



State of South Carolina

Department of Social Services

Child Welfare Policies and Procedures: Chapter 6

Subject:	540 Eligibility For Chafee and Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Funded Services
Authority:	Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123); Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169, 113 Statute 1882); The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-133); Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351)
Standards:	South Carolina Practice Model: Guiding Principles and Standards (GPS)
Application:	Foster Care and Adoption Case Managers, Foster Care and Adoption Supervisors, Transitional Specialists, and Aftercare Specialists
Purpose:	The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) aids current and former foster care youth and young adults transitioning to self-sufficiency.
Policy Statement:	The South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) and the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee Program) provides services and funding needed to enhance opportunities to develop the necessary skills that promote a successful transition to adulthood and self-reliance for foster youth and young adults, and former foster youth and young adults.
Definitions:	Aftercare Services: Services provided to former foster youth or young adults who have been released from state custody at the age of 14 years old or older but have not yet reached the age of 26. Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV): Grants, funded by the federal government and administered by the states, awarded for youth or young adults with foster care experience who are pursuing post-secondary education in an approved educational program. The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP): Provides funds to assist current and former foster care youth or young adults in achieving self-sufficiency. Funds assist youth or young adults in a wide variety of areas designed to support a successful transition to adulthood. Activities and programs include, but are not limited to, help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and maintaining connections to caring adults. Transitional Youth: An individual between the ages of 14 and 17.

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Undocumented Immigrant: A person who enters the United States illegally without the proper authorization and documents, or who entered the US legally and has since violated the terms of their visa or overstayed the time limit indicated on their documentation.

Victim of Child Trafficking: A minor who is under 18 years old who is sex trafficked or labor trafficked.

Placement Support: Assistance provided to a former foster young adult age 18 until 21 through placement. Forms of assistance can include financial, educational, mentoring, counseling, etc.

Young Adult: A person over the age of 18 years old but under the age of 21 years old that is in extended foster care. This person can be a current foster youth who at the age of 18 years old enrolled in the extended foster care program and receives continued placement support and has not reached the age of 21 years old. This person can also be a former foster youth who at the age of 18 years old or older requests to enroll in the extended foster care program and receives continued placement support and who has not reached the age of 21 years old.

Child or Youth: A person under the age of eighteen years in the care, custody, or guardianship of SCDSS.

Procedures:

