

## Chafee Independent Living Spending Analysis May 18, 2020

Independent Living Programs (ILPs) administer the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood resources to help young people from foster care navigate the challenges of transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Chafee Independent Living (IL) and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds are highly flexible and can be used to meet many of the immediate needs of young people, including supplemental support for housing, food, as well as educational and vocation support.

*The Independent Living Program (ILP) is a federally funded program designed to assist eligible youth in making successful transitions from foster care to independent living. Independent Living Coordinators in the States are responsible for assisting youth in foster care with accessing services geared toward achieving self-sufficiency prior to exiting foster care. The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program was originally created in 2001 with the passage of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001. The purpose of the ETV Program is to provide financial assistance for postsecondary training and education to youth who have aged out of foster care or who have left foster care after age 16 through kinship, guardianship, or adoption.<sup>1</sup>*

Chafee funds have long been thought to be underfunded, however, these resources are especially critical now as youth are losing housing, facing unemployment or layoffs, struggling to pay for basic needs, and trying to navigate this crisis without strong connections to parents or other adults who can provide them with guidance.

Each year, approximately 186,000 youth between ages of 14 and 23 are estimated eligible for Chafee funds, however, estimates suggest just 60 percent receive assistance. Those that receive help are provided about \$1,300 in services and financial assistance per youth. See Table 1 for state by state analysis of the number of youth who were served by Chafee and approximately how much of the state's overall Chafee Independent Living funds would have gone to support the child (including cash and admin/services). For example, in Pennsylvania in 2018, there were 5,063 youth served by Chafee Independent Living Services, and Pennsylvania's allotment was roughly \$4.7 million for approximately \$933 spent per youth including cash and admin/services).

In addition, the Chafee ETV program provides \$42.4 million in education and training vouchers to young people who have aged out of foster care to help them get postsecondary training and education. If each youth served received the maximum award benefit of \$5,000, a conservative estimate suggests the ETV program would serve approximately 8,500 youth of the potentially 100,000 youth between the ages of 18 and 22 who would be eligible (or 8 percent). See Table 2 for a state by state comparison. For example, California receives \$5.3 million in ETV funds (in 2018). If each youth received the max award in California, the state could provide ETVs to roughly 1,065 youth out of the approximately 11,000 youth who would be eligible.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunction=action=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS\\_ID=145&rList=RCL](https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunction=action=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS_ID=145&rList=RCL)

<sup>2</sup> Note, some states reduce the award (for example, Oregon provides a maximum ETV award of \$2,500 per youth). If this held true as an average across all states, approximately 17,000 youth would receive awards.

**Table 1 - Estimated State Spending on Chafee Independent Living Services (FFY 2018)**

State	Chafee IL \$*	Youth Served by Chafee Independent Living**	Avg \$ spent per youth***
Alabama	\$1,483,155	1,241	\$1,195
Alaska	827,725	332	\$2,493
Arizona	5,024,470	1,095	\$4,589
Arkansas	1,432,376	1,307	\$1,096
California	16,051,126	19,464	\$825
Colorado	1,682,748	1,814	\$928
Connecticut	1,209,007	1,093	\$1,106
Delaware	500,000	374	\$1,337
District of Columbia	1,091,992	266	\$4,105
Florida	6,988,703	3,515	\$1,988
Georgia	3,634,067	4,147	\$876
Hawaii	500,000	606	\$825
Idaho	500,000	520	\$962
Illinois	4,729,483	240	\$19,706
Indiana	5,822,550	3,225	\$1,805
Iowa	1,762,293	2,590	\$680
Kansas	2,132,779	2,400	\$889
Kentucky	2,292,976	3,422	\$670
Louisiana	1,358,131	2,135	\$636
Maine	565,888	350	\$1,617
Maryland	1,238,095	1,733	\$714
Massachusetts	3,202,593	4,394	\$729
Michigan	4,171,796	3,164	\$1,319
Minnesota	2,580,919	3,743	\$690
Mississippi	1,610,248	1,173	\$1,373
Missouri	3,641,992	3,683	\$989
Montana	987,986	337	\$2,932

