

JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM
MICHIGAN FY 2001 - 2004 APPLICATION OUTLINE

Part I - Program Plan Narrative

Part I of the application is the detailed narrative of the State plan addressing the applicable sections of the Act. The following components must be included in the narrative section of the State plan:

- 1. Provide a statement that identifies the State agency or agencies that administers, supervises or oversees the programs carried out under the plan (Section 477(b)(2)).**

The Michigan Family Independence Agency
235 S. Grand Ave., Ste. 501
Lansing, MI 48909

- 2. Provide a statement that indicates that the State agency will cooperate in national evaluations of the effects of the independent living programs implemented to achieve its purposes (Section 477(b)(2)(F)).**

The State of Michigan will cooperate in national evaluations pertaining to the effectiveness of the independent living programs implemented to achieve its purposes.

- 3. Describe how the State has designed and conducts its programs to achieve the purposes of section 477(b)(2)(A) and section 477(a)(1-5) of the Act to:**

a) Help youth make the transition to self-sufficiency;

Michigan enhanced its foster care policy effective May 1, 2000 to assure provision of independent living services to all youth entering foster care at age 14 through age 20. (See Attachment A, Foster Care policy manual, section 722-7, p. 22)

Independent living preparation skills are assessed for each youth as being adequate or inadequate (See Attachment B, FIA – 0146 Child Assessment of Needs and Strengths). Youth have an active role in designing their own program activities that prepares them for independent living and accepting personal responsibility for achieving independence through the creation of a written plan. (See Attachment C, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency, Children and Youth Services Manual, Section 722-6 p. 5) Services are tailored to comply with the Chafee Independent Living Act. Counties must coordinate with existing community-based

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services with other government and private agencies to provide independent living services to eligible youth. These existing services include:

- 1) Job placement offered by the Michigan Works! Program (See Attachment D, Michigan Works! Guidelines);
- 2) Preventive Health Services (including substance abuse, pregnancy prevention and others) offered by the Department of Community Health;
- 3) Mental Health Services offered by the Community Mental Health agencies; and,
- 4) Educational services offered by the Michigan Department of Education.

To enhance the Independent Living services listed above, FIA is exploring a standardized regional youth training curriculum that addresses career exploration, job training and placement, and retention skills. The training will be available to all eligible youth in the state. The first statewide youth training will be held in October 2001 at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center. Approximately 120 youth will be able to attend.

County Family Independence Agency (FIA) offices will make referrals and facilitate access to available community services, including services available through FIA such as, Medicaid and State Emergency Relief Program (SER).

At the closing of a youth's case an Aftercare Service pamphlet (Attachment E) is provided to all youth that are exiting foster care due to their age. This pamphlet describes the Independent Living services available to youth after their case has closed and how to access those services. This pamphlet is reviewed with each youth prior to case closing.

In addition to the above services, we are currently planning to enhance our existing Transitional Living Program. These program services will be available to all eligible youth ages 16 and older, regardless of case status, by providing supervision and case management services in a semi-independent or independent living arrangement.

Michigan is expanding training opportunities for foster parents from public and private agencies in Independent Living preparation for eligible youth. Training for foster parents will address household management skills such as budgeting, shopping, cooking and cleaning. Funds for foster parent training will come from the foster parent coalitions and the foster parent agency contract with the Michigan Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. By providing a balance of independent services to eligible youth in the home as well as through the supervising agency, the youth's ability to transition to self-sufficiency will be enhanced.

Michigan's Child Welfare Institute (CWI) provides training to new and ongoing child service workers to enhance the children's service workers skills in the provision of independent living services to youth. CWI incorporates an independent living module into their new worker training curriculum. Training was provided to experienced workers at a conference in October 2000 that included workshops on adolescent development and independent living assessment and needs identification. The independent living program staff provided several regional sessions with child welfare supervisors on the new policy mandates resulting from the Chafee Act, and the impact on independent living service provision mandates for staff.

b) Help youth receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment;

County FIA offices and private child placing agencies refer eligible youth to community-based privately or government funded services that will assist eligible youth gain the skills necessary for ongoing employment. Funds from the Chafee Independent Living Act of 1999, through Michigan's Youth in Transition (YIT) program, can be used once other resources have been exhausted. YIT offers job-related supports such as uniforms, tools, transportation apprenticeship fees, safety clothing and equipment. These may be authorized if other resources are not available.

