

Policy Transmittal

Office of Child Welfare Programs



Rosemary Iavenditti
Authorized Signature

Number: CW-PT-20-018
Issue Date: 11/18/2020

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):

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|--|---|
| <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"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Tribes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Residential Services | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

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| Rule Title/Number(s): | Amending Division 030 – Program Eligibility (413-030-0000 and 413-030-0410) to extend services during a declared emergency. |
| Procedure Chapter(s) Section(s): | Chapter 5 “Services to Children” Section 15 “Placement of a Youth in an Approved Supervised Independent Living Arrangement” & Section 29 “Youth Transitions” |
| Effective Date: | 04/01/2020 |
| References: | Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 409.050 and 418.005 Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 418.005 |

Discussion/Interpretation: The Department finds that in order to ensure the well-being of young adults who are preparing to or have recently exited foster care, the following services and placement expansions are necessary to support youth during a declared emergency, like the current COVID-19 pandemic:

- Chafee Housing Program: Increases maximum rate to \$1,000 (if needed), extending eligibility through age 22 (must end at 23rd birthday), waiving \$7,000 lifetime cap, flexibility with productive hours if reason is related to a declared emergency.
- IL Housing Subsidy Program: Increase maximum rate to \$1,000 (if needed), extending eligibility past 30-month cap (or age 21, whichever comes first), flexibility with productive hours if reason is related to a declared emergency.
- Contracted ILP Life Skills Training services: Extend eligibility through age 22.
- ILP Discretionary Funds: Each District and Tribe has received an increase to their 2020-2021 allotment (to be expended by 6/30/2021).
- Non-Chafee Housing: Limited funds are available for housing related support for youth who exited foster care after age 16, but prior to age 18, if they are struggling to meet their monthly obligations due to a declared emergency.

The Department has proceeded with filing a permanent rule because the public and young adults will immediately benefit from the continuation of services available under the previous temporary rule.

Implementation/Transition Instructions: While the current changes will bring in additional young adults to Child Welfare for voluntary FSS-ILP services, the bulk of the workload will fall on the Hotline and the Youth Transitions/ILP (YT/ILP) team at Central Office. The 21-22 year-olds requesting voluntary ILP services will be opened as an Admin Only, FSS-ILP case. If you are assisting a youth to contact the Hotline (1-855-503-7233), please instruct the young adult to press #1, and stay on the line to be connected to a screener. Young adults should use the following script once the screener answers the call: “I am a former foster youth calling to request a Family Support Services-ILP case to access Chafee services due to COVID-19.”

By using the above script, it will ensure young adults’ requests are processed accurately and promptly.

Training/Communication Plan: Communication will be by transmittal and information sharing during statewide Standing CW Program Huddle. The Child Welfare Procedure Manual, Chapter 5, Sections 15 and 29, have been updated to reflect the new service and Subsidy placement criteria allowed during a declared emergency. A basic level Computer Based Training (CBT) for ILP Services is available on the i-Learn system. While the training does not contain the changes allowed during a declared emergency, it is a good overview of the ILP service array. The ILP Services training is approximately 45 minutes long, including knowledge questions. The following i-Learn link can be used to complete the training:

DHS – CW – ILP Services

Local Office Action Required: Ensure, during the Benchmark Reivew of the youth's Comprehensive Transition Plan (due at 17.5 years old and 90 days prior to dismissal), young adults are aware of the serivces available to assist with their transtion to adulthood. Caseworkers working with teens should be familiar with Procedure Manual, Chapter 5, Sections 15, 29, 33 and 35.

Central Office Action Required: The Child Welfare Youth Transitions/ILP (YT/ILP) team will be reaching out to caseworkers of young adults who are about to age out of foster care. The YT/ILP team will provide technical assistance and answer questions regarding services and supports available. The YT/ILP team will carry the FSS-ILP cases for the 21 - 22 year-olds, including making referrals to the ILP Contractors for services.

Field/Provider Review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by: Rebecca Jones-Gaston, Child Welfare Director, Peer Advisory Review Committee (PARC) and Policy Council (PC).

Filing Instructions: Rules are to be implemented retroactive to 11/1/2020.

If you have any questions about this transmittal, please contact:

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| Contact(s): Adrienne Clark, Chafee-IL Program Coordinator or Carrie van Dijk, ILP Youth Transition Specialist | |
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| Email: ILP.Central@dhsosha.state.or.us | |