



# 572

young people received  
Core and Extended  
Aftercare during SFY 2024.

## The Network

The Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) is a coalition of Iowa's leading experts working with youth aging out of court-ordered placement.\* The youth we serve face many unique challenges as they exit care, often without family or supportive adults to help them. Our services are designed to address both the immediate needs and long-term goals of these young people.

Aftercare services are available to youth ages 17 up to 23 in every county of Iowa. Because we provide statewide coverage, we are able to offer consistent services and continuity of care to those we serve. Meaning, if a youth has to relocate for one

reason or another (and they often do) everything they have been working on in Aftercare can move with them. All youth have the opportunity to pick up where they left off.

Aftercare programs are carefully monitored and evaluated for quality assurance. We rely on rigorous data collection, in addition to staff and participant feedback, to ensure Aftercare programming evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of our participants.

Find our full Annual Reports and Participant Surveys at [iowaaftercare.org](http://iowaaftercare.org).

\*Foster care, kinship/relative care, group care, shelters, and juvenile detention, among others.

### Pre-Aftercare

Youth can start meeting with our Self-Sufficiency Advocates (SSAs) at age 17 while they are still in care. This is the perfect time to explore their options and prepare to be on their own.

### Core Aftercare

Youth apply for Core services when they age out around age 18. Aftercare helps them develop a plan based on their personal goals and provides guidance to keep them on track.

### Extended Aftercare

Aftercare continues to support youth through our Extended services up to age 23 through periodic check-ins and referrals to resources as needed.

Monthly financial support is also available to youth who qualify.

The Network is held accountable to achieve three important performance measures. The results shown are based on our SFY 2024 Participant Survey results.



supportive  
**RELATIONSHIPS**

# 97.9%



stable  
**HOUSING**

# 95.7%



sufficient  
**RESOURCES**

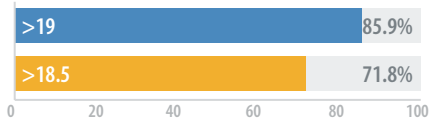
# 78.4%

*"[My advocate] is awesome! She's super respectful and personable. I know I can always count on her!!"*

—Aftercare participant, 2024

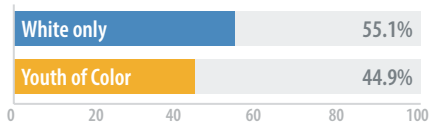
### Age

Most young people access Aftercare within a few months of their 18th birthday. When first accessing Aftercare, 85.9% were under the age of 19, and 71.8% were under 18½.



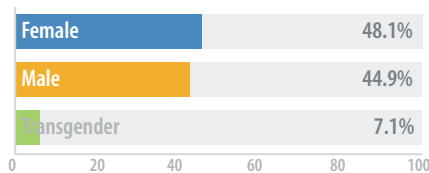
### Race

Participants can identify with multiple races and separately report their ethnicity. This year, 55.1% identified as White Only, Non-Hispanic; and 44.9% identified as Youth of Color (i.e., with one or more other categories).



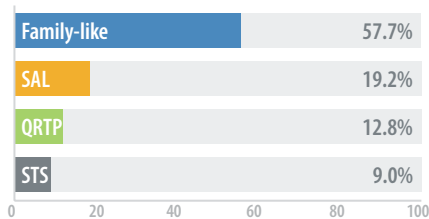
### Gender

In SFY 2024, 48.1% identified as female, 44.9% as male, and 7.1% identified as transgender or other, which is a significant increase from years prior.



### Placement Type

Many youth spend more than two years in care and come from a variety of placement types. Over half (57.7%) came from a family-like setting, 19.2% from SAL, 12.8% from QRTP, and 9.0% from the STS.\*



\*Family foster home [non-relative], Relative, Adoption, Subsidized Guardianship, or Suitable Other placement); QRTP (Qualified Residential Treatment Program) or shelter; SAL (Supervised Apartment Living); STS (State Training School).



**85.3%** of exiting participants report that their Aftercare advocate is someone they can turn to for support.

## Setting youth up for success!

When Jodi entered Aftercare, she established a goal to finish high school. She wanted to set a good example for her son and to teach him the importance of education. As a single mother, she faced many obstacles along the way including limited childcare and transportation. She knew she couldn't do it by herself so she reached out to Aftercare for support.

