

## Chapter 7

## EXTENSION OF MAINTENANCE ADOPTION SUBSIDY

7-1. Overview. In 2008, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351) allowed states to receive federal Title IV-E reimbursement for costs associated with supports for young adults up to age 21. Effective January 1, 2019, Florida will utilize Title IV-E funds to provide adoption assistance for eligible young adults up to 21 years of age. To be eligible for the program, young adults are required to meet Title IV-E eligibility criteria along with state option requirements outlined in section [409.166](#), F.S. and Chapter [65C-16](#), F.A.C. As of July 1, 2024, a child that is adopted at 14 or 15 years of age may be eligible for Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy through the state funded program.

a. A young adult's participation in the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (EMAS) program may be funded through Title IV-E federal financial participation or state funding through general revenue.

b. Participation in the EMAS program authorizes the adoptive parent(s) to receive an adoption subsidy payment on behalf of the young adult and the young adult to receive Medicaid.

c. The following paragraphs of this operating procedure apply to young adults participating in the EMAS program: Chapter 5, paragraphs 5-3, 5-4, 5-8, 5-17, 5-18, and 5-20.

7-2. Program Requirements. The EMAS program is intended to serve young adults as defined in section [409.166\(4\)\(a\)](#), F.S. In order for a young adult to participate in EMAS, the program requirements outlined in [65C-16.0131, F.A.C.](#), must be met.

7-3. Program Funding. Adoptive parent(s) and young adults may participate in the EMAS program regardless of the Title IV-E Eligibility status of which the adoption subsidy is funded prior to age 18.

7-4. Funding Type Determination. Funding type determinations for EMAS is based upon the funding type determination that was in effect for participation in Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) and the child's age at the time the AAA was executed. Therefore:

a. Young adults who were funded by Title IV-E MAS, will continue Title IV-E funding for EMAS.

b. Young adults who were funded by TANF MAS will be state funded for EMAS.

c. Young adults who were state funded MAS will continue to be state funded for EMAS.

d. Young adults who were 14 or 15 years of age when the AAA was executed, regardless of their funding determination prior to age 18, will be state funded for EMAS.

e. The funding type remains the same regardless of a young adult's discharge and re-entry into the program.

7-5. Extended Adoption Assistance Agreement. An Extended Adoption Assistance Agreement (EAAA) (form CF-FSP [5433](#), available in DCF Forms) shall be executed between the adoptive parent(s), young adult, and Department designee.

a. The effective date of the EAAA shall be the date of the young adult's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or a date thereafter up until the age of 21. A determination shall be made in CCWIS verifying all program criteria has been met, along with obtaining supporting documentation, before the effective date of the EAAA can be determined.

b. EMAS payments are not authorized until all parties have signed the EAAA and supporting documentation of a qualifying activity has been received by the designated child welfare professional. The payment shall only be authorized for the period in which supporting documentation reflects participation in a qualifying activity.

c. The EAAA shall reflect the accurate funding type.

(1) The child welfare professional shall request an eligibility determination from lead agency revenue maximization staff.

(2) Lead agency revenue maximization staff shall provide the funding eligibility type to the child welfare professional within 10 calendar days of the request.

7-6. Ongoing Payment Determination. Every six months the young adult must provide supporting documentation of his or her participation in a qualifying activity, pursuant to section [409.166](#), F.S.

a. If supporting documentation is not provided, payment will not be released for the period until documentation is provided.

b. Payment may resume upon the young adult providing supporting documentation effective for the timeframe in which supporting documentation verifies participation in a qualifying activity.

c. Payment continues through the month of the young adult's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, unless the young adult's date of birth is the first day of the month.

7-7. Termination of Payment. Termination of payment coincides with the criteria outlined in section [409.166](#), F.S., and [65C-16, F.A.C.](#)

7-8. CCWIS Documentation.

a. Funding Type Determination. CCWIS shall contain the applicable eligibility determination and supporting documentation as required for a MAS determination. Please see Chapter 5 of this operating procedure for additional information.

b. Payment Determination. Supporting documentation of the young adults qualifying activity must be uploaded into the CCWIS File Cabinet for ongoing payment pursuant to [65C-16, F.A.C.](#)