Michigan currently offers a summer employment program in every county called Michigan Works! Program. This program is designed to provide educational and employment services for youth, "...ages 14 through 19, without a high school diploma, or General Equivalency Diploma, who are ...living in a foster home." (See Attachment D, Michigan Works! program summary). Services provided through the Michigan Works! Program include: unsubsidized employment, basic and remedial education, pre-employment/work maturity skills, classroom training, on-the-job training, work experience, job search assistance, employment development services (counseling, referral, occupational information, etc.), and the related supportive services. Michigan is planning to extend this program to youth, ages 14 through 19, on a year-round basis.

In addition to the employment services offered by the Michigan Works! Program, other employment enhancements are available including individualized employment training. This service is available to eligible youth through independent contracted services based on an assessment of individual needs and life circumstances. Components of this training include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Partial self support via part-time work, to develop work habits and experience.

- 2) How to integrate and mutually support Educational / vocational training and employment.
- 3) Employment retention and re-employment skills.
- 4) On-the-job training social skills.
- 5) Ongoing training and support to meet increasing need for increased self-sufficiency.
- 6) Accessing community resources and supports.
7. Other related information and issues related to independent living skills.

Adjudicated delinquent state wards served by the Bureau of Juvenile Justice, have the Manpower Information Services for Transitioning Youth (MISTY) program available to them for employment services. They also have the School Transition Program, which is designed to increase the number of wards that enroll and remain in community educational programs, employment, training or college upon their release from residential care facilities.

c) Help youth prepare for and enter post-secondary training and educational institutions;

Foster care workers determine the educational needs of youth using the Child Needs and Strengths Assessment form (Attachment B). Referrals are made to the available programs listed below:

- 1) The Michigan Department of Education provides Adult Basic Education and Alternative Education in many communities for youth who have not completed high school.
- 2) The Job Training Partnership Act Program provides education and employment programs to prepare eligible youth and adults for employment.
- 3) The Michigan Vocational Rehabilitation Program, in conjunction with the local Intermediate School Districts (ISD), provides employment services to eligible youth as part of their Individual Educational Program (IEP), to assist them in gaining the knowledge and skill they will need to compete in the job market upon completion of high school. This program also offers advance job placement once a youth exits high school through a number of programs throughout the State of Michigan.
- 4) The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) offers financial assistance to eligible youth that enroll in post-secondary education within the State of Michigan. (See attachment E, Tuition Incentive Program)

- 5) The College Program, through the Bureau of Juvenile Justice, provides assistance to delinquent youth under the care and supervision of the State.
- 6) The School Transition Program, through the Bureau of Juvenile Justice, is designed to increase the number of delinquent state wards that enroll and remain in community educational programs, employment, training or college upon their release from residential care facilities.

Individualized Educational/Vocational training is available to all eligible youth based on an assessment of individual needs and life circumstances. As with individual employment training, individualized educational/vocational training and practice occurs at a variety of times and in a variety of contexts, to continuously refine and reinforce learning and retention.

Education and vocational training focuses on:

- 1) How and what to choose – (job/career direction, interest/ability);
- 2) How to access programs and schools;
- 3) How to access funding and supports;
- 4) How to stay and finish;
- 5) Transition to employment, relocation;
- 6) Continuing education and training;
- 7) Accessing community resources and supports.

d) Provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults; and,

Michigan offers personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and promotion of interactions with dedicated adults, through several YIT funded contracts. (See Attachment F, Michigan Statewide contracts list) Counties have the option of providing these services, using YIT funds allocated to them annually. Revised foster care policy, effective 9-1-2000, states that independent living services shall include provision of "...personal and emotional support for youth aging out of foster care, including the use of mentors and other dedicated adults." (See Attachment G, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Services Manual Children and Youth, Foster Care policy, YIT section 950, p.2 & 6) Existing community services, such as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, will be accessed. In some instances, foster parents may receive a stipend for provision of these services to youth that have left the foster care system. Mentoring service contracts, now operating in several counties, will be expanded to serve youth in every county of the state. (See Attachment H, the Mentor Programs brochure)

e) Provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age.

All youth adjudicated as abuse or neglect wards, which were in foster care after age 14, are eligible for the above named supports between 18 and 21 years of age. These services, called 'closed case services' are provided by FIA's foster care staff and funded through Michigan's Youth in Transition (YIT) program that is our federally funded independent living program. (See Attachment I, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Services Manual Children and Youth, Foster Care policy, Section 950, p. 1-9). Youth are advised of the availability of these services, and provided a copy of the Aftercare Service Pamphlet (Attachment J), prior to their foster care case closing during a review with their caseworker. Through the use of this pamphlet, workers will discuss the significance of the documents, (birth certificate, social security card, and medical records) provided to the youth at case closing. Important personal phone numbers (physician, hospital, caseworker, dentist, health department, and mental health office) will also be provided. Services available to youth aging out of foster care will also be reviewed, including:

- 1) Advise on Medicaid eligibility and how to apply.
- 2) Availability of assistance with household start-up goods.
- 3) Job supports.
- 4) Educational supports.
- 5) Preventive Health services.
- 6) Advise on eligibility for child day care services through FIA and how to apply.
- 7) Availability of mental health services and how to access.
- 8) First month's rent /security deposit and utility deposits.
- 9) Mentoring services.
- 10) Follow-up services to insure successful transition.
- 11) Transitional Living Services.

