

Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Project: Impact Evaluation of My First Place

OMB Information Collection Request

Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Project Overarching Generic

0970-0618

Supporting Statement Part A

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**Alternative Supporting Statement for Information Collections Designed for
Research, Public Health Surveillance, and Program Evaluation Purposes**

Part A

Executive Summary

- **Type of Request:** This Information Collection Request is for information collected under the umbrella generic, Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Project Overarching Generic (0970-0618).
- ACF is in the process of requesting an extension from OMB for the umbrella generic. The 60-day comment period is in process (91 FR 22841).
- **Description of Request:**

The purpose of this request is to collect information to evaluate My First Place (MFP), a comprehensive program for young adults ages 18-25 transitioning out of foster care. MFP has a young adult-centered, team-based, housing and case-management approach. Three central services are provided as part of the MFP program: subsidized stable housing, intensive case management, and education and employment support. To understand the benefits of MFP's approach, we will collect information from MFP participants and young adults involved with two comparison groups, a housing-only time-limited subsidy program and a drop-in center that provides services to young adults who are unstably housed or experiencing homelessness. Data collection will involve three rounds of surveys: a baseline, 6-month, and 9- to 12-month follow-up survey. This study, being conducted by Administration for Children and Families, will help build evidence about what works to promote positive education, employment, and housing outcomes for young adults transitioning out of foster care into adulthood and young adults formerly in care who transitioned in the recent past (ages 18-26). This information is not intended to be used as the principal basis for public policy decisions.

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A1. Necessity for Collection

The Administration for Children and Families is proposing an individual information collection request (GenIC) under the Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Project Overarching Generic, which was established in 2023.

Background

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee program) funds state and tribal programs that help young adults transitioning out of foster care¹ achieve self-sufficiency. When the Chafee program was created following the passage of the Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA) of 1999 (Public Law 106-169), the legislation required that a small percentage of funding be set aside for rigorous evaluations of independent living programs that are “innovative or of potential national significance.”

In keeping with this directive, ACF is conducting the Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood (Chafee SOTA) project, which aims to utilize innovative methods for testing promising practices in programs serving young adults transitioning out of foster care, and to improve the feasibility and rigor of evaluations that test the effectiveness of program services or components. The Chafee SOTA project builds on prior ACF evaluations, which observed that for many programs, traditional, large-scale impact evaluations were not feasible due to issues such as program size, lack of appropriate comparison groups, or implementation challenges.

The Chafee SOTA project will conduct evaluations of the effectiveness of program services and components in improving outcomes for youth transitioning out of foster care. To address the common evaluation challenges previously identified, the Chafee SOTA evaluation utilizes innovative methods tailored to each program, including rapid cycle learning techniques that require an iterative approach. To conduct this work, ACF submitted and had approved the **Chafee SOTA Project Overarching Generic**. The overarching approval provides information about the types of data collections and respondents and the team now has the ability to submit individual requests to complete rapid cycle learning techniques and to tailor instruments to each study. The overarching generic is currently in process for an extension request (91 FR 22841).

This GenIC is necessary to allow the Chafee SOTA project team to collect data for an evaluation of My First Place (MFP), a comprehensive program providing housing, intensive case management, employment, and education supports for young adults age 18-25 transitioning out of foster care.

A2. Purpose

¹ Chafee programs generally serve both youth (14 – 17 years of age) and young adults (18 – 26 years of age). For the purposes of this submission, unless otherwise stated, we will use the term young adult to refer to the full population of individuals served under Chafee (those 14 – 26 years of age).

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Purpose and Use

This GenIC will provide information that will be used to evaluate the impact of MFP on housing, education, and employment outcomes in a specific location. MFP, headquartered in Oakland, CA and implemented in six California counties, has a young adult-centered, team-based, housing and case-management approach. Three central services are provided as part of the MFP program: subsidized stable housing, intensive case management, and education and employment support. The average time young adults spend in the program is 18 months. Los Angeles (LA) County's MFP program has been selected as the focus of this research.

This study will examine MFP's effectiveness in supporting young adults transitioning from foster care in achieving housing stability and positive education and/or employment outcomes in Los Angeles. We will collect and analyze primary survey data from MFP participants and two comparison groups—young adults receiving housing assistance without intensive services and young adults receiving services without a linked housing component.

These data collection activities will allow the team to gather structured in-depth information to understand the assistance young adults receive and their associated outcomes.

