



Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Director

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor
Iowa State Capitol

Governor Reynolds:

Enclosed please find the annual Department of Human Services' Independent Living Services program report. This report was prepared for you and the Iowa General Assembly pursuant to the Code of Iowa section 234.35, sub-section 4.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

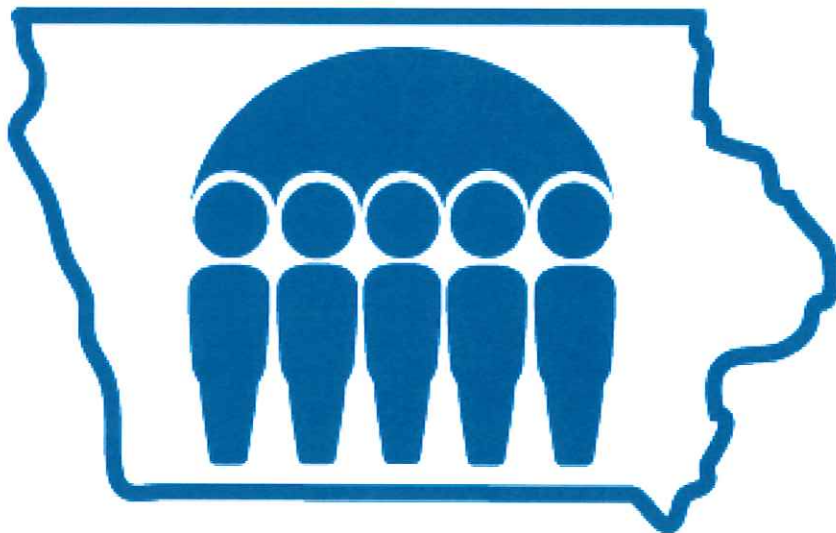
Sincerely,

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Director

JRF/jc

Enclosure

Iowa Department of Human Services



Independent Living Services Annual Report

December 2017

Table of Contents

Page No.

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	3
Overview	3
Data Summary	5
SFY17 SAL Summary	6
Exit Reason	8
Performance Measure Outcomes	9
Conclusion and SAL's Future	10

Executive Summary

This report is prepared for the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly pursuant to the requirements of the Code of Iowa section 234.35(4). The Department of Human Services is required to annually report the program statistics of children (also referred to in this report as youth) for whom the state paid for independent living services during the immediately preceding state fiscal year (SFY). The period covered by this report is July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

This independent living foster care program has been known as Supervised Apartment Living (SAL) since 2004. A profile summary of the 149 youth that received SAL services in SFY17 from five contractors (104 youth) and Department caseworkers (45 youth) is shown in the table below:

Total No. served	149	
Youths from this No. of Iowa Counties were served	45	45%
Dept. of Human Services (DHS)		
Cases	95	64%
Male	50	53%
Female	45	47%
Juvenile Court Services (JCS)		
Cases	54	36%
Male	40	74%
Female	14	26%
Voluntary Cases	5	3%
Youth Discharged/Exited From SAL	126	85%

Performance expectations that focused on participant safety, permanency and well-being were either met or exceeded on a statewide basis for the SFY17.

Introduction

The Code of Iowa section 234.35(4) requires the Department of Human Services (DHS or Department) to “report annually to the governor and general assembly by January 1 on the numbers of children for whom the state paid for independent living services. The report shall detail the number of children, by county, who received such services, were discharged from such services, the voluntary or involuntary status of such services, and the reasons for discharge.” This report addresses those areas of the program.

Overview

Supervised apartment living arrangements provide older foster care children (beginning at age 16½) with an environment in which they can experience living in the community

with varying levels of supervision. Participants must have the ability to live in the community with less supervision than that provided by a foster family or foster group care. They must also be able to follow the provisions of their case plan and participate in activities and services to achieve self-sufficiency.

SAL is the least restrictive type of Iowa foster care placement and the program is designed for older youth for whom neither reunification nor adoption is likely and who are perceived by referring workers to be capable of living in the community with the appropriate level of services, guidance, supports, and supervision. Services and supports are tailored to prepare the youth for a level of self-sufficiency necessary to be successful in adulthood.

Youth aged 18 or 19 who continue to meet foster care payment and other eligibility requirements may be served in SAL if they have been in foster care immediately before reaching the age of 18 and have continued in foster care since reaching the age of 18. Youth aged 18 or older must also agree to stay in care by signing a voluntary placement agreement.

