

# GET GOAL'D



**It's not a game. It's your life.**



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## **Your Mission:**

Locate and use a team of allies to achieve your goals for education, career, relationships, health, home, and family. Get GOAL'D and get what you want out of life!

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Illinois Department of  
**DCFS**  
Children & Family Services

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## **Your Allies:**

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For help accomplishing your goals, get in touch with your allies, listed below, or contact your caseworker.

For more information, call 312-814-5959 (Chicago), 847-888-7637 (Elgin), or 217-557-2689 (Springfield).

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This resource is brought to you by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Child Well-Being.

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## **GOAL 1: Get A Good Education**

### **01 Youth In College / Vocational Training**

**What can you get?** \$511/mo. + book money

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 16–20, accredited post secondary program taking 12 credits (fall and spring) or 6 (summer) or in an approved internship

**Other requirements:** C average, apply for financial aid annually

**Contact:** 312-814-5959, 708-338-6657, 217-557-2689

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### **02 Community College Tuition Payment Program**

**What can you get?** For up to 4 semesters, money for in-district tuition and books not covered by financial aid

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth

**Other requirements:** C average, apply for financial aid

**Contact:** 309-671-7969, 217-557-2689

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### **03 Education and Training Vouchers**

**What can you get?** Up to \$5000 / yr. for educational / vocational expenses not covered by financial aid

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 16–22; adoption assistance and subsidized guardianship at 16+; emancipated youth under 22

**Other requirements:** Attend accredited college or vocational training

**Contact:** 309-671-7969, 217-557-2689

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### **04 Youth In Scholarship**

**What can you get?** Free tuition at state universities and community colleges + \$511/mo. + medical card (up to 23) + books

**Who is eligible?** Youth 16–20 who have been in DCFS care taking 12 credits (fall and spring) or 6 (summer)

**Other requirements:** Maintain C average; applicants compete for a limited number of scholarships

**Contact:** 312-814-5959, 217-557-2689

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### **05 Alternative Schools Network, Youth Scholars, Skill and Service Program**

**What can you get?** High School Diploma, GED and mentoring

**Who is eligible?** Chicago DCFS youth ineligible for public school

**Contact:** 773-728-4030

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**06 Project STRIVE**

**What can you get?** Help staying in school and making transitions to high school and college

**Who is eligible?** For youth who have achieved permanency via adoption or subsidized guardianship, an exception request is required. Operates in Chicago public schools and surrounding suburbs.

**Contact:** Youth Guidance: 312-404-3193 or Metropolitan Family Services: 773-371-3632

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**07 GEAR UP**

**What can you get?** Help getting ready for college

**Who is eligible?** Youth grades 7–12 in low-income families

**Contact:** 312-733-7330

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**08 TRIO Programs**

**What can you get?** Tutoring, counseling, financial aid, and information to help you succeed in school and in college

**Who is eligible?** Youth grades 6–12 or in college who are from disadvantaged backgrounds

**Contact:** [esp.niu.edu/ilaeopp/TRIOprograms.htm](http://esp.niu.edu/ilaeopp/TRIOprograms.htm)

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**09 Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation**

**What can you get?** Legal support for you, your family, and / or your caseworker when dealing with special education

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 3–21

**Contact:** For the contact in your area, visit [lollaf.org](http://lollaf.org)

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**10 Illinois Student Assistance Commission**

**What can you get?** Info on getting money for college

**Who is eligible?** Everyone—start researching financial aid during your first year of high school

**Contact:** [collegezone.com](http://collegezone.com), 800-899-ISAC (4722)

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**11 Education Advisors**

**What can you get?** Someone to help and represent you at school

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth

**Contact:** 815-753-5562

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**12 Care Package Program**

**What can you get?** Care packages delivered to you once a semester

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth in college

**Contact:** 630-801-3446

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**13 UCAN Mentoring Program**

**What can you get?** Help with educational accomplishment and employment success

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth with open cases who are 12-20 years old and reside in Cook county

**Contact:** 773-290-5888

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## GOAL 2: Be Money-Smart and Job-Savvy