While it is our intention for the findings of this evaluation to provide information that could be useful in the design and operation of other programs that provide similar intensive case management, housing, employment and education services to similar populations, the specific findings will only be suggestive and preliminary, based on this research. The limitations of such findings will be made clear in any related communications. The information collected is meant to contribute to the body of knowledge on ACF programs. It is not intended to be used as the principal basis for a decision by a federal decision-maker and is not expected to meet the threshold of influential or highly influential scientific information.

Research Questions or Tests

The key research question that we will address through an evaluation of MFP using a non-equivalent group design and propensity score analysis is:

- How effective is an intensive housing and multiple support program compared to housing alone and services as usual in achieving housing stability, improvements in education and employment outcomes, and improvements in well-being for young adults transitioning from foster care?

Study Design

For the purposes of evaluating the MFP program services or components in Los Angeles, we will conduct a two-comparison group non-equivalent group design (NEGD) and propensity score analysis (See Supporting Statement B for more details). The treatment group will be composed of participants enrolled in MFP's Los Angeles site. The two comparison groups will be composed of individuals receiving housing only without intensive services and services only with no housing component.

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From all three groups, we will collect web-based survey data. Surveys will be administered to young adults at program entry (baseline), 6 months after entry, and 9-12 months after entry. Topics covered in the baseline survey include: demographic characteristics and family composition; education and employment histories, status, and current barriers; housing histories and current living situation; independent living skills; socio-emotional support; foster care history, and well-being. Follow-up surveys administered at 6 and 9-12 months will be designed to focus on activities accomplished since the last survey and capture changes over time in housing stability, education, employment, independent living skills, income, benefits and debt, social connections, and well-being.

Survey participants will be asked to complete each survey online via RedCAP survey software. Each survey will take no longer than 30 minutes to complete.

Additional information about study design, recruitment, and composition of the treatment and comparison groups is outlined in Supporting Statement B, Section B2. Recruitment and consent materials are available in Appendixes 1, 2, and 3.

Exhibit 2 below lists the data collection activities for the MFP study.

Exhibit 2: Data Collection Activities

<i>Data Collection Activity</i>	<i>Instruments</i>	<i>Sample Respondent, Content, Purpose of Collection</i>	<i>Mode and Potential Duration</i>
Baseline Survey	Instrument A	Respondents: Young adults age 18+ served by MFP and comparison group programs Content: Demographic characteristics and family composition; education and employment histories, status, and current barriers; housing histories and current living situation; independent living skills; socio-emotional support; foster care history, and well-being. Purpose: Understand participants' backgrounds, provide baseline measures to capture change over time	Mode: web-based Duration: 30 minutes/survey
Follow-up (6- and 9/12-month) Surveys	Instrument B	Respondents: Young adults age 18+ served by MFP and comparison group programs Content: Measures of housing stability, education, employment, independent living skills, income, benefits and debt, social connections, and well-being Purpose: To measure change over time in key outcomes	Mode: web-based Duration: 30 minutes/survey

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Other Data Sources and Uses of Information

We will access existing data sources whenever possible to reduce the burden on study participants.

A3. Use of Information Technology to Reduce Burden

Surveys will be administered via the web.

A4. Use of Existing Data: Efforts to reduce duplication, minimize burden, and increase utility and government efficiency

The study team has done a careful review to determine what information is already available from existing studies and program documents to inform this work and what will likely need to be collected for the first time. As comparable administrative data is not available from the treatment and comparison groups, we must collect primary data from all groups via surveys to be consistent and allow for cross-group analysis. This data collection is intended to yield new and useful information about programs serving youth and young adults with foster care experience in Los Angeles.

A5. Impact on Small Businesses

Staff at smaller youth-serving agencies may be part of this data collection effort if they serve young adults with foster care experience. We will minimize the impact on these staff by providing recruitment materials program staff can share with prospective participants.

A6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

Rigorous evaluation of innovative initiatives is crucial to building evidence of what works and how best to allocate government resources. These data collection undertakings represent an important opportunity for ACF to both learn about activities associated with child welfare and the Chafee program, and to design evaluations that increase our knowledge of how to improve service delivery and uptake. Not collecting information from young adults would limit the government's ability to learn about and test program services and components that lead to improved outcomes for young adults transitioning from foster care.

A7. Now subsumed under 2(b) above and 10 (below)

A8. Consultation

Federal Register Notice and Comments

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), ACF published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the agency's intention to request an OMB review of the proposed establishment of an overarching generic. This notice was published on May 15, 2023 (88 FR 30978) and provided a sixty-day period for public comment. No comments were received during the initial public comment period. A subsequent notice was published on July 25, 2023 (88 FR 47882) and

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provided a thirty-day period for public comment. During the notice and comment period, 1 comment was received. A response was submitted to OMB with the 2023 request materials.

ACF is in the process of requesting an extension from OMB for the umbrella generic. The 60-day comment period is in process (91 FR 22841).

Consultation with Experts Outside of the Study

We have consulted and may continue to consult with relevant stakeholders and experts on the study design and data collection instruments.

A9. Tokens of Appreciation

Young adults transitioning out of foster care can be a notoriously difficult group to track; therefore, we anticipate challenges tracking young adults and engaging them for follow-up surveys. To increase participation rates, study participants will be provided a \$50 gift card as a token of appreciation for completing each survey. Participants who complete the survey within two days of receiving the survey link will receive a \$5 bonus and those who complete both the baseline and the final follow-up survey will receive a \$50 bonus. Tokens of appreciation have been consistently shown to increase response rates and reduce attrition, two of the most significant threats to validity in longitudinal studies such as this one. Studies demonstrate that both the presence and value of monetary tokens of appreciation can meaningfully improve wave-to-wave retention, particularly among groups at higher risk of dropout such as young adults, thereby reducing non-response bias and preserving sample representativeness^{2 3}. The use of tokens of appreciation, including tiered amounts, bonuses, and pre-payment structures, in federally funded studies with young adult respondents is a beneficial mechanism to improve response rates and therefore data quality and utility. For example, the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) study (OMB control number 0925-0664) and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) (OMB control number 1220-0157) provide tiered amounts of tokens of appreciation over time to incentivize high retention rates⁴.

A10. Privacy: Procedures to protect privacy of information, while maximizing data sharing

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

PII collected from young adults directly through surveys may include name, date of birth, and address so that client-level data can be linked accurately across survey waves. Procedures for protecting privacy of information include limiting the number of individuals who have access to identifying information, using

² Abdelazeem, B., Hamdallah, A., Rizk, M. A., Abbas, K. S., El-Shahat, N. A., Manasrah, N., Mostafa, M. R., & Eltobgy, M. (2023). Does usage of monetary incentive impact the involvement in surveys? A systematic review and meta-analysis of 46 randomized controlled trials. PLOS ONE, 18(1), e0279128.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0279128>

³ Cabrera-Álvarez, P., & Lynn, P. (2025). Benefits of increasing the value of respondent incentives during the course of a longitudinal mixed-mode survey. International Journal of Social Research Methodology, 1–13.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2024.2443630>

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locked files to store hardcopy forms, and assigning unique de-identified IDs to each participant in analytic files. PII will be destroyed within 12 months of completed analyses. Other data will be destroyed subject to ACF guidelines. In addition, we will only report on data in summary form, such as central tendencies, frequency distributions, point estimates and variability. We will implement cell suppression rules whereby any data points involving fewer than 10 individuals will not be reported.

Assurances of Privacy

Information collected will be kept private to the extent permitted by law. Respondents will be informed of all planned uses of data, that their participation is voluntary, and that their information will be kept private to the extent permitted by law. No one outside the Westat/Kempe study team will have access to the data. Respondents will receive information about the authority, the purposes for use, the routine uses, that the request is voluntary, and any effects of not providing the requested information. The study team will comply with all Federal and Departmental regulations for private information.

We have received a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health to protect the privacy of research participants by prohibiting disclosure of identifiable, sensitive research information to anyone not connected to the research except when the participant consents or in a few other specific situations.

Data Security and Monitoring

The study team will protect respondent privacy to the extent permitted by law and will comply with all Federal and Departmental regulations for private information. We have developed a Data Safety and Monitoring Plan that assesses all protections of respondents' PII. We shall ensure that all of its employees, subcontractors (at all tiers), and employees of each subcontractor, who perform work under this contract/subcontract, are trained on data privacy issues and comply with the above requirements.

