

Older Youth Pandemic Relief



Tools You Can Use



FosterClub

Juvenile Law Center
Fighting for the rights
and well-being of youth

Presenters



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Agenda

1. Summary & Updates
2. Developing a Flyer & Benefits Grid
3. Notifying Young People
4. Planning for Outreach
5. Direct Financial Assistance
6. Allowable Uses Chart
7. State Updates
8. Q&A

Summary of Provisions

- Extended Services (Moratorium)
- Re-Entry, including an obligation to notify and develop a public awareness campaign
- Chafee
 - Increase of \$400 million w/\$50 million in ETV
 - Eligibility through age 26
 - Lift 30% cap on room and board (“housing”)
- Education & Training Vouchers (ETV)
 - Increased max award from \$5000-\$12,000
 - Waive the enrollment requirement
 - Waive the requirement to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
 - Youth are eligible even if they attend at less than full time status
 - ETV can fund costs outside of the Cost of Attendance (COA)

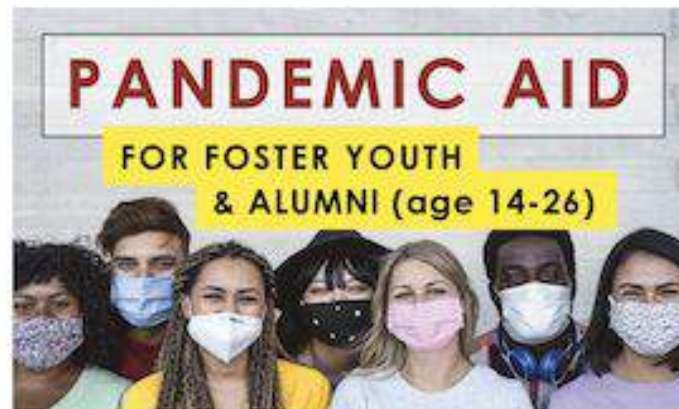
Updates on Implementation

- Children's Bureau Information Memorandum (Jan 15, 2021), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im-21-05.pdf>
- Children's Bureau Program Instruction (March 9, 2021), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/pi-21-04>

Developing a Flyer

Informing young people
about new support
available

Consider how you will distribute the
flyer and who are key stakeholders
connected to young people.



A NEW LAW has passed that provides
funding to help current and former foster
youth through the COVID crisis



Cash assistance to cover basic needs like food, access to technology, and other expenses



Extended foster care so that you don't age out during the crisis (it's hard enough to transition to adulthood!)



Housing assistance – states have more resources to help you get into (or keep) your home



Re-enter foster care if you are under age 22 and aged out between 4/1/20-9/30/21



Transportation allowance to help youth get a driver's license



Higher Education aid – the ETV limit is temporarily raised to \$12,000 per individual

Find out if you are eligible (expanded eligibility!)
Contact Your State Chafee ILP or
email: info@fosterclub.com call: 503-717-1552

Youth Pandemic Support Grid

Create your own grid, or use this template to create your own.

Provide youth-friendly information about how to access the services they are looking for.

New Funding Available!


Get help w/

- Basic Needs
- Ca\$h
- Housing
- Tech
- Education
- Transpo
- Advice

PANDEMIC AID

FOR FOSTER YOUTH

& ALUMNI (age 14-26)



A NEW law has passed that provides funding to support current and former foster youth during the COVID pandemic. Act now to receive assistance that will help you get stable, back on track with work or school, and forge an amazing future for yourself!