A DHS Service Area Manager or designee may waive the requirement for continuous foster care placement for a youth who leaves foster care at age 18 and voluntarily returns before the youth's 20th birthday in order to complete high school or obtain a high school diploma equivalency. The SAL foster care program is Iowa's only foster care program that allows for a youth who has left foster care at age 18 to voluntarily return into care prior to their 20th birthday in order to complete their high school education or obtain a high school equivalency diploma. SAL is an important option for youth who leave the child welfare system and later learn they need help.

There are two types of SAL arrangements. One is a cluster setting (for age 16½ and older) which provides support in a structured setting for up to six youth residing in apartments or bedrooms in one building. The other is a scattered site setting (for age 17 and older) which is the less restrictive of the two types of living arrangements. Each offers different levels of supervision and focus on developing life skills to assist in preparation for self-sufficiency.

Cluster sites are structured settings and supervised by the SAL contractor with staff on site when more than one youth is present. Youth must be able to contact supervising agency staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In scattered sites youths typically live in an apartment unit with services and supports available from the SAL contractor that focus on supervision and guidance with activities of community living. Youth live on their own with access to SAL staff around the clock, typically by phone.

During SFY17, the DHS contracted with five SAL providers that were originally selected to provide SAL services using a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process. This procurement allowed a funding cycle of up to six-years, SFYs 2012 - 2017. The five SAL contractors in SFY17 were:

- Florence Crittenton Home of Sioux City with services in surrounding counties
- Hillcrest Family Services with services in Dubuque
- Lutheran Services of Iowa, Inc. with services in or around Waverly
- Woodward Youth Corporation with services in Polk and Johnson Counties
- Youth Homes of Mid-America with services in Polk County

Over the course of the program, the minimum age for placement into a SAL program was raised from 16 years of age to 16 ½ years of age for cluster settings, and to 17 years of age for scattered site settings. These age changes and the increase of the number of cluster sites during this funding cycle were intended to better ensure that each youth received the appropriate living arrangement and supportive services based on each youth's strengths and needs.

SAL programs are required to place an emphasis on education and skill development. Youth are expected to attend school to obtain their high school diploma or equivalency but are not required to work. However, work in itself builds certain skills and it is allowed if it does not negatively affect a youth's academic participation. Youth who are no longer attending high school but remain foster care eligible under the age of 18 may attend post-secondary school or choose to work.

Youth in the SAL program receive a monthly stipend of \$787.50 that is intended to help them pay their monthly living expenses. This was increased during the course of this program to replace the previous amount that was well below poverty guidelines and contributed to participants living in rundown neighborhoods. The lower stipend also caused youth to drop out of school and find jobs to pay bills.

Data Summary

The total number of unduplicated youth for whom the state paid for SAL services during SFY17 was 149, down from 184 in SFY16. Sixty-four percent (64%) of these were DHS cases and thirty-six percent (36%) were JCS cases. On average there were about 44 youth in SAL daily.

The SFY17 SAL SUMMARY table below shows: 1) the number of youth served overall; 2) agency placement responsibility; 3) legal status; and, 4) an exit summary. This information is organized by county, excluding the counties that did not have a youth in SAL.

Most services provided by the five contractors were around Iowa's more urban areas. This is often due to availability of apartment units and landlords willing to rent to youth under the age of eighteen. These areas also have a richer array of community services.

SFY17 SAL Summary

County Name	Total Served SFY17	Remaining in SAL as of 6/30/2017	Placement Responsibility				Legal Status						Exit Reason						
			DHS = 95		JCS = 54		Voluntary	Child In Need of Assistance (CINA)	Delinquent	Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)	Custody Transferred	Total	Return Home	Placed with Suitable Person	Aged Out	Change in Placement	Change in Level of Care	Runaway	Total
			M	F	M	F													
	149	23	50	45	40	14	5	77	55	9	3	149	9	1	93	9	3	11	126
Overall Percentages	100	15	34	30	27	9	3	52	37	6	2	100	6	1	62	6	2	7	85
Benton	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Black Hawk	6	1	3	2	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	6	0	0	4	1	0	0	5
Boone	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Buena Vista	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Cedar	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cerro Gordo	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clay	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Crawford	4	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	0	0	4	1	0	3	0	0	0	4
Dallas	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Delaware	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Des Moines	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dickinson	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dubuque	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	4	1	0	3	0	0	0	4
Emmet	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Fremont	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Greene	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Hamilton	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Henry	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jasper	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Jefferson	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

SFY17 SAL Summary cont.

