



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

Charlie Crist
Governor

Robert A. Butterworth
Secretary

DATE: March 7, 2008 **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** C – 08-03-0006

TO: ACCESS Florida Operations Managers
ACCESS Florida Program Offices

FROM: Nathan Lewis, Chief, Program Policy (**Signature on File**)

SUBJECT: Road to Independence Payments

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

This memorandum clarifies how to treat Road to Independence payments for all programs.

Road to Independence Program

Road to Independence helps eligible students who were former foster care children in Florida receive educational and vocational training they need to achieve independence. The program awards payments to 18 to 23-year-old individuals who were in foster care when they turned age 18. Individuals, age 16 to 18, who were adopted from foster care or placed with a court-approved dependency guardian and have spent a minimum of six months in foster care within 12 months immediately preceding the placement or adoption are also eligible for the payment when they turn 18.

Road to Independence Payments

The basis for the Road to Independence payment amount is the living and educational needs of the student and may not exceed the amount of earnings the student would receive working a 40-hour week minimum wage job. Exclude Road to Independence payments for food stamps, Temporary Cash Assistance, and Medicaid. Students receiving the Road to Independence payment must pass the “student test” to be eligible for food stamp benefits.

If there are policy questions, circuit/region offices may contact Connie Mathers at SUNCOM 291-5578.

cc: Office of Appeal Hearings (John Pritchard)
Office of the General Council (Herschel Minnis)
Office of Communications (Erin Geraghty)
Florida Legal Services (Cindy Huddleston)

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700