

DRAFT 12.14.10

# Fostering Connections. Fostering Change.

INNOVATION.  
ENGAGEMENT.  
SUCCESS.

Pre-Independent Living - all children 13-17 in any out of home care  
Current law has only required Pre-Independent Living services for children in foster care.

## Services for Young Adults - Adoption Subsidy, Guardianship Assistance and IL

Children Adopted at 16-17	Closed out of Long Term Guardianship at 16-17	Children who Aged out from Out of Home Care
Adoption subsidy continues to 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday if following Eligibility Criteria ** No IL services	GAP subsidy continues to 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday if following Eligibility Criteria ** No IL services	Independent Living: o Pathways to Success o Foundations for Success o Jumpstart to Success

### Independent Living Services

Pathways to Success - from 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday

who: full time college/vocational students attending approved institution  
when: making progress according to transition plan and passing course load  
what: access to support services and stipend (based on need) up to \$1256

Foundations for Success - from 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to 21<sup>st</sup> birthday

who: young adults meeting extension of foster care requirements \*  
when: making progress towards independence by following transition plan  
what: monthly case management, room & board, and allowance (based on need)

Jumpstart to Success - from 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to 21<sup>st</sup> birthday

who: any young adult aging out of system  
when: following transition plan (required if assistance offered over 30 days)  
what: 12 cumulative months of cash assistance, in extenuating circumstances, Jumpstart may be offered another 6 months and/or to the 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday

### Tuition Fee Waiver -

Any student who (1) at 18 was in the custody of DCF, (2) was placed in a guardianship by the court at age 16-17 (3) was in the custody of a relative under the Relative Caregiver Program (now GAP) or (4) was adopted from DCF after May 5, 1998 receives a tuition waiver for public post secondary institutions until 28<sup>th</sup> birthday.

\*\*Following the Eligibility Criteria means (1) completing high school or equivalent, (2) attending post-secondary or vocational education, (3) participating in an activity designed to promote employment, or (4) employed part-time and attending school part-time.

### Key Features of the Redesign

- Needs Assessment
- Independent Living Assessment
- Transition Plan
- Accountability/Progress
- Portability
- Permanency



## Guardianship Assistance Program

Gives authority to establish program termination guidelines for the Relative Caregiver Program by rule of the department

Establishes the Guardianship Assistance Program:

- Outlines the intent of the Guardianship Assistance Program
  - Importance of family relationships
  - Value of permanent guardianship as a permanency option
  - Support of family connections and stability for the child
- Aligns with the optional provisions of the federal Fostering Connections for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
- Definition of relative
- Extends eligible populations to age 21
  - Eligibility of young adults
- Identifies program requirements for the Guardianship Assistance Program
  - Aligns with 39.6221 definition of Permanent Guardianship
  - Establishes guardianship payments for licensed relatives that have become permanent guardianships
  - Sets forth parameters of payment agreements and terms
  - Addresses out of state placement of children
- Establishes fair hearings for denial of payment
- Outlines case plan requirements
  - Eligibility of the child
  - Steps taken to rule out other permanency option
  - Best interest of the child
  - Reason for any siblings being separated
  - Consultation with children age 14 or older in the adoption of the permanency goal of permanent guardianship
- Sets conditions for which guardianship assistance payments can be made for young adults ages 18 to age 21 whose permanent guardian entered into a guardianship assistance agreement after the young person reached the age of 16 and prior to age 18:
  - Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential, including high school or preparation for a general equivalency diploma exam, or
  - Attending an institution full-time which provides post-secondary or vocational education, full-time in a university or college, or full-time in a vocational or trade school, or
  - Attending on a part-time basis an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education or a program designed to promote or remove barriers to employment and employed part time at one or more places of employment.
  - Participating in a full-time program or activity designated to promote, or remove barriers to employment.

## Licensing of Family Homes 409.175

- Gives flexibility in support of local licensing practice. Recognizes different staff will be performing licensing activities.
- Clarifies licensing for family foster homes and licensing for Child Caring agencies/Child Placing agencies. Licensing for family homes will delineate child specific and not child specific homes.
  - Builds upon the home study completed during removal and placement when licensing child specific homes.
  - Defines child specific
  - Defines primary caregiver
  - Provides waiver authority for non-safety and non-health related licensing standards when licensing a home for a specific child or sibling group