

The Network

A total of 535 young people received Core Aftercare services during SFY 2023, with an average of 346 served per month.

Successfully navigating the transition to adulthood can be challenging for all young people, but it is even more overwhelming for those without the consistent support of a stable family and social network – even small setbacks can completely derail the most capable of these vulnerable young people. The **Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN)** provides services to youth throughout Iowa who have aged out of foster care or other court-ordered out-of-home placement.

Aftercare services help youth make connections to community resources and develop the knowledge and skills that will enable them to live on their own. **Core Aftercare** is available to youth between 18 - 21 years of age, and **Extended Aftercare** provides services up to age 23. The **Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)** component provides monthly financial support to qualifying youth who are working and/or pursuing education or training.



How helpful are Aftercare services and PAL to participants overall?

Aftercare participants rate us:

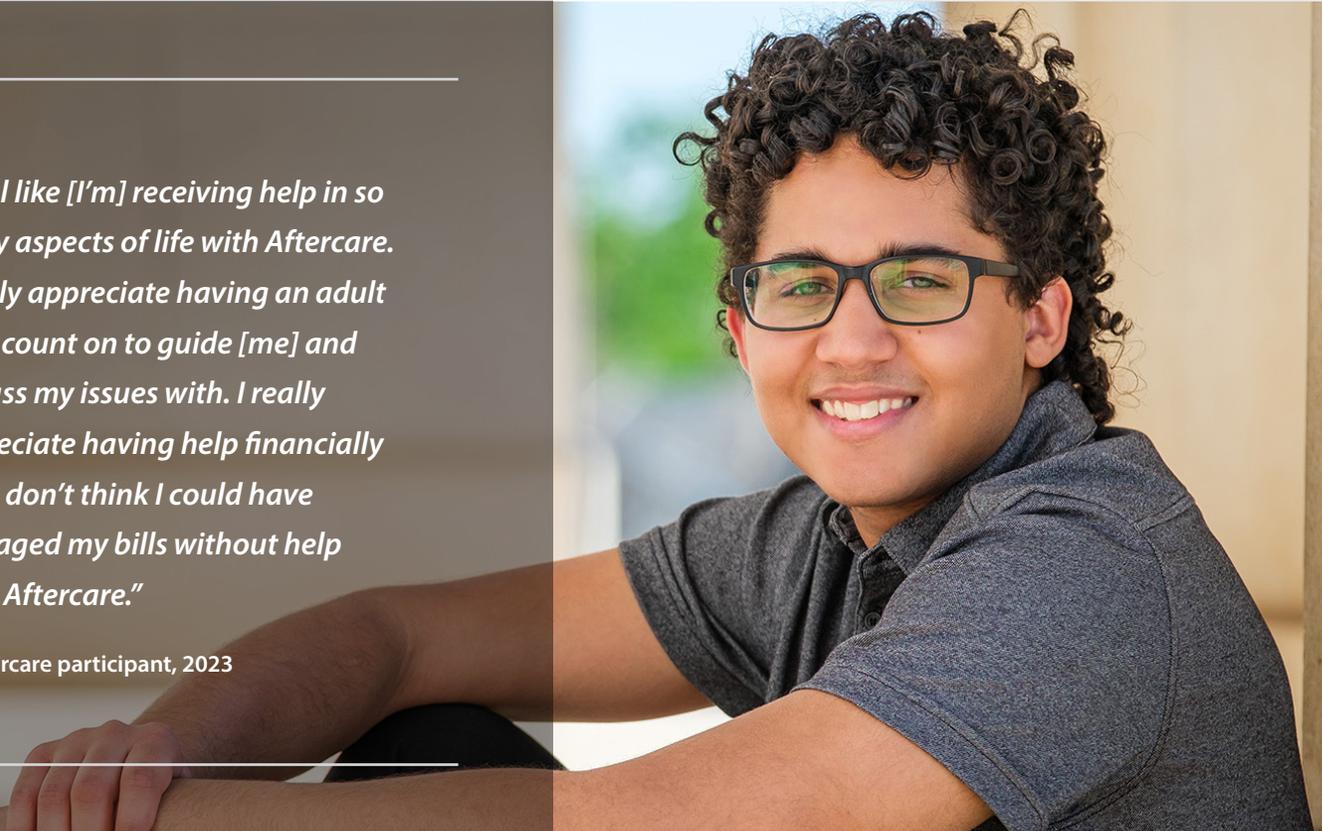
4.7 out of 5



Source: April 2023 Satisfaction Survey

