

Summary of the Older Youth Provisions of the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, HR 7947

Chafee (Section 3)

Allocation

- Increase in Chafee funds by 400 million for FY 2020
- No less than 50 million of the 400 million must be used for Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)
- No state match is required for this award.
- No amount of this allocation (400 million) can be reduced due to failing to meet NYTD reporting requirements.

Chafee Eligibility and Program Flexibility

- Youth are Chafee eligible for FY 20 and FY 21 until “attaining” age 27.
- The Secretary “may not require any State to provide proof of a direct connection to the pandemic if doing so would be administratively burdensome or would otherwise delay or impede the ability of the State to serve foster youth.”
- Permits states to exceed the 30% cap on room and board until the end of FY 21 year and permits the provision of room and board to the following young people:
 - have attained 18 years of age and not 27 years of age; and
 - experienced foster care at 14 years of age or older.

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

- The maximum ETV award is \$12,000 per individual youth per year (from \$5000) through FY 2021.
- Requires the Secretary to waive the enrollment and satisfactory academic progress requirements (SAP) for ETV if young people are unable to do so due to the pandemic.
- ETV funds can be used for maintaining training and postsecondary education, including less than full-time matriculation costs or other expenses that are not part of the cost of attendance but would help support youth in remaining enrolled.

Preventing Youth from Aging Out (Sec 4)(Until Oct 1, 2021)

Moratorium on Aging Out

- A state cannot require a child to leave foster care due to age.

Extension of IV-E

- A child may not be found ineligible for Title IV-E:
 - Due to age, or
 - Due to the failure to meet participation requirements for extended care (work, school, etc)

Re-Entry

- A state “shall”
 - permit a child who left foster care due to age during the pandemic to re-enter foster care,
 - provide notice about the option to re-enter to youth who left foster care during the pandemic
 - facilitate re-entry of youth.
 - conduct a public awareness campaign about the option to voluntarily re-enter foster care for youth who have not attained 22 years of age, who aged out of foster care in 2020 or 2021, and who are otherwise eligible to return to foster care.
- A child who re-enters will not be found ineligible for IV-E due to age or extended care participation requirements.

Continuous Obligations

- The state must continue to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being needs of youth in extended care and who re-enter are met consistent with existing law.
- The state must continue to work with young people to develop and finalize transition plans consistent with the law, including identifying supportive connections for the youth.

Use of Funds

- States may use funds awarded pursuant to section 3 (Chafee increase) for costs incurred to meet the requirements of this section (moratorium, re-entry, continued obligations).
- The costs in this section must be incurred after enactment of this law and before October 1, 2021.
- The costs of complying with subsection (a)(moratorium) or (c)(continuous obligations) of this section must **not** be incurred on behalf of children eligible for foster care maintenance payments under section 472 of the Social Security Act, including youth who have attained 18 years of age who are eligible for the payments by reason of the temporary waiver of the age requirement or the conditions of section 475(8)(B)(iv) of such Act.
- A State shall make reasonable efforts to ensure eligibility for foster care maintenance payments under section 472 of the Social Security Act is determined when a youth remains in, or re-enters, foster care as a result of the State complying with subsections (a) and(c) of this section.

