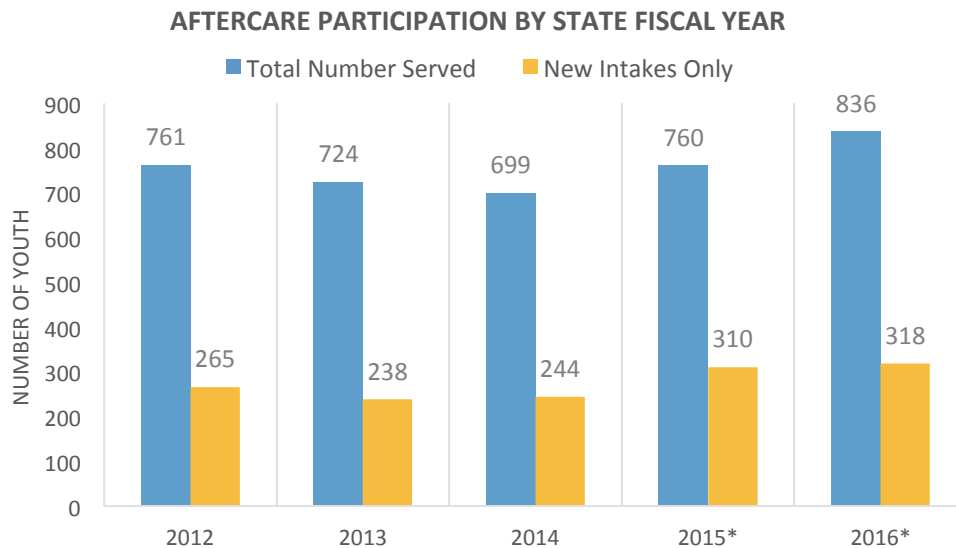




Aftercare Serves Record Number of Former Foster Youth in SFY 2016

Des Moines, Iowa – August 18, 2016 – A record 836 young adults in 90 counties were served by the [Iowa Aftercare Services Network](#) (IASN) in State Fiscal Year 2016. This is a 10% increase from the previous year when 760 young people were served, and the first year since the program began in 2002 that more than 800 young people participated. Of young people served in SFY 2016, 318 accessed Aftercare services for the first time, also a record, according to data collected by the [Youth Policy Institute of Iowa](#) – even as the number of youth aging out of foster care at age 18 has declined over the last several years.

“The fact that so many young people are taking advantage of the support offered by Aftercare is a testament to both the needs of this population and the quality of services provided by the Network,” stated Andrew Allen, CEO of [YSS](#), the lead agency for the Iowa Aftercare Services Network. “I’m extremely proud of the services we provide, and even more proud of the progress and achievements of the young people we serve.”



*Numbers include youth who have aged-out of the State Training School

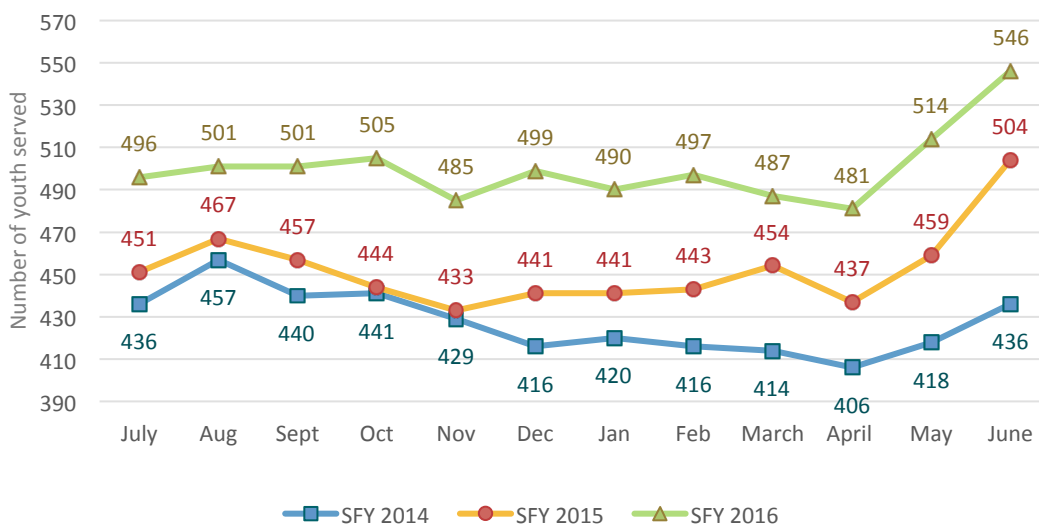
Aftercare provides guidance, support and a financial cushion for young people who age-out of foster care or other court-ordered placements as they transition to adulthood. Since SFY 2015, the eligible population has included young people who age-out of Iowa’s State Training School (STS) and detention centers. The program is voluntary and eligible young people between the ages of 18 and 21 may enter and exit services at their discretion. Aftercare services are funded and overseen by the [Iowa Department of Human Services](#).

