
**Office of Children Services
(ocs)**

**ADOLESCENT
SERVICES**

“PROGRAM SERVICE GUIDE”

**SERVICES FOR ADOLESCENTS UNTIL “AGE 21”
INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- ***ADDICTION SERVICES***
- ***AFTERCARE***
- ***BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES***
- ***EDUCATION***
- ***EMPLOYMENT***
- ***HEALTHCARE***
- ***HOUSING***
- ***INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS***
- ***MENTORING***
- ***SCHOOL-BASED YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM***
- ***WRAPAROUND***

**INFORMATION UPDATED:
January 2006**

ADOLESCENTS UNDER SUPERVISION AT THE AGE OF MAJORITY

Persons eighteen years of age and over are considered adults in the State of New Jersey, as specified in N.J.S.A. 9:17B-3. The statute further states that persons over the age of eighteen “shall, in all...matters and for all other purposes, be deemed to be an adult...,” except with respect to the provisions of Chapter 4C of Title 310 of the Revised Statutes. The provisions relate to dependent and neglected children who meet specific criteria.

DIVISION OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES POLICY IIB 403

The Division of Youth and Family Services keeps cases open and provides services to adolescents ages 18-21 in out-of-home placements- -

Adolescents in placement, when they reach the age of majority (age 18), may continue to receive voluntary service from DYFS as long as such is in their best interest, to assist with their transition to adulthood.

Cases on these young adults are closed only if they refuse services or request that their case be closed. Services are provided until they are no longer needed or until the adolescent reaches the age of 21. No case is automatically terminated upon an adolescent’s 18th birthday. The case must be terminated, however,

A) if the adolescent requests termination or

B) no later than the adolescent’s 21st birthday.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS POLICY, PLEASE SEE DYFS POLICY MANUAL
IIB 403.1**

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INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

Independent Living Skills Programs provide adolescents between the ages of 14-21 with training necessary for their successful transition from placement to independence. Adolescents in a paid placement on their 14th birthday are eligible for these services. Contracted private, non-profit agencies around the state provide life skills training, focusing on such areas as employment, money management, communication, decision making, problem solving, housing, and inter-personal relationships. To receive services from a life skills program, a case manager must make a referral to the agency.

***Note: These programs provide life skills training for the adolescent and are not living arrangements.**

LIFE SKILLS AGENCIES

(Burlington County)

Burlington County YAP
Tel: (609) 261-9300

Crossroads Programs, Inc.
Tel: (609) 386-3342

(Bergen County)

Care Plus NJ
(201) 265-8200

(Burlington and Northern Camden Counties)

Just for You Learning Lab
Tel: (609) 267-2002 X35

(Camden County)

Camden County YAP
Tel: (856) 962-6633

(Cumberland and Cape May Counties)

Cumberland and Cape May Counties YAP
Tel: (856) 794-2830

(Essex County)

Multicultural Community Services
Tel: (732) 650-0330

Independence:

A Family of Services
Tel: (973) 372-5601 X302

The Bridge Tel: (973)-589-8827

(Hudson County)

Urban League of Hudson County
Tel: (201) 451-8888

(Hunterdon County)

Catholic Charities
Tel: (908)-782-7905

(Mercer County)

LifeTies, Inc.
Tel: (609)-406-9044

(Middlesex and Monmouth Counties)

Multicultural Community Services Tel: (732)-650-0330

(Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties)

Plaid House, Inc
Tel: (973) 285-1982

(Passaic County)

Paterson YMCA
Tel: (973) 278-8019

(Union County)

Community Access Unlimited
Tel: (908) 354-3040

(Ocean County)

Project Independence
Tel: (732) 367-1352

(Somerset County)

Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children
Tel: (908) 526-4567

Devereux Teaching Family
Tel: (732) 846-9935 x202

AFTERCARE SERVICES

Aftercare programs provide adolescents with services for independent living, such as, obtaining employment, housing and tuition for post-secondary education. These programs also access flexible funds (called wraparound funding) to assist adolescents with transitioning to full independence. Six months prior to DYFS closing a case, the case manager should refer the youth to an aftercare program. The aftercare agency will work with the adolescent while under DYFS care and at least six months after the case is closed.

