



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County
Operations for Human Services

April 9, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*, Public Law 116-260

REQUIRED ACTION: Immediate

PURPOSE: Provide Overview of Current Guidelines

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 116-260 provided supplemental appropriations for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, and temporary provisions related to foster care and extended foster care programs.

The temporary provisions include:

- From December 27, 2020 through September 30, 2021, young adults may not be required to leave foster care solely due to age.
- Young adults who left Foster Care 18 to 21 during the COVID-19 public health emergency (defined currently as January 27, 2020 – April 20, 2021, subject to be extended) because of age shall be allowed to re-enter the program. The federal requirement for re-entry expires after September 30, 2021.
- Young adults should not be terminated from the program if failing to meet education or employment eligibility criteria. The young adult's Transition Living Plan should be developed, reviewed and/or revised to meet other eligibility criterion of the program, if appropriate.
- For Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2020 and 2021, Chafee and ETV services and assistance can now be provided to eligible young adults until age 27.
- From October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022 the maximum Education and Training Voucher (ETV) award amount has increased from \$5,000 to \$12,000 per year. The law allows ETV funding to be used 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.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- For ETV, the requirement that a youth must be enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program or making satisfactory progress toward completing the program due to COVID-19 can be waived under the provisions of the law if a youth is unable to do so.

Agencies must continue to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of older youth who remain in or re-enter foster care and continue transition planning.

The law in its entirety is available for review by accessing <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr133/BILLS-116hr133enr.pdf>. The associated Information Memorandum is included on the Children's Bureau website and can be accessed through this link: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im-21-05.pdf>.

The attached Fact Sheet provides more detailed information. More information and webinars will be scheduled; however, the most relevant information is included in the fact sheet.

If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn McKoy, Foster Care 18-21 Coordinator by email at leann.mckoy@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at (919) 527-6375 or your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Sincerely,



Lisa Tucker Cauley, MSW

Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services
NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

Attachments:

Public Law 116-260 – Fact Sheet

CWS-12-2021

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER