



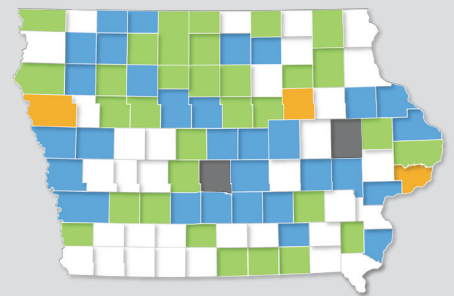
## About Aftercare

The **Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN)** provides services statewide to eligible youth ages 18 to 21 who have aged out of foster care or other court-ordered placements. Young people participate voluntarily. Aftercare is designed to help participants make the connections and develop the skills they need to successfully transition to adulthood. Aftercare's Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) component provides monthly financial support to qualifying youth who are working or pursuing education or training.

### Key Indicators

The Aftercare Network monitors and is held accountable to achieving three important performance measures. The results shown below are based on a Participant Survey of 389 Aftercare participants conducted in April 2019, one method used by Aftercare to monitor outcomes.

## New Participants by County



### Number of participants (N=269):

■ 40+ ■ 10-39 ■ 2-9 ■ 1 ■ 0

Young people accessed Aftercare services in 66 counties in SFY 2019. Five counties had 10 or more new participants, representing 44% of the young people who were served for the first time during the year, while 31 counties had just one new participant.



**99.5%**

### Supportive Relationships

Participants surveyed report having positive personal relationships with adults in their community.



**97.9%**

### Stable Housing

Survey results demonstrate youth have a safe and stable place to live.



**73.3%**

### Sufficient Resources

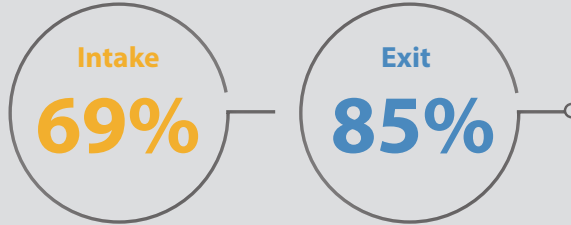
Youth report having enough resources for living expenses.

## SFY 2019 Highlights

This summary highlights the outcomes demonstrated from intake to exit by 184 foster youth who participated in Aftercare and ended services during the year. Gains in education attainment, employment, secure housing, and assuming adult responsibilities reflect important steps in their transition to adulthood. Yet, despite significant progress, these young adults continue to lag behind their non-foster care peers in several important respects.

### Education

Youth who enter Aftercare without a high school credential are likely to earn one while receiving services. Fewer than 5%, however, complete a post-secondary degree or certificate program by the time they exit.



#### High School Credential

While Aftercare youth show academic gains, they still fall short of the lowa 5-year graduation rate of 93%.

#### Postsecondary Enrollment

At both intake and exit, roughly one in four participants were enrolled in school (secondary or postsecondary). At exit, a much higher percentage of young women (27%) were enrolled than young men (18%).



### Housing

When home is disrupted, one's foundation of safety and security is disrupted, and everything else becomes more difficult to maintain. Finding affordable housing is a challenge for many youth.



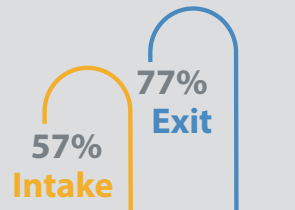
#### Housing Uncertainties

43%

of participants reported at exit they are spending at least half of their income on rent and utilities.

#### Pays for Housing

As they seek greater independence, youth become more responsible for their housing costs.



#### Homelessness

One in four (26%) reported an episode of homelessness in the two years prior to their exit from Aftercare.



