

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2021.02

**EXPANSION OF DCFS EMPLOYMENT/JOB TRAINING/APPRENTICESHIP
INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE YOUTH
THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Procedure 302 Appendix F**

DATE: February 26, 2021
TO: DCFS and POS Permanency Staff and Supervisors
FROM: Marc D. Smith, Acting Director
EFFECTIVE: Immediately

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Action Transmittal is to notify all DCFS and Purchase of Service Permanency Staff and Supervisors of temporary expansion of support to youth who are eligible for the DCFS Employment/Job Training/Apprenticeship Incentive Program (EJTAIP). These changes are possible through increased pandemic-related federal funding provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 which became law on December 27, 2020.

The temporary changes below assist in meeting the need for increased financial support to EJTAIP-eligible youth during the pandemic and take into consideration that there are pandemic-related obstacles to meeting usual program requirements.

- Reduction of the minimum work requirement to 10 hours per week or 40 hours per month retroactive to July 1, 2020 and through September 30, 2021. This requirement will revert back to the 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month on October 1, 2021.
- The monthly payment under the EJTAIP is increased from \$158 to \$300 for the period July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Retroactive payments will be calculated based on youth eligibility for the entire period or portion of the period that youth meet program requirements under the new criteria, as determined by the Office of Education and Transition Services.

II. PRIMARY USERS

Primary users of this Action Transmittal are Department and Purchase of Service Permanency Workers, TLP, ILO, and youth currently and formerly in care.



III. INSTRUCTIONS

Permanency workers should assist youth who currently meet the reduced EJTAIP requirement, or have met the reduced requirement for the period or a portion of the period beginning July 1, 2020, in submitting the **CFS 449-2, Employment/Job Training/Apprenticeship Incentive Program Application and required documentation** if they have not previously done so. Please note that the check box on the **449-2** that applies to weekly/monthly hours of employment should be checked if the youth meets the reduced required number of hours.

Applications submitted for the retroactive eligibility period (July 1, 2020 through the date of this Action Transmittal) should include “APPLICATION FOR RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY” in the email subject line to ensure proper processing.

IV. QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding this Action Transmittal should be sent to DCFS.OfficeOfEducationandTransitionServices@illinois.gov