



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. More than 900 youth are participating in the program statewide.

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative assists with:

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

The program is currently active in ALL Michigan Counties:

Alcona/Iosco
Alpena/Montmorency
Allegan/Barry
Antrim/Charlevoix/Emmet/ Cheboygan/
Presque Isle
Bay/Arenac
Benzie/Manistee/Wexford/Missaukee
Berrien
Calhoun
Cass/St. Joseph
Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac
Clare/Isabella
Clinton/Eaton
Crawford/Otsego/Oscoda
Delta/Dickinson/Menominee
Genesee
Gogebic/Ontonagon/Keweenaw/Houghton/
Baraga/Iron
Grand Traverse/Leelanau/Kalkaska
Hillsdale/Branch
Huron/Lapeer/Tuscola
Ingham

Ionia/Montcalm
Jackson
Kalamazoo
Kent
Lake/Newaygo
Livingston
Macomb
Marquette/Alger/Schoolcraft
Mason/Oceana
Mecosta/Osceola
Midland/Gladwin
Monroe/Lenawee
Muskegon
Oakland
Ogemaw/Roscommon
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