### 14 Employment Incentive Program

**What can you get?** \$150/mo. (+ work earnings)

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 17–20, high school grad/GED, completed Life Skills Training

**Other requirements:** Work 20+ hours per week or be in a job skills training program

**Contact:** 312-814-5959, 217-557-2689

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### 15 Find Your Future Internship Program

**What can you get?** Placement in a paid summer internship

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth attending college, Adopted and Subsidized Guardianship youth who are placed in Youth in Scholarship program and Emancipate youth who are placed in Youth in College program

**Other requirements:** Maintain C average; applicants compete for a limited number of internships

**Contact:** 773-792-4027

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### 16 Added Chance

**What can you get?** One-on-one coaching, classes, and resources to help you find, prepare for, and keep a job

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 16–20 in Cook County

**Contact:** 773-342-4243

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### 17 My Time

**What can you get?** Career Readiness Training, Subsidized Employment, Mentoring and Competitive Employment

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 17–20 in Cook County

**Contact:** 773-360-5113

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### 18 Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

**What can you get?** Agencies and Workforce centers to help you plan for career and job search, In-School and Out-of-School programs

**Who is eligible?** Youth and adults, 16-21 years in Chicago and Cook County

**Contact:** [www.workforceboard.org](http://www.workforceboard.org), 312-603-0200

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### 19 Youthbuild

**What can you get?** Stipend, GED, job training, scholarships, and leadership and computer training

**Who is eligible?** People 16–24 nationwide who do not have a high school diploma or GED

**Other requirements:** Work building or rehabbing homes while earning GED

**Contact:** [youthbuild.org](http://youthbuild.org)

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### 20 Job Corps

**What can you get?** Stipend, GED, and training in 14 fields

**Who is eligible?** Youth 17–24 with no diploma or GED

**Contact:** 800-733-JOBS

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**21 WASSuP: Work-Attitude-School-Study Program**

**What can you get?** GED or help succeeding in high school, tutoring, on-the-job training, career development, job placement,

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 16–20 in Springfield

**Contact:** 217-789-0830 x1104 Springfield Urban League

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**22 GAP: Girl's Awakening Power**

**What can you get?** Tutoring, computer lab, and help exploring careers, making contacts, and feeling good about yourself

**Who is eligible?** DCFS girls 9–16 in Springfield

**Contact:** 217-789-0830 x1104 Springfield Urban League

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**23 Community Assistance Programs**

**What can you get?** Jobs (some with subsidies) and job readiness classes

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 16–20 in Cook Co. not in school

**Contact:** 773-468-1993, CAPSinc.org

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**24 Workforce Investment Act**

**What can you get?** Customized job training, building job and life skills, GED, diploma

**Who is eligible?** All Illinois youth 14–21

**Contact:** [illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Workforce\\_Development/](http://illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Workforce_Development/)

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**25 IllinoisworkNet™ Centers**

**What can you get?** GED, diploma, connections to job openings, career planning, training, and work support services in your community

**Who is eligible?** Illinois youth 14–21

**Contact:** [illinoisworknet.com](http://illinoisworknet.com)

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**26 Centers for Independent Living**

**What can you get?** Job training, placement, and resources; advocacy; building independent living skills; peer counseling and support groups; deaf / hard-of-hearing services; referrals; help with housing, transportation, and transitions

**Who is eligible?** Anyone with a disability; centers are located in counties across Illinois

**Contact:** [incil.org](http://incil.org)

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**27 Illinois Tech Prep**

**What can you get?** Career planning and funded education / training for a high-demand, high-skill job

**Who is eligible?** Illinois youth. Start program in 9th–11th grade and continue through college / training.

**Contact:** [iccb.org/techprep](http://iccb.org/techprep)

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## **GOAL 3: If You're On Your Own, Have A Safe, Stable Home**

### **28 Youth Housing Assistance Program**

**What can you get?** (1) Help finding affordable housing, food and clothing; help budgeting (2) Cash for security deposit, beds, utilities, appliances, etc.

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth ages 17.5–20, including closed cases. Call for income and other requirements.

**Contact:** 312-814-5571

## **GOAL 4: Manage Your Life Responsibly**

### **29 Casey Life Skills Assessment**

**What can you get?** You and your caseworker or caregiver fill this out on-line to assess what resources and opportunities are right for you (see Life Skill Classes)

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth

**Contact:** caseylifeskills.org and your caseworker

### **30 Life Skills Classes**

**What can you get?** Help strengthening the skills you need to be on your own

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth

**Other requirements:** Do Casey Assessment (above)

**Contact:** 773-429-9379 (Cook County), 630-801-3446 (Northern Region), 618-993-7149 (Central and Southern Region)

### **31 Closed File Information and Search Service**

**What can you get?** Information from your DCFS file and help connecting with siblings, parents, or other birth relatives

**Who is eligible?** Former DCFS wards 18+ years old

**Contact:** Midwest Adoption Center, mac@macadopt.org, 847-298-9096

## **GOAL 5: Be Healthy**

### **32 DCFS/ DHFS Medical Card**

**What can you get?** Free medical and dental exams, shots, prescriptions, hospital care, etc.

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth and their children, former foster youth up to age 26

**Contact:** 800-228-6533 (in IL) or 217-785-2553 (in other states)

### **33 HealthWorks**

**What can you get?** Help finding a doctor, getting medical records, using medical cards

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth and their children 0–5

**Contact:** 800-543-4345 (Cook Co.), 217-557-2689

## GOAL 6: If You Have Kids, Keep Them Healthy & Safe

### 34 Teen Parent Support (TPSN)

**What can you get?** Pregnant and parenting services for youth in care who are pregnant and or parenting teen moms and dads

**Who is eligible?** Any ward who resides in the state of Illinois and who meets eligibility requirements from DCFS

**Contact:** 773-588-0180 (Cook and the collar counties),  
217-524-2425 (downstate)

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### 35 Teen Parent Support

**What can you get?** Placement options and services to help with pregnancy and parenting

**Who is eligible?** Pregnant and parenting DCFS youth

**Contact:** 312-814-5959, 630-801-3446 (Northern region),  
217-557-2689 (Central region), 618-773-7149 (Southern region)

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## GOAL 7: Make Your Voice Heard In Court, And Use The Legal System Wisely

### 36 Your Attorney / GAL

**What can you get?** Help making sure your voice is heard in court and information on your child protection case

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth

**Contact:** If your case is in Cook Co., call 312-433-4300. Outside Cook, call your caseworker to get your attorney / GAL's number.

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### 37 First Defense Legal Aid

**What can you get?** Free help from a lawyer 24/7

**Who is eligible?** People detained in a Chicago Police Station who cannot afford a lawyer

**Contact:** 1-800-LAW-REP4

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### 38 Law Offices of the Cook County Public Defender

**What can you get?** Free court-appointed lawyer

**Who is eligible?** People in Chicago with little money who face criminal, child protection or paternity charges

**Contact:** 312-603-0700

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### 39 Safer Foundation / Youth Empowerment Program

**What can you get?** GED education, job placement, support and life coaching

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 16–21 in Chicago with criminal record

**Other requirements:** Stable living situation and drug-free

**Contact:** 312-575-3270

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### 40 Redeploy Illinois

**What can you get?** Community-based services and supports as an alternative to incarceration

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth 13–17 in St. Clair, Macon, Peoria and 2nd Circuit counties who have been adjudicated

**Contact:** 217-557-2943

## GOAL 8: Socialize, Develop Your Interests, Have Fun!

### 41 Youth Advisory Boards

**What can you get?** A say in how the DCFS system works

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth

**Contact:** 312-588-3842 or 217-789-2980 (downstate)

This resource is brought to you by the Illinois DCFS

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### 42 Education Support Initiative

**What can you get?** Improved academic performance and improved educational involvement

**Who is eligible?** DCFS youth ages 6 to 19 (K-12) who reside in the North Lawndale, South Shore and Grand Boulevard/Bronzeville communities

**Contact:** 773-268-3815 x33

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**312.814.6800**

[www.DCFS.Illinois.gov](http://www.DCFS.Illinois.gov)

