Investing in their future

For SFY 2018 the Iowa Legislature appropriated approximately $4 million for the PAL program. This state appropriation and a portion of the state’s federal Chafee allotment are contracted by the Iowa Department of Human Services for the IASN to operate the PAL and Aftercare programs statewide.

Total 2018 Expenditures: $4,825,588

Network Organization and Leadership

The IASN is currently comprised of eight human service agencies. The following organizations provide Aftercare services to eligible youth throughout the state.

- American Home Finding Association
- Children’s Square, USA
- Family Resources
- Foundation 2
- Four Oaks
- Young House Family Services
- Youth Homes of Mid America
- YSS (Lead agency)

YSS, in addition to providing direct services, manages subcontracts to the other seven direct service agencies. YSS also subcontracts with the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa to provide central coordination, program development, evaluation and quality assurance.

For more information
SFY 2018 Annual Outcomes Report • www.iowafacercare.org/ProgramResults
EXITS: Demonstrated progress but continued uncertainty
The outcomes achieved by participants in Aftercare are promising. Significant gains in education attainment, employment and income, housing stability, and health are demonstrated each year, even as the population accessing the services presents greater challenges. Still, many young people are struggling at age 21 when their eligibility for Aftercare ends.

INTAKES: An uphill climb to adulthood
In SFY 2018, 84% of youth first accessed Aftercare within 100 days of being discharged from their last foster care or juvenile court placement, with half starting services within two weeks. The following graphs highlight characteristics of these young people when entering Aftercare, illustrating the circumstances of youth as they emancipate from Iowa’s child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

BRIGHT SPOTS: Health insurance and essential documents
Efforts to ensure that young people maintain health insurance and receive essential documents before they age out of care have been successful. Data from SFY 2018 show that the vast majority of youth entering Aftercare have the following:

MOVING FORWARD: Connections and stability
Aftercare Advocates help young people make connections in the community, secure housing, and move toward self-sufficiency. Results of a survey of 382 active participants in April 2018 show that while receiving services:

Moving to Self Sufficiency
- 57% of participants are employed at exit compared to 38.2% at intake. Unemployment decreases from over one-third of all participants at intake to 14.4% at exit.
- 95% report having positive personal relationships with adults in the community.
- 86.5% have a high school diploma or equivalent at the time they exit (including 13% who attain their high school credential while in Aftercare).
- 67.1% of youth are contributing toward their housing costs at exit compared to 56.2% at intake.
- 99% have health insurance at exit.
- 75% of young people have a checking account and 68% have a savings account at exit.

Ongoing Challenges
- Only 3.8% have a post-secondary credential or certificate.
- Nearly 44% pay more than half of their income for housing; 39% report they are behind on rent or utilities.
- Less than half (46.4%) have enough money to cover expenses with earned income alone.
- 34.6% of females and 18.7% of males are parents.
- Only 60.3% have a driver’s license.
- 40.5% have been incarcerated or detained in the past two years.
- At least one episode of homelessness in the past two years reported by 28.3%.

On a 10-point scale, 382 participants rate the helpfulness of meeting with an Aftercare Advocate 9.2.

“Aftercare has helped me a lot with becoming financially stable and being independent. After leaving my meetings I always feel determined and focused and ready to accomplish my goals.”