



Chafee Extended Services

Purpose

The purpose of Chafee Extended Services is to assist youth who have aged out of foster care with achieving self-sufficiency and stability. Aftercare Services are intended to provide assistance with unmet needs and not intended for the purpose of reimbursing expenses already met.

How it Works

- Independent Living Specialist sends attached referral to CAC representative
- CAC representative with review request and approve full amount, partial or deny request
 - Participants may be required to match a portion of the financial request depending on the nature of the request
- CAC will provide notification to participant and/or agency representative
- CAC will issue payment to specified vendor within two weeks of approval
- CAC will determine in additional follow up needs/case management are required
- Participants may only utilize each category only once annually, lifetime limits listed on referral
- Participants are allowed to utilize more than one request based on available funding

Requirements

- Must be a former foster youth who was in DCBS custody on your 18th birthday
- Must be between the ages of 18 -23 and not currently committed to DCBS
- Must complete application and provide necessary documentation
- Must provide verification of matched funds (when applicable)
- Must complete financial plan to help prevent future crisis situations (when applicable)
- Receipts must be provided to Community Action Council liaison after purchase no later than 2 weeks or participant will owe funds back to CAC. Failure to provide receipts and/or returned funds will result in the participant t being suspended from utilizing extended services in the future.
- Follow up and/or case management (when applicable)

Adopted youth will be considered at a case by case basis

Submit completed applications to: project.life@commaction.org

ALL TOTALS BELOW ARE LIFETIME MAXIMUMS THAT CAN ONLY BE UTILIZED UP UNTIL THE AGE OF 23. A MAX OF \$2500 PER PROGRAM YEAR (July 1st-June 30th) MAY NOT BE EXCEEDED PER PARTICIPANT.

Benefits

- Participants are allowed additional assistance in crisis situation and/or additional resources
- Assistance is as follows
 - Computer (up to \$500)
 - Includes expenses associated with the cost of purchasing a computer, printer and computer software. Eligible participants must be enrolled in an educational program or have a home based job that requires a computer.
 - Driver's education and documentation (up to \$500)
 - Includes the costs to complete a state approved driver education program and costs associated with the purchase of a learner's permit or driver's license
 - Employment assistance (up to \$300)
 - Includes the purchase of work-related clothes or supplies
 - Educational/trade assistance (up to \$500)
 - Includes GED prep courses, GED testing, tutoring services, summer school classes (secondary school only), E-School, dual credit courses, trade school cost etc.
 - College preparation (up to \$750)
 - Expenses include SAT/ACT prep programs, SAT/ACT testing, application fees, college orientation and registration fees, housing fees, dorm room supplies such as bedding, etc.
 - Housing Supplies (up to \$500)
 - Includes assistance with household supplies, moving expenses, and basic individual or family needs
 - Immigration Costs (up to \$500)
 - Includes assistance with immigration cost and fees. Additional documentation required
 - Medical Costs (up to \$500)
 - Includes the cost of essential medical expenses (dental, vision, medical) and DNA testing kits (24 & Me, AncestryDNA, etc.)
 - Crisis/Hardship Assistance (up to \$1000)
 - Includes assistance with security deposits, rental payments, utility deposits, and utility bills. Additional documentation and plan to avoid future crisis required. Short-term hotel stays are only allowed when participant has move-in date or unit inspection has been scheduled.
 - Transportation (up to \$1500)
 - Vehicle Purchase: Includes purchase of a bicycle and safety supplies or moped. Eligible participants must have current FULL driver's license.
 - Assistance in car purchases will be 50% of the total amount of the car up to \$1500. Participants wanting to make car purchases must provide documentation of matched funds as well as documentation of the car to be

purchased. (Ex. If car cost \$2000, participant requesting \$1000 must provide documentation that the \$1000 can be matched).

