GET GOAL’D

It’s not a game. It’s your life.

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!
Your Allies:

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) or 217-557-2689 (Springfield).

This resource is brought to you by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Education and Transition Services (OETS).

GOAL 1: Get A Good Education

01 Youth In College / Vocational Training
What can you get? $511/mo. + book money
Who is eligible? Youth in care ages 16–20, attending an accredited post-secondary program at full time status
Other requirements: Maintain C average, apply for financial aid annually
Contact: 708-338-6657, 217-557-2689

02 Community College Payment Program
What can you get? Money for in-district tuition and books not covered by financial aid
Who is eligible? Youth in care when classes begin
Other requirements: Maintain C average, apply for financial aid annually
Contact: 309-671-7969, 217-557-2689

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? Youth in care, youth who age out of care at age 18 or older, or youth who were adopted or went to guardianship at age 16 or older
Other requirements: Attend accredited college or vocational training program, apply for financial aid annually
Contact: 309-671-7969, 217-557-2689

04 Youth In Scholarship
What can you get? Free tuition at state universities and community colleges + $511/mo. + medical card (up to 25) + books
Who is eligible? Youth in care, youth who aged out of care at 18 or older, youth who were adopted or went to guardianship at age 16 or older
Other requirements: Maintain C average and attend school full time; applicants compete for a limited number of scholarships
Contact: 312-814-5959, 217-557-2689

05 Alternative Schools Network, Youth Scholars, Skill and Service Program
What can you get? High School Diploma, GED and mentoring
Who is eligible? Youth in care, who reside in Chicago and are in need of re-enrollment in an alternative high school
Contact: 773-728-4030
06 **Project STRIVE**

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

*Who is eligible?* Youth in care in grades 7-12. Operates in Chicago public schools and surrounding suburbs.

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

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

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:* www.esp.niu.edu/laeopp/TRIOprograms.htm

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?* Youth and children in care ages 3–20

*Contact:* For the contact in your area, visit www.lollaf.org or call 877-342-7891

10 **Illinois Student Assistance Commission**

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

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

*Contact:* www.isac.org, 800-899-ISAC (4722)

11 **Education Advisors**

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

*Who is eligible?* Youth and children in care; Caregivers


12 **UCAN Mentoring Program**

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

*Who is eligible?* Youth in care ages 12-20 and reside in Cook county

*Contact:* 773-293-9803

13 **Love Unity & Value Institute Employment Program**

*What can you get?* Career readiness training, subsidized work internship, job search and mentoring program

*Who is eligible?* Youth in care ages 16-20 and reside in Cook County

*Contact:* 773-624-5200
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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? Youth in care ages 16–20 who reside in or near Springfield
Contact: 217-789-0830 x1104, Springfield Urban League

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? Girls in care ages 9–16 who reside in or near Springfield
Contact: 217-789-0830 x1104, Springfield Urban League

23 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
What can you get? Customized job training, building job and life skills, GED, diploma
Who is eligible? All Illinois youth ages 14–21
Contact: https://www.illinoisworknet.com/wioa

24 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 ages 14–21
Contact: www.illinoisworknet.com

25 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: www.incil.org

26 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: www.iccb.org/techprep
GOAL 3: If You’re On Your Own, Have A Safe, Stable Home

27 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? Youth in care, and youth in closed cases, ages 17.5–20, Youth who went to adoption or guardianship at age 14 or older. Call for income and other requirements.
Contact: 312-328-2159

GOAL 4: Manage Your Life Responsibly

28 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? Youth in care
Contact: www.caseylifeskills.org and your caseworker

29 Life Skills Classes
What can you get? Help strengthening the skills you need to be on your own
Who is eligible? Youth in ages 14-20
Other requirements: Complete the Casey Life Skills Assessment
Contact: 773-429-9379 (Cook County), 630-801-3446 (Northern Region), 618-993-7149 (Central and Southern Region)

30 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 Youth in care ages 18 and older
Contact: Midwest Adoption Center, mac@macadopt.org, 847-298-9096

31 DCFS Advocacy Office
What can you get? Assistance from an advocate for any Department issues or concerns
Who is eligible? Youth in care
Contact: 800-232-3798

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? 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? 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 Service Network (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?* Youth in care

*Contact:* 773-290-5840

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35 **Pregnant and Parenting Services**

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

*Who is eligible?* Pregnant and parenting youth in care

*Contact:* 312-814-5991 (Cook County), 630-801-3446 (Northern region), 217-557-2689 (Central region), 618-773-7149 (Southern region)

**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?* Youth in care

*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?* Youth in care ages 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?* Youth in care ages 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? Youth in care
Contact: 800-805-2505, ext. 4

42 Education Support Initiative
What can you get? Improved academic performance and improved educational involvement
Who is eligible? Youth in care ages 6 to 19 (K-12) who reside in the North Lawndale, South Shore and Grand Boulevard/Bronzeville communities
Contact: Chicago Youth Centers, 773-268-3815 x33