



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES
CHILD WELFARE POLICY**

Chapter 11: Older Youth Services

Effective Date: June 1, 2016

Section 9: Voluntary Services Host Home

Version: 2

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) may assist an older youth whose Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) case has been dismissed after the age of 18 with making living arrangements through voluntary services host home arrangements (see definition in Practice Guidance).

For youth participating in Collaborative Care (CC), refer to policy [11.25 Collaborative Care Host Home](#).

Code References

[42 USC 677 John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) or Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM) will:

1. Ensure that each youth who has his or her 18th birthday while in foster care is given the option of locating a possible voluntary services host home, if desired by the youth, when his or her case is dismissed. This includes youth placed in a relative home through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC);
2. Determine if a voluntary services host home agreement would be appropriate and in the youth's best interest in the following situations when his or her case is dismissed:
 - a. The youth's current resource parent and the youth mutually agree for him or her to remain in the foster home as a renter,
 - b. The youth's relatives, other than his or her legal or biological parents, and the youth mutually agree for him or her to become a renter in their home, or
 - c. The youth has an appropriate adult (e.g., a neighbor, coach, fellow church member, etc.) in his or her life in which the adult and the youth mutually agree for him or her to become a renter in the home; and
3. Refer eligible youth requesting a voluntary services host home arrangement to the Older Youth Services (OYS) service provider for room and board (R&B) service (see [OYS Service Standards](#) for details).

The OYS service provider will assist the relative, resource parent, or other appropriate adult in developing a reasonable, mutually agreed upon [Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#) between the voluntary services host home and the youth.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Definition of a Voluntary Services Host Home

A voluntary services host home living arrangement is one where a youth rents a room in a family or single adult's home (related or unrelated), shares basic facilities and utilities, and agrees to basic rules, but the youth is not under the supervision of the adults in the home. Voluntary services host homes are a possible solution in rural areas where apartment buildings are scarce and house rentals may be cost prohibitive. Voluntary services host homes are similar to resource homes, except the host is not necessarily a licensed resource parent and does not usually have to go through the process of having the home licensed. Voluntary services host home arrangements are not appropriate for peer roommates, biological parents, or adoptive parents. Voluntary services host home living arrangements provide an opportunity for a youth to develop skills prior to becoming independent and living on his or her own.

A voluntary services host home may include, but are not limited to: a former resource parent, teacher, coach, relative, or church member with whom the youth has a positive relationship. In this environment, the youth is able to come and go as he or she chooses and is expected to manage his or her time, money, school, work, and appointments without oversight from the voluntary services host home. The youth is expected to follow the rules of the home as with any other rental agreement.

Determining the Appropriate Rent for a Voluntary Services Host Home

The youth and the host should mutually decide upon an amount of financial compensation the host will receive while the youth is living in the home, subject to approval of DCS. Factors to consider when determining financial compensation for a voluntary services host home should include:

1. The duration of time the youth will live in the home;
2. The employment status of the youth;
3. The financial status of the youth;
4. The educational and vocational goals of the youth; and
5. The health and behavioral needs of the youth.

Voluntary Services Host Homes When Receiving Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Assistance

Youth may access funding for a voluntary services host home through the ETV program while attending college or trade/vocational programs. The [Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#) may be developed between the youth and the voluntary services host home with the assistance of the OYS service provider prior to receiving ETV funding or may be developed with the assistance of the youth's FCM or 3CM. The signed [Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#) must be provided to the ETV program in order for the voluntary host home to receive financial compensation from this program.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [11.B Tool: Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#)
2. [OYS Service Standards](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

Room and Board (R&B) Payments

R&B payments will only be made through a contracted service provider who is providing OYS case management services to the youth.

An alternative payment arrangement including length of stay and rental amount will be negotiated under the [Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#). This agreement is subject to approval of DCS. Requests to adjust the [Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#) must be approved by an IL Specialist or 3CM Supervisor.

Housing Assistance

Youth may not access housing assistance from both the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program) R&B funds and the ETV at the same time. Those attending school full-time or part-time must access assistance for housing through the ETV Program at www.indianaetv.org.

Expectation of the Older Youth and the Voluntary Services Host Home Adult

Expectations of the voluntary services host home arrangement will be discussed and agreed upon in the Child and Family Team Meeting held prior to the youth's transition. The following topics, which are included in the [Voluntary Services Host Home Agreement](#), shall be discussed:

1. Physical description of living space;
2. Refraining from discriminating against the youth based on race, religion, national origin, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual or gender identity, or sexual orientation;
3. Expectations, roles, and responsibilities of the youth and voluntary services host home adult, as well as, consequences for the youth; and
4. Per diem and payments.