


POLICY TITLE:		<i>Older Youth Services</i>	
		CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY	
Approved By:	Date Approved:	Original Effective Date:	Last Revision:
Brenda Donald	November 26, 2018	April 29, 2014	

I. AUTHORITY	The Director of the Child and Family Services Agency (“CFSA” or “Agency”) adopts this policy to be consistent with the Agency’s mission and applicable federal and District of Columbia (“DC”) laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act of 1974 and its implementing regulations, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 and its implementing regulations, all applicable sections of Title 4 of the DC Code, all applicable chapters of Title 29 of the DC Municipal Regulations (“DCMR”), and the <i>LaShawn A. v. Bowser</i> Implementation and Exit Plan (“IEP”).
II. APPLICABILITY	CFSA staff and contracted agency personnel
III. RATIONALE	CFSA is committed to providing services which will support older youth as they prepare for independence and develop skills which will assist them as they transition to adulthood.
IV. POLICY	<p>Through the Office of Youth Empowerment (“OYE”), CFSA provides an array of services and supports and provides linkage to community-based services and support to older youth in foster care. Services and supports are intended to help them develop their strengths and address their needs as they prepare to transition out of the foster care system and into their lives as independent adults.</p> <p>Case Management Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth between the ages of 15 and 20 years placed in a congregate care facility or DC foster home are to be assigned to OYE for primary case management unless there is a determination that it is in the youth’s best interest to be assigned to a non-OYE social worker. 2. Irrespective of who has case management responsibility, youth are to be informed of their rights under the District of Columbia Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care. 3. The youth’s case plan must document: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The youth’s education, health, visitation, and court participation rights b. The youth’s right to receive a credit report annually, and c. A signed acknowledgement by the youth that the youth was informed of these rights and that they were explained in an age appropriate way.

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<p>IV. POLICY</p>	<p>College and Career Preparation Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. OYE offers college and career preparation services to all youth in foster care who are interested in, applying to, or enrolling in post-secondary education. 5. OYE holds individual counseling sessions with the youth, or facilitates team sessions, to provide assistance with college or vocational program search and selection, entrance pre-requisites, applications, and the financial aid process. 6. OYE facilitates and sponsors (subject to availability of funds) on-site visits to secondary education institutions. 7. OYE provides limited financial assistance to cover academic testing and program enrollment fees, and graduation expenses subject to the availability of funds. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assistance is to be made available only after alternative means of funding the activities have been exhausted. 8. OYE provides limited tuition assistance (not to exceed \$5,000 per year) for post-secondary education through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) Education and Training Vouchers (ETV), subject to the availability of funds, to youth who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. are between 18 to 20 years of age at the time of application and who have not reached 23 years of age b. have United States citizenship or legal residency c. were in out-of-home care at the age of 15 years or older, or adopted or achieved permanency through legal guardianship at the age of 16 or older d. possess a high school diploma or equivalent e. are enrolled in a post-secondary school, or career or technical training program, as a full-time or part-time student f. have submitted an application for financial aid, including the completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA"), to the post-secondary school or training program g. initiate the post-secondary education or training before age 21 years, or six months prior to aging out of foster care h. maintain satisfactory academic progress (i.e., at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or academic standing consistent with the institution's FAFSA graduation requirements 9. For youth interested in career opportunities and advancement, OYE career counseling sessions focus on professional development, interviewing, and resume-building. 10. OYE partners with public and private job-training programs and employers to offer youth opportunities for work experience, vocational training, certification and sustainable employment.
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IV. POLICY

Asset Building/Financial Literacy Services

- 11. For youth between the ages of 15 to 20.5 years, the Asset Building/Financial Education program is to be made available to develop the skills to save, build and manage assets as they prepare to transition out of foster care.
- 12. Eligible youth who enroll in the Asset Building/Financial Education program will receive financial coaching in personal budgeting, financial planning, and credit counseling. The program also includes a Matched Savings Program wherein CFSA contributes to the youth's savings account.

Foster Care Transition Services

- 13. Transition services are available to all youth in care age 14 years and older for a connection to adult human service support agencies and community service providers to assist youth across the following independent living domains:
 - life skills, self-care and health literacy
 - finances and money management
 - educational, vocational and career planning
 - permanent housing
 - transportation planning
 - social integration and community connections
 - sexual health and family planning
- 14. Until the youth reaches 20 years of age, transition and planning meetings with youth occur semi-annually.
- 15. At age 20 years, transition planning meetings occur at least every 90 days until the youth exits foster care.
- 16. The youth transition plan is developed and updated in consultation with the youth and, at the option of the youth, with up to two members of the case planning team who are chosen by the youth and who are not the youth's social worker or resource provider.
 - a. The Agency may reject the person(s) the youth identified to be a member of the case planning team at any time if the Agency has good cause to believe that the individual would not act in the youth's best interests
- 17. Youth exiting care will receive consultation to promote continuity of health insurance following transition from care into their state of residence.
- 18. Upon exit from foster care, youth are to be provided with original versions or official copies of their birth certificate, social security card, District identification card, Medicaid card, immunization records, school records, health care records, immigration documents, and a signed Ward letter indicating that the youth had previously been in foster care.

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IV. POLICY	<p>Aftercare Services</p> <p>19. Youth are eligible for the following aftercare services for two years from the date of the youth's exit from foster care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in the search for stable housing • Aftercare case management • Employment and vocational guidance, including referrals • Ongoing life skills development • Guidance for accessing public services • Referral to parenting classes and daycare vouchers • Referral and linkage to adult systems <p>20. Youth access to aftercare services shall be facilitated through OYE referral to service providers.</p> <p>21. Youth qualifying for services through other adult systems shall not receive CFSA-sponsored aftercare services.</p>
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