



Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative

The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative is a partnership between the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Michigan Department of Health and 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 800 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:

Alcona/Alpena/Montmorency
Allegan/Barry
Antrim/Charlevoix/Emmet
Bay/Arenac
Berrien
Calhoun/Branch
Cass/St. Joseph
Clinton/Eaton
Crawford/Otsego/Oscoda
Delta/Dickinson/Menominee
Genesee
Gogebic/Ontonagon
Grand Traverse/Leelanau/Kalkaska
Hillsdale
Huron/Lapeer/Tuscola
Ingham
Ionia/Montcalm
Isabella/Clare
Jackson

Kalamazoo
Kent
Lake/Newaygo
Livingston
Macomb
Marquette
Mecosta/Osceola
Midland/Gladwin
Monroe/Lenawee
Muskegon
Oakland
Ottawa
Saginaw
St. Clair
Shiawassee/Gratiot
Van Buren
Washtenaw
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 through 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 your local coordinator
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, visit:

- www.michigan.gov/myoi
- www.jimcaseyyouth.org

