

The Network

Twenty years ago, little attention was being given to young people who aged out of foster care. There was limited information regarding the experiences and outcomes of these young adults as they transitioned to adulthood, but evidence that was available was troubling.

Today, when young people age out of care there are well-established services and opportunities available for them. As the primary provider of these services for more than two decades, the **Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN)** provides individualized support and connections to the resources these young people need to become successful adults. The **Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)** component provides monthly financial support to qualifying youth who are working and/or pursuing education or training. In addition, **Core Aftercare** is available to youth between 18 - 21 years of age, and **Extended Aftercare** provides services up to age 23.

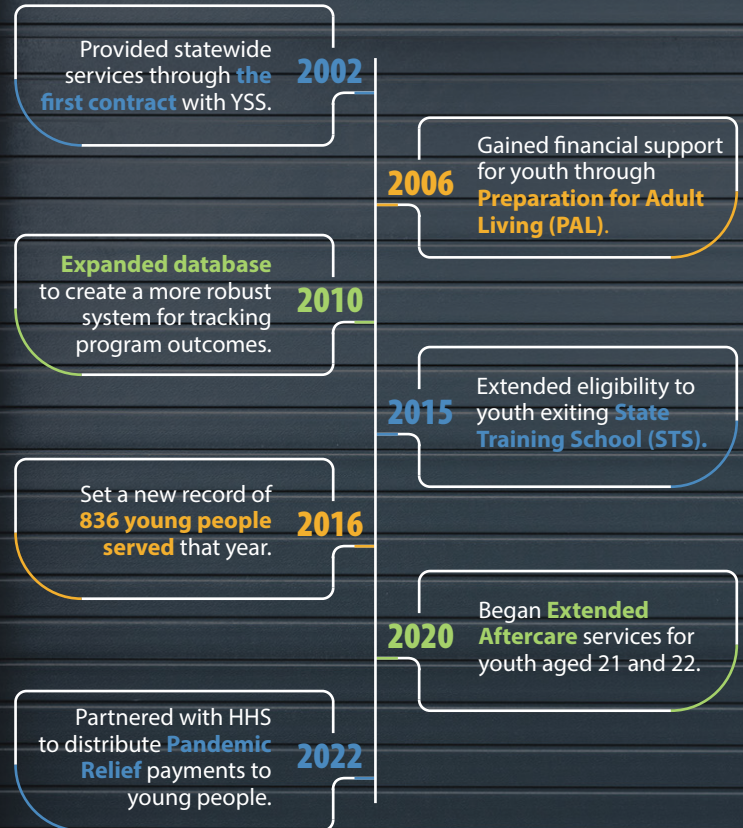
Meet Jenni

Jenni is a single mom. She hadn't planned this life for herself, but she will tell you that seeing her little girl smile reminds her every day that the struggle is always worth it. Jenni didn't grow up under the best of circumstances. As a kid she was in and out of foster care from infancy to aging out of the system at 18. Through the ongoing support of her Aftercare Advocate, Jenni is building a better future for herself and her daughter.

35%
of females
exiting Core
Aftercare have
children.

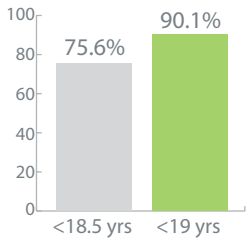
(20% of males)

"I just want to take the time to say I genuinely appreciate my [Aftercare] worker as she always reminds me that I'm a good mommy," says Jenni. "I didn't have the best life myself as a kid ... but she always makes me feel good about myself whether I'm broke and have nothing. I know I can do it, and I will always push myself to figure it out no matter what. Thank you, Aftercare!"

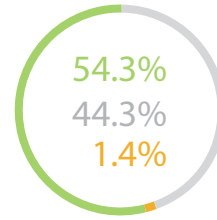


Beginning in April 2002, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched voluntary Aftercare services for young adults who age out of foster care at age 18. YSS was awarded the first contract to provide statewide services with an initial budget of \$600,000. Since that time, Aftercare has served almost 5,000 young adults throughout the state of Iowa.

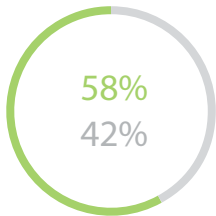
Who we serve



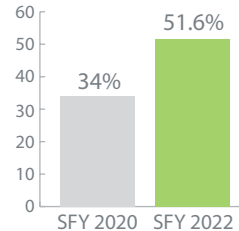
Age
Three out of four (75.6%) youth were under 18½ when first accessing Aftercare; and 90.1% were under the age of 19.



Gender
54.3% of youth identified as males at intake and 44.3% as females, while 1.4% identified as transgender or other.