The following is a list of aftercare programs by county:

AFTERCARE AGENCIES

Atlantic County

Robins Nest, Inc.
Tel: (609) 881-8689

Bergen County

Care Plus NJ
(201) 265-8200

Burlington County

Family Services of Burlington County
Tel (609) 518-2477

Camden County

Family Services of Burlington County
Tel (609) 518-2477

Cape May County

Robins Nest, Inc
Tel: (856) 881-8689

Cumberland County

Robins Nest, Inc
Tel: (856) 881-8689

Essex County

Independence: A Family Of Services
Tel: (973) 372-5601 x302

Gloucester County

Robins Nest, Inc
Tel: (856) 881-8689

Hudson County

Urban League of Hudson County
Tel: (201) 451-8888

Hunterdon County

Catholic Charities
Tel: (908) 782-7905

Mercer County

LifeTies, Inc
Tel: (609)-406-9044

Middlesex and Monmouth Counties

Multicultural Community Services
Tel: (732)-650-0330

Morris County

Catholic Charities
Tel: (908)-454-2074

Ocean County

Project Independence
Tel: (732) 367-1352

Passaic County

Paterson YMCA
Tel: (973) 278-8019

Salem County

Robins Nest, Inc
Tel: (856) 881-8689

Somerset and Warren Counties

Catholic Charities
Tel: (908)-782-7905

Sussex County

Catholic Charities
Tel: (908) 454-2074

Union County

Community Access Unlimited
Tel: (908) 354-3040

NOTE: Adolescents who have left aftercare, and not yet 21, can return to the aftercare agency for a "booster shot." The "booster shot" services provided by the aftercare agency are short-term case management services, information and referral along with wraparound services for these adolescents.

WRAPAROUND

Wraparound is flexible funding available for those adolescents in an independent living skills, aftercare, or transitional/supportive living program. The funds can be used to pay security deposits, up to four months rent, purchase linens, furniture, driving lessons, or other items or services that will help the adolescent obtain independence.

Eligible adolescents are as follows:

- adolescents 16-to their 21st birthday who are in an independent living skills or transitional/supportive living program
- adolescents 18-to their 21st birthday who are in an aftercare program
- adolescents 18-to their 21st birthday, who are no longer an open case, are in an aftercare program, but were in a placement on their 18th birthday
- **NOTE: Only Independent Living Skills, Aftercare, and Transitional/ Supportive Living Programs can make referrals for the wraparound funds.**

“THESE FUNDS ARE NOT AN ENTITLEMENT FOR THE ADOLESCENT”

HEALTHCARE

The Medicaid Extension for Young Adults (MEYA) will provide continued Medicaid coverage for an adolescent that meets all of the following requirements:

- was living in a placement and turned 18 years old on or after October 1, 2000 and
- meets Medicaid eligibility requirements except for income

The coverage is given regardless of income until the adolescent's 21st birthday.

**A toll-free number is also available for further information about MEYA.
1-888-235-4766**

HOUSING

Five Transitional Living Programs (TLP) were created to provide supervised and supportive living services for adolescents between 18-21 years old that were in a placement on their 18th birthday.

The programs are as follows:

- **Catholic Charities "Beacon House" (732) 502-9245**
- **Crossroads Programs, Inc. (609) 267-2002**
- **Multicultural Community Services (732) 650-0330**
- **Paterson Coalition for Housing, Inc. (973) 684-5998**
- **Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children (908) 526-4567**

There are also Transitional Living Programs (TLP) for adolescents 16-21 years old who are homeless. This includes adolescents who are aging out of the child welfare system and do not have anywhere to go.

The programs are as follows:

- **The Anchorage (609) 989-1625**
- **Bergen County Cap (201) 968-0200**
- **Center for Family Services (856) 964-1990**
- **Children's Aid & Family Services (201) 261-2800**
- **Covenant House (973) 621-8705**

"A New Beginning: The Future of Child Welfare Reform in New Jersey," has also afforded DYFS the resources to create new housing opportunities for adolescents aging out of the child welfare system and homeless adolescents.

The following is a list of the new Independent Living/Supportive Housing Programs:

- **Anchor House Inc. (609) 392-6100**
- **Catholic Charities "Beacon House" (732) 502-9245**
- **Care Plus NJ Inc. (201) 265-8200**
- **Center for Family Services (856) 964-1990**
- **Community Access Unlimited (908) 345-3040**
- **Crossroads Programs, Inc. (609) 267-2002**
- **IEP Youth Services Inc. (732) 929-9096**
- **LifeTies (609) 406-9044**
- **Multicultural Community Services (732) 650-0330**
- **New Jersey Community Development Corp. (973) 225-0555**
- **Oceans Harbor House (732)929-9096**
- **Paterson Coalition for Housing, Inc. (973) 684-5998**
- **Robin's Nest Inc. (856) 881-8689**
- **Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children (908) 526-4567**
- **Urban Youth Development Corp. (973) 672-1200**