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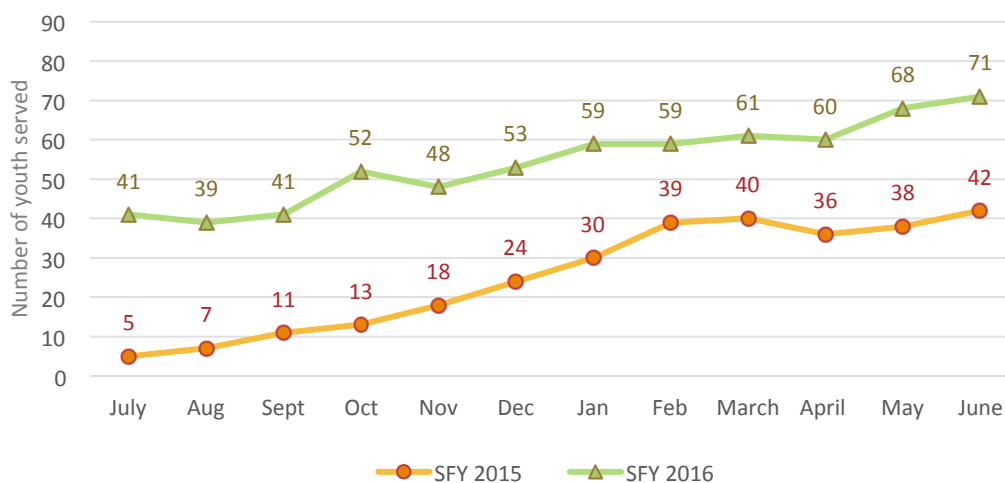
Average monthly participation in Aftercare services has also increased each of the last two years from 427 in SFY 2014 to 500 participants a month in SFY 2016, a 17% increase over the two years. Monthly participation follows a similar pattern each year, with a peak in May and June when a substantial number of 18-year-old youth become eligible for Aftercare when they are discharged from foster care immediately after high school graduation.

Iowa Aftercare Services Network Monthly Participation



The state extended eligibility for Aftercare services to young people exiting the State Training School (STS) or court-ordered detention, which contributed to the overall increase in participation. The number of STS youth accessing or continuing Aftercare services continues to grow – monthly participation increased 116% from an average of 25 a month in SFY 2015 to an average of 54 a month in SFY 2016.

Aftercare STS Monthly Participation



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The [Iowa Aftercare Services Network](#) (IASN) provides statewide services and support to help youth who exit foster care at or near the age of 18 make a successful transition to adulthood. The Iowa Department of Human Services has contracted for Aftercare services since 2002. [YSS](#), a community-based organization serving youth and families, holds the DHS Aftercare contract and serves as the fiscal agent for the Network. Funding for Aftercare is provided by federal and state appropriations.

[Youth Policy Institute of Iowa](#) (YPII) is a non-profit organization specializing in policy analysis, program development, support, and evaluation related to policies and programs for youth and young adults – especially those who have experienced foster care or other system involvement. YPII provides coordination, outreach, and evaluation support to the Iowa Aftercare Services Network.

