

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
John R. Kasich, Governor
 Cynthia E. Durnley, Director

Office of Families and Children

Bridges:

Supporting Ohio's Young Adults Emancipating from Foster Care

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 Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
 Office of Families and Children

Bridges: A History

- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
- Title IV-E reimbursable foster care, adoption or guardianship assistance up to 19, 20 or 21

Outcomes

States with Fostering Connections Programs			
Outcome	Ohio	States with Extended Foster Care	Difference
Enrolled in school	47%	70%	+23%
Earned diploma/GED	53%	60%	+7%
Adult Connections	85%	92%	+7%
Homelessness	27%	13%	-14%
Incarcerated	31%	13%	-18%
Had a child	11%	9%	-2%

Bridges: The Opportunity

- Authorizes “care and placement” for foster youth who left the custody of an Ohio PCSA at 18 years old until age 21 (Bridges)
- Implementation – December 13, 2017
 - Appropriation of adequate funds by general assembly
 - Approval of an amended Title IV-E Plan by HHS

Bridges: The Program

- Not an extension of foster care but a benefits program
- Extension of Title IV-E benefits
- Housing and case management services
- Voluntary
- Separate from current post-emancipation supports

Bridges: Eligibility

- Ohio PCSA custody
- Eighteen or older at emancipation
- Care and Placement of ODJFS
- Must meet at least one of the program criteria

Bridges: Eligibility Criteria and Activities

- Secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - Enrollment in school to receive high school diploma
 - Enrollment in GED program
- Is 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 Activities

- Is participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - CCMEP
 - Job Corps
 - Job skills training
- Is employed for at least eighty hours per month;
 - Regular employment
 - AmeriCorps
 - Internship/Externship
- Is incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a medical condition, which incapacity is supported by regularly updated information in the person's case record or plan.

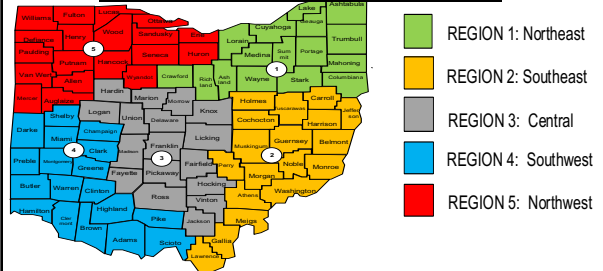


Bridges: Implementation

- State administered program with the option of contracting out responsibilities
- Regional approach to service provision
- Request For Grant Applications (RFGA) released in June

Bridges: Grantee

Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio



Bridges: Housing Options

- Kinship: Relative/Non-Relative
- Host Home
- College Room and Board
- Supervised Independent Living
- Apartment
- Group Home/Community Housing
- Emergency Housing



Bridges: Support Services

- Monthly visits
- Positive young adult development
- Young adult driven plan
- Critical thinking skills
- Home management and life skills
- Education
- Financial management
- Self-advocacy
- Health and self-care
- Permanent connections
- Community resources
- Employment & career preparation

Bridges: The Benefits

- Benefits to Young Adults:
 - Better outcomes for young adults aging-out
 - Long-term/stable housing support and other financial assistance
 - Permanent Connections/Support System

OFC Webpage

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

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Thank You!

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