What help do you need?	What's available	How to know if you're eligible	Where to Ask
Emergency Cash for Basic Needs, including food	Emergency funding is available to provide cash assistance now until Sept 30, 2021. Each state will be figuring out how they will distribute funds to young people.	Young people age 14 through 26 (up to 27th birthday) who experienced foster care when they were age 14 or older.	Ask your Chafee Independent Living Coordinator. If they have not heard about the Older Youth Pandemic Relief funding yet, or if you don't have an IL Coordinator, contact your State Independent Living Program Manager .
Stay in Foster Care (delay of aging out)	States are to allow ANY YOUTH currently in foster care to stay in foster care until at least Sept 30, 2021.	Young people who will be aging out soon (may happen at 18 or 21 years old).	Your caseworker. If you go to Court, ask your attorney, CASA, GAL, and the Judge about this option.
Re-Enter Foster Care	Many young people have learned life on their own is harder than they thought it would be, especially during a pandemic.	States must provide re-entry to all under age 22 who aged out between 4/1/20-9/30/21.	Ask your previous caseworker. Alternately, you could ask the Manager at your local child welfare agency how to re-enter foster care. If they are not aware of this option, contact your State Independent Living Program Manager .
Housing	The new FYI Housing Program can provide a support for rent for up to three years. Additionally, States can use the new Chafee pandemic relief funds to support housing for current and former foster youth.	FYI Housing: Current or former foster youth ages 18-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (this includes couch surfing). Read an information flyer.	Ask your Chafee Independent Living Coordinator. If they are not aware of the FYI Housing Program, or if you do not have an IL Coordinator, contact your State Independent Living Program Manager .
Higher Ed Funding (increased ETV)	Temporarily raises the amount of support that can be provided to an individual student to \$12,000 per year.	Young people age 14 through 26 (up to 27th birthday) who experienced foster care when they were age 14 or older.	Contact your State ETV Coordinator (sometimes this is the same person as the Independent Living Program Manager)

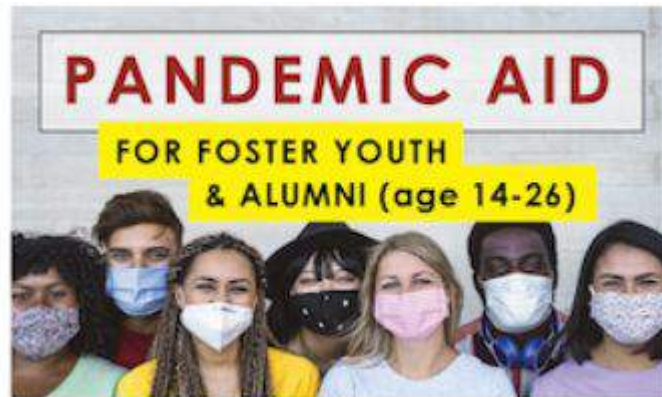
Quick Poll:

**Have you created a
flyer or benefits info
sheet or grid yet?**

Notifying Young People

Use these templates to notify youth about the moratorium, re-entry or additional support.

Consider how you will distribute the flyer and who are key stakeholders connected to young people.



TEXT FOR EXTENSION OF FOSTER CARE LETTER

I am writing to you because you are scheduled to age out of foster care between December 27, 2020 and September 30, 2021. There is a new law (called the Consolidated Appropriations Act) that can provide you assistance if you are in foster care or aged out of foster care during the pandemic. This new law was enacted to make sure YOU get the support they need during this difficult time.

Under the new law, you can stay in foster care even if you are age 21 or older. If you stay in foster care, you can remain in your placement or living arrangement and continue to get casework support to help you meet your goals as you plan for your transition to adulthood. You can remain in foster care until September 30, 2021.

You do not need to make a request to your caseworker to remain in foster care, your caseworker should ask you if this is something that you want. Your caseworker will meet with you to make sure you understand the option to stay in care and can answer any questions that you have.


If you have any questions about the new law before you meet with your caseworker, please call me at _____ [add text and email if that is an option].

Sincerely,

TEXT FOR A REENTRY LETTER

I am writing to you because you aged out of foster care on January 27, 2020 or later. There is a new law (called the Consolidated Appropriations Act) that can provide you assistance if you are in foster care or aged out of foster care during the pandemic; it was enacted to make sure YOU get the