"I feel like [I'm] receiving help in so many aspects of life with Aftercare. I really appreciate having an adult I can count on to guide [me] and discuss my issues with. I really appreciate having help financially and I don't think I could have managed my bills without help from Aftercare."

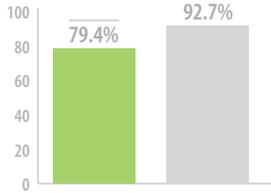
—Aftercare participant, 2023



Noteworthy characteristics of our participants

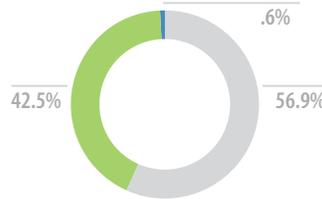
Age

Over three in four (79.4%) new intakes were under 18½ when first accessing Aftercare, and 92.7% were under the age of 19.



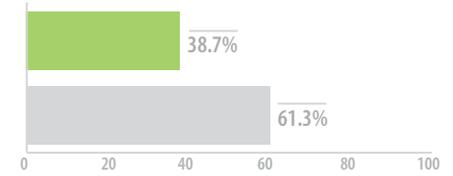
Gender

Of new intakes in SFY 2023, 56.9% identified as male and 42.5% as female, 0.6% identified as transgender or other.



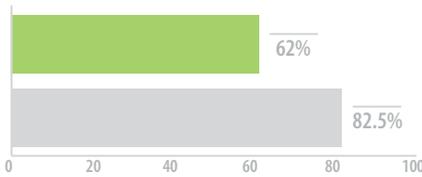
Race

For exiting youth, 61.3% identified as White Only, and 38.7% did not identify as White Only (Youth Of Color).



Education

Among this year's outcomes group, 62% had earned a high school credential prior to accessing Aftercare, and 82.5% at exit.



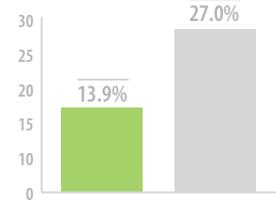
Placement

Over fifty percent of youth reported spending two or more years in foster care, and 57% reported three or more placements.

57%

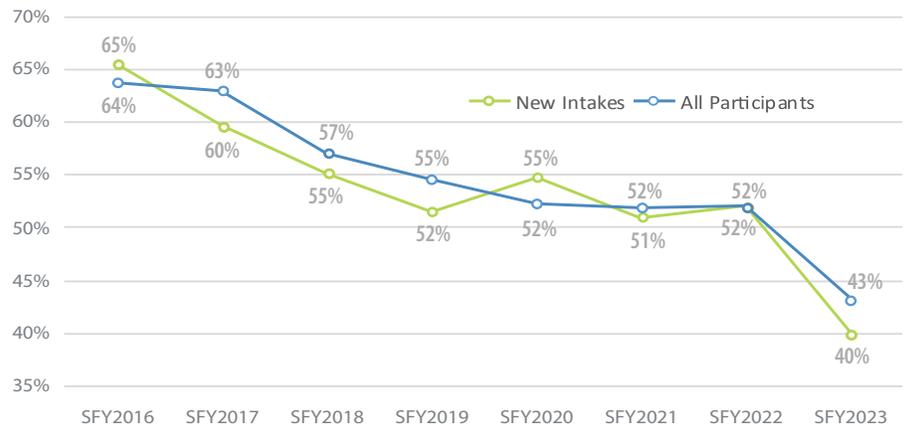
Housing

The number of youth living on their own with sole responsibility for housing costs, increased from 13.9% at intake to 27% at exit.



