

Policy Transmittal

Office of Child Welfare Programs



Marilyn Jones, Director,
Office of Child Welfare Programs

Authorized signature

Number: CW-PT-18-025

Issue date: 11/26/2018

Topic: Foster Care

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New policy
 Policy change
 Policy clarification
 Executive letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual update
 Other:

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type} | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Residential Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): Youth service providers and postsecondary institutions, including the Tribes. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Policy/rule title:	Case Management – Program Eligibility		
Policy/rule number(s):	413-030-0220 and 0410	Release number:	N/A
Effective date:	11-19-18	Expiration date:	N/A
References:	Title IV-E, Section 477, Family First Prevention Services Act		
Web address:	http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/division_30.pdf http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/ch04/ch4-section29.pdf		

Discussion/interpretation: Temporary rules are being established to allow DHS Child Welfare to implement the expansion of Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG) services provided under the Family First Prevention Services Act (effective upon enactment on Feb. 9, 2018). The expansion allows eligible young adults or a former

foster child to access the Department's ETG funds up to their 26th birthday or until the young adult/former foster child has accessed ETG for five (5) years, whichever comes first. In addition, the rule changes allow children who were adopted or entered a guardianship at age 13 or older to access ETG funds. This change removes a perceived barrier to permanency for older teens.

OAR 413-030-0220 has also been corrected to include enrollment in postsecondary education or training as a productive activity for youth to remain in foster care after the age of 18 (up to their 21st birthday).

Implementation/transition instructions: The updates are to be implemented immediately.

Training/communication plan: The Youth Transitions/ILP staff at Central Office will be crafting a computer-based training for field staff, ILP Providers, youth and other community partners.

Local/branch action required: Supervisors are to ensure caseworkers are aware of the changes. Discontinue use of the prior Benefits of a Permanent Family document immediately. An updated document is included with this notice (see below). Notify youth and families of the expansion of age for ETG benefits.

Central office action required: The ILP services matrix, Benefits of a Permanent Family, and other outreach materials will be updated and available on the ILP website.

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by: Changes reviewed by the ETG Rules Advisory Committee (including youth), as well as Policy Committee.

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s): Sandra Raschko or Rosemary Iavenditti