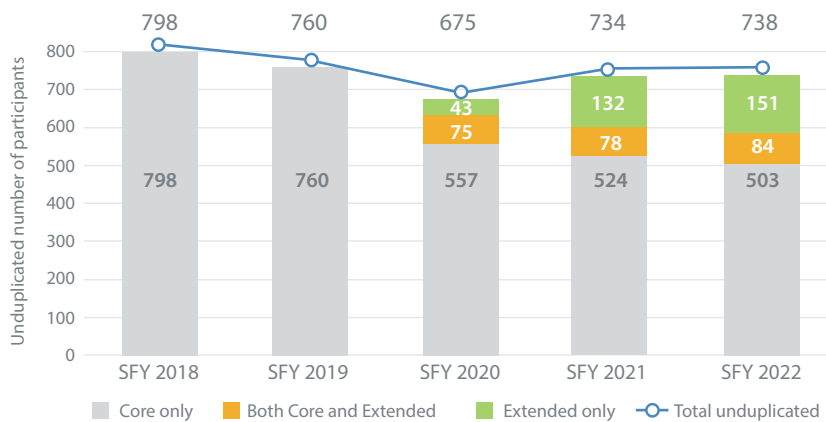


Race
Among new participants, 58% identified as White, Non-Hispanic; and 42% identified as Youth of Color (i.e., with one or more other races).



Last Placement
More than half of new participants (51.6%) aged out of a family-like setting, an increase from 34% in SFY 2020.

Core and Extended participation (unduplicated) by SFY



Participant Trends

The number of Core Aftercare participants decreased over the last five years, reflecting recent declines in the number of youth aging out of care. Extended Aftercare for 21 and 22 year-olds launched in January 2020 and adds to the overall total number of young people being served by Aftercare each fiscal year.

How well we serve them

How helpful is Aftercare and PAL to participants?

Aftercare participants rate us:

4.7 out of 5



How often each of the following statements about your experience in Aftercare is true. (n=320)

Always True

I am treated fairly. **86.8%**

My race and cultural heritage are respected. **93.4%**

My gender and gender identity are respected. **95.3%**

My sexual orientation is respected. **94.7%**

My Advocate is someone I can count on and trust. **90.2%**

Source: April 2022 Satisfaction Survey

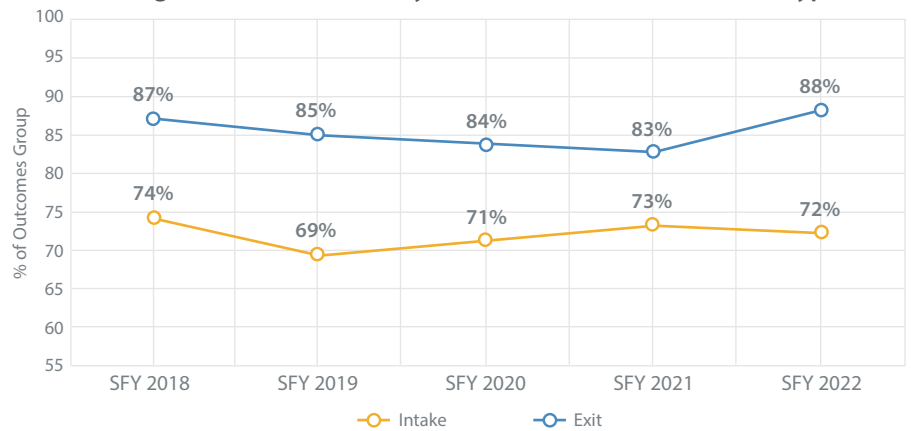
What our data shows

Two of the most consistent outcome areas where Aftercare participants show improvement from intake to exit are Education and Employment.

Education Trends

Many young people complete high school or earn a high school credential while participating in Aftercare. Among this year's outcomes group, 71.5% had earned a high school credential prior to accessing Aftercare. By the time they exited services, 88.1%.

High School Credential by State Fiscal Year and Interview Type



Noteworthy in SFY 2022

Male
91.6% **Education Attainment**
Males had a higher rate of education attainment (high school or more) than females.

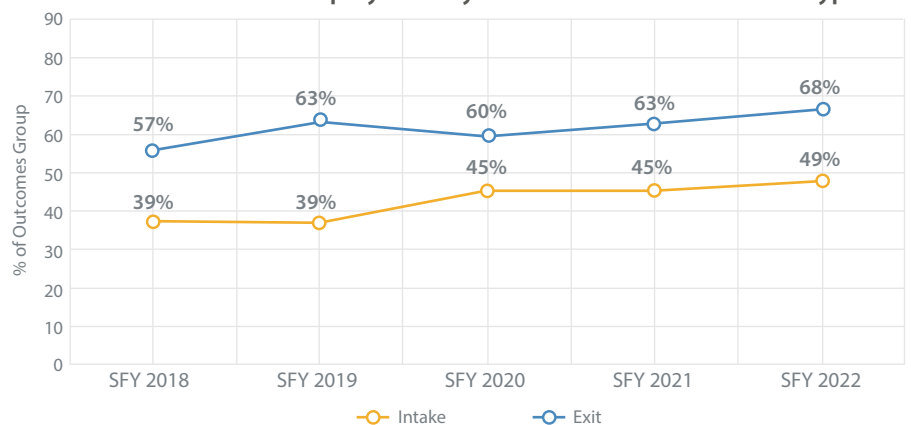
Youth of Color
93.5% **HS Credential**
More Youth of Color had earned a high school credential than White, Non-Hispanic youth.