760

young people served in 2019

269

young people accessed Aftercare for the first time

16

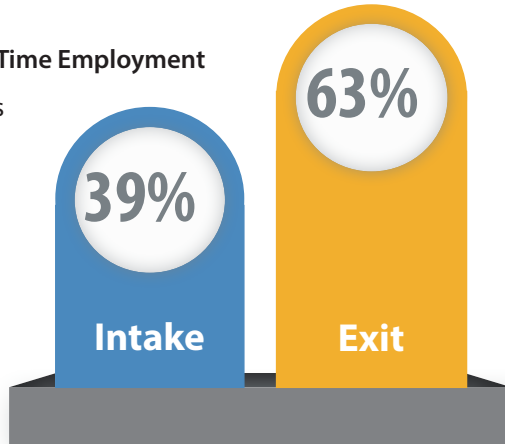
median days between exit from last placement and entry to Aftercare

## Employment

Employment gains from intake to exit are significant, including a tripling in full-time (35+ hours per week) employment (9% to 29%). But exiting participants are less likely to be working than other young adults in Iowa.

### Full Time or Part Time Employment

Of all Iowans ages 20-24, 75% are employed. (BLS, 2018)



### Earnings & Savings

Despite the increase in employment from intake to exit, only **37%** of participants were earning **\$800** or more per month at exit and only **44%** report having money saved for emergencies.



*"It's a really good program. If people stick to it, they will be successful."*

—IASN participant

The efforts of participants and of the Aftercare Advocates who work with them result in meaningful movement towards self-sufficiency. Young people who age-out of foster care without a permanent family and support network, however, continue to face challenges as they navigate the transition to adulthood. While we celebrate their hard-earned achievements, we also acknowledge that their journey toward economic security and well-being is just beginning.

## Adult Responsibilities

IASN participants, like other young adults, take on more personal responsibility as they transition to adulthood. These milestones show they are making headway toward independence.



Has health insurance  
**Intake 98%**  
**Exit 99%**



Owens basic household items  
**Intake 53%**  
**Exit 87%**



Has name on lease  
**Intake 29%**  
**Exit 58%**



Has a Driver's License  
**Intake 36%**  
**Exit 64%**



Is a parent  
**Intake 5%**  
**Exit 22%**

**469**

young people served per month on average

**502**

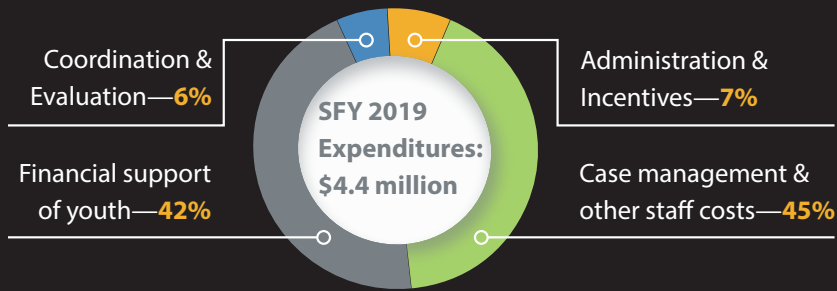
participants received a PAL stipend at least once

**IOWA**  
**AFTERCARE**  
SERVICES NETWORK

ON YOUR OWN BUT NOT ALONE

## Investing in their future

State appropriations and a portion of the states's federal Chafee allotment are contracted by the Iowa Department of Human Services for the IASN to operate the Aftercare program statewide.



## IASN Partner Agencies

- **YSS (Lead Agency, Ames)**
- American Home Finding Association (Ottumwa)
- Children's Square USA (Council Bluffs)
- Family Resources, Inc. (Davenport)
- Foundation 2 (Cedar Rapids)
- Four Oaks (Waterloo)
- Youth Homes of Mid-America (Des Moines)
- Young House Family Services (Burlington)



Aftercare provides an array of supports and services as it works individually with each participant as they transition to adulthood. Aftercare served 760 young people in SFY 2019.



This Summary was prepared by the **Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII)**. YPII provides policy development, coordination, quality assurance, marketing and evaluation services for the IASN. Visit [iowaaftercare.org/ProgramResults](http://iowaaftercare.org/ProgramResults) to access the **2019 Annual Outcomes Report** or call 515.727.4220 for more information.

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