



## Colorado Office of the Child's Representative

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL 116-260) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133/text/enr> passed on December 27, 2020. Division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act is the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act. The Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act provides support to young people in the many ways outlined in this document. Pages 1228-36 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act are the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act.

### **What is provided by the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act?**

#### Chafee funding increases and flexibilities

- Chafee eligibility for young people who experienced foster care on or after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday who have not reached their 27<sup>th</sup> birthday. This increased age limit expires on October 1, 2021.
- Agencies can use Chafee funding for direct financial supports to young people.
- Young people may be eligible for up to \$4,000 to support driving, transportation, or getting a driver's license. Eligibility varies by state (contact your state ETV coordinator) but generally applies to young people who experienced foster care on or after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday who are currently aged 15-26.
- Room and board payments.
  - Agencies may use more than 30% of their Chafee funds for room and board payments.
  - Eligibility for young people who experienced foster care on or after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday who are currently aged 18-26.

#### Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) increases and flexibilities

- Up to \$12,000 of support per eligible young person/young adult per year. This increased amount expires October 1, 2022.
- A young person may be eligible if they have not reached their 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- School enrollment and satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements are waived until October 1, 2021.

#### Extended services for young people who are expected to age out of foster care

- Any young person at risk of aging out of foster care shall be allowed to remain in foster care until September 30, 2021.
- Such young people remain IV-E eligible even if they are not meeting school enrollment or SAP requirements.

#### Reentry into foster care

- States must provide reentry to all young people who aged out of foster care between January 27, 2020, and April 20, 2021, who wish to reenter foster care.
- Such young people remain IV-E eligible even if they are not meeting school enrollment or SAP requirements.

**Tips for getting eligible young people the funding or services available through the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act**

If the young person is connected with DHS via placement or otherwise:

- contact the county DHS caseworker or Chafee coordinator to request services or payments; or
- if your county does not have Chafee coordinator, reach out to the State Chafee Coordinator Derek Blake [derek.blake@state.co.us](mailto:derek.blake@state.co.us) or the State Youth Services Administrator Trevor Williams [trevor.williams@state.co.us](mailto:trevor.williams@state.co.us).

If the young person is not connected with DHS via placement or otherwise:

- notify the young person of the benefits and services available under the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act and/or provide the young person resources such as the OCR Youth Center; and/or
- connect the young person with a local Chafee program, the State Chafee Coordinator Derek Blake [derek.blake@state.co.us](mailto:derek.blake@state.co.us), or the State Youth Services Administrator Trevor Williams [trevor.williams@state.co.us](mailto:trevor.williams@state.co.us).