



Outcomes Summary SFY 2014



The Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) helps young people who exit foster care at or near the age of 18 make the connections and develop the skills they need as emerging adults.

Program Overview

The IASN (a Network of nine private youth-serving agencies in Iowa) provides services to eligible youth ages 18 – 21 on a voluntary basis throughout the state. Tailored to meet the personal goals and needs of each young person, Aftercare Self-Sufficiency Advocates support participants in the areas of: **education, employment, housing, health, life skills and supportive relationships.**

Since 2006, the Iowa Legislature has appropriated state funding for the **Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program.** In addition to the case management and services provided to all participating youth, the PAL program provides needs-based financial support to qualifying youth who are continuing their education or training, are employed, or both. The average PAL stipend in SFY 2014 was \$529 a month.



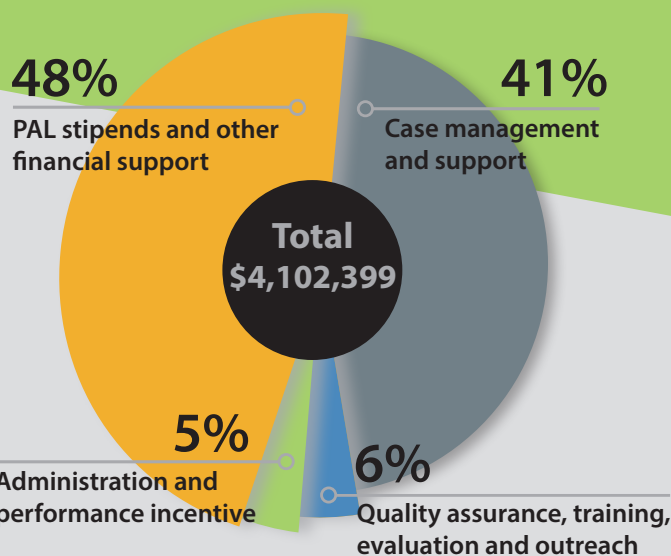
"It's been a great program! I have felt a connection with my advocate because I can tell she truly cares and wants the best for me."



"The Iowa Aftercare program has been a big help in my transition from foster care. Having someone to talk to and help with daily living is amazing."



"The Aftercare program has been a great support for me. I feel confident about getting a better life for myself!"

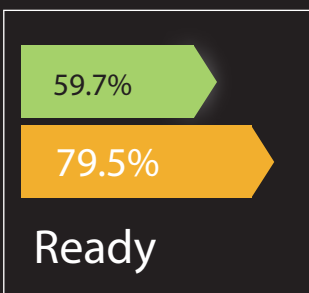
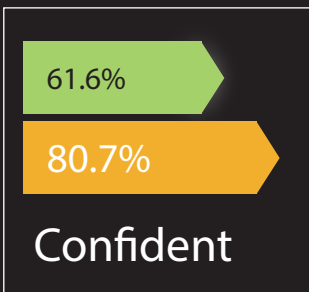
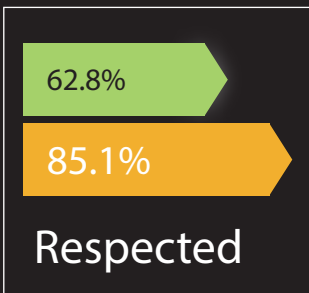
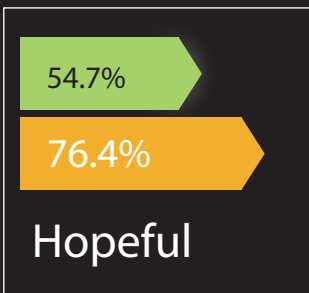
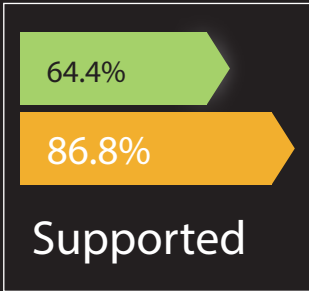


Investing in their future

Iowa's Aftercare services are funded by a combination of a State appropriation for the PAL program (\$3.257 million for SFY 2014) and a portion of the state's federal allotment under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

Results of an Oct. 2013 survey of 348 Aftercare/PAL participants show improvement in self-concept.

- Thinking back to Age 18
- Now while in Aftercare



Young adults served by Aftercare in SFY 2014

- 699 young people in 88 counties received services from the Iowa Aftercare Services Network, including 244 who accessed services for the first time.
- Slightly over half of participants (56%) were female.
- Of those served, 58% had been diagnosed with one or more Serious Emotional Disorders (SED) prior to leaving foster care.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) had been in foster care for more than two years.
- The majority of participating youth are White (82%), but a sizeable percentage identify themselves as African American (18%), Multi-racial (11%), or American Indian (5%). (Youth can identify with more than one race).



Outcomes

Data on Aftercare participants is collected through individual interviews with youth each time they enter or exit IASN services. To assess outcomes, data from the very first interview with the youth is compared with their last exit interview during the fiscal year for which the annual report is generated. Outcomes of those youth who exited care in SFY 2014 and did not return to services prior to the end of the fiscal year include:

Education:

- On exit, 93.4% of participants had earned at least a high school diploma or its equivalent, compared to 74.8% of the same youth at intake.

Employment:

- Full-time employment increased from 23.8% at intake to 39.1% at exit.
- The percentage of participants “unemployed” declined from 39.1% at intake to 15.2% at exit.

Housing:

- The proportion of participants who have their name on a lease more than doubled from 21.2% at intake to 49.7% at exit.
- More participants owned basic household items needed to live independently (from 54.4% at intake to 82.8% at exit).

Health:

- Most young adults in Aftercare are eligible for and receive Medicaid – 92.1% at intake and 90.7% at exit report being enrolled in Medicaid.