Source: SFY 2022 Exit Interviews (n = 151)

Employment Trends

The purpose of IASN services is to help participants move toward stability and self-sufficiency as they transition to adulthood. Securing and maintaining employment is important to this goal.

Full or Part-Time Employment by State Fiscal Year & Interview Type



Core Services

587

Total Served

212

New Intakes
(across 55 counties)

353

Served Monthly
(average)

343

PAL Recipients
(received a stipend at least once)

Extended Services

235

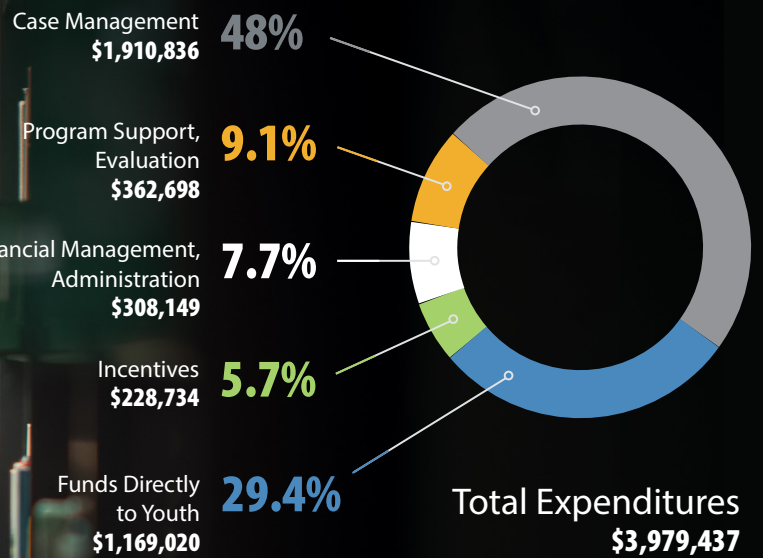
Youth Served
(in 41 counties)

\$440

Supportive Payment
(average per participant)

59.1%

Female



Pandemic Relief Summary

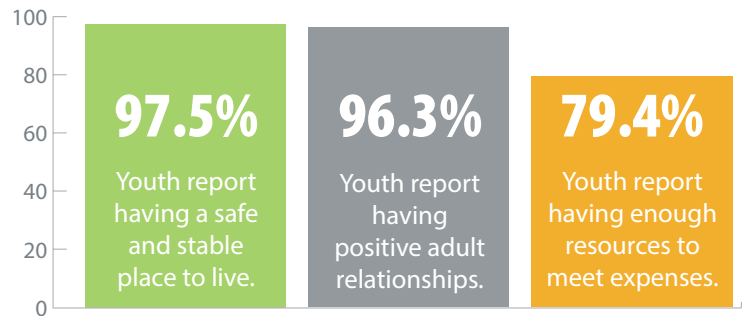
In addition to our annual budget of \$4 million, IASN also managed \$2 million in Pandemic Relief funds.

Many Aftercare participants experienced COVID-related disruptions in employment, education, and other activities during 2020 and 2021. Throughout this period, IASN continued to work with HHS to ensure that young people had the supports needed to recover from the pandemic.

Beginning in May 2021 and continuing to September 2022, the Aftercare Network has distributed approximately \$2.25 million in federal funds from Division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) to more than 1,600 young people who have aged out of foster care, providing much needed assistance to this population.



Key Participant Indicators



IASN Partner Agencies

- YSS (Lead Agency, Ames)
- American Home Finding Association (Ottumwa)
- Children's Square USA (Council Bluffs)
- Ellipsis (Des Moines)
- Family Resources, Inc. (Davenport)
- Foundation 2 (Cedar Rapids)
- Four Oaks (Waterloo)
- Young House Family Services (Burlington)



Policy development, coordination, quality assurance, marketing and evaluation services for the IASN was transferred from Youth Policy Institute of Iowa to the Child Welfare Research and Training Project (CWRTTP) at Iowa State University beginning in July 2022. Visit iowaaftercare.org/ProgramResults to access the full 2022 Annual Outcomes Report or call (515) 294-8224 for more information.



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www.dhs.iowa.gov