Outreach Planner

Older Youth Pandemic Relief				Another awesome tool from  FosterClub		
Outreach Strategy and Workplan						
If your team develops tools that you would like to share with other states/jurisdictions, please send to policy@fosterclub.com . This template will be updated regularly , so please bookmark and revisit regularly. More tools at FosterClub: www.fosterclub.com/OYPR						
Task	Audience	Goal and/or metric	Message	Channel	Partner/s who can help	Asset(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner dissemination list	Individual contact at organizations that serve young people from foster care (see potential partner list)	Create contact list of all partners who can help spread the word to youth, or to individuals who often come into contact with current/former foster youth.	n/a We need your help to reach young people from foster care, age 14-26, who are eligible for new Pandemic Relief funding and supports.	Spreadsheet Email		Partner Contact List: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DGcW_4f3HjDy_gqxJ78fc4WperuD-PjSEX1-rYr_mgg/edit?usp=sharing Partner Outreach Email: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CEvLDsPIN-e4cXxhYRBqxHlxv035uSxc9QAAIpsObY/edit?usp=sharing
<input type="checkbox"/> Create Youth Pandemic Relief Sign Up List	Youth		(See messages below that encourage youth to add their name to the Youth Pandemic Relief List)	Database	SurveyMonkey, Google forms. FosterClub can develop a secure sign-up portal for youth.	Youth List Fields for Signup Database: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Vw8lpFNWe8hZmYRICv4GYcRi4fSDZ5eqfFejeRKgaGc/edit?usp=sharing
<input type="checkbox"/> eUpdate List	Adult Stakeholders	Track growth of list over time (e.g. monthly)	n/a Sign up to receive updates about Pandemic Relief that is available to young people from foster care age 14-26	Database Email		Adult Stakeholder Signup Fields: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Bcx58RjX2Jnowb74yJWqoCotzeM-vglqNzqno4eUWA/edit?usp=sharing Adult Stakeholder Outreach Email: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xpGZCCA9v3M95zYJom2hBVZe-yAbJq3FXrY0eRwz4/edit?usp=sharing
<input type="checkbox"/> Announce to youth the upcoming funding opportunity	Youth in eligible population (youth who experienced care 14+, who are now up to age 26)	Develop a list of eligible youth to expedite payments once funding is available.	Add your name on the Youth Pandemic Relief List to keep updated!	Facebook Instagram Email		Artwork elements in Canva: https://www.canva.com/design/DAEUX7LW6qs/W9eFHOww4L5r1xrA0VNkQ/edit Draft email to young people: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WKVRA03koFk-EJsTlSUSdsb_NJedY3t18Q0k_PJu9OU/edit?usp=sharing
<input type="checkbox"/> Announce to adult stakeholders the upcoming funding opportunity	Caregivers (foster, adopt, kinship, group staff), Child Welfare professionals and stakeholders, helping	Develop a list of adult stakehold message them app	Get in touch with eligible youth to let them	Email		Draft email to adult stakeholders: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G76CA0-3M95zYJom2hBVZe-yAbJq3FXrY0eRwz4/edit?usp=sharing

Available at www.fosterclub.com/OYPR

Direct Financial Assistance

Five Reasons Why States Should Provide Direct Financial Assistance to Young People with Chafee Funds

1. Many young people from foster care struggled economically prior to the pandemic. Their financial needs are significantly greater as a result of the pandemic particularly due to its disruption to work and housing: Surveys, including those done by the Field Center and FosterClub, showed the young people have significant unmet financial need. Of the young people surveyed:
 - 55 percent were food insecure.
 - Almost 50 percent saw a negative impact on employment.
 - About 50 percent reported housing instability or homelessness.
 - Almost 3 out of 4 experienced financial stresses.
 - 2/3 saw major negative impacts on their education.
 - Many did not receive stimulus and other pandemic assistance¹
2. **Direct financial assistance is what Congress intended:** One of Congress's main intents in increasing Chafee funds in the Consolidated Appropriations Act was to provide immediate relief through the provision of direct financial assistance. Young people, many of whom did not receive other federal stimulus payments, advocated for emergency financial aid since the beginning of the pandemic. Providing direct financial assistance ensures that young people receive the benefit of the stimulus.



Decision Grid to Plan a Direct Financial Assistance Program

In developing this plan, we encourage states and jurisdictions to review the information below and seek input from current and former foster youth, including youth advisory councils and bodies, and to partner with community based organizations who can support quick outreach and distribution.

Eligibility Scan

Total number of potentially eligible youth	
Number of eligible youth ages 14-17	
Number of eligible youth ages 18-26	

Program Considerations

These may not be all of your cost considerations and you may not yet know what supplemental allocation you are receiving. We hope this is a starting point in your planning.

Total Chafee Supplement	
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Available at www.fosterclub.com/OYPR

Quick Poll:

**Are you providing or
planning to provide direct
financial payments to
young people?**

Allowable Uses

Pulled from the
Program Instruction &
Chafee Statute

Consider as you
are planning how
to use the funds.