(See Attachment I, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Services Manual Children and Youth, Foster Care, policy, Youth in Transition (YIT) Program, p. 2, 4&5) for a listing of available closed case services for 18-21 year olds.)

Services to Youth Ages 18 – 20: Section 477(a)(5) permits States to provide services to youth ages 18 through 20 years old who left foster care and have not reached their twenty-first birthday. States are required to provide services (including room and board) to, and expend funds on behalf of, youth who left foster care because they attained 18 years of age, but have not yet attained 21 years of age (Section 477(b)(3)). In the State plan, States should describe the approaches being used to address these provisions.

Children's Services policy, effective May 1, 2000 requires FIA foster care workers to provide the above listed services to youth whose cases have been closed. During this three-year funding cycle, Michigan will strengthen service delivery and enhance services to youth through the use of Transitional Living Services Contracts (TLSC) and Fee-for-Service, throughout the State of Michigan. Transitional living services will provide adult supervision in semi-independent or independent living environments to assure stability and success in maintaining the independent living environment. Fee-for-Service contracts will be used for all youth requesting closed case services. Beginning with an assessment of need and determination of service(s) needed to meet the identified needs, contractors will refer to community-based services or, in the absence of the appropriate service, provide the services directly. This type of contract will be utilized to provide mentoring services to all eligible youth, ages 14-21 as well.

We expect to strengthen delivery of medical, mental health, housing, mentoring, educational and employment services, through the use of these contracts by focusing on and encouraging collaboration and cooperation with existing services programs within communities.

Room and Board: The State must develop a reasonable definition of "room and board" and provide the definition in the State Plan. The State plan must include a description of the approach(s) being used to make available room and board to 18 through 20 year olds. States are required to certify (by signing the Certification form in Attachment B) in their State plans that no more than 30 percent of their allotment of Federal funds will be expended for room and board for youth who left foster care because they attained 18 years of age, but have not yet attained 21 years of age.

The State of Michigan defines "room and board" as first month's rent and security/damage deposit for those eligible youth, ages 18 to 21, who have aged out of the foster care system. This also includes those eligible youth, ages 18 – 21, who have aged out of the foster care system and gone into an Independent Living situation, as well as, those youth who have aged out and lost touch with the agency but return for assistance, before attaining the age of 21. During this three-year period, Michigan will seek ways to expand room and board services to eligible youth, age 18 – 21.

Currently, Michigan, through its Youth in Transition Program (YIT), allocates money to all counties for the provision of services to eligible youth. Youth in Transition policy stipulates eligibility, services to be provided, and restrictions on the use of this money. (See attachment I, Youth in Transition Policy) YIT policy also stipulates that first month's rent and damage deposits may only be provided to those eligible youth, age 18 – 21, who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age. Clarification of this policy was also distributed to counties via L-letter 00-236. (See attachment K, Clarification of Eligibility for Youth in Transition Funded Services, dated December 13, 2000)

In the application for FY2000 funds, the State of Michigan certified that; 1) the State will provide assistance and services to youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age and have not attained 21 year of age; 2) not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment for a fiscal year will be expended for room and board for youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age; 3) and, none of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment will be expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age.

4. Briefly describe how all political subdivisions in the State are served by the program (if not in a uniform manner, please explain) (Section 477(b)(2)(B)).

Foster Care policy (Attachment A) requires provision of all Chafee mandated independent living services to all eligible youth in foster care (See Attachment L, Definition of Foster Care) age 14-18 in every county of the State. These services are available regardless of the youth's permanency plan or living arrangement. Native American youth that are affiliated with Tribes have access to these services as well through local FIA offices. Closed case services are available to every eligible youth age 18-21 (See eligibility criteria, attachment I, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Services Manual Children and Youth policy, Section 950, Youth in Transition (YIT) Program p.3). Residential care facilities are required to comply with foster care policy and provide independent living services through their programs. Mandated services for all eligible youth, regardless of placement status, are to be provided to each youth. These services are identified in this application. (See also attachment I, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency, Youth in Transition policy)

In addition to the mandated services made available to each eligible youth by their supervising agency caseworkers, purchase of service contracts, who service youth placed in residential facilities and private foster homes, mandate independent living services for all FIA placed youth in the state. Foster care and residential care facility staff refer eligible youth to available services in their county. In addition to State purchase of service contracts, some contracted services are county-based through the utilization of funds made available through the allocation of the Chafee funds.