A. Eligibility requirements for Chafee funded services	1. Chafee Program services shall be provided to the foster youth or young adult who has been removed from the home before age 18 with a family court determination that it is contrary to the child's best interest to remain in the home, and who meet the following eligibility criteria: a. Chafee funds are available for youth or young adults in foster care from age 14 until 21. b. Chafee funds are available for foster youth or young adults age 14 until 21 who are in an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) placement. i. South Carolina allocates Chafee funded services for current South Carolina youth in foster care placed in a foster care licensed placement in another state. ii. State of custody pays Chafee funded services for current foster youth in an ICPC placement who are placed in a South Carolina licensed foster care placement.
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	iii. Cooperation between ICPC and the state Chafee program is required to ensure no duplication of funded services. c. Chafee funds are available for all foster youth or young adults who reached the age of majority in foster care between the ages of 18 until 21; this includes those receiving continued placement support and those out of care. d. Chafee funds are available for former foster youth or young adults who are currently in an adoption preservation placement from age 14 until 18. e. Chafee funds are available for former foster youth or young adults age 14 until 21 who, at or after the age of 14, leave foster care and achieve permanency through reunification (family of removal). These youth or young adults are not eligible for housing transition funds due to achieving permanency. f. Chafee funds are available for former foster youth or young adults, who, at or after age 16, leave foster care and achieve permanency through adoption, kinship care, or guardianship until 21. These youth or young adults are not eligible for housing transition funds due to achieving permanency. g. Chafee funds are available for foster youth or young adults age 14 until 21 who are also identified as a victim of child trafficking. i. If the victim is an undocumented immigrant, then a United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) eligibility letter must be presented before requesting Chafee funded services. h. Chafee funds are available for foster youth or young adults age 14 until 21 who are identified as youth or young adults with special needs, even though complete transition into adulthood may not be achievable. i. Chafee funds are available for foster youth or young adults ages 14 until 21 who have had a placement history with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) but
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	were released and returned to a licensed SCDSS placement before their 18th birthday.
B. Eligibility Requirements for ETV funded services	1. ETV funded services shall be provided to the foster youth or young adult who meet the following eligibility criteria: a. ETV funds are available for youth currently in foster care for five years until the recipient's 26th birthday. b. ETV funds are available for foster youth or young adults who reached the age of majority in foster care at the age of 18, for five years until the recipient's 26th birthday; this includes those receiving continued placement support and those out of care. c. ETV funds are available for former foster youth who reached the age of majority while in SCDSS custody and maintains South Carolina residency, even if attending college in another state. 2. ETV funds are available for former foster youth who reached the age of majority while in the custody of another state and obtains South Carolina residency and attends college in South Carolina. Youth cannot obtain ETV funds from the original state of custody and South Carolina. 3. ETV funds are available for former foster youth or young adults who are currently in an adoption preservation placement from age 14 until 18. 4. ETV funds are available for former foster youth or young adults who, at or after the age of 14 leave foster care and achieve permanency through reunification (family of removal) for five years until the recipient's 26th birthday. 5. ETV funds are available for former foster youth or young adults, who, at or after the age of 16 leave foster care and achieve permanency through adoption, kinship care, or guardianship for five years until the recipient's 26th birthday. 6. ETV funds are available for foster youth or young adults who are also identified as a victim of child trafficking for five years until the recipient's 26th birthday.

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	a. If the victim is an undocumented immigrant, then a United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) eligibility letter must be presented before requesting ETV funded services. 7. ETV funds are available for foster youth or young adults who have had a placement history with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) but were released and returned to a licensed SCDSS placement before their 18th birthday for five years or until the recipient's 26th birthday whichever comes first. Note: Eligible recipients cannot receive ETV funds for more than 5 years. These years can be nonconsecutive. 8. Foster youth or young adults are eligible if the youth or young adult is enrolled in postsecondary education or vocational training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program. 9. In no event, may an ETV recipient participate in the program for more than 5 years (whether the years are consecutive or not) or past their 26th birthday.
C. Ineligible for Chafee or ETV funded services	1. The following foster youth or young adults are not eligible for Chafee or ETV funded services: a. Foster youth or young adults who are incarcerated are not eligible for Chafee funds, ETV funds, nor receive placement support during incarceration (including through DJJ detention) due to the availability of federal supportive programs in those institutions. b. Youth or young adults who are undocumented immigrants are not eligible for Chafee funds, ETV funds, or continued placement support due to these programs requiring recipients who are Non-Citizens to be a Green Card Holder. c. Young adults who are active-duty military are not eligible for Chafee funds, ETV funds, or receiving placement support due to achieving successful transition into adulthood and their receipt of federal military support including medical benefits, housing, and educational benefits.

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	d. Married young adults are not eligible for Chafee funds and not eligible to receive continued placement support due to achieving successful transition into adulthood, but they are eligible for ETV funds. e. Young adults who have been emancipated by the Family Court before turning age 18 are not eligible for Chafee funds due to the Family Court identifying these young adults as having reached full transition to adulthood; and therefore, they do not require Chafee funded services. Emancipated young adults are still eligible for ETV funds.
Forms:	DSS Form 30198: John H Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood Request Form DSS Form 37166: Education and Training Voucher Application DSS Form 37166 A: Education and Training Voucher Program Information
Resources:	DSS Booklet 30258 Chafee Program Guideline for Services
Related Management Reports:	Foster Care Teen Report