How States Can Use Chafee Funds to Support Youth During the Pandemic

These examples come from the Chafee Act, 42 USCA 677, and from the [Program Instruction](#) issued from the Children's Bureau on March 9, 2021.

Activity

Public Awareness

Website development.
Funding staff to do social media.
Developing and funding PSAs.

Outreach Efforts

Hiring staff to do outreach and engagement.
Contract with agencies or orgs w/expertise in outreach, locating and communicating with young people.

Service Navigation

Hiring staff to provide service navigation to youth, including youth/alumni.
Contract with agencies to provide service navigation.
Funding for the development and staffing of hotlines and warmlines.

Development of Systems to Interface with Youth who Request Assistance

Establish websites, hotlines, and other mechanisms to receive requests for assistance.
Hire staff to do eligibility determination and respond to requests for assistance.

Direct Financial Assistance



Centralized Web Page

Sample copy ---->
linked on
Plan template

Oregon | FosterClub

Reload this page fosterclub.com/oregon

house | Hardwood Urn | Project Ticket Run... | Child Welfare Poli...

+For Foster Parents+ Create account Log In

FosterClub

Oregon

Welcome!

Hello, young people! Here are a couple of great contacts to help answer questions and resolve issues:

FosterClub's dedicated representative for Oregon is Ashlee: 503-717-1552, or email her. She can help you find resources to help you transition to adulthood and connect you to leadership opportunities.

For problems or complaints, contact Oregon's Ombudsman, Darin Mancuso, at 1-855-840-6036 or you can email him.

Foster Care Information | Older Youth Services (ILP) | Rights in Foster Care | Research & Statistics

Healthcare for Former Foster Youth (FFY).

Did you know that former foster youth have access to free Medicaid after they turn 18 until their 26th birthday? Qualification for FFY to access Medicaid is not dependant on employment or education status. Check out the #Healthcare FFY campaign for more information about this program!

How can I apply?

Does this state have a Foster-specific application?

18 Shows

FosterClub will
host State pages -
free of cost.

Older Youth Pandemic Relief Draft Website Content and Sections

New Funding Available!

PANDEMIC AID

FOR FOSTER YOUTH & ALUMNI (age 14-26)

- Basic Needs
- Ca\$h
- Housing
- Tech
- Education
- Transpo
- Advice

Are you a young person between the ages of 14 and 26 who was (or currently is) in foster care? If so, you are eligible for EMERGENCY Pandemic Relief Funds.

FACTS

The recent Consolidated Appropriations Act set aside significant emergency relief for young people in and from foster care who are struggling right now because of the Pandemic. This website explains what is available in our state and how to access the resources.

SIGN UP (Text box?)

Please add your name to the Older Youth Pandemic Relief list for STATE (INSERT STATE WEB LINK). We will notify you as we have more information. Having your information on our list will help us to distribute the funds to you as soon as possible. We will be verifying you were in foster care and that you meet the age requirements.


What does the new law do?

- There are cash resources available for young people over age 14 and up to age 26, who are or were in foster care. The new law set aside \$400 million in additional Chafee funds (spread across each state, and there is increased flexibility on how the money can be used);
- During this pandemic, the state cannot terminate services to youth because of age (e.g. at age 21 or whatever age applies in your state for youth aging out); and
- The state must allow youth to re-enter foster care (up until age 22) if they aged out of foster care between 4/1/20-9/30/21.

Graphics & Sharables

Library of graphics and messages to get your team started

Pro tip: great graphics don't matter if they don't reach your audience!



PANDEMIC AID

**FOR FOSTER YOUTH
& ALUMNI (age 14-26)**

**Find out if you are eligible (expanded eligibility!)
Contact Your State Chafee ILP or
email: info@fosterclub.com call: 503-717-1552**

State Updates

Collecting policy examples in Google folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w8DIByBvBleEM3UNPqZh7t5obyrrqEDB2>



Q&A



FosterClub

Juvenile Fighting for the rights
and well-being of youth
Law Center



What's
Next?

- **Webinar Next
Wednesday, 4/21**
- **Implementation
tools:**
fosterclub.com/oypr
- **Contact us at:**
oypr@fosterclub.com