Phone: 503-945-6612 or 503-945-5688

Fax: 503-945-6969

Email: Sandra.Raschko@dhsola.state.or.us or ILP.Central@state.or.us

Resources that Become Available for a Permanent Family	Age at Adoption or Guardianship	DHS Resources that Become <u>Unavailable</u> upon Leaving Foster Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A family to teach the child daily living skills, build character, instill morals, provide a home for the holidays, connect their teen with acquaintances for job options, provide occasional daycare when their child/young adult becomes a parent...all things a family provides their children to usher them into adulthood successfully. • Adoption or Guardianship subsidy may be available (including a Medical Card). See Adoption website for details: http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/adoption/Pages/index.aspx. • Adoption or Guardianship subsidy may be available to age 21 if, at age 18 the child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Qualifies as an individual with a developmental disability ➢ Qualifies for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) • No prior approval from DHS required to: take your child out of state, on over-night camping trips, have friends sleep over, allow your child to stay at a friend's house, etc. • Oregon Promise (at least \$1,000 per academic year, see website for eligibility criteria at: http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise-eligibility-and-highlights.aspx). • FosterClub membership is available to any child or youth who has experienced foster care at some point in his or her life (see www.fosterclub.com for more information). • Some tax incentives exist, check with your Adoption worker for details or your tax consultant. Another good place for information is www.nacac.org. 	0 – 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly face to face meetings with paid staff and supports who will end their relationships with the child once the case is closed. • OHP coverage through the Former Foster Care Youth Medical Program (up to his or her 26th birthday). • If a child leaves their final substitute care placement (DHS or Tribal) prior to age 13, all Independent Living Program services will be unavailable, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILP skills training • ILP Discretionary Funds • Chafee Education & Training Grant (ETG) to age 25 or 5 years, whichever comes first. Amounts may fluctuate and will not exceed \$5,000 per academic year. Must file a FAFSA in addition to the ETG application by March 1st each year • Tuition & Fee Waiver • Independent Living Housing Subsidy (30-month program with a monthly maximum amount of \$795 – based on need, amount begins to “step down” quarterly at month 13) – DHS only • Chafee Housing Program funds (monthly maximum of \$795 based on need, until young adult accesses \$7,000 or turns age 21, whichever comes first – <u>cannot</u> use Chafee ETG and Chafee Housing at same time) <p>See ILP website for additional details: http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/ILP/Pages/Index.aspx</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above, plus the following: • Child is viewed as an “independent student” for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Meaning, the student will not have to claim their parent’s income when calculating the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) for post-secondary education or training costs of attendance (this is also true for any child who remains in a guardianship to age 18, no matter his or her age when the guardianship was established). • Eligible to apply for Chafee ETG (up to \$5,000 per year) – New effective Nov. 2018 • Youth in a guardianship to age 18 are eligible to apply for the Foster Care to Success scholarships (may include up to \$10,000 in Casey Family Scholarships) 	13 – 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above, except Chafee Education & Training Grant (ETG). • Credit reports run by the Department (DHS runs annual checks when a child in the care and custody of DHS turns age 14 or older). • OHP coverage through the Former Foster Care Youth Medical Program (up to his or her 26th birthday).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above, plus the following: • Child will now retain eligibility to age 21, for the following supports (if federal funding/policies and DHS policies remain the same – these are <u>not</u> entitlements): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ILP Life Skills Training (basic life skills training any parent could provide) ➤ ILP Discretionary Funds (funding is limited and based on need) ➤ Chafee Education and Training Grant (amount is subject to change, currently \$5,000 per academic year – funding is withheld if student is placed on academic probation) ➤ Tuition and Fee Waiver (assuming youth was in custody of DHS or Tribal Child Welfare at age 16 or older – note: Waiver is of minimal to no assistance at a Community College, unless the student attends Summer Term as the Oregon Opportunity Grant does not cover Summer Term) • Adoption or Guardianship subsidy to age 21 if the youth, at age 18, is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completing secondary education (or equivalent – GED) ➤ Enrolled in post-secondary education or vocational school at least half time ➤ Employed at least 80 hours a month ➤ In a program that promotes or removes barriers to employment or ➤ Has a documented medical condition, physical disability, or mental disability that prevents him or her from participating in the above activities. • The adoption or guardianship agreement can include language that provides for continued assistance when a child or young adult moves out of the home to attend college or live independently. 	16 – 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly face to face meetings with paid staff who will end their relationships with the child once the case is closed. • Credit Reports (run annually by DHS) • IL Housing Subsidy (only available while a youth is in the care and custody of DHS Child Welfare) • Chafee Housing • OHP coverage through the Former Foster Care Youth Medical Program (up to his or her 26th birthday).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Adoption: Young adult will retain eligibility to all ILP services to age 21, including Chafee Housing to age 21 if the young adult: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is dismissed from DHS or Tribal care & custody at age 18 or older and had at least six months of substitute care placements services after age 14. ➤ Chafee Housing will also require the young adult: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintains 36 hours of productive activity (hours may include paid employment, school, volunteerism or a combination of the three) ➤ Must have completed secondary education, or be actively working towards high school completion or obtaining a GED ➤ Must be enrolled and participating in contracted ILP skill building services ➤ May <u>not</u> reside with parent(s) • Youth will retain eligibility for OHP coverage through the Former Foster Care Youth Medical Program (up to his or her 26th birthday). 	18+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS support and subsidies for entering into an adoption or guardianship end at age 18 (adult adoptions are not supported). • Monthly face to face meetings with paid staff who will end their relationships with the child once the case is closed. • IL Housing Subsidy (only available while a youth is in the care and custody of DHS Child Welfare)