Serious Emotional Disorders

Young people in foster care and other out-of-home placements are frequently diagnosed with Serious Emotional Disorders (SED). While still prevalent, the proportion of youth entering Aftercare with a SED has declined from just over three-fifths (65%) of all youth in Aftercare to two-fifths (40%).



"While the emerging adults who participate in Aftercare will continue to face challenges as they make their own way, the support they receive while in Aftercare positions them for a more successful future."

—Joanie Havel, IASN Coordinator

Core Aftercare

535

young people served

165

young people accessed Aftercare for the first time (53 counties)

34

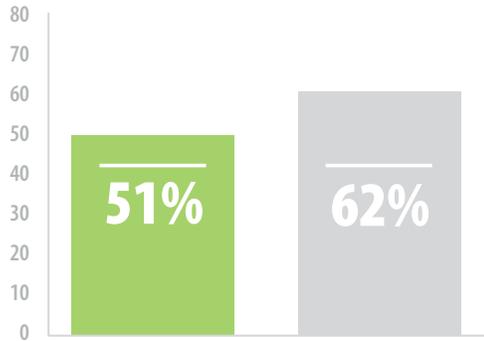
young people month on

Indicators of financial empowerment



Employment

IASN participants showed improvement in employment outcomes from intake (51%) to 62% at exit.



Income

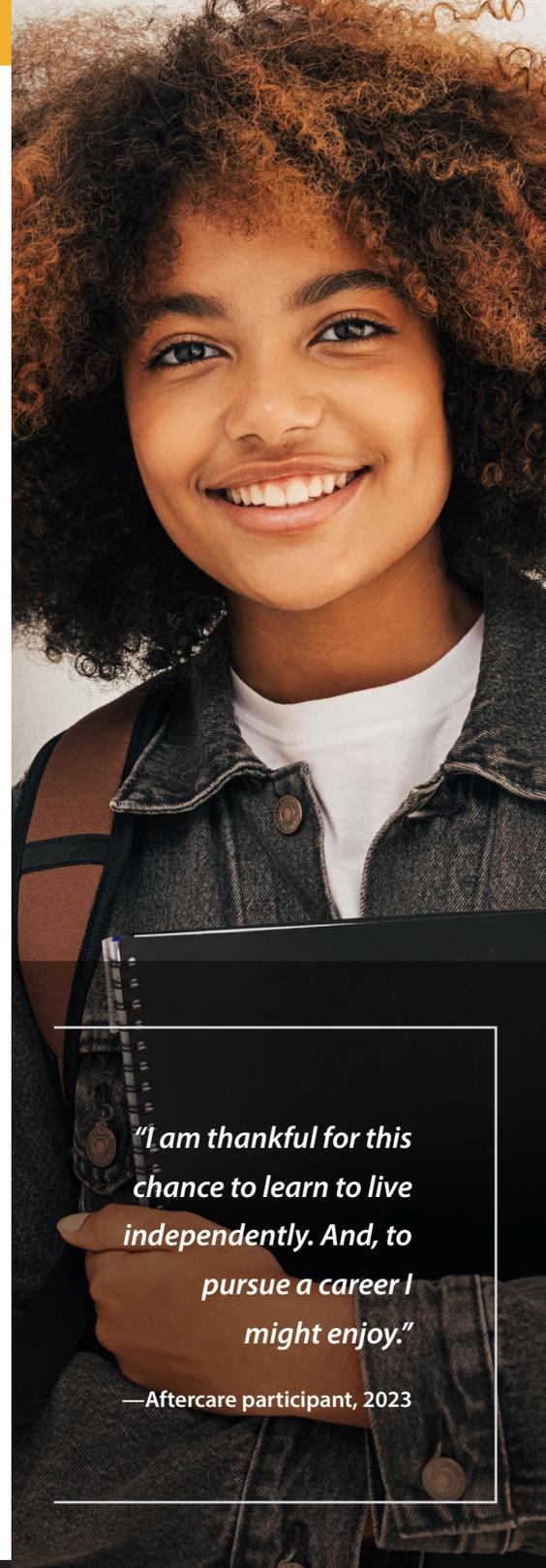
IASN participants continue to rebound from setbacks during the pandemic. Almost six times as many exiting participants earned \$800 or more per month at exit (41.6%) than at initial intake (7.3%).