Eligibility for services is statewide and contractors are required to serve youth in the youth's county of residence, regardless of the youth's county of origin.

Some contracts in Michigan's Wayne County were initiated as pilots to test greater inter-agency coordination of services in the larger Detroit Metropolitan area. An Independent Living Council was created to serve as a forum for both private and public providers to share problems and solutions. Creation of similar, regionally based, public and private coalitions are planned for in Michigan's three-year plan.

5. Describe how youth of various ages and at various stages of achieving independence, are to be served, particularly with regard to services for (1) youth under 16, (2) youth 16 - 18 and (3) youth 18 through 20 (Section 477(b)(2)(C)).

All eligible youth receiving or requesting independent living services are assessed for need. Youth with active foster care cases will be assessed using the State's Child Needs and Strengths Assessment (Attachment B). This assessment will aid workers and service providers to determine the types of services in which a youth is capable of participating.

Since Independent Living services are to be provided to all eligible youth ages 14-21, various levels of competence are expected. Programs and services will be designed to meet the individual needs of youth. Counties may choose to serve children ages 12-13, based on an assessment of need and availability of resources (see Attachment A, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Services Manual Children and Youth in Transition policy, attachment G). Recommended service provision to youth in this age group include preventive health services, substance abuse prevention, mentor services and daily living skills.

The State of Michigan is working to expand and enhance collaboration and cooperation among the various State and private agencies that provide services to this eligible population. These youth include those who, because of presenting problems, case histories and individual goals and activities, are expected to remain in the foster care system up to age 18 or 19. Through the sharing of information and a cooperative effort between representatives of these various State agencies, the State of Michigan can significantly enhance the continuum of care of services for all eligible youth entering the foster care system.

6. Describe how the State involves the public and private sectors in helping adolescents in foster care achieve independence. Beginning in FY 2000, States have had an opportunity to conduct meetings and plan activities with various partners and stakeholders to design and develop a CFCIP State plan for fiscal years 2001 to 2004. States should describe in detail how public and private organizations representing a wide range of stakeholders and consumers, in particular Indian Tribes, were consulted in the development of the State plan.

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An inter-agency task force was developed comprised of more than thirty representatives from both state and private agencies from various geographic locations throughout the State. (See Attachment M, List of Task Force Members) The task force met initially on April 12, 2000 to receive an overview of the project and subsequently was divided into 7 issue specific workgroups, depending on member area of expertise, to develop plans for addressing and implementing the issues defined by the Chafee Independent Living Act. These groups met bi-weekly for an intensive 3-week period to outline Michigan's new independent living program.

Additionally, three focus groups comprised of youth either receiving or who had received services were convened to provide input concerning their needs for independent living services. Youth focus groups have been convened and meet on an ongoing basis by some of the private agency service providers in Michigan for ongoing monitoring of services.

Continued involvement with public and private agency staff assures communication and the identification of shared values and goals among the agencies. Direct participation in the State's two independent living coalitions, independent living service providers and with the Homeless and Runaway Youth service providers has allowed for continuing program policy review and enhancements. Participation in independent living projects by other state agencies, such as the Office of Juvenile Justice's Comprehensive Strategies task force, will allow for utilization of the project outcomes without duplication. Finally, by providing technical assistance to and facilitating the Eastern Michigan University project to develop an independent living curriculum for child welfare workers, Michigan will benefit from the development and utilization of the curriculum without duplication of effort.

Prior to submitting the plan for fiscal year 2001- 2004, the plan has been made available for public review and comment. All task force members received a copy of the new plan and were notified of their opportunity to comment on the plan. A notice was printed in the major newspapers (Attachment N) advising readers that the plan will be available for review and comment in each local county office as well as on the Michigan Family Independence Agency web site. A letter will be sent to all county directors of the Family Independence Agency with the Chafee Independent Living Act plan attached (Attachment O). This letter will advise the county directors that the plan will be submitted to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families and that the plan is to be made available in each county FIA office for public review and comment. Instructions for submitting written comments will also be included.

A plan to coordinate other Federal and State services programs for eligible youth is under development. The plan will focus on information sharing between State departments of services available to this eligible youth population. These programs will include, but not be limited to, education, employment, housing and medical services. Collaborated will occur with the Michigan Department of Education, MI Works!,

Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Homeless Youth and Runaway Services programs, Medicaid, Multi-Purpose Collaborative Bodies (MPCB) comprised of community members, and others.