Jodi's Aftercare Self-Sufficiency Advocate (SSA) helped her stay on track to achieve her goal. Working together, they were able to secure transportation, resources, and tutoring for Jodi, which was exactly what she needed to be successful.

Jodi recently took her last Hi-SET test – she passed!

## Notable improvement upon exit

### Education

Many young people complete high school or earn a high school credential while participating in Aftercare. Some also go on to pursue a post-secondary degree.

*"... [my advocate] didn't give up on me and kept trying to get me to go to college and now I have applied..."*

—Aftercare participant, 2024

	Intake	Exit
Associate degree	0.0%	3.1%
High School Diploma	53.4%	73.6%
High School Equivalency	0.8%	3.1%
None of the Above	45%	18.6%

### Financial Capability

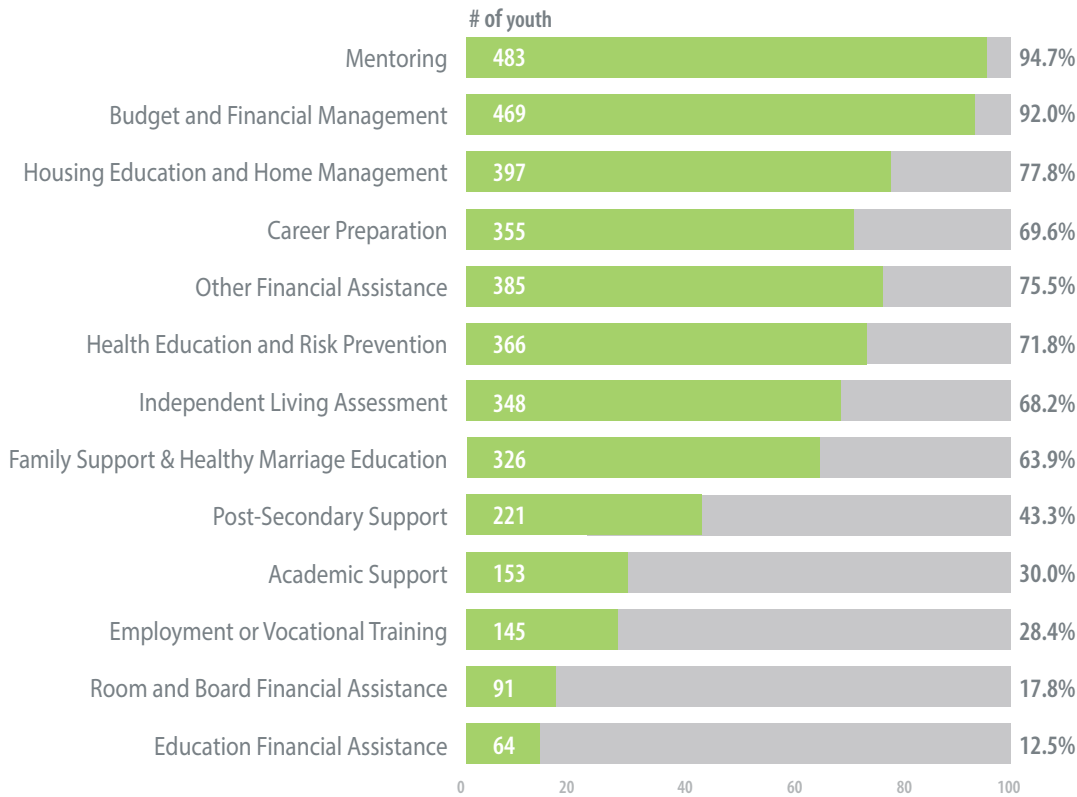
Participants show improvement in financial capability from intake to exit. These are encouraging signs that they are making progress toward longer-term economic stability.

	Intake	Exit
Six months or more of continuous employment	47.3%	65.9%
Have a checking account	64.3%	79.8%
Have money saved for emergencies	31.8%	29.5%
Have received their credit report	8.5%	52.7%
Have their Social Security card	82.3%	90.7%

Aftercare provides services that empower youth to live independently.

**354**

out of 446 Aftercare PLUS participants (79.4%) received a stipend at least once during FY2024



How helpful is Aftercare and financial supports to participants overall?

Aftercare participants rate us:

**4.7 out of 5**



Source: April 2024 Satisfaction Survey

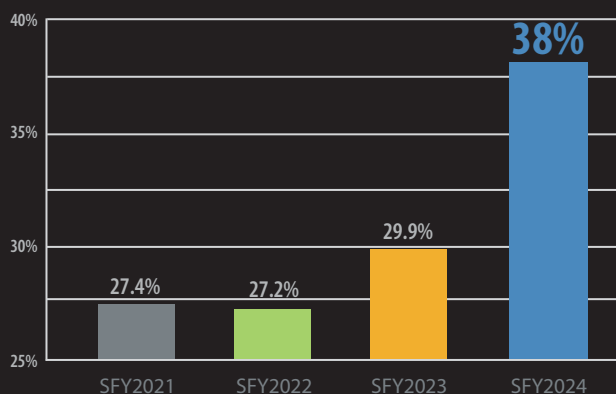
**38%**

of youth exiting indicated they had experienced homelessness since aging out.



**Youth homelessness is on the rise**

Rising housing costs and declining resources have led to more youth experiencing homelessness after aging out. Given that safe, stable housing is foundational to the success of the youth we serve, providing greater housing support to this population is worth further consideration.



**High Risk Behaviors**

When participants first access services, advocates conduct in-person interviews and ask them to self-report their well-being. Their responses demonstrate the need for ongoing support as they strive to become self-sufficient adults, most notably among our female participants.

	All	Female	Male
Ever inflicted self-harm	39.7%	49.3%	24.3%
Ever attempted suicide	38.5%	42.7%	27.1%
Ever a victim of domestic violence	46.8%	54.7%	41.4%
Ever a victim of sexual abuse/exploitation	39.1%	58.7%	14.3%

# Pre-Aftercare

Available to youth prior to exit from care.

Iowa Aftercare is working diligently on the front end – before youth leave care – to help them develop a plan for exit. Self-Sufficiency Advocates (SSAs) can begin meeting with youth at age 17 through Pre-Aftercare services. This is the perfect time to start talking with them about their futures and to help them explore some options before they age out.

Assisting as part of the transition team, Aftercare SSAs participate in youth-driven conversations, encouraging them to discuss their plans for finding a place to live, getting a job or exploring educational opportunities. Involvement prior to discharge help Aftercare SSAs build a relationship with youth and facilitates a connection to ongoing, voluntary Aftercare services.



116 youth took advantage of Pre-Aftercare services in SFY2024.

Policy development, coordination, quality assurance, marketing, and evaluation services are provided on behalf of YSS by the Child Welfare Research and Training Project (CWRTP) at Iowa State University. Visit [iowaaftercare.org/ProgramResults](https://iowaaftercare.org/ProgramResults) to access the full 2024 Annual Outcomes Report or call (515) 294-8224 for more information.

#### Funding provided by:

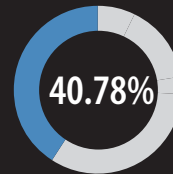
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services  
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/>



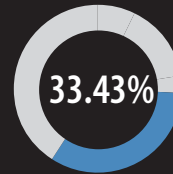
*"I really don't know where I would be if I didn't get the help from Aftercare. They really helped put me on a better path. They helped me with college, affording rent, and more ..."*

—Aftercare participant, 2024

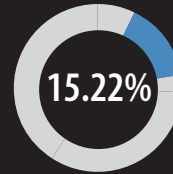
## IASN Expenditures: \$4,326,887.85



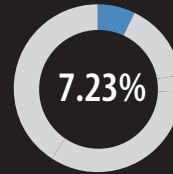
Case Management (includes SAL+)  
**\$1,764,633.87**



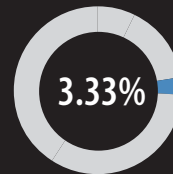
Funds to Youth  
**\$1,446,594.04**



Program Support, Evaluation\*  
**\$658,670.59**



Financial Management/Administration  
**\$312,964.45**



Incentives  
**\$144,024.90**

*\*Includes continuous improvement planning, program innovation and quality assurance.*

## 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)