	Initial	Exit
\$0	50.4%	35.8%
51-399	11.0%	3.7%
\$400-799	26.3%	17.5%
\$800-1,199	7.3%	7.3%
\$12,00+	5.1%	34.3%

Financial Capability

Of youth exiting services, participants greatly improved their financial capability in multiple domains.

	Initial	Exit
Six months or more of continuous employment	46.7%	57.7%
Have a checking account	56.2%	83.9%
Have money saved for emergencies	40.2%	46.0%
Have received their credit report	7.3%	43.1%
Have their Social Security card	86.1%	89.8%



"I am thankful for this chance to learn to live independently. And, to pursue a career I might enjoy."

—Aftercare participant, 2023

Extended Aftercare

46

served per average

375

participants received a PAL stipend at least once

201

youth served (in 50 counties)

\$236

average supportive payment per participant

60.7%

female

Pre-Aftercare

IASN has modified our Pre-Aftercare services to reach more youth who need our help.

Beginning October 1, 2022, the Network, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), implemented a formalized Pre-Aftercare referral process for both HHS and Juvenile Court Services (JCS). The intent is to inform more youth about Aftercare services prior to exiting care and to ensure advocates are meeting with youth more regularly. Using the new process for Pre-Aftercare referrals, the Network received 190 referrals from October 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

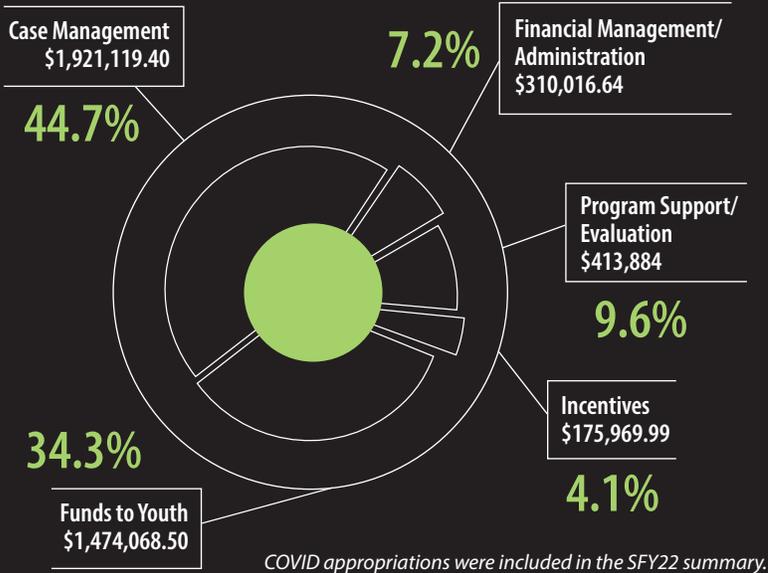
Pre-Aftercare is available on an individual basis prior to exiting care (beginning at age 17) for youth who plan to utilize Aftercare services upon discharge. This ensures a smooth transition and coordination of services.

Key Indicators

The Aftercare Network monitors and is held accountable to achieving three important performance measures. The results shown below are based on a Participant Survey of 328 Aftercare participants conducted in April 2023, one method used by IASN to monitor outcomes.



IASN Expenditures: \$4,295,059



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



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)