A Native American focus group will be convened again in the fall of 2001 to assist the State in facilitation of services to Native American youth. This will help assure services are provided on the same basis as to other youth in the State. This group consists of all federally recognized tribes and others that are working towards federal recognition.

Subtitle C, section 121 of P.L. 106-169 permits States to expand Medicaid eligibility for youth transitioning from foster care. The State plan should describe how the state has utilized, or is coordinating efforts to utilize, the option under this law to expand Medicaid to provide services to youth ages 18 to 20 years old who have aged out of foster care. A State may provide Medicaid to all young people under the age of 21 who were in foster care under the responsibility of the state on their eighteenth birthday, or to "reasonable categories" of this group. If the State does not choose to provide Medicaid to all young people under the age of 21 who were in foster care under the State's responsibility on their eighteenth birthday, the State plan should describe what "reasonable categories" of children it has chosen to provide Medicaid services to, if any.

Before reaching their 21st birthday, youth residing in Michigan have the following Medicaid programs available to them: MI Child covers youth to age 19 at 200 percent of the poverty level; the Medicaid Q program is available to youth up to age 21 (this program has an income test which may prevent some youth from automatic eligibility, but would serve them in times of high medical costs after a spend down (co-pay) is met); and, the Medicaid L program which is available to low income clients who are pregnant or parenting a child up to the child's first year.

We will also discuss whether or not a Medicaid program could be made available for eligible youth exiting foster care that does not include an income test with the Department of Community Health.

7. Describe the objective criteria the State uses for determining eligibility for benefits and services under the programs, including the process for developing the criteria (Section 477 (b)(2)(E)).

Youth eligible to receive services from the Youth in Transition program include young adults, ages 14 to 21, who are or have been (on or after their 14th birthday) in foster care placement, based on abuse or neglect, through the State of Michigan. Foster care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, relative's homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes. Counties may elect to serve

children ages 12 – 13 based on assessment of need and availability of appropriate funds.
(See attachments A, I, K, and L)

A task force, comprised of public and private agency personnel, reviewed available programs for youth currently involved with FIA, to determine what programs and services were available in order to enhance but not duplicate services. (See attachment N) The consensus of the task force lead to the above listed eligibility definition.

8. Describe how the State ensures fair and equitable treatment of benefit recipients (Section 477 (b)(2)(E)).

Every youth, (age 14 – 20) that is or has been, on or after their 14th birthday, in a foster care placement through the State of Michigan, is eligible for independent living services regardless of the permanency plan. (See Attachment I, State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Children and Youth Services Manual, Youth in Transition Program, Eligibility Criteria, p.3).

Foster care policy assures that workers and other care providers provide independent living services to all eligible youth. All new workers and many of the experienced workers have received training to enhance their knowledge of assessing youth's needs and services that are available to meet those needs in becoming independent in order to facilitate the equitable provision of services.

Assurances of this service provision will continue to be monitored through periodic review of case records, service report forms and payment authorization requests. The FIA-4713 Service Youth Profile Report (see attachments P and Q) has been revised to gather demographic and service provision data to monitor service provision compliance. This data will also be used to monitor compliance with the CFCIP. Non-compliance with Independent Living service provision requirements could result in a reduction in the non-complying county's direct allocation, and will result in closer monitoring for compliance in future years.

Public Comment: Certification E of Section 477(b)(3)(E) requires States to provide "all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan". In preparing the State plan application, States should describe how the comments received from the public (both written and oral), influenced the contents of the State Plan.

This plan has been made available for public comment in accordance with Section 477(b)(3)(E). Information received from the various public entities has been incorporated into this plan. Comments have been reviewed and incorporated in the plan, when practicable.

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Part II – CFCIP Funds Requested

CFCIP Funds Requested

Federal Funds Requested \$ 6,268,929.00
State Match Amount \$ 1,504,542.90

Sources State GFGP

Amount of Federal Funds to be Used for Room and Board (Not more than) \$1,880,678.70

I certify that I am authorized to submit the CFCIP application for FY 2001 funds in the State of Michigan.

Application submitted by:

Name

Governor of Michigan _____

Title

Signature

Date

Approval Date: _____

Signature of ACF Regional Administrator or Hub Director

PROGRAM AND FISCAL REPORTS:

Program Reports and Data Collection:

The CFCIP report for activities conducted during FY 2000 is due no later than June 30, 2001. The report should be included as part of the multi-year CFCIP State plan. The report must contain the following information:

- (1) an accurate description of the CFCIP services provided and activities conducted, including programs modified, expanded or newly established (e.g., life skills training, tutoring and other educational assistance, housing, employment and mental health counseling), and their current status of implementation; and other collaboration activities undertaken to achieve the purpose set forth in section 477(b)(3)(F) of the Act;**

CFCIP Services and Activities

Counseling Individual or group counseling may be provided through the Youth in Transition fund source if it is not available through other funding sources.

Homeless Services: Assistance with temporary housing through the homeless youth program or shelters; assistance in payment of first month's rent and damage deposit for those eligible youth, age 18-21 whose foster care case closed due to their age; assistance in seeking public assistance from FIA, such as the State Emergency Relief program.

Education Support: assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, or GED through the State's Department of Education, assistance in applying for college or vocational education, assistance in seeking financial aid such as PELL grants, student loans and scholarships from post-secondary institutions, and assistance with tuition, books, transportation.

Employment Services: job training and retention services including interviewing skills and facilitating access to existing programs such as Work First.

Job Related Supports: uniforms, tools, transportation, apprentice fees, safety clothing and equipment.

Wages: With program office approval, wages can be paid for youth who are beginning employment as an incentive for the employer to hire.

Incentives: incentives can be offered in cash or in-kind form for a variety of purposes, including to encourage a youth's participation in an independent living service, or to

encourage a prospective employer to provide employment to a youth, as in Wages, above.

Training: individual or group training in any of the independent living skill areas; e.g. parenting classes, employment (interviewing skills, etc)

Household Start-up Goods: includes items needed to set up an independent living situation - items such as kitchen, bath and bedroom supplies (pots, pans, towels, dinnerware, cleaning supplies, blankets, pillows, etc).

Independent Living Classes: As in training, above - a variety of classes are offered to meet the service needs of the youth. Often, these are contracted through individuals or agencies that specialize in a particular area.

Independent Living Training Materials: such as videos, or handbooks that will provide tools for trainers, staff or foster parents to use in working with youth in the development of IL skills.

Mentorships: coordination of the development of long-term relationships with youth and a responsible adult.

Supervised Independent Living Contracts: Provision of supervised living arrangement for youth by a responsible adult who either lives in the home or is regularly available to assure the stability of the arrangement.

Utilities and Security Deposits: assistance (one time only) with the initial deposits to allow a youth to move into an independent living arrangement.

Closed Case Services: Independent living services provided to all youth who have been in foster care based on abuse or neglect after age 14 after his/her case is closed through age 20. These services are provided by FIA. After all other available resources are exhausted, the YIT fund source is used to cover costs.

First Month's Rent and Damage Deposit: Available to youth, age 18-21, who was in foster care based on abuse or neglect after age 14 and whose foster care case closed due to his/her age. Payment of first month's rent and damage deposit can be made to assist in obtaining a place to live. Determinations of suitability of the living arrangement and future ability to pay must be made prior to making this payment authorization.

Program Modifications and Changes

Revisions to Michigan's children's foster care policy, effective May 1, 2000, assure provision of independent living services to all youth who are or have been in Michigan's foster care system, based on abuse or neglect, after age 14 through age 20. Prior to the

provision of services, an assessment is completed, and updated at least quarterly, to determine the youth's level of need for services as well as the level of intensity and detail of the type of service that the youth is capable of participating in. Service referrals are made to available community and government agencies to meet the identified needs.

The ranges of services that must be provided to each eligible youth include employment, education, mentoring, housing assistance, life skills training and counseling. (See State of Michigan Foster Care Policy, CFF 722-7, p. 22, attachment A).

The policy mandates have been implemented in Michigan. Federally funded programs are available in each county. These include employment services through the Michigan Works! Program, preventive health services offered by the Department of Community Health, mental health services available through the local Community Mental Health agencies, and educational services offered through the Department of Education. However, service gaps in some counties have been identified. Some of the listed services are only available in one city within a county's boundaries, thus limiting the number of participants who can access the service. This is especially an issue in the rural counties where public transportation is not readily available.

Transitional Living program: This program is predominantly operating in the Wayne County (Detroit Metropolitan) region. Youth age 16 to age 21, are placed in supervised independent living homes or apartments. Responsible adults provide regular supervision to assure that the living arrangement is successful. This program is currently being reviewed by those involved in the program, both by program administrators and by youth participants. This review will be utilized to standardize the program and assure that the program effectively meets the needs of youth transitioning to living independently.

Enhanced collaboration with county offices and independent living service providers has increased communication between these entities. The end result is improved communication and consistency in program development and implementation. County offices have received an overview of the enhanced independent living / Youth in Transition program to ensure implementation. Program staffs meet on a regular basis with locally based independent living coalitions that are comprised of both public and private providers. This involvement enhances communication and compliance with policy as well as assuring the development of the most comprehensive services available.

