

# Older Youth Pandemic Relief



Summary and Highlights of the Program  
Instruction: Part 2



FosterClub

**Youth** VILLAGES.  
The force for families

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

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# Agenda

1. Summary of the Law and Implementation Updates
2. Summary and Highlights of the Program Instruction—ETV & Reporting
3. Q&A
4. What's Next

# 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)

# Updates on Implementation

- Children's Bureau Program Instruction (March 9, 2021),
  - The PI and all attachments can be found here:  
<https://www.fosterclub.com/blog/public-policy/program-instructions-released-older-youth-pandemic-relief>
- Children's Bureau Information Memorandum (Jan 15, 2021),  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im-21-05.pdf>

# Caveats

- The presenters are not from the Children's Bureau.
- We are advocates who want to support the field in quickly and effectively implementing the law.
- Today we are sharing a summary of the portion of the PI that applies directly to older youth and highlighting key points for implementation.
- This week we are focusing on ETV and Reporting Requirements.

## Framework for Implementation: Act with Urgency to Meet Immediate Needs

*“Because many of these young people, once discharged from foster care, lack access to stable housing, income, and other resources that may be available to youth/young adults in intact families, the funding and flexibilities provided by the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act are **critical to ensuring youth are protected and supported**. Without adequate outreach and support, there is a very real risk that youth who have left the foster care system will become homeless or experience other negative outcomes.”*

## Framework for Implementation: Engage Young People

- Engage young people throughout implementation:
  - Invite existing entities, such as youth advisory boards
  - Enlist community-based agencies in outreach and notification activities to ensure all eligible young people learn about available assistance and how to access it.
  - Partner with community-based organizations that have direct connections with young people, are able to outreach to them, and include
- Agencies can use Chafee funds for outreach and engagement activities.



# Poll 1

What provisions has  
your jurisdiction begun  
implementing?

# ETV Provisions

# Education and Training Voucher: Purpose of the Increase and Flexibilities

*“This additional funding and flexibility allows agencies to assist youth who had been on track to attend or were attending post-secondary institutions or programs but had their education interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency. For many youth the move to virtual classes did not complement their learning paths. Many were forced to “pause” their education due to financial challenges. CB encourages agencies administering the ETV program to use the flexibility offered by the Supporting Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act to provide support to and engage with youth to explore when and how they can reconnect with their educational goals. **Youth and young adults may need multiple supportive opportunities to help them reconnect and succeed with their post-secondary education.**”*

# ETV: Age of Eligibility

- For FYs 2020 and 2021, ETVs may be provided to youth until they reach age 27.
- This expansion applies to the regular FYs 2020 and 2021.
- States can use the regular grants issued under FY 2020 and FY 2021 and the additional grant provided by Division X.

## ETV: Award Amount

- From October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022, the maximum ETV award amount is increased to \$12,000.

# Suspension of Certain ETV Requirements

- From April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, states, territories, and tribes may waive the following requirements:
  - Enrollment requirement
  - Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement
  - Full time status

# Using ETV Funds for Costs Beyond the Cost of Attendance (COA)

- From April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, state, territories, and tribes may use ETV funding to help support youth to remain enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program, including expenses that are not part of the cost of attendance.

# Examples of Costs that May be Outside the COA

- Laptops or other technology necessary for virtual education;
- Earbuds/earphones;
- Desks, chairs and other items needed to create a learning space;
- Supplies such as printer paper and ink;
- Tools for internet access (such as broadband internet access, cell phone data cards, routers and WIFI extenders).

PI, page 14.



## Reminders About ETV

- The 5 year limit for ETV use is not waived.
- ETV funding can be used for advanced degrees, as well as qualifying vocational education, and Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs.

# Matching Requirement for ETV

- There is no match requirement for the additional funding provided for ETV.
- Matching requirements remain in effect for regular FY 2020 and 2021 ETV grant awards.

# Timeline to Spend ETV Funds

- The additional ETV funding is available for expenditures over a 2-year period from October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022 and must be liquidated by December 30, 2022.
- Note that many of the program flexibilities end September 30, 2021 with the exception of the increase in the ETV maximum award to \$12,000, which lasts until September 30, 2022.

# Reporting Requirements—Chafee and ETV

- Include information on planned use of the additional Chafee and ETV funding in the FY 2022 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) due June 30, 2021.
- Include information on the actual use of funding in the FY 2023 APSR due June 30, 2022.

# Reporting Requirements

- The information reported in the FY 2022 APSR should describe:
  - The types of assistance to be or being provided to youth/young adults;
  - The strategies the agency is using to engage youth/young adults;
  - The agency's outreach efforts to foster parents, providers, schools, colleges, and the community to make them aware of the additional funding and types of Chafee and ETV support available;
  - States may provide links to policies or other outreach materials as an attachment to the FY 2022 APSR.

# Responsiveness to Changing Needs of Youth

- States and tribes may change their plans for the use of these funds over time to respond to changing circumstances and needs of youth.
- Re-programming is allowable as long as activities supported by the funds continue to support in-scope, allowable expenses.

# NYTD Reporting

- State agencies administering the Chafee program are required to report to NYTD information about youth/young adults of any age who receive an independent living or financial service.
- Youth receiving assistance or services through the additional Chafee appropriation are to be included in NYTD reporting, including young people over age 21 or 23.



What's  
Next?

- **March 31st:** State Spotlights, Illinois and Kentucky
- **Implementation tools:**  
[fosterclub.com/oypr](http://fosterclub.com/oypr)
- **Contact us at:**  
[oypr@fosterclub.com](mailto:oypr@fosterclub.com)





**Q** Questions