

Invest in and redesign Chafee to ensure youth in foster care are plugged in to supportive relationships and services

Make healing and family connections a priority for Chafee eligible youth

Increase investment in Chafee by at least \$100/m year to address resource needs of state and local agencies so they can better serve more eligible young people

Give state the flexibility to serve youth and young adults up to age 26, similar to Medicaid and ETV eligibility

Update the array of services and incentivize agencies to offer community-based services that youth most need:

- peer-delivered services
- transportation
- concrete supports, including financial assistance
- help brokering housing, mental health, parenting and workforce support

Improve the effectiveness by increasing involvement of youth in continuous program improvement, including methods of obtaining youth feedback

Incentivize agencies to develop outreach policies to ensure more youth are aware of services available to them

THE CASE FOR REFORM

- Permanency rates for teens and young adults are declining.
- One in four teens who are in foster care age out on their own, usually at age 18, without ever being connected to family in a permanent way. As young adults, they often experience homelessness, joblessness, mental health challenges and poverty.
- Chafee services are not reaching large numbers of eligible youth; more than half of youth ages 14-21 never received a Chafee-funded service during their time in care.