- Cars being purchased through the Goodwill Car's to Work Program do not require a match.
 - Car Repairs: car repairs in order to maintain a safe and reliable vehicle. Participants will have to submit car estimate by reputable mechanic with warranty.
 - Car Insurance: Past due Car Insurance or Plan Start-Cost Costs. Participants needing assistance with car insurance must provide a plan to maintain insurance after assistance is applied.
- Tuition Assistance (up to \$1000)
- The purpose of the Second Chance Scholarship is to give participants an opportunity to return to college and further their education. The scholarship will give financial assistance toward paying off delinquent accounts at post-secondary institutions so they can return to school. To be eligible for the scholarship, the youth must have established a payment plan with the institution and have proof making payments toward the debt. The scholarship will match up to \$1000.

Project LIFE Information Sheet

Rental and utility assistance and, case management services for young adults, ages 18.5-23 who were in DCBS custody on or after their 18th birthday. The young adult must be able to live independently, understand *and* follow the rules of Project LIFE, and adhere to the rules of the property in which they rent. They must be employed or receive SSI or some form of income. If the young adult loses his employment while in the program he/she has two weeks to gain employment. The lease and responsibilities of the rental agreement are between the property owner and the young adult. The young adult is expected to be moving toward self-sufficiency. All referrals will be assessed and each individual will be screened by a member of the Project LIFE team prior to being accepted into the program. All who apply will not meet program criteria.

How it Works!

1. Once your referral has been received, a Project Life team coordinator will call you and conduct a telephone screening (the screening provides information to see if you are a good candidate for the program).
2. Once we determine if you are a good fit for the program, a Project LIFE case manager will contact you and schedule a briefing. At the briefing you will learn about the program criteria, met your Case Manager. They will go into more detail about the housing guidelines and do's and don'ts in the program.
3. When the briefing is completed you will receive a housing voucher and can begin looking for an apartment.
4. When you have found an apartment that meets the criteria of the program housing guidelines, the landlord can fax or email all documents to the Housing Coordinator.
5. An Inspection will be scheduled. If the inspection passes you will be able to move in and your housing assistance will begin.
6. After moving into your apartment, you will receive your household start-up fund (\$1000.00) and your case manager will take you shopping to purchase the necessary items for your apartment.

Employment Incentive

1. Participants are required to pay a portion of their rent starting in the fourth month of their enrollment.
2. Participants are required to pay 20% in the 4-6 months, 40% for months 7-9 and 60% for months 10-12 while in the program.
3. Each month you pay your portion you will earn the employment incentive of \$150 for months 4-6, \$250 for months 7-9, and \$350 for months 10-12. You could earn \$2250 if you paid all of your portion of the rent at the end of 12 months in the program. (that money is placed in a saving account until you exit the program.)
4. If your security deposit won't cover any or all damages incurred during your lease we will take the money from the savings to cover those damages.

Important Components to the Program

- **Case Management**- you must meet with your case manager 1 to 4 times monthly (your case manager will determine how often you will meet), set goals and be the lead person in reaching your goals (your case manager will provide guidance and assistance if possible). You will be provided with a bus pass or gas card if needed for transportation services. Your case manager will provide resources and skills as needed to assist you as you move toward self-sufficiency.
- **Room and Board**-The participants receive housing **assistance** including rent, rental deposit, utility assistance plus the deposit and household start-up funds of \$1000.00. The utility deposit cannot exceed \$325.00. Once

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your lease is over, you are entitled to the rental security deposit if there are no damages or choose to move. For example: if your rent is \$800.00, we will cover your deposit up to the amount of rent, in this case, \$800.00. The agency pays the first 3 months of rent, and you pay zero. Then you begin paying 4-12 months your portion. Also, the agency pays the utility deposit for electricity and puts \$100.00 toward your account per month for the first 3 months, and after that, \$50.00 is added each month, from months 4-12

- **Goals and Incentives**- While in the program, you and your case manager will set goals that have a monetary amount value. Once you have completed and shown proof of completion of goals, you will receive a check for each goal up to \$500. Examples: Employment: \$50.00, Maintaining employment: \$50.00, Providing a copy of course schedule for enrolling into college, \$50.00, etc.