



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: July 28, 2009

TO: Regional Directors

THROUGH: John K. Cooper, Acting Assistant Secretary for Operations
David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs
Mary Cagle, Director of Children's Legal Services
Mary Ann Stiles, Acting General Counsel

FROM: Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety

SUBJECT: Services to Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care Spending Plan,
Federal Minimum Wage Increase and Technical Assistance for
Eligibility Determinations
DUE DATE: August 31, 2009

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to request the submission of the spending plan for young adult services required by Section 409.1451(5), F.S. The format is attached. Please submit this plan by **August 31, 2009** to Julie.Mayo@dcf.state.fl.us

In addition, the following issues are addressed below:

- Federal minimum wage increase to \$7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009 and
- Process for reviewing reductions, denials and/or termination of benefits to young adults formerly in foster care.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please ensure dissemination of this memo to your lead agencies and providers delivering foster care services to teens and independent living services.

Plan for Implementation of Services to Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care
Section 409.1451(5), F.S., requires each community based care lead agency under contract with the Department of Children and Families providing independent living services to develop a plan for the implementation of these services. The law specifies the elements of the plan and those elements are included in the attached template. Please complete the attached template and return to Julie Mayo no later than August 31, 2009.

Increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009
Section 409.1451(5)(b), F.S., Road to Independence Program (RTI), provides "The amount of the award shall be based on the living and educational needs of the young adult and may be up to, but may not exceed, the amount of earnings that the student would have been eligible to earn working a 40-hour-a-week federal minimum wage job."

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

Effective July 24, 2009, the new federal minimum wage became \$7.25 per hour and the new maximum monthly RTI payment will now be \$1,256. This is based on 7.25 multiplied by 40 hours multiplied by 4.33 weeks.

After July 24, 2009, all correspondence with young adults formerly in foster care regarding the Road to Independence award must reflect the new maximum benefit. If lead agencies do not have sufficient dollars to fund the award at the maximum amount the youth is entitled to receive, the youth must be advised of the fair hearing process.

For more information on the appeal process, please see the attached memorandum issued on April 4, 2008 entitled "Independent Living Fair Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General." Also see Florida Administrative Code 65C-31.009 Independent Living Benefits Due Process Notification as well as 65C-31.011 Independent Living Program Budget Management.

Technical Assistance for Reviewing Denials, Reductions or Terminations of Benefits

Our goal is to provide a framework for problem solving challenging eligibility questions and to ensure the best possible service delivery with the funding available. Technical assistance will be provided to ensure the best decision making process for the youth and for the staff implementing the law and code. In each case in which the decision is made to deny, reduce, or terminate benefits provided in the law, please consult your local Children's Legal Services. Section 409.1451(5), F.S., Services for Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care provides the eligibility requirements for these services. More information about Children's Legal Services (including contact information) is available at the following web sites:

<http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/kb/Administrative%20Rules/legal.aspx>

<http://eww.dcf.state.fl.us/cls/cls.shtml>

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have further questions, please contact Julie Mayo, Independent Living Specialist at 850-922-0375 or email at Julie_Mayo@dcf.state.fl.us.

Thank you.

Attachments: Spending Plan Template
April 8, 2008 Fair Hearings Memo

cc: Community-Based Care CEOs
CBC Contract Managers

Enter Agency Name

Plan for Implementation of Services to Young Adult Formerly in Foster Care, 18 through 22

Section 409.1451(5), F.S. requires community-based care lead agencies that are under contract with the department to develop a plan to implement services to young adults formerly in foster care. These plans are to include; the number of young adults to be served each month of the fiscal year and specify the number of young adults **who will reach 18 years of age** who will be eligible for the plan and the number of young adults **who will reach 23 years of age** and will be ineligible for the plan or who are otherwise ineligible during each month of the fiscal year; staffing requirements and all related costs to administer the services and program; expenditures to or on behalf of the eligible recipients; costs of services provided to young adults through an approved plan for housing, transportation, and employment; reconciliation of these expenses and any additional related costs with the funds allocated for these services; and an explanation of and a plan to resolve any shortages or surpluses in order to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget.

