

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2021.03

**EXPANSION OF THE DCFS EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM
TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE YOUTH THROUGH THE COVID – 19 PANDEMIC**

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 the temporary expansion of support to youth who are eligible for the DCFS Education and Training Voucher Program. 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 changes below assist in meeting the need for increased financial support to ETV-eligible youth during the pandemic and take into consideration that there are pandemic-related obstacles to meeting usual program requirements.

- The maximum annual ETV award per youth is increased from \$5,000 to \$12,000 for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022.
- The enrollment and satisfactory academic progress requirements (SAP) for the ETV programs are waived for young people who are unable to meet them due to the pandemic until September 30, 2021.
- ETV funds can be used for maintaining training and postsecondary education, including less than full-time matriculation costs or other expenses that are not part of the cost of attendance but would help support youth in remaining enrolled until September 30, 2021.
- The age of ETV eligibility is expanded up to age 27 until September 30, 2021.

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

Students eligible for the ETV Program should submit the **CFS 449-3, Application for Education and Training Voucher Funds**, as directed on the form. Eligibility and benefits under the program expansions will be determined by the ETV Coordinator.

IV. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Action Transmittal should be sent to DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov