



Outcomes Summary

SFY 2012



Emerging Adulthood

Experts on brain development have coined the term “*emerging adulthood*” to describe the critical period of development that occurs in the late teens and early twenties.

During this period, young people must take on distinct developmental tasks that enable them to become healthy, connected and productive adults.

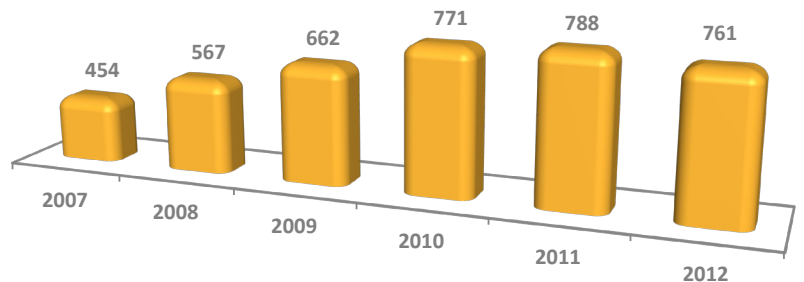
“The aftercare program is fantastic. I don’t know what I would do without the support.”

Program Overview

The **Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN)** helps young people who exit foster care make the connections and develop the skills they need as emerging adults. **Youth and Shelter Services, Inc. (YSS)** serves as the lead agency and fiscal agent for the Network, and has held the Aftercare contract with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) since 2002. YSS provides direct services through four of its central Iowa locations, subcontracting with ten other youth-serving agencies to provide services throughout the state.

In 2006, the Iowa Legislature authorized additional support for these youth and appropriated state funding to create the **Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)** program. The PAL program provides monthly, means-tested financial support to qualifying youth who exit a state-paid foster care placement at age 18 or older as long as they are either enrolled in post-secondary education or training, are employed, or both.

Number of youth served by state fiscal year



Over the last decade more than 2,400 emerging adults have benefited from IASN services.



Young adults we serve

Over the last five years, an average of 440 youth have aged out of Iowa foster care each year and an average of 282 youth per year (64%) voluntarily accessed Aftercare services. Most youth first access Aftercare at age 18. Young people remain eligible for services until they turn 21.

In SFY 2012

- A total of 761 young adults were served by the Aftercare Network, including 532 (70%) who received a PAL stipend for at least a portion of the year.
- Young people from 85 Iowa Counties received services; 58% were female and 85% were White.
- Of those served, 71% had been in foster care for more than two years and 55% had a history of serious emotional or behavior disorders.
- Among the 265 young people who accessed services for the first time during the year:
 - › 25% had attempted suicide;
 - › 28% did not have a high school diploma or credential;
 - › 31% had been incarcerated or detained in the previous two years;
 - › 58% reported \$0 monthly income;
 - › 89% were enrolled in Medicaid.

"It's an amazing program and truly does help people that have been affected by foster care."

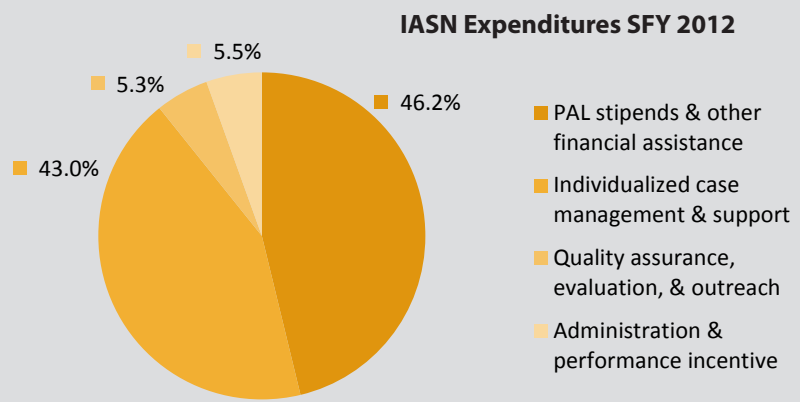
Achieving positive results

Outcomes achieved by the Aftercare Network in SFY 2012, as measured by progress made by 180 exiting participants, include:

- An increase from 76.6% of participants with a high school credential at intake to 90.6% of participants at exit;
- 61 young people (33.9% of exiting participants) had completed at least one year of college;
- An increase in full-time employment (26.1% at intake to 38.9% at exit); 13.9% were employed part-time at exit;
- On exit more youth are assuming some responsibility for the cost of housing (62.6% at intake to 72.2% at exit). Fewer are living in transitional facilities, shelters or other supported housing arrangements (10.3% to 1.7%);
- Across-the-board increases in young people who have essential documents (e.g., birth certificate, Social Security card), driver's licenses, and bank accounts – important steps toward achieving self-sufficiency.

Investing in their future

For SFY 2012 the Iowa Legislature appropriated \$3.1 million for the PAL program. This state appropriation and a portion of the state's federal Chafee allotment are contracted by the **Iowa Department of Human Services** for the IASN to operate the PAL and Aftercare programs for a total of just under \$4 million.



This fact sheet was prepared by the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII) based on data analyzed for the IASN SFY 2012 Outcomes Report. In addition to evaluating outcomes, YPII provides policy development, technical assistance, and quality assurance services for the IASN.