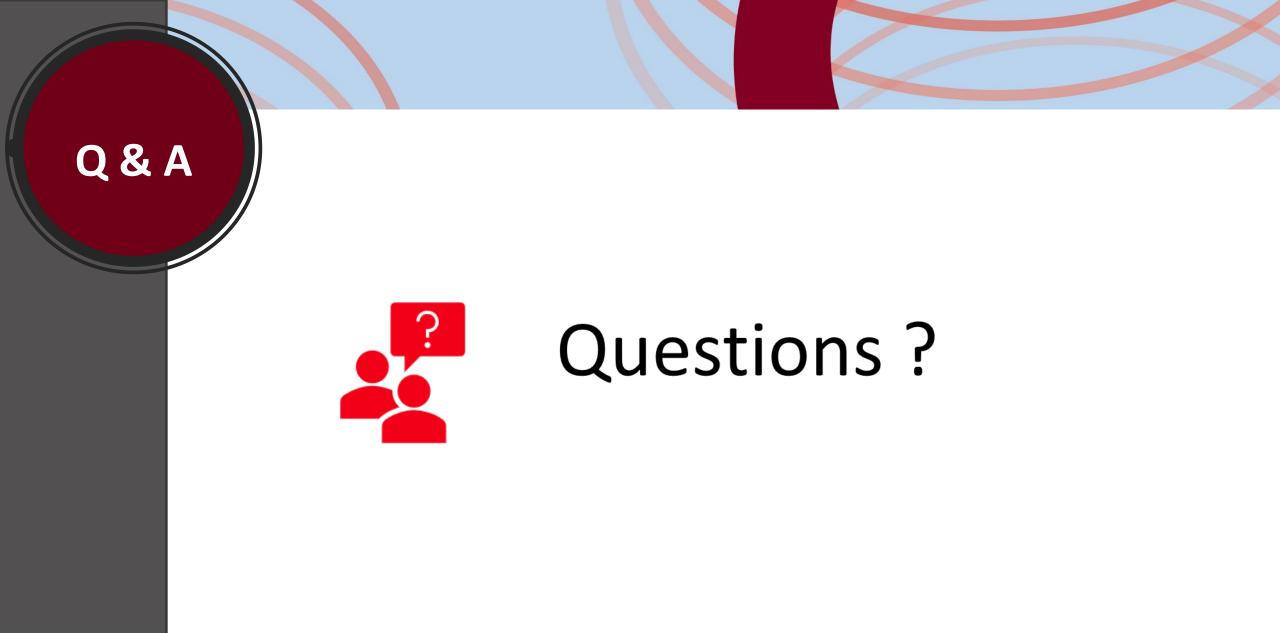


Region 1: Northeast Region ne.region@cfhcohio.org/(614)656-6328 Region 2: Southeast Region se.region@cfhcohio.org/(614)869-3889 Region 3: Central Region c.region@cfhcohio.org/(614)655-8259 Region 4: Southwest Region sw.region@cfhcohio.org/(614)568-6596 Region 5: Northwest Region nw.region@cfhcohio.org/(614)568-9428

Bridges: Personnel & Contacts

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IL CONTACTS

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