

MICHIGAN YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE



The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative is a partnership between the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Michigan Department of Human Services. The program was created to improve outcomes for youths transitioning from foster care to adulthood. It brings together community members, public and private agencies, and resources that are critical to enhancing the success of young adults who are transitioning or have transitioned from the foster care system. About 500 youths are participating in the program.

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative assists with:

- Education.
- Employment.
- Housing.
- Physical and mental health.
- Permanency.
- Social and community engagement.

The program is currently active in the following Counties:

Alpena/Presque Isle

Barry/Eaton

Benzie/Manistee

Clinton/Gratiot

Delta/Dickinson/Menominee/Marquette

Gogebic/Ontonagon

Ingham

Kent

Macomb

Midland/Isabella

Ottawa

Saginaw

Washtenaw

Wexford/Missaukee

Antrim/ Charlevoix/Emmet

Bay/Arenac

Chippewa/Luce

Crawford/Otsego

Genesee

Grand Traverse/Leelanau/Kalkaska

Kalamazoo

Livingston

Mecosta/Osceola

Oakland

Roscommon/Ogemaw

St. Clair

Wayne

What are its components?

Youth Boards: A youth board meets monthly and provides a support network and leadership environment for youth enrolled in the program.

Community Partner Boards: A community partner board is a group of businesses, public agencies, non-profits and community representatives assist youth who are transitioning out of foster care.

Financial Literacy: The program provides financial training and bank accounts for enrolled youths. Each youth has a personal savings account and an Individual Development Account which the Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative will match 1:1 for the purchase of an asset such as a car, or first month's rent and a security deposit.

Training: Asset trainings provide opportunities for youth to learn how to maximize the Individual Development Account, make successful asset purchases and gain independent living skills.

Who is eligible?

Youth who have been in foster care after their 14th birthday, are currently age 14 to 20 and are eligible for Youth In Transition (YIT) funding. Your local MYOI coordinator can tell you if you are eligible for YIT funding.

How does a youth enroll?

1. Contact the local coordinator. To find out who your local coordinator is, call Kim Stribling, manager, MYOI at 517-241-8904.
2. Attend orientation.
3. Attend eight hours of financial literacy training.
4. Complete enrollment packet.
5. Take online survey.
6. Open an Individual Development Account and personal savings account.

Find more online

For more information and resources for foster youth, please visit:

- www.michigan.gov/fyit,
- www.fyi3.com or
- www.jimcaseyyouth.org.