



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

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor


**Shevaun L. Harris**  
Secretary

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**DATE:** July 1, 2022

**TO:** Family Well-Being Directors  
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

**THROUGH:** Molly McKinstry, Chief of Staff

**FROM:** Jessica Tharpe, Assistant Secretary for Child and Family Well Being 

**SUBJECT:** Department of Children and Families (DCF) Tuition and Fee Exemption

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding updates to the DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption.

**BACKGROUND:** Florida public postsecondary education institutions provide eligible former foster students tuition and fee exemptions. To waive tuition and fees, students must obtain a signed CF-FSP 5220, available in DCF Forms, validating eligibility from a Community-Based Care lead agency representative.

Effective July 1, 2022, s. 1009.25 Florida Statutes (F.S.), expands the population of students eligible for the tuition and fee waiver, to include:

- A child that is, or was at the time of reaching 18 years of age, placed in the custody of a relative or non-relative under s. 39.6221, F.S.
- A child who was reunified with his or her parents, who spent at least 18 months in out-of-home care after reaching their 14 years of age, including a reinstatement of parental rights pursuant to s. 39.8155, F.S. Those students who are eligible through the reunification criteria must also be Pell Grant eligible. The Pell Grant eligibility is determined by the postsecondary institutions and not the Department.

All other tuition exemption fee eligibility criteria have remained the same.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please share this memorandum with all child welfare professionals with the Community-Based Care lead agencies, their subcontracted providers, all relevant staff, and caregivers as appropriate. Please make diligent efforts to ensure that eligible youth and young adults are made aware of these changes.

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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

**MEMO:** DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this memorandum, please contact Cal Walton, III, Deputy Director of the Office of Continuing Care, at [Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com) or 407-241-4712.

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