Bridges: Supporting Ohio’s Young Adults Emancipating from Foster Care

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States with Fostering Connections Programs</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in school</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned a diploma/GED</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Connections</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarcerated</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a child</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/Internship
- 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: 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

- Financial management
- Self-advocacy
- Health and self-care
- Permanent connections
- Community resources
- Employment & career preparation

Bridges: Grantee

Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio

- REGION 1: Northeast
- REGION 2: Southeast
- REGION 3: Central
- REGION 4: Southwest
- REGION 5: Northwest
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

Thank You!

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