



Policies and Procedures

Title	After-Care Support Services for Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care				
Program	Permanency and Operations				
Status	Approved	Policy Number		FSMO601	
Origin Date	08/01/04	Revision Date	01/01/06	Revision Number	
Policy Summary	This policy establishes the procedures and conditions by which Chafee funds can be utilized for after-care services to prevent homelessness.				
Scope	Applicable to children who leave foster care at 18 years of age, but requests services prior to his or her 23 rd birthday.				
Reference(s)	FS 409.1451 (5)	Form Reference			

Protocol

Definitions

After-Care Support – referrals to community resources for a wide variety of needs and cash assistance, specifically to prevent homelessness. An after-care services assessment will be completed to determine what services the young adult needs. After-care dollars can not exceed 30 percent of the Chafee dollars allotted.

Chafee Funds – federal dollars made available to states for youth, beginning at an age set by each state’s guidelines, but no later than age 16 for the purpose of independent living skill development, normalization activities, youth advocacy, and preventing homelessness, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and child abuse.

Client Eligibility

Policy is applicable to any child who leaves foster care at age 18, but requests services prior to his or her 23rd birthday.

Application Process for After Care Support Cash Assistance to Prevent Homelessness

Assistance may be provided for housing, electric, water, gas, sewer service and emergency food. Section 409.1451 (5) (d) F.S. provides checks should be written directly to the service provider. In preventing homelessness, providing cash assistance is not the only option, and agreements with community providers to waive fees, contacting relatives and other such options must be explored as well.

In Orange and Osceola County, the Homeless Services Network provides emergency cash assistance when the above criteria have been met. The family case manager must assist the youth in the following (the teen specialist can be utilized for assistance):

1. Complete the After-Care Support Service Cash Assistance Application.
2. List all community resources explored for assistance, including family members.
3. Inform youth of \$1,000 yearly limit.
4. Determine need for additional services. If young adult requests further services, explore transitional support services for the youth.
5. Document in HSn requests for after-care support service referrals and after-care cash assistance in the chronological section. The application must be kept in a hard copy file.
6. Provide proof that the young adult is in need of services. This may be in the form of an eviction notice, utility cut-off notice, etc., or by assessing the situation through an interview with the young adult conducted by the family services counselor.

The Homeless Services Network will:

1. When receiving a referral from a youth, first inquire about whether they have a DCF family services counselor or family case manager.
2. Refer youth to counselor for assistance. If youth does not have a counselor, assist the youth in completing the application for assistance.
3. Fax the referral for approval to Family Services of Metro Orlando Independent Living Coordinator. (The IL coordinator will try to locate the case manager first, if one not currently open will verify the eligibility through ICWSIS/HSn and then refer the case to a service center for case management.)
4. Provide payment to the appropriate vendor.
5. Track each youth receiving assistance to ensure they do not exceed the \$1,000.

The Finance and Administrative Services will provide a line of credit to Homeless Services Network to be renewed after evaluation every six months.