State	Chafee IL \$*	Youth Served by Chafee Independent Living**	Avg \$ spent per youth***
Nebraska	1,165,707	1,312	\$888
Nevada	1,247,752	813	\$1,535
New Hampshire	500,000	402	\$1,244
New Jersey	2,297,848	1,279	\$1,797
New Mexico	766,086	443	\$1,729
New York	11,585,958	6,932	\$1,671
North Carolina	3,059,943	604	\$5,066
North Dakota	500,000	462	\$1,082
Ohio	4,028,558	2,736	\$1,472
Oklahoma	2,954,863	1,475	\$2,003
Oregon	2,191,535	1,846	\$1,187
Pennsylvania	4,721,558	5,063	\$933
Rhode Island	500,000	568	\$880
South Carolina	1,164,685	2,451	\$475
South Dakota	500,000	416	\$1,202
Tennessee	2,445,899	1,130	\$2,165
Texas	9,022,209	5,847	\$1,543
Utah	831,835	1,206	\$690
Vermont	500,000	515	\$971
Virginia	1,435,312	1,242	\$1,156
Washington	3,200,278	2,140	\$1,495
West Virginia	1,753,192	713	\$2,459
Wisconsin	2,166,763	2,361	\$918
Wyoming	500,000	781	\$640
Puerto Rico	1,251,568	742	\$1,687
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$137,814,647</b>	<b>111,842</b>	<b>\$1,238~</b>

\* Source: <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RI34499.html>

\*\* [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/nytd\\_data\\_points\\_final\\_services\\_2016\\_2018.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/nytd_data_points_final_services_2016_2018.pdf)

\*\*\*This may include cash assistance, administration and/or services.

~Weighted average, note this amount includes cash, services and administrative costs.

**Table 2 - Estimated # Served with Max Chafee ETV Award Allotments (FFY2018)**

State	ETV \$ Allocation*	Estimated # served if each received maximum award (\$5000)	Estimated # of ILP youth over age 18 eligible for ETV**
Alabama	\$491,924	98	687
Alaska	274,535	55	178
Arizona	1,666,487	333	521
Arkansas	475,082	95	760
California	5,323,742	1,065	11,494
Colorado	558,124	112	1,056
Connecticut	400,997	80	621
Delaware	75,935	15	226
District of Columbia	80,413	16	164
Florida	2,317,972	464	2,242
Georgia	1,205,326	241	2,216
Hawaii	156,251	31	341
Idaho	147,782	30	272
Illinois	1,568,647	314	159
Indiana	1,961,998	392	1,828
Iowa	584,507	117	1,506
Kansas	707,388	141	1,234
Kentucky	760,521	152	1,803
Louisiana	454,830	91	955
Maine	178,837	36	195
Maryland	373,932	75	948
Massachusetts	1,062,217	212	2,877
Michigan	1,208,785	242	1,801
Minnesota	856,024	171	1,289
Mississippi	534,078	107	714
Missouri	1,207,955	242	1,783
Montana	327,690	66	206

State	ETV \$ Allocation*	Estimated # served if each received maximum award (\$5000)	Estimated # of ILP youth over age 18 eligible for ETV***
Nebraska	497,033	99	707
Nevada	413,847	83	460
New Hampshire	118,771	24	246
New Jersey	635,033	127	716
New Mexico	254,091	51	244
New York	1,918,144	384	4,030
North Carolina	1,014,904	203	401
North Dakota	136,976	27	252
Ohio	1,336,168	267	1,589
Oklahoma	980,051	196	788
Oregon	726,876	145	1,035
Pennsylvania	1,566,018	313	2,857
Rhode Island	176,426	35	379
South Carolina	386,296	77	1,286
South Dakota	137,852	28	220
Tennessee	811,242	162	604
Texas	2,992,433	598	2,921
Utah	275,898	55	708
Vermont	128,798	26	278
Virginia	476,056	95	776
Washington	804,710	161	1,178
West Virginia	581,489	116	433
Wisconsin	718,659	144	1,319
Wyoming	96,671	19	159
Puerto Rico	415,113	83	377
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,442,844</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>62,038</b>

\* Source: <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL34499.html>

\*\*The number of youth eligible for Chafee ETV was estimated by essentially subtracting the total numbers over the age of 14 (who received Chafee Independent Living Services) and subtracting out the estimated number of youth between ages 14 and 17). In other words, we took 55.5% of the number of youth who received IL services for each state in 2018. The 55.5% number reflects 5/9<sup>th</sup> the total, or by taking the number of youth in each of these ages, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (5 as the numerator) over the total age range eligible for Chafee represented in Table 1 (14-22) (9 as the denominator). We understand that some states do not allow a young person to receive ILS and ETV, so this is a proxy, best guess estimate.

