

Child Welfare Research and Training Project

Iowa Aftercare Services Network

Purpose: To ensure that youth have the support they need to successfully transition from foster care to adulthood.

ISU supports the [Iowa Aftercare Services Network \(IASN\)](#) through an agreement with [YSS](#) to provide overall coordination, quality assurance, data collection and evaluation, promotion, and technical assistance to the Network. IASN implements statewide Aftercare services, including the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) financial component, as funded by the [Iowa Department of Human Services](#). Services and support offered through the IASN are voluntary and designed to help youth leaving court-ordered placements at or near the age of 18 transition successfully to adulthood. Using a strength-based approach, Aftercare helps youth: meet basic needs; set and attain goals; make connections to community resources; and develop the knowledge and skills needed to live on their own.

Network Coordination

- Develop and monitor implementation of policies and practices.
- Oversee, facilitate, and update referral processes.
- Monitor and reevaluate services standards, assessment instruments, individual plan development, reporting, forms and tools, and other program materials.
- Maintain communication and facilitate information sharing with DHS, YSS and Network partners.
- Cooperate with foster care and youth development initiatives across the state to improve and increase services.

Quality Assurance and Training

- Develop and implement quality assurance activities that include database monitoring, reviewing agency progress reports, random case file audits, and site visits.
- Provide case consultation and guidance in accordance with program rules.
- Identify training and technical needs of the Network.
- Monitor processes related to providing financial assistance (PAL, vendor payments, etc.) review monthly billings, and assist YSS in development of incentive plan.

Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis, and Reporting

- Maintain a secure, online Management Information System to collect and evaluate data, track characteristics of youth, and measure program outcomes.
- Provide user support and make updates and corrections as needed to maintain data integrity.
- Generate database reports, conduct data analysis, and provide written semi-annual progress reports and annual outcomes reports to DHS.
- Provide for monthly data exporting, formatting, and file transfers to DHS to meet federal reporting requirements for the National Youth in Transition Database

Communications and Marketing

- Develop and maintain custom marketing and brand strategies for IASN throughout Iowa, ensuring communications are consistent with programming and brand positioning.
- Produce program and informational materials, including fact sheets, reports, internal forms, manuals, and outreach materials to promote the IASN.
- Maintain IASN website, manage social media, and create video and electronic communications relevant to programming.
- Conduct presentations about Aftercare, PAL and transitioning youth issues at relevant conferences, trainings, and events.
- Assist YSS with preparation and distribution of periodic media releases and help coordinate responses to media inquiries.