Technical assistance is being provided to create and guide the implementation of a community-based task force. Michigan's independent living / Youth in Transition program office is working in concert with the Office of Juvenile Justice in a project called, "Comprehensive Strategies." The project's goal is to work with community members from public and private agencies to identify the entire range of services available in each county. If gaps in services are found, efforts will be made to fill those gaps through various funding sources. Community involvement in this project will help

assure its effectiveness. Beginning as pilot projects, various sites have been identified and begun to address these goals.

The youth training project has been difficult to initiate on a statewide basis due, in large part, to statewide staffing shortages. However, Wayne County (the Detroit metropolitan area) has a separate unit that is responsible for overseeing the provision of independent living services to each of the 2,400 eligible youth in Wayne County. This unit provides regular youth training sessions. The Wayne County independent living unit is expanding their services to assure that all eligible youth in Wayne County, where the majority of the State's eligible youth reside, will receive the entire range of Chafee mandated services, including the youth training sessions.

Our first statewide youth conference since the implementation of the Chafee Act is scheduled for October 19-21, 2001 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at Michigan State University.

Eastern Michigan University has received a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to create an independent living curriculum for child welfare workers. Michigan has identified three pilot sites for the project, which will ultimately expand to all of Michigan's counties. Youth focus groups, along with meetings with service providers, will be utilized to create the independent living curriculum by year three of the project. The final product will be a video that can be used in training ongoing child welfare workers in the provision of independent living services to youth.

(4) A complete record of the purposes for which funds were expended (section 477 (a)(1-5));

The FY 2000 funds from the Chafee Independent Living Act were used, under the Youth in Transition (YIT) program in the following ways:

- a) Allocations of \$1,500,000 were made to counties in FY 00. Counties used those funds, within the current policy guidelines, to supplement existing services through the service contracting process, or to provide tangible goods and services to eligible youth within their county.
- b) Homeless Youth program expenses were \$1,320,024.
- c) Transitional Living Contracts expenditures were \$3,689,619.
- d) Room and Board expenditures under Michigan's Chafee Youth in Transition Program totaled \$34,657. This figure will increase given policy changes and the new reporting format required for both public and private service providers.

- e) Staffing \$721,022.
- f) Other Administrative costs (*conferences, equipment, printing, etc*)\$26,253.

(2) a statement regarding the extent to which the funds assisted youth 18-21 in making the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency (section 477(a)(5)); and

Funds in the amount of \$ 34,657 from the Chafee Independent Living Act of 1999 were used to pay for first month's rent and damage deposit for those eligible youth, age 18-21, who left foster care due to their age. Additional monies for youth in this population were expended through the State's Transitional Living Program.

(4) Additional information for use by the Secretary in assessing and evaluating the State's foster care independent living (CFCIP) programs (sections 477(b)(4), (f) and (g)). This information must include:

- (a) A detailed description of the number and demographic characteristics of the eligible population for fiscal year 2000 (October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000) and a detailed description of individuals served during that period: e.g., age, sex, race/ethnicity, current placement (foster family, group home, transitional living apartment) or living situation, special needs status, educational and/or employment status, marital or parental status and duration in foster care.**

In Michigan, all eligible youth ages 14 to 21 were provided independent living services by foster care policy mandate. (See attachments A, and I defining eligibility for independent living services.) These services were provided through the State's foster care services and supervised independent living, and, when other resources were not available with funds provided from the Youth in Transition program.

Youth in Transition

Michigan's Youth in Transition program funded services for approximately 1,125 youth during fiscal year 2000. Of these, 56 percent were female and 44 percent male. Ninety percent of independent living services focused on youth ages 18 and older. Youth younger than age 18 received independent living preparation services under other FIA programs and services.

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Age and Gender

Age	Male	Female	Total
16	1%	1%	1%
17	5%	12%	9%
18	28%	29%	29%
19	34%	30%	32%
20	33%	28%	30%
Total	44%	56%	

Age and Race

Age	White	Black	Native American	Hispanic	Asian	Multi-Racial
16	43%	43%	0%	14%	0%	0%
17	42%	32%	0%	18%	0%	9%
18	51%	38%	1%	6%	2%	2%
19	59%	37%	1%	0%	0%	3%
20	46%	44%	0%	3%	0%	7%
Total	51%	39%	0%	5%	1%	5%

Current Living Arrangement

Parents	5%
Relatives	5%
Foster Home	36%
Residential Placement	10%
Independent Living	35%
Shelter	2%
Group Home	4%
Other	4%

Educational Level

High School	13%
GED	5%
Less than High School	82%

Forty-six youth, representing less than 4 percent of the population served had received services for a handicapping condition.

