

SPECIAL TRANSMITTAL

SUBJECT: Public Law (P.L.) 116-220, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division X – Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic, Sections 3 and 4

TO: County Children and Youth Agencies
Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators Association

FROM: Jonathan Rubin 
Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: April 13, 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Special Transmittal is to provide guidance to County Children and Youth Agencies (CCYAs), private children and youth social service agencies and stakeholders regarding Public Law (P.L.) 116-220, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division X – Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic (Division X). This Special Transmittal will address Section 3, Continued Safe Operation of Child Welfare Programs and Support for Older Foster Youth and Section 4, Preventing Aging Out of Foster Care During the Pandemic of Division X.

BACKGROUND

On December 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law (P.L.) 116-260. The law provides additional appropriations for specified federal agencies and provides flexibilities and assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency. The law also contains House Resolution 7947, the Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act, known as Division X. Division X and section 305 of the Title III of Division CC outlines provisions that impact child welfare. Section 2 of Division X defines the COVID-19 public health emergency as beginning on January 27, 2020, when the emergency was declared by the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) pursuant to the section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. This [Declaration](#) continues

to be in effect.¹ Sections 3 of Division X provides an increase in funding and in program flexibilities related to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee) and the Education and Training Grant (ETG). Until September 30, 2021, Section 4 of Division X prohibits child welfare agencies from terminating foster care services to youth² who would age out and requires child welfare agencies to provide re-entry to youth who aged out during the COVID-19 public health emergency even if they have reached age 21.

This law was passed as a response to the urgent needs of youth in foster care and who have aged out during the pandemic. National surveys and multiple Town Hall meetings with Congressional leaders revealed that youth in foster care have been struggling to meet their basic needs during the pandemic. This law is intended to provide youth assistance during the pandemic and recovery by providing child welfare agencies the funding and flexibility to meet these urgent needs.

DISCUSSION

Division X includes several temporary provisions with specific timeframes. While most of the provisions end on September 30, 2021, there are some exceptions which are noted below.

This Special Transmittal focuses on the immediate implementation of the temporary provisions and flexibilities provided within Division X, Sections 3 and 4 as summarized by the [Children’s Bureau’s, Administration for Children and Families, Information Memorandum \(IM\), ACYF-CB-IM-21-05](#), on January 13, 2021 and outlined in the [Program Instruction \(PI\), ACYF-CB-PI-21-04](#). CCYAs are encouraged to review pages 2-4 of the IM for details on the provisions, pages 1-7 of the PI, and the text of the law. This transmittal focuses on the immediate actions that the state and CCYA are to take to begin implementation. OCYF will issue additional information in the near future to provide more detail, in the area of the flexibilities related to ETG.

A. DIRECTION TO THE CCYAs TO IMPLEMENT THE FEDERAL LAW

1. Continued Foster Care Services Past Age 21

The federal requirements of Division X supersede the definition of a “child” according to Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Act. On October 1, 2021, the definition of a “child” as defined by Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Act will be in effect again, unless provisions in Division X are extended. Additional direction and information will be issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families

¹ The Declaration can be found here: <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/covid19-07Jan2021.aspx>. Please note that Section 2 of the law provides two different terms, the COVID-19 public health emergency and the COVID-19 public health emergency period. The **COVID-19 public health emergency** began with the federal Declaration of a Public Health Emergency on January 27, 2020 and currently ends April 1, 2021 (subject to be extended). The **COVID-19 public health emergency period** is defined as from April 1, 2020 until September 30, 2021.

² In this transmittal we use the term youth to refer to youth and young adults.

(DHS/OCYF) directly to CCYAs regarding funding adjustments and fiscal expectations so that CCYAs can follow procedures to fund extended placement and services for youth who reach age 21 who extend and re-enter foster care. CCYAs will be able to draw down Title IV-E funds for youth who reach age 21 and who choose to remain in care or re-enter care through September 30, 2021.

To implement Section 4 of Division X, **CCYAs must:**

- Allow youth who age out as of December 27, 2020 who are adjudicated dependent, dually adjudicated or shared case responsibility to voluntarily remain in foster care until September 30, 2021 even if they reach age 21.
 - CCYAs should identify youth who are aging out and provide continued foster care services to those youth.
 - Courts have been encouraged to maintain jurisdiction of cases for youth who reach age 21, however, continued services must be provided to youth under the federal law with or without court involvement.
 - The participation requirements³, as they relate to remaining in foster care, are waived.
- Continue to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being needs of older youth in foster care, including youth who continue in care and reach age 21. CCYAs must continue to work with these youth to develop, or review and revise, a transition plan, including assisting youth with identifying adults who can offer meaningful and permanent connections.
- CCYAs are obligated to continue to provide Independent Living (IL) services and supports to any youth who remains in foster care even if they reach age 21.
 - IL services include needs assessment/case planning, transition planning, life skills training, prevention services, education, support services, employment, location of housing, room and board for youth over the age of 18, stipends, retreats and camps, indirect services, and program administration.
- CCYAs should make reasonable efforts to determine the Title IV-E eligibility for each youth who remains in care.

NOTE: There is no upper age limit for this provision of the law, however, it will no longer be in effect after September 30, 2021

³ The participation requirements for extended foster care are found in federal law at 42 U.S.C.A. 675 (8)(B)(iv) and in the Juvenile Act at 42 Pa. C.S.C.A. 6302 and include: completing secondary education or an equivalent credential; enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education; participating in a program actively designed to promote or remove barriers to employment; employed for at least 80 hours per month; or incapable of doing any of the activities described above due to a medical or behavioral health condition, which is supported by regularly updated information in the permanency plan

The following requirements for CCYAs relate to funding for the continuation of services for youth in extended foster care, including youth who reach age 21:

- CCYAs **may not** determine a youth ineligible for Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments solely due to age or their in-ability to meet the participation requirements for extended foster care.
- Continued IV-E eligibility for youth who reach age 21 and are otherwise eligible continues until September 30, 2021.
- CCYAs **may** use some of the supplemental Chafee appropriations discussed below for foster care costs for youth in extended care, including youth who reach age 21 who are **NOT** IV-E eligible.
- CCYAs **may not** use the supplemental Chafee appropriations to cover costs related to extended foster care services and re-entry for youth who **ARE** IV-E eligible.
 - **NOTE:