

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
INFORMATION TRANSMITTAL 2021.12

DATE: September 24, 2021

TO: Youth in Care, Former Youth in Care, Caregivers and all Department and Private Agency Staff

FROM: Chevelle Bailey, Deputy Director, Office of Education and Transition Services

SUBJECT: Extension of Services to Older Youth Offered Through the COVID-19 Pandemic Ends September 30, 2021

I. PURPOSE

The Department of Children and Family Services has provided extended services to hundreds of youth aging out of care during the COVID 19 pandemic as provided by the federal Appropriations Act of 2021. The extension of services to Older Youth will **expire on September 30, 2021. The following Action Transmittals will expire and rendered as obsolete:**

- **Action Transmittal 2021.02, Expansion of DCFS Employment/Job Training/Apprenticeship Incentive Program to Support Eligible Youth Through the COVID-19 Pandemic.**
- **Action Transmittal 2021.03, Expansion of the DCFS Education and Training Voucher Program to Support Eligible Youth Through the COVID-19 Pandemic; and**
- **Action Transmittal 2021.04 Updated, Procedures 302.Appendix M – Transition and Planning for Adolescents.**

While the COVID 19 pandemic extended services are ending September 30, 2021, the Department continues our commitment to provide supports to older youth as explained in this Information Transmittal.

II. PRIMARY USERS

Youth in Care, Former Youth in Care, Caregivers and all Department and Private Agency Staff

III. BACKGROUND

The COVID 19 pandemic resulted in many challenges, including those experienced by youth that aged out of care at the start of the pandemic and those that have aged out of care since March 2020. Action Transmittal 2021.02; 2021.03; and 2021.04-Updated were issued to provide additional assistance to youth aging out of care under the federal



Appropriations Act of 2021. The provisions offered under these Action Transmittals will expire on September 30, 2021.

IV. SUMMARY

The following services are available for youth over the age of 21 whose case has closed or was extended and will close on September 30, 2021 and have not yet turned 22.

Request re-entry and receive a Re-Entry Alternative Contract (RAC).

Requirements:

The permanency worker and supervisor can authorize a RAC and send approval directly to the DCFS Central Payment Unit (CPU). The worker and supervisor should meet with the youth prior to exiting care to ensure the youth has a viable transition plan and is connected to community resources and healthcare services, as needed. Upon completion of the meeting, the worker and supervisor complete, sign and date the CFS 2032-7 and send it to the CPU (DCFS.CPUDCFSMailbox@illinois.gov).

Benefits: Youth can receive a monthly stipend of \$329 from DCFS until their 22nd birthday. Referrals for community resources, healthcare and housing assistance/advocacy are provided.

Requirements – The youth must:

- Be a former youth in care who aged out of prior to September 30, 2021 and is not yet 22.
- Participate in RAC meetings via Zoom to update transition plan, connect to resources and reengage with DCFS supports.
- Submit a copy of photo identification (driver's license, state identification card, school or employment identification).
- Provide a valid address, phone number and email address.

Additionally, the services listed below well are available to qualified youth ages 21-26 and for youth who do not qualify for a RAC, up to age 26:

- **Family Advocacy Centers Alumni Services** can help youth:
 - Get a copy of important documents, including your birth certificate, Social Security card and medical records;
 - Get a state identification card or a driver's license;
 - With transportation when you start a job or training program;
 - Connect to community-based adult services to receive needed support; and
 - With housing referrals and application.
 - To find a Family Advocacy Center, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/brighterfutures/Pages/FAC.aspx>.
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV) can provide funds for eligible post-secondary expenses if:
 - Attending a post-secondary program through an accredited institution.
 - Submit an Education and Training Voucher application (CFS 449-3) to DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov.

V. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Information Transmittal from youth may be directed to your caseworker or you may call the Youth Hotline's toll-free number at 866-459-6884. Providers and Private Agency staff may contact their APT Monitor or the Youth Hotline's toll free number.