As specified in the evaluator's contract, the Contractor shall use Federal Information Processing Standard compliant encryption (Security Requirements for Cryptographic Module, as amended) to protect all instances of sensitive information during storage and transmission. The Contractor shall securely generate and manage encryption keys to prevent unauthorized decryption of information, in accordance with the Federal Processing Standard. The Contractor shall: ensure that this standard is incorporated into the Contractor's property management/control system; establish a procedure to account for all laptop computers, desktop computers, and other mobile devices and portable media that store or process sensitive information. Any data stored electronically will be secured in accordance with the most current National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) requirements and other applicable Federal and Departmental regulations. In addition, the Contractor must submit a plan for minimizing to the extent possible the inclusion of sensitive information on paper records and for the protection of any paper records, field notes, or other documents that contain sensitive or PII that ensures secure storage and limits on access.

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A11. Sensitive Information⁵

Most of the questions that will be included in these activities are not of a sensitive nature. However, it is possible that some participants may find some questions to be sensitive. These include questions about participants' experiences with housing instability; foster care history; and socio-emotional support and well-being. Participants will be informed that they can skip any question they do not want to answer.

A12. Burden

Explanation of Burden Estimates

The baseline and follow up surveys will be completed by young adults transitioning from foster care at enrollment (baseline), and 6 and 9-12 months later. We anticipate data collection to take place over about two years and aim to reach 600 respondents to the baseline survey. For the follow-up survey, we estimated a 10% attrition rate, leading to 540 young adults completing each follow-up survey. The estimated time per response is 30 minutes, which was informed by pilot testing of the survey with young adults who have transitioned out of foster care. Exhibit 4 below details the estimated burden hours.

Explanation of Cost Estimates

Estimated costs per respondent were estimated using data from Los Angeles's Office of Wage Standards (June 2026)⁶. Exhibit 3 details median hourly wage for respondent types. Exhibit 4 details estimated total annuals costs per information collection.

Exhibit 3: Median Hourly Wages for Respondents

Respondent	Occupation	SOC Code	Median hourly wage
Young adult participants in MFP, TLS, or SPY	Los Angeles minimum wage (as of July 1, 2026)	--	\$18.25

Exhibit 4: Estimated Burden and Costs to Respondents

⁵ Examples of sensitive topics include (but not limited to): social security number; sex behavior and attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close relationships, e.g., family, pupil-teacher, employee-supervisor; mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to respondents; religion and indicators of religion; community activities which indicate political affiliation and attitudes; legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers; records describing how an individual exercises rights guaranteed by the First Amendment; receipt of economic assistance from the government (e.g., unemployment or WIC or SNAP); immigration/citizenship status.

⁶ City of Los Angeles, Office of Wage Standards. (2026). *Minimum Wage Ordinance Rate Increase (Effective July 1, 2026: \$18.42/hour)*. [wagesla.lacity.gov]

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Instrument	No. of Respondents (total over request period)	No. of Responses per Respondent (total over request period)	Avg. Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden (in hours)	Median Hourly Wage Rate	Total Respondent Cost
A: Baseline Survey	600	1	.5	300	\$18.25	\$5,475
B: Follow-up Survey	540	2	.5	540	\$18.25	\$9,855
Totals and Averages:	600	-2.8 (avg)	.5	840	\$18.25	\$15,330

This data collection is anticipated to extend beyond the current umbrella generic. An extension request is in process for the umbrella generic and that this GenIC will be included in that extension request.

A13. Costs

There are neither capital nor startup costs, nor are there any operations or maintenance costs. There are no additional total annual cost burdens to respondents or record-keepers beyond the labor cost of burden-hours described in item 12 above.

A14. Estimated Annualized Costs to the Federal Government

Exhibit 5. Estimated Cost to Federal Government

Cost Category	Estimated Costs
Field Work	\$364,117
Analysis	\$187,532
Publications/Dissemination	\$73,193
Total costs over the request period	\$624,842
Annual costs	\$208,281

A15. Reasons for changes in burden

This is for an individual information collection under the umbrella generic clearance, Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Project Overarching Generic (0970-0618).

A16. Timeline

We anticipate beginning data collection once we receive OMB approval, with a goal to start no later than September 2026. Data collection activities will continue through September 2028.

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A17. Exceptions

No exceptions are necessary for this information collection.

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Attachments

Instrument A: Youth Baseline Survey

Instrument B: Youth Follow-Up Survey

Appendix 1: Consent to Contact Form

Appendix 2: Recruitment FAQs

Appendix 3: Informed Consent Form