Only four youth reported that they were married at the time they received services through the Youth in Transition program. Eighty-eight youth reported that they had one child and eight youth reported having 2 children. Additionally, four males and 17 females reported that they were expecting a child.

John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
Michigan, FY 2001 – 2004 Application

Length of Time in Foster Care	
Less than 1 year	30%
1 year	15%
2 years	11%
3 years	15%
4 years	9%
5 or more years	20%

- (b) A statement of the results achieved upon discharge or voluntary termination, and 90 days later: e.g., number of youth employed, have completed high school or a GED program, are pursuing post-secondary opportunities, have a stable living situation, and/or are accessing other community resources, if necessary (TANF, Welfare-to-Work, Medicaid); together with a description of the criteria employed to measure those achievements.**

Michigan collected information on the services provided through the Youth in Transition program at the time youth received services. The data presented below is for the 1,125 youth served with funds from this source during Fiscal Year 2000. With this fiscal year, as a condition of payment, Michigan requires purchase of service providers to submit follow-up data. We are also taking steps to coordinate our data collection and information management systems with those of Foster Care. This will enhance our ability to track outcome data following a youth's participation in YIT.

School Attendance	
Full Time	54%
Part Time	16%
Not Attending	30%

Employment Status of Youth	
Full Time	9%
Part Time	39%
Unemployed	51%

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Youth in Transition Services provided by Age of Youth, Fiscal Year 2000

Service	Age					Total
	16	17	18	19	20	
Counseling	2%	4%	6%	2%	4%	4%
Homeless Services	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Education Supports	4%	24%	17%	17%	27%	19%
Employment Services	6%	10%	8%	5%	4%	7%
Job Related Support Services	2%	3%	5%	3%	4%	4%
Household Start-up Goods	0%	5%	11%	12%	18%	11%
IL Classes	44%	11%	11%	8%	1%	11%
IL Training Materials	11%	3%	5%	3%	1%	4%
Mentorships	6%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Specialized IL	2%	4%	3%	3%	5%	3%
Utilities and Security Deposits	0%	1%	9%	14%	9%	9%
Closed Case Services	2%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Other	22%	25%	19%	25%	17%	21%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

New policy, taking effect May 1, 2001, mandates submission of the FIA- 4713, Service Youth Profile Report for every independent living service provided to all eligible youth in foster care over age 14. In the past, our only data collection came when funds were expended through the Youth in Transition program, through the FIA-4713, Service Youth Profile Report.

We anticipate that subsequent updates of the CFCIP program (FY's 2001–2004) will be a part of the yearly child welfare Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR).

Fiscal Reports: Expenditures under CFCIP are to be reported by States on a Standard Form 269 (SF-269), Financial Status Report. To minimize the reporting burden, SF-269s will be required on an annual basis. Reports will be due 90 days after the end of each reporting period (October 1 – September 30). The final report for FY 2000 funds will be due December 31, 2001, ninety (90) days after the end of the two-year expenditure period. The SF-269 with original signatures should be sent to the appropriate Hub Director or Regional Administrator with a copy to ACYF at the following address:

Administration for Children, Youth and Families
Office of Management Services, Room 1416
330 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20447

A negative grant award will be issued to States to recoup unobligated and/or unliquidated funds reported on their final Financial Status Report.

JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM
 FY 2001-2004 APPLICATION
 Attachments

Attachment A	State of Michigan Family Independence Agency, Children and Youth Services Manual, Section 722.7,p. 22, Service provision mandate for youth 14 and over.
Attachment B	State of Michigan Family Independence Agency, Children and Youth Services Manual, Section 722, Child Assessment of Needs and Strengths, FIA - 146
Attachment C	State of Michigan Family Independence Agency, Children and Youth Services Manual, Section 722-6, p. 5, Foster Care – Youth involved in development of independent living plan
Attachment D	Michigan Works! program
Attachment E	Tuition Incentive Program
Attachment F	Michigan statewide contracts list
Attachment G	State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Children and Youth Services Manual, Youth in Transition policy Section 950 p. 2 & 6
Attachment H	Mentor Programs brochure – Don Bosco Hall
Attachment I	State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Children and Youth Services Manual, Youth in Transition policy Section 950
Attachment J	Aftercare Services Pamphlet
Attachment K	Clarification of eligibility for Youth in Transition funded services
Attachment L	Foster Care - Definition
Attachment M	List of Task Force members
Attachment N	Public Notice – announcement of 2001 – 2004 Plan for review to newspapers
Attachment O	L-letter to County Directors to announce Plan availability for public review
Attachment P	FIA-4713 Service Youth Profile Report (draft)
Attachment Q	State of Michigan Family Independence Agency Children and Youth Services Manual, Foster Care Policy mandates regarding use of the FIA-4713