

MST Services

Position Statement Memo

Date: May 29, 2020

Topic: Criteria for exception to upper age range of youth served by MST teams

Position Statement:

For states or countries in which the upper age of jurisdiction for the applicable service system* is at least 19 years old, AND in which the caregivers have legal responsibility for the youth, by law or by court mandates, inclusionary criteria for youth to receive MST can be expanded to allow MST programs to accept youth who are 18 years of age, up to age 19. This expanded age criteria would apply to youth who currently are or could become involved with the applicable service system.

Summary: teams may accept youth into standard MST including those 18 years old, as long as the following criteria are met:

- All MST inclusionary and exclusionary criteria are met, including that the youth is living with an identified caregiver
- The age of jurisdiction for the applicable service system includes those who are 18 years old
- Caregivers have legal responsibility for the youth

MST programs that wish to include 18-year-olds in their inclusionary criteria should consult with their MST Expert and key stakeholders in their community to determine if this is possible. If all agree to this inclusionary criteria, the program's Goals and Guidelines document should be created or updated accordingly and distributed to the MST Expert and key stakeholders.

*"Applicable service system" refers to the system in which youth who are appropriate for MST are served, such as the juvenile justice system, child welfare, children and family services, etc.