



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
 Department for Community Based Services  
 Division of Protection and Permanency**

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 Governor

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**Contract Correspondence Transmittal (CCT)**

<b>CCT Number: 21-05</b>	<b>Date of Issue: 3/19/2021</b>
<b>Issuance: Division of Protection and Permanency, Department for Community Based Services, Assistant Director Kelli Root KR</b>	
<b>Key Words/Phrases: Consolidated Appropriations Act, Extended Commitment, Transition Age Youth</b>	
<b>Attachments/Forms:</b>	

The intent of this correspondence is provide guidance on the revised state budget including federal language pertaining to transition age youth as a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act issued at the end of December 2020. In order to comply with federal guidance the following statues will not stand through September 30, 2021: KRS 610.110 (6), 620.140 (1) (e), 23 and 625.025. Youth on extended foster care may remain committed in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or receive transitional living support past twenty-one years of age. Any youth over the age of eighteen who ended their commitment with the Cabinet during the COVID-19 public health emergency shall be permitted to voluntarily re-enter foster care and extend commitment (Effective January 27, 2020 through April 15, 2021). Effective through September 30, 2021 young people on extended commitment shall not be terminated solely due to age or noncompliance with education or work requirements because of COVID-19. However, guidance has been issued to DCBS staff who experience young people participating in criminal activity or dangerous behaviors. Staff have been advised to submit a memo through their Regional Independent living Specialist to the Transitional Services Branch for review and consultation. Should the decision be made to terminate a young person’s commitment, DCBS will notify the young person and the agency as appropriate.

The process for young people who are eligible to request to return to foster care under the new guidance, should make a request @ [kyrise.ky.gov](http://kyrise.ky.gov). The Regional Independent Living Specialists will schedule a meeting with the young person and Social Worker in the region. The Social Worker will complete a referral, petition the court, and any other necessary paperwork to reinstate the young person’s commitment and secure placement. If the young

person is homeless, the Independent Living Specialist will connect the young person to immediate resources until the reinstatement is complete.

The expectation for private child placing (PCP) agencies is to continue to administer the savings program for young people placed in independent living settings. Although young people may not be terminated from extended commitment for not meeting the work or educational requirements during this time, agencies should continue to follow the Independent Living guidelines regarding monthly stipends and expectations around submitting verification of employment and education. Agencies should continue to assist young people with their goals to include obtaining/maintaining employment and pursuing educational opportunities. Further, agencies will need to continue to work with young people to ensure they have a housing plan upon exiting care. The Transitional Services Branch will be providing bi-weekly support to agencies to discuss the young person's progress on goals and the young person's transition plan to exit care. The Cabinet will be extending the current addendum to the PCP contract to allow youth to stay on extended commitment past their twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) birthday. This addendum will remain in effect until September 30, 2021.

Please contact Paula Saenz, Transitional Services Branch Manager, at [paula.saenz@ky.gov](mailto:paula.saenz@ky.gov) should you have any questions.