

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!

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

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/ilaeopp/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

Contact: NIU Center for Child Welfare and Education, 815-753-5562, <http://ccwe.niu.edu/ccwe/>

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

GOAL 2: Be Money-Smart and Job-Savvy

14 Employment Incentive Program

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

Who is eligible? Youth in care ages 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

15 Find Your Future Internship Program

What can you get? Placement in a paid summer internship

Who is eligible? Youth in care attending college; Youth participating in the DCFS Scholarship program or Youth in College/Vocational Training Program

Other requirements: Maintain C average; participants apply for a limited number of internships

Contact: Kaleidoscope, 773-792-4027

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? Youth in care ages 16–20 who reside in Cook County

Contact: Alternative Schools Network, 773-342-4243

17 My Time

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

Who is eligible? Youth in care ages 17–20 who reside in Cook County

Contact: Lawrence Hall, 773-360-5113

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 ages 16-21 in Chicago and Cook County

Contact: www.workforceboard.org, 312-603-0200

19 Youthbuild

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

Who is eligible? Youth and adults ages 16–24 nationwide who do not have a high school diploma or GED

Other requirements: Work building or rehabbing homes while earning GED

Contact: www.youthbuild.org

20 Job Corps

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

Who is eligible? Youth and adults ages 17–24 with no diploma or GED

Contact: 800-733-JOBS

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 care 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

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.

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

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

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

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

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

312.814.6800
www.DCFS.Illinois.gov

