

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
BRIDGES VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Purpose:

Pending approval by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (herein after referred to as ODJFS) of the Bridges application submitted on **<Date application was submitted for approval>**, I, **<full name of young adult>/<Date of birth>**, hereby request to voluntarily participate in Bridges. By signing, I agree to participate in Bridges as required by ODJFS policy. This agreement outlines specific responsibilities for myself and ODJFS as they relate to Bridges. Failure to follow these expectations may jeopardize my program involvement. I understand this is a voluntary agreement that I may terminate at any time. If I choose to terminate Bridges services, I can later request to resume services by reapplying if I am under the age of 21 and meet at least one eligibility requirement.

Young Adult's Responsibilities:

As a young adult receiving Bridges services, I agree to the following:

- Meet at least one of the following program eligibility requirements:
 - Completing a secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education;
 - Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - Employed for at least eighty hours per month;
 - Is incapable of completing the education or employment requirements due to a diagnosed physical or mental health condition.
- Be able to provide documentation of my program eligibility when requested. Forms of documentation may include, but are not limited to: pay stubs, letters from employers or program staff, current class schedule, report cards, current medical records, etc.
- Within 5 calendar days, inform my Bridges worker of any concerns and/or changes with my living arrangement, education or vocational setting, employment, or contact information.
- Within 48 hours, inform my Bridges worker of any new involvement with a child protective services agency.
- Reside in a safe and stable living arrangement that has been agreed upon by my Bridges worker and myself.
- In partnership with my Bridges worker, create an individualized Bridges Plan, and participate in meetings to review this plan.
- Follow through with my responsibilities as outlined in my Bridges Plan, participate in identified services, meet in-person and engage with my Bridges worker monthly, and keep my Bridges worker informed of my needs.
- Attend court reviews as needed for continued program eligibility. If I am unable to attend these reviews, I will notify my Bridges worker at least 72 hours prior to the court review. If it is an emergency, I will notify my Bridges worker as soon as I know that I will not be able to attend.
- Follow the rules and regulations of my living arrangement.
- Follow the requirements of my place of employment, educational or vocational setting, or program to remove barriers.
- As a young adult age 18 or above, ODJFS has no legal or financial responsibility in the event I am charged with a crime, or cause damages to another person's being or property.
- If I am receiving Social Security Benefits, I will notify the local Social Security Administration office that I am enrolled in the Bridges Program. This may impact my Social Security Benefit payment while I am in the program.

- ODJFS may terminate this agreement if I no longer meet program eligibility requirements.
- If an eligibility requirement is not being met, I have a 60 calendar day grace period in which to re-establish program eligibility. This grace period begins the day after I become ineligible.
- If any of the following occur, I will no longer be eligible for Bridges:
 - No longer in compliance with an eligibility requirement for more than 60 calendar days;
 - Failure to be in face to face contact with Bridges worker for more than 60 calendar days;
 - Incarcerated for more than 60 calendar days;
 - 21st birthday;
 - Death.

Agency Responsibilities:

ODJFS, through a Bridges representative, agrees to the following:

- Provide continued living arrangement benefits and services as long as the eligibility requirements are maintained, and the young adult is residing in an approved living arrangement. These benefits and services include, but are not limited to: living arrangement payments, food, clothing and other incidentals, case management, monthly contacts, service referrals, etc.
- Notify the young adult of the types of documentation that can be used to verify program eligibility. Forms of documentation may include, but are not limited to: pay stubs, letters from employers or program staff, current class schedule, report cards, current medical records, etc.
- Educate the young adult on activities to support continued eligibility.
- In partnership with the young adult, create an individualized Bridges Plan, review and update the plan as needed, notify the young adult of when these reviews will occur, and provide a copy of the plan and all reviews to the young adult.
- Be accessible to the young adult, maintain consistent contact with the young adult, and meet in-person with the young adult at least every 30 calendar days, or more frequently if needed.
- Notify the young adult of all court proceedings required for continued program eligibility and assist at the proceedings.
- Assist the young adult in developing and achieving goals for independent living, and help them learn how to utilize services and supports to help the young adult meet their needs.
- Assist the young adult in remaining connected to or establishing permanent connections and supports.
- Assist the young adult in locating a safe and supportive living arrangement that is free of violence, abuse, and neglect.
- Ensure the young adult has Medicaid or other health insurance, and assist the young adult with getting medical, dental, vision, and mental health care as needed.
- 60 calendar days prior to termination, provide the young adult with written notice if they are deemed ineligible for Bridges.
- Refer young adult to PCSA for post emancipation services and support if young adult is no longer eligible for Bridges.

Signatures

Young Adult	Date
ODJFS Representative	Date