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The Oklahoma Successful Adulthood Program is a youth-focused, youth-driven program that emphasizes the importance of early planning for a successful transition to adulthood. Participants are youth in foster care who are at various ages and stages of achieving independence.

**OKSA’s focus is to:**
- Promote the importance of permanent connections
- Encourage the use of a multidisciplinary approach for working with youth
- Develop culturally relevant and age-appropriate resources and services
- Make use of collaborations and community partners to assist youth with skills needed for health, housing, education, employment, essential documents, life skills and permanent connections
- Ensure the successful transition of youth from custody to self-sufficiency and successful adult living

**OKSA Mission:** to empower youth to help themselves lead safer, healthier, more independent and productive lives.
The goal of OKSA is to fulfill the purposes of the following state and federal laws.

**The Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Act**
This federal law was enacted to assist young people in out-of-home care with the skills needed for self-sufficiency and successful adult living. Administered locally by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, this act focuses on education, job and career planning, and support services for youth who left care at age 18. This act also requires that services complement the youths’ own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency as they transition from out-of-home care to adulthood.

**The Oklahoma Successful Adulthood Act**
This state law was enacted to support the federal Chafee Act to provide services to foster youth beginning at age 14.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Youth are eligible to participate in the OKSA program under the following criteria.

**Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Act**
- Youth ages 14-17 years of age who are in DHS or tribal legal custody and in out-of-home placement
- Young adults ages 18, 19 and 20 years of age who were in DHS or tribal custody in out-of-home placement on their 18th birthday
- Youth who entered a permanent guardianship with kin or adoption after 16 years of age and who have not yet reached their 21st birthday*.
- Youth 21 and 22 years of age who on their 21st birthday were participating in the Education and Training Voucher Program

*Additional criteria – only youth who exit custody from an out-of-home placement on or after their 18th birthday are eligible for housing funds.

**Oklahoma Successful Adulthood Act**
Includes the following, which are in addition to the federal Chafee Act:
- Tuition waivers: Youth must have been in DHS or tribal custody in an out-of-home placement any nine months between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age
- Medicaid (SoonerCare) for 18-26 years of age: Youth must have been in DHS or tribal custody in out-of-home care on their 18th birthday to apply
Child Welfare staff, along with the youth, assess the youths’ life skills needs around the 7 Key Elements for Success and develop a Successful Adulthood plan to meet those needs and support the plan. They will then develop a 90-day transition plan with Successful Adulthood services and other identified state agency and community supports, which is submitted to the court 90 days prior to the youth’s 18th birthday. Guidelines are available to explain the process. It is important to plan around the 7 Key Elements of Success, which include health, housing, employment, education, essential documents, life skills and permanent connections. If youth have information, knowledge and practice in these seven areas, they are more likely to be successful as they transition into adulthood.
Services are initiated and overseen by the DHS or tribal child welfare worker (DHS staff refer to Policy OAC 340:75-6-110).

**Seminars, events and teen conferences** are offered so youth will have opportunities to learn about and practice the 7 Key Elements for Success.

**Education opportunities** are available through state and federal programs as well as private trusts, nonprofit groups and community-supported organizations.

**Tutoring** is available for educational improvement or GED readiness.

**Tuition waivers** are available for post-secondary vocational/technical programs and undergraduate tuition at institutions of Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

* These services are available for youth beginning at 16 years of age only. Additional criteria apply. Refer to OKSA eligibility criteria.

**Education and training vouchers** provide funding to support post-secondary education.

* These services are available for youth beginning at 16 years of age only. Additional criteria apply. Refer to OKSA eligibility criteria.

**Youth development funds** are available to support the youth’s OKSA plan. These services are contingent on funding availability and eligibility criteria of the youth. Cost limits also apply.

**Youth 14 to 18 years of age:**

- Education-related
- Work-related
- Essential documents
Young adults 18 to 21:
• Transportation needs
• Household needs
• Education-related

• Work-related
• Essential documents

Housing funds for young adults 18 to 21 years of age:*  
• Rent deposits and payments
• Utility deposits and payments
• Room and board payment (includes rent, utilities, food)
*Youth must have exited out-of-home placement at 18 or after to request these funds. Additional guidelines also apply.

One-time-only funds for youth 14 to 21 years of age:  
• Driver’s education classes
• High school expenses

Youth advocacy opportunities provide youth with a chance to enhance their strengths and character through interactions with community and state collaborative organizations.

Aftercare services are provided through the Yes I Can! alumni network. Yes I Can! assists eligible youth who are 18-21 and no longer in DHS or tribal custody. Support can be financial assistance or resource and case management provision. These services can be accessed by calling (toll-free) 800-397-2945.
Access to OKSA Services is initiated through the DHS or tribal child welfare worker (DHS or tribal).

Youth who have exited custody on or after age 18 and who have not turned 21 will access services by calling the Yes I Can! alumni network at 800-397-2945.

The University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services is a contractor for and partner with the Oklahoma Successful Adulthood Program. NRCYS provides training, technical assistance and resources at no cost to the recipients. NRCYS is the single point of contact for all service requests and provides the toll-free number for former DHS and tribal custody youth.

Services provided by NRCYS include:

- Providing Successful Adulthood specialists who assist DHS and tribal child welfare
- Providing technical assistance and consultation to professionals serving OKSA program youth; technical assistance may be provided by phone, email, written materials or face to face
- Facilitating seminars, events and teen conferences so youth will have opportunities to learn about and practice the 7 Key Elements for Success
- Staffing the Yes I Can! alumni network
- Maintaining the OKSA website, which is a user-friendly resource for youth and adults that provides information regarding the Successful Adulthood program process, the 7 Key Elements for Success, upcoming events and training, and youth-relevant information
- Processing and documenting youth development funds

All services listed in this brochure are contingent on available funding.
CONTACT INFORMATION

http://twitter.com/OKSAYesICan

http://www.facebook.com/OklahomaSuccessfulAdulthood

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Text Alerts: Text OKSA to 96362

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405-521-3777
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University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services
800-397-2945
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