



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Rebecca Kapusta
Interim Secretary

DATE: December 17, 2019

TO: Regional Managing Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: Jessica Sims, Chief of Staff *JMS*

FROM: JoShonda Guerrier, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *JSG*

SUBJECT: FSFN Implementation: Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Program

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide implementation guidance for the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Program.

BACKGROUND: In preparation of the end of Florida's Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project, Florida has implemented a Path Forward initiative to explore ways to maximize federal dollars received by our state. This initiative includes the implementation of the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (EMAS) program effective January 1, 2019. The existing Title IV-E Maintenance Adoption Subsidy program allows adoptive families to receive adoption subsidy and Medicaid until the child reaches the age of 18. The implementation of the EMAS program will now allow young adults whose adoptive parent(s) signed their initial adoption assistance agreement when the child was 16 or 17 years old to be potentially eligible for adoption subsidy and Medicaid until the young adults reaches the age of 21.

Enhancements have been made to Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) to serve this new population of children whose adoption has not finalized as of January 1, 2019. However, federal requirements outline that a state must extend adoption assistance payments to a child whose adoptive parents entered into the initial adoption assistance agreement when a child was 16 or 17 years old prior to the state's option to extend maintenance adoption subsidy. Therefore, young adults whose adoptions meet this criterion and have finalized will be eligible for the EMAS program as well.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this memorandum with all staff who will be completing tasks associated with the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Program. Notification to eligible families should be completed by January 31, 2019.

To appropriately identify the population of young adults whose adoptions have already finalized, a listing of individuals shall be provided through DCF Regional Contract Managers to each lead community based care agency contract manager. Adoption staff will be responsible for providing written correspondence regarding the EMAS program and its requirements to families whose initial adoption assistance agreement was executed when the child was between the age of 16 or 17 years old.

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

Should the adoptive family elect to participate in the EMAS program, the closed post adoption cases would need to be re-opened and the Extension Maintenance Adoption Assistance Agreement ([CF-FSP 5433](#)) found on the DCF Forms website must be completed and uploaded into FSFN under the Image Category of Adoption and Image Type of Adoption Assistance Agreement. A non-placement service would need to be created to pay maintenance adoption subsidy and the following new OCAs should be used payment: CBC- Title IV-E Extended Adoption Subsidies WR002 (IV-E) and CBC Child Welfare Extended Adoption Subsidies WO007 (State Funds). Lastly, an application for Child in Care Medicaid would need to be completed in FSFN.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this memorandum, please contact Valerie Proctor, Adoption Policy & Program Specialist at Valerie.Proctor@myflfamilies.com .

cc: Office of Child Welfare Directors
Regional Family and Community Services Directors
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