EDUCATION

*New Jersey continues to make a commitment to provide financial assistance to eligible foster, adoptive, and homeless adolescents seeking a post-secondary education. Through the **New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program (NJFCSP)**, educational funding has been made available to help those adolescents make a successful transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency.*

The Office of Children Services, Division of Youth and Family Services contracts with a private non-profit organization to administer the NJFCSP, which is designed to assist adolescents with the following educational needs:

- **Tuition & Fees**
- **Room & Board**
- **Books & Supplies**
- **Transportation**
- **Special Equipment & Computers**
- **Child Care Costs**

Applicants attending classes full-time at a New Jersey public college or university may receive up to the full cost of their tuition, based on the school's academic standing criteria.

A maximum of \$5,000 per year may be awarded to students who attend part-time, in state or out of state. The same applies to students attending private school, full time or part time.

*For an application, eligibility criteria, and more information about the program, please call the **New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program** at 1-800-222-0047.*

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS TRAINING & ENHANCEMENT

The Educational Access Training and Enhancement Program was created in 2004 as a pilot to assist aging-out adolescents who are interested in pursuing a post-secondary education.

The Office of Children Services, Division of Youth and Family Services contracts with a private non-profit organization to administer the Educational Access Training and Enhancement Program.

The purpose of the program is to provide adolescents aging out of the State's child welfare system with educational access training and to provide their case managers with educational consulting and resources that will assist them to successfully transition their clients from High School to an institution of higher education.

The Educational Access Training and Enhancement Program provides Individual Education/Vocational Assessments, Summer Reading Programs, Resources Web Site, and Adolescent Educational Enhancement Grants.

**More information about the program can be obtained by calling:
(732) 650-0330**

MENTORING

To ensure that adolescents who are aging out of the New Jersey child welfare system have adequate support during the process, several mentoring programs has been created throughout the state.

Current programs include:

- Calvary Baptist Church Tel: (973) 278-4130
- Capital Corridor Community Development Corporation Tel: (609) 392-0034
- Center for Children and Families Tel: (732) 445-0512
- Children's Aid and Family Services Tel: (201) 226-0300
- Hispanic Information Center Tel: (973) 779-7022
- LifeTies Inc. Tel: (609) 394-3337

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS

As a result of the new principles and commitments outlined in the state reform plan, "**A New Beginning: The Future in Child Welfare in New Jersey**," The Office of Children Services, Division of Youth & Family Services (DYFS) is developing Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) throughout the state. Currently there are four YAB's, and at this time, DYFS is in the process of developing a more localized approach to the YAB's, which will coincide with the locations of our new area offices.

The YAB's are established primarily to provide input and feedback to OCS regarding New Jersey's plan to provide services for adolescents aging out of DYFS and homeless adolescents. Additionally, the YAB's provide an opportunity to promote positive youth development, youth empowerment, and youth advocacy in a variety of ways.

The goal of the YAB is to assist adolescents by providing them with opportunities to acquire and enhance the skills necessary to become empowered and more successful in youth advocacy. Adolescents participating in the YAB's will acquire the skills and abilities that will be of value to them as they continue to transition to independence and self sufficiency.

All adolescents should be encouraged to participate.

If you would like more information about the YAB's or if you have an adolescent that would like to participate in one, please call **(609) 984-2928**.

ADDICTION SERVICES

“A New Beginning: The Future of Child Welfare Reform in New Jersey,” has afforded the Division of Addiction Services (DAS) the opportunity to create services for adolescents in the State of New Jersey child welfare system. These services were created so that adolescents with addiction problems could be managed with dignity and respect, in a safe environment that is recovery oriented.

The following is a list of programs for adolescents with addictions:

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

- Bonnie Brae Tel: (908) 647-0800
- Daytop Tel: (973) 543-5656

OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS

- Catholic Charities/Trenton Tel: (609) 396-4557
- Cope Center Tel: (973) 783-6655
- Counseling and Referral of Ocean Tel: (732) 244-1600
- Family Connections Tel: (973) 675-3817
- Genesis Counseling Center, Inc. Tel: (856) 858-9314
- My Father’s House Tel: (856) 742-0900
- Newark Renaissance House Tel: (973) 623-3386

DIVISION OF CHILD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) serves children/adolescents with emotional and behavioral disturbances and their families across child-serving systems. DCBHS **is not** a child welfare, mental health, Medicaid, or juvenile justice initiative. It is a partnership of all of these systems and more, offering a wider array of services. **Some partners in the new system are as follows:**

- **ValueOptions** is the Contracted System Administrator (CSA) for DCBHS. Anyone can refer a child/ adolescent using this one point of entry.
- **Case Management Organization (CMO):** are county based non-profit organizations that are responsible for face to face care management and service planning for children/adolescents and their families with intense complex needs.
- **Family Support Organizations (FSO):** are non-profit organizations run by families and children with emotional and behavioral problems. They provide peer support, education, advocacy, and system feedback to families.
- **Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS):** provides service to children and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 17 (or 18-21 if the adolescent is actively involved with Child Welfare, Child Behavioral Health or Juvenile Justice at the time of their 18th birthday). MRSS provides to children/adolescents who exhibit emotional or behavior challenges that may jeopardize their current living arrangement.
- **Youth Case Management (YCM):** offers face-to-face services for moderately rich children/adolescents who don't meet the intensive care requirement for of the CMO.

For more information on DCBHS, please call (877) 652-7624 or for the hearing impaired (866) 896-6975 TDD. Information can also be obtained online @ www.nikidsoc.org or browse the New Jersey State website @

SCHOOL-BASED YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM

The New Jersey School Based Youth Program Services (SBYSP) helps High School and Junior High School students combat violence, abuse, and other adolescent problems. The goal of SBYSP is to offer adolescents skills for employment or continuing education. The program is available at number of schools, at least one in every county.

Services include: individual and family counseling; substance abuse and employment counseling; primary and preventative healthcare; pregnancy prevention programs; learning supports; such as, after school tutoring and computer literacy classes for adolescents and their families; and after school recreation programs. Families can also be linked to community-based services.

For more information about SBYSP can be obtained by calling (609) 984-5632

The following is a list of schools which offer the SBYSP:

Atlantic County

Atlantic City HS
Buena Regional HS
Cleary Middle School
Pleasantville HS
Uptown School Complex
Dr. MLK School
Hammonton Family Center
Pleasantville Family Center
Egg Harbor Townsp Family

Bergen County

Hackensack HS
Teaneck HS

Burlington County

Burlington HS
Pemberton HS

Camden County

Camden City HS
East Camden MS
Hatch MS
Morgan Village MS
Pyne Poynt MS
Veterans Memorial MS
Woodrow Wilson HS

Cape May County

Lower Cape May Reg HS

Cumberland County

Bridgeton Broad St. School
Bridgton HS
Downe Twsp Elementary
Cumberland Regional HS
Millville HS
Vineland HS South

Essex County

Barringer HS
Columbia HS
Essex Cty Tech Career Ctr
Irvington HS
Orange HS
Orange MS

Gloucester County

Clayton Jr/Sr HS
Gloucester Cty Inst. of Tech

Hudson County

Bayonne HS
Emerson HS (Union City)
Harrison HS
Hoboken HS
Snyder HS
Kearny HS

Hunterdon County

Hunterdon Central HS

Mercer County

Trenton Central HS

Middlesex County

Highland Park High/
Middle School
New Brunswick HS
Roosevelt Elementary
Perth Amboy HS
South Brunswick HS

Monmouth County

Asbury Park HS
Keansburg HS
Long Branch HS
Red Bank Regional HS

Morris County

Dover HS

Ocean County

Brick Memorial HS
Veterans Memorial MS
Lakewood HS
Pinelands Regional HS
Pinelands Junior HS

Passaic County

East Side HS
Kennedy HS
Manchester HS
Passaic HS
Passaic County Vo-Tech

Salem County

Salem City HS
Salem Cty Voc Tech HS

Somerset County

Somerset Cty Voc Tech HS

Sussex County

Sussex Cty Tech School

Union County

Elizabeth HS
(William S. Halsey House)
Elizabeth HS
(Thomas Jefferson HS)
Plainfield HS

Warren County

Warren Hills Regional HS
Warren Hills Regional MS

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE SERVICES WITHIN THIS PROGRAM SERVICE GUIDE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE AGENCY PROVIDING THE SERVICE.

ALL OTHER QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE ADOLESCENT SERVICES UNIT VIA EMAIL.

THE EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

ocsadolescentservsunit@dhs.state.nj.us

THIS EMAIL IS CHECKED FREQUENTLY AND ALL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS WILL BE ADDRESSED WITHIN 24 HOURS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION.

OFFICE OF CHILDREN SERVICES
DIVISION OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
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