



#indycivichack CHALLENGE Summary

Indiana Department of Child Services Challenge

OVERVIEW

The Department of Child Services (DCS) was established in January 2005 by an executive order of Governor Mitch Daniels. The Department was charged with providing more direct attention and oversight of two critical areas: protection of children and child support enforcement. Mary Beth Bonaventura was appointed Director of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) by former Governor Mike Pence in January 2013. The mission of DCS is to protect children from abuse and neglect, and work to ensure their financial support.

DCS protects children who are victims of abuse or neglect and strengthens families through services that focus on family support and preservation. The Department also administers child support, child protection, adoption and foster care throughout the state of Indiana

The Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) program encompasses Older Youth Services (OYS), Collaborative Care, and Voluntary Services. OYS were formerly known as the Chafee Independent Living Services. OYS and Collaborative Care are sets of services and supports used in order to assist older youth successfully achieve their case plan goal. OYS and Collaborative Care are primarily focused on helping those youth who are expected to turn 18 in foster care, but the programs can be implemented concurrently with other goals like reunification and adoption. Voluntary Services are a set of services for youth who have "aged out" of the foster care system. These services are geared to assisting former foster youth in the areas of housing, employment, and education.

CHALLENGE

In order to better serve youth as they emerge into adulthood, DCS needs a statewide secure tool that is easily accessible for current and former foster youth who receive older youth services as they age out of foster care. Personal information such as health, education, vital records, and employment data will need to be transmitted through the solution. DCS would also like a way to proactively push out information regarding resources, job opportunities and other tips. The youth are very mobile oriented and use mobile devices.

TARGET AUDIENCE

DCS consists of 92 local county offices throughout the state. There are over 1000 current and former foster youth receiving services through the department and numerous former foster youth who are no longer eligible for services. Many foster youth are transient and often lose or misplace their records and are in need of assistance. This solution should be built to accommodate current and former foster youth who can access the tool throughout the state and be provided with local, state and national resources, information, and data that meets their current needs. While providing a location to pull their records when needed.



TECHNOLOGIES/REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

DCS encourages thinking outside the box to create and develop a tool that is accessible from a PC, Laptop, tablet or smart phone. The tool should have the ability to both send information to the youths and for DCS to receive information from the youths.

FUNCTIONALITY

- Self-Service – *To be utilized by current or former foster youth receiving services. Each youth should have a personal account so youth can find and save the resources they are interested in. By having all in one place it makes it easy to apply, track and receive resources.*
 - Collect contact information
 - Collect any completed services
 - Collect current needs
- Security
- Integration Capabilities

DATASETS, FORMS AND RELEVANT FILES

- All data for login will be stored with in the data source of the website and can be accessed by DCS.
- Contact information – This includes basic information about the individual such as name, zip code, date of birth, date and time of entry, etc.
- Resources – This includes local, state, national resources the youth is inquiring about such as housing, education, employment, medical, etc.
- Youth Needs – This includes information of what the youth is seeking.
- Document types – This includes the type of document uploaded, such as birth certificates, income statements, driver's licenses, etc.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS: HOW DOES THIS CHALLENGE IMPACT THE CITIZENS OF THE INDIANAPOLIS REGION?

A major challenge faced by foster youth is the loss or misplacement of important life documents as youth move from placement to placement. The website will provide a personal, secure data encrypted system to store and keep track of important documents to be accessed from anywhere, anytime. The website will have tools and resources through a Youth's personal account, so youth can find and save the resources they are interested in. In addition, DCS will have real-time data to help develop on going services to meet the needs of youth as they age out of foster care and will have access to outcomes data.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Challenge Representative below.

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