**Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative**

**Service Eligibility**

The Connected Youth Initiative has generally defined the target population as:

*Unconnected youth are defined as young adults ages 14 -24 who find themselves disconnected from a positive life course because they:*

*–    are currently or have been in the Nebraska foster care system,*

*–    have had contact with child protective services,*

*–    have had juvenile justice system involvement (including diversion or young adults transitioning out of Probation),*

*–    have experienced homelessness or near-homelessness, and*

*–    are lacking the services and supports they need to make successful transitions to adulthood*

Service Eligibility Examples

Please note that in all instances the youth qualifies as an unconnected youth. That is that they do not have services and supports in their daily life.

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|  | **Central Navigation** | **Coaching Services** | **Flex Funds** | **Youth Leadership** | **Opportunity Passport** | **Needs Based Funds** |
| **DHHS Services** | | | | | | |
| * Youth who are 14-18 years old and are living in foster care |  |  |  | x | x | x |
| * Youth who are 14-18 years old who are in the custody of DHHS and living out of the home but are not in foster care. |  |  |  | X | X |  |
| * Youth who are in Bridges to Independence | X | \*\*\* |  | x | x | x |
| * Youth under 21 who are receiving independent living services (PALS) | X | \*\*\* |  | x | x | x |
| * Youth who were in foster care and are 21 -24 years old and are receiving independent living services (PALS) | X | \*\*\* | x | x | x | x |
| * Youth 14-18 who have a dissolved guardianship | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| * Alumni of the child welfare system who were not in foster care(including youth from the Office of Juvenile Services) | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| * Youth 14-24 who had a state supported adoption that dissolved after the age of 18 (guardianship but no adoption) | X | x | x | x | x | x |
| * Youth have been identified by DHHS as a cross over youth in Nebraska | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| * Youth who have ever received in home CPS services and who are living independently or are homeless | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| **Probation Services** | | | | | | |
| * Youth between 14 and 18 years that have been adjudicated as a juvenile offender and committed to the Office of Juvenile services due to a status offenses of truancy/ misdemeanors and are risk of being considered homeless and are within 6 months of case closure | x | x | x | x | x |  |
| **Homeless or Near Homeless** | | | | | | |
| * Homeless or near homeless youth (couch surfing) 18-21 who do not have family supports and are at risk of developing, and have a disproportionate share of, serious health, behavioral, and emotional problems because they lack sufficient resources to obtain care and may live on the street for extended periods thereby endangering themselves and for whom it is not safe to live with a parent and who has no other safe living alternative | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| * Young people who identify themselves as LGBT who are experiencing family breakup and are homeless or near homeless with no safe place to live | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| * Young people who are victims of sex trafficking and are in recovery (received counseling and /or treatment services) and require financial supports to stabilize living circumstances and community connections**.** | X | \*\*\* | X |  | X |  |
| **Youth Who Are Parents** | | | | | | |
| * Youth who meet any of the above criteria and have children – with or without partners. | X | x | X | X | X | X |

**KEY:**

**CN**=Central Navigation

**COACH**= One to one developmental supports from an agency or from within the CYI system.

**FF**=Flex Funds available through the CYI system for the seven areas of services. Allocated by the Central Navigator

**YL**=Youth Leadership (Youth Leadership Curriculum, Youth in Leadership, Activity Programming and Service Learning)

**OPP**=Opportunity Passport

**NBF**= Needs Based Funds. Up to $500 per calendar year for youth who are, or have been, in foster care.

\*\*\*=Coaching services are provided through the noted entity (B2I, PALS, or Human/Sex Trafficking organization).

**Youth who are not eligible for Connected Youth Services:**

* Youth 14-24 who are living with parents- even if the family is homeless
* REFER to Continuum of Care resources or Community Response
* Any youth who require, but are not receiving therapy and /or stabilization services in order to be able to live independently such as youth who have been victims of human /sex trafficking. As noted above if the youth is receiving therapy/stabilization and requires basic financial supports to establish independent living then Flex Funds may be accessed.
* Runaway Youth who is less than 19 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian.
* REFER to Youth Shelters and programs funded for runaway and homeless youth
* Opportunity Youth: In 2012 The White House Council for Community Solutions first used the descriptor “opportunity youth” referring to youth ages sixteen to twenty-four who are not in school or working. The belief is that Opportunity Youth have energy, aspirations, optimism, resiliency and untapped talent, even though they are disengaged from both education and employment. These may be youth who are living full time or on an occasional basis with parents, including those situations of parent-adolescent conflict. SIF funds cannot be used to serve this population. However, communities who are concerned about this population may choose to expand local Community Response efforts by identifying additional funding resources to support these youth.