

Older Youth Pandemic Relief



Using Chafee Funds To Support Driving



FosterClub



Embrace Families

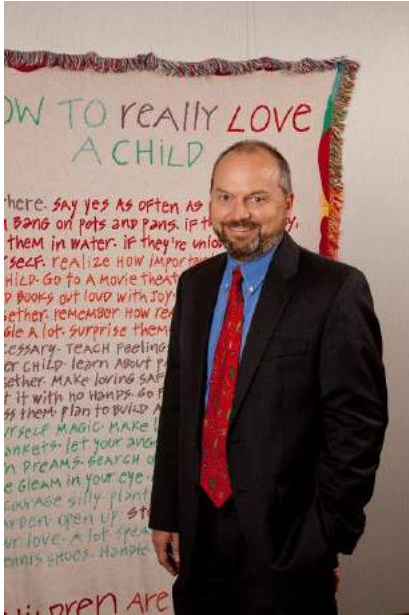
Juvenile Law Center
Fighting for the rights
and well-being of youth

Presenters

Gerry Glynn, Chief Legal Officer, Embrace Families

Lisa Padua, Keys to Independence Manager, Embrace Families

Keri Flynn, Director of Youth Services, Embrace Families



Agenda

1. Summary of the Law and Implementation Updates
2. Keys to Independence Program
3. Q&A
4. What's Next

Overview

- Includes all provisions of HR 7947, Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act, introduced by Reps. Davis and Walorski.
- Passed as a result of consistent advocacy by youth with experience in foster care.
- Seeks to meet the immediate needs of young people during the pandemic and recovery. One page summary available at: fosterclub.com/oypr

Summary of Provisions

- Extended Services (Moratorium)
- Re-Entry, including an obligation to notify and develop a public awareness campaign
- Chafee
 - Increase of \$400 million w/\$50 million in ETV
 - Eligibility through age 26
 - Lift 30% cap on room and board (“housing”)
- Education & Training Vouchers (ETV)
 - Max award from \$5000-\$12,000
 - Waive the enrollment requirement
 - Waive the requirement to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
 - Youth are eligible even if they attend at less than full time status
 - ETV can fund costs outside of the Cost of Attendance (COA)

Implementation Updates

- Children's Bureau Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-21-04 (March 10, 2021),
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im-21-05.pdf>
- Chafee supplemental allocations reached the states on February 22nd.
- Children's Bureau Program Instruction was issued today, March 10, 2020.

Program Instruction Highlights

- States must certify that they are implementing the moratorium and re-entry provisions within 45 days of the issuance of the PI.
- States are encouraged to engage young people in implementation of the law.
- States are encouraged to use a portion of their Chafee funds to provide direct financial assistance to young people.

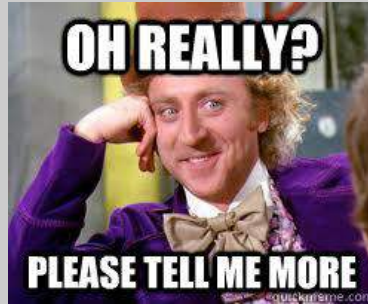
***We will provide more information on the PI in the coming days.

Using Chafee Funds to Support Driving

- Chafee funds could always be used for costs related to driving.
- The Supporting Foster Youth and Families Act specifically highlights this use of Chafee funds by specifying that they can be used for costs related to obtaining a driver's license and driving like:
 - vehicle insurance costs,
 - driver's education class and testing fees,
 - practice lessons and practice hours,
 - license fees,
 - roadside assistance,
 - deductible assistance, and
 - assistance in purchasing an automobile.” Sec 3 (d)(4). States can provide young people up to \$4000 per year for this purpose. Sec 3. (d)(4).
- Up to \$4000 per youth can be used for these purposes.
- The law also reserved \$500,000 for Technical Assistance related to this provision.

What is Keys to Independence (K2I)?

- ❖ Statewide program to remove barriers for youth in foster care to obtain a drivers license
- ❖ We serve foster youth ages 15 to 21



- ❖ Provide access to the following services:
 - Prepaid testing codes (4Hour & Permit Exam)
 - Behind the wheel driving lessons
 - Pick up/drop off service for lessons and road test
 - Reimbursement of certain DHSMV Fees
 - Assistance with auto insurance *for qualifying youth*

Why is K2I important?

- Learning to drive is a necessity and a normal part of being a teenager

Not having a driver's license is a barrier to:

- Employment
- Continuing education
- Normal extracurricular activities
- Visiting friends and family



How Long Does It Take to Get A Driver's License?

A motivated 18 year old can get a license in less than a month:

- 4 hour course (taken upon acceptance to the program)
- Learner's License Exam taken at the DMV or Tax Collector's Office
- Behind the Wheel Lessons with pick up and drop off service from placement
- Road test taken using pick up/drop off in driving school vehicles OR with driving school instructor



How did we do it?

- ✓ We gathered data on youth drivers prior to the program start up
- ✓ We created a plan.....and modified it multiple times
- ✓ We thought we would run out of money really fast
- ✓ We thought we would only be issuing checks
- ✓ We created an internal team to plan and continued meeting even 7 years later
- ✓ We continue to think outside of the box
- ✓ We engage youth in multiple ways

What you can do right now:

- Advertising
- Develop an application/reimbursement form for services to be paid
- Assign a point person
- Learn your state laws regarding teens and driving (age criteria, test criteria)



Federal Legislation

Allowed Chafee funds

- clarification
 - always could have been used but haven't been
 - encouraging use

Allows up to \$4,000 per year

- or limits amounts?
- our experience – not a problem
- haven't used for car purchases
- per year

Foster Youth 15 and older

- some states learners can start at 14

Report to Congress

- driver's education class
- testing fees
- practice lessons
- practice hours
- license fees
- vehicle insurance costs
- deductible assistance

- roadside assistance
- assistance in purchasing an auto mobile

Advocacy and campaigning

- ❖ Statewide and county campaigning
- ❖ Educating caregivers and youth support system
- ❖ Reach out to driving schools to partner



Related Florida Statutes

627.746 Insurance; Insurance Rates and Contracts: Statute relates to *minors* with a learner's license. An insurance agency is prohibited from increasing a household's insurance policy premium for *foster youth* with only a permit; and until the minor obtains a driver's license.

322.09(4) Motor Vehicles; Driver Licenses; Application of minors; responsibility for negligence or misconduct of minor: Statute relates to any authorized adult (case manager, GAL, residential group home representative, foster parent, or caregiver) does not assume any obligation or become liable for any damages caused by a *minor*, after signing for the application for the *foster youth*.

<http://keystoindependencefl.com/resources/florida-statutes>

We have come a long way in Florida

Before K2I, only 20 youth leaving the foster care system, left with a driver's license. This was out of nearly 2,000 eligible youth in 2014.

Actively enrolled today: 2,272

Youth served during life of the program: 6,000

Learner's permits earned for the life of program: 1,605

Driver's licenses earned for the life of program: 826

Non-profit contract

- Use of funds

Philosophy of overcoming barriers

- Our role is not to “qualify” but to “serve”

Creative solutions

- Partnerships for driver's education programs
- Continue to seek insurance partners



Q Questions



What's
Next?

- **Save the Date :**
- **March 17, 2021 @ 4 EST, Moving Forward with the Program Instruction.**
- Access and share the Implementation tools and resources at: **fosterclub.org/oypr**