County Name	Total Served SFY17	Remaining in SAL as of 6/30/2017	Placement Responsibility				Legal Status						Exit Reason						
			DHS = 95		JCS = 54		Voluntary	Child In Need of Assistance (CINA)	Delinquent	Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)	Custody Transferred	Total	Return Home	Placed with Suitable Person	Aged Out	Change in Placement	Change in Level of Care	Runaway	Total
			M	F	M	F													
Overall Totals	149	23	50	45	40	14	5	77	55	9	3	149	9	1	93	9	3	11	126
Overall Percentages	100	15	34	30	27	9	3	52	37	6	2	100	6	1	62	6	2	7	85
Johnson	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Kossuth	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Linn	15	6	5	9	0	1	0	12	2	1	0	15	0	0	8	0	1	0	9
Lyon	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Madison	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mills	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Muscatine	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
O'Brien	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Page	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Palo Alto	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Plymouth	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Pocahontas	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Polk	28	2	9	7	8	4	1	12	13	2	0	28	0	1	18	4	0	3	26
Pottawattamie	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	4
Sac	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Scott	5	0	2	1	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	5	1	0	2	1	0	1	5
Shelby	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sioux	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Story	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tama	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

SFY17 SAL Summary cont.

County Name	Total Served SFY17	Remaining in SAL as of 6/30/2017	Placement Responsibility				Legal Status						Exit Reason						
			DHS = 95		JCS = 54		Voluntary	Child In Need of Assistance (CINA)	Delinquent	Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)	Custody Transferred	Total	Return Home	Placed with Suitable Person	Aged Out	Change in Placement	Change in Level of Care	Runaway	Total
			M	F	M	F													
Overall Totals	149	23	50	45	40	14	5	77	55	9	3	149	9	1	93	9	3	11	126
Overall Percentages	100	15	34	30	27	9	3	52	37	6	2	100	6	1	62	6	2	7	85
Van Buren	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Washington	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Webster	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Winnebago	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Woodbury	19	5	6	6	4	3	1	10	7	0	1	19	5	0	7	1	1	0	14

Exit Reason

One hundred and twenty-six (126) youth exited the program during the year. Of those:

- Sixty-two percent (62%) percent aged out of care (left because they reached 18 years of age or older)¹
- Six percent (6%) returned home²
- One percent (1%) went to live with another suitable person
- Six percent (6%) percent had a change in placement or level of care³
- Seven percent (7%) ran away from placement (a slight reduction from SFY16)

¹ This represents an increase over last year's 53%. This is encouraging because a main focus of new contracts going forward, beginning with SFY18, will be to keep youth in this structured yet independent level of foster care so they can achieve maximum benefits from the guidance offered in this program to better prepare them for young adulthood.

² This also is a slight increase over last year.

³ This is an encouraging change, a reduction of last year's 15%. It is an indication that youth are staying with the program longer and decreasing the number of placement changes.

Performance Measure Outcomes

SAL contracts are outcome-based and aligned with the federal Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) expectations for safety, permanency, and well-being. The expected SAL outcomes for SFY17 were:

1. **Safety Outcome and Performance Measure – Children are protected from abuse and neglect while in care**

There will be no confirmed or founded cases of abuse or neglect of the youth in the SAL contractor's care by the contractor or subcontractor or by other youth in the contractor's SAL foster care program.

Target: 100%

Statewide achievement: 100%

2. **Permanency Outcome 1 and Performance Measure – Permanent connections are maintained while in care**

The contractor will ensure that permanent connections for each child in care are maintained or secured through active connections with the child's positive support system.⁴ Contractors ensure that at least 75 percent of the children in care will have contact with the youth's positive support system at least twice a month.

Target: 75%

Statewide achievement: 96%

3. **Permanency Outcome 2 and Performance Measure – Children's engagement with their community is ensured while in care**

The contractor will ensure that 75% of children served will participate in an organized community activity⁵ at least four times per month. Informal activities such as going to the mall are encouraged but do not contribute to the performance measure.

Target: 75%

Statewide achievement: 87%

⁴ If a child lacks a positive support system, SAL contractors work with the child, the child's family, and the referring worker to create one. One way this is accomplished is by assessing other adults (like teachers or school staff, coworkers, mentors, or other positive adult role models) and potential relationships that could benefit the child.

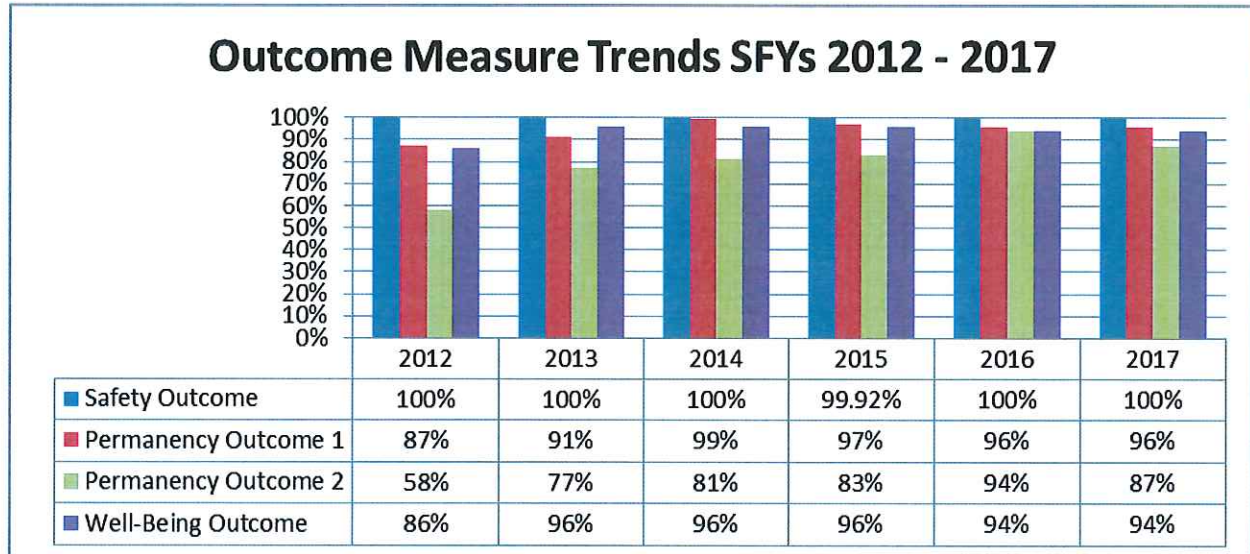
⁵ These are community-based activities that can include groups, organizations, clubs, extra-curricular school or faith-based activities, or employment.

4. Well-Being Outcome and Performance Measure – Increased educational achievement

Eighty-percent of youth served comply with satisfactory school attendance⁶ leading to a high school diploma or equivalency.

Target: 80%
Statewide achievement: 94%

Statewide achievement and outcome measure trends for SFYs 2012 - 2017 are shown in the following graph.



Conclusion and SAL’s Future

The SAL program is a small but valuable alternative for older foster youth who are aging out of the foster care system but can still benefit from the guidance and supports this service offers. It continues to be an important part of Iowa’s array of child welfare services.

Supervised Apartment Living entered a new procurement and contracting cycle with new contracts beginning on October 1, 2017. Four contractors were selected from across Iowa through the competitive bid process of the Crisis Intervention, Stabilization, and Reunification (CISR) – Supervised Apartment Living Services Request For Proposal No. ACFS 18-016. These contractors have the capacity to serve at least 60 youth at any given time across the state in both cluster and scattered sites.

Greater emphasis will be placed on stability and keeping youth involved in SAL services throughout the period of eligibility (i.e., through the time a youth will naturally age out of

⁶ Satisfactory school attendance means a child attends a public school, an accredited nonpublic school, or competent private instruction in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 299A, during a school year, leading to a high school diploma. Satisfactory school attendance may also include approved program participation leading to an equivalency of a high school diploma.

foster care and enter young adulthood) so that participants can get the greatest benefit possible from SAL services. New contracts also have a financial incentive to get youth involved in the Aftercare system that offers additional supports to youth who have left foster care and new contracts will measure attainment of life skills in preparation for youths to live on their own.