



Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) expands services to include youth exiting court-ordered detention or Iowa's State Training School for Boys

Des Moines, Iowa – June 25, 2014 – Beginning July 1, 2014, young people who age out of [Iowa's State Training School for Boys](#) or court-ordered detention will be eligible for services from the [Iowa Aftercare Services Network](#) (IASN).

The Iowa Legislature included language in the Human Services appropriations bill for state fiscal year 2015 ([HF 2463](#)) to broaden the eligibility criteria for the [Preparation for Adult Living](#) (PAL) program and provide follow-up services to youth exiting court-ordered detention or the State Training School at or near the age of 18. The Iowa Aftercare Services Network, in cooperation with the [Iowa Department of Human Services](#), is moving swiftly to incorporate this new population into the existing service delivery system as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

"This is an important extension of services to a highly vulnerable population," stated Joanie Havel, State Coordinator for the IASN. Typically, young men placed at the State Training School have had multiple prior foster care placements. They face a variety of challenges as they transition back to their home communities. "The extension of Aftercare services to these youth affords them the same access to services and supports as youth who now age-out of foster care," continued Havel.

Based on the most current data available, it is anticipated that approximately 100 young men from the State Training School will become eligible for the follow-up services offered by the Aftercare Network over the next year. Not all eligible youth will opt into the voluntary program, but eligible youth may receive services up to the age of 21.

Aftercare is designed to help young adults (ages 18 to 21) who are transitioning from a court-ordered placement move toward stability and self-sufficiency in six key areas: **education, employment, housing, health, life skills, and relationships**. Participants meet at least twice monthly with a Self-Sufficiency Advocate (SSA), who partners with youth to help them address barriers and develop skills to achieve individual goals. Needs-based, monthly financial support is available to those youth who meet requirements of the Preparation for Adult Living program, which is administered as part of Aftercare services.

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[About Youth Policy Institute of Iowa](#)

YP II specializes in policies and programs affecting youth transitioning from adolescence to adulthood, particularly those who have been involved in child welfare (foster care) or juvenile justice systems. As lead agency in Iowa for the national [Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative](#), YPII implements a comprehensive set of strategies to improve results for this target population. YPII also coordinates the statewide [Iowa Aftercare Services Network](#), which provides support to hundreds of young adults who age out of foster care.