Note: The statutory requirement for this plan is to project data, costs and service requirements for services for young adults formerly in foster care. Agencies are encouraged to enhance this plan by adding projections for adolescent services as well. However, projections for costs, staffing requirements and other requirements for young adult services must be separate in the plan.

1. Please complete the following table. Instructions are below.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6
Month	<i>Count from Previous Month (begin w/ count from 6/08)</i>	ADD Projected # reaching age 18	MINUS # reaching age 23	MINUS Projected otherwise ineligible	<i>Total Number to be served each month</i>
July 2009					0
August 2009					0
September 2009					0
October 2009					0
November 2009					0
December 2009					0
January 2010					0
February 2010					0
March 2010					0
April 2010					0
May 2010					0
June 2010					0
	<i>Totals</i>	0	0	0	

a. The number of new young adults each month who will reach 18 years of age who will be eligible for the plan for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Enter into Column 3

Add narrative here, as needed

b. The number of young adults who will reach 23 years of age ("age out") and will be ineligible for the plan or who are otherwise ineligible during each month of the fiscal year .

Enter into Columns 4 and 5

Add narrative here, as needed

c. The number of all eligible young adults to be served each month of the fiscal year of 2009-2010.

Enter into Column 2

Add narrative here, as needed

2. Staffing requirements and all related costs to administer the services and program expenditures to or on behalf of the eligible recipients- 18 through 22 year olds

Add narrative here, as needed

Type of cost or type of staff	# of staff required	Costs
<i>Example: Supervisory staff</i>		
<i>Example: Casework staff</i>		
<i>Example: Lifeskills or job coaches</i>		
<i>Example: Other costs; explain below</i>		
Total	0	\$0.00

Explain other costs:

**3. Expenditures to or on behalf of the eligible clients age 18 through 22.
Add narrative here, as needed**

Type of cost	# of benefits to be awarded*	Average cost per client per year	Total Cost
<i>RTI Program awards</i>			\$ -
<i>Transitional Support Services</i>			\$ -
<i>Aftercare Support Services</i>			\$ -
<i>Other expenditures; explain below</i>			\$ -
Total	0	0	\$ -

* These numbers may be duplicative since a young adult may receive benefits from more than one service during the month.

Explain other costs:

4. Costs of services provided to young adults through and approved plan for housing, transportation and employment.

Section 409.1451(5)(d)3., F.S. allows the following: “*The community-based care lead agency may purchase housing, transportation, or employment services to ensure the availability and affordability of specific transitional services thereby allowing an eligible young adult to utilize these services in lieu of receiving a direct payment. Prior to purchasing such services, the community-based care lead agency must have a plan approved by the department...*”

The agency has an “approved plan” to provide housing, transportation and employment services.

Yes

No

If yes, indicate costs below, if no enter -0-.

Add narrative here, as needed

Service	Costs
Housing	
Transportation	
Employment	
Totals	\$0.00

5. Reconciliation of these expenses and any additional related costs with funds allocated for these services .(If using Excel, these will total automatically.)

Expense Type	Proposed Expenses	Current Funding	Shortage/ Surplus Funding
Staffing Requirements: (#2 above)	\$0.00		\$0.00
Client Expenditures: (#3 above)	\$0.00		\$0.00
Housing, Transportation, and Employment Costs: (#4 above)	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other costs for clients ages 18 through 22: explain below			\$0.00
Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Explain other costs:

6. An explanation of and a plan to resolve any shortages or surpluses in order to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget . (Please indicate how the agency plans to address any deficits indicated in this plan. If a surplus is projected please indicate how these additional funds will be expended prior to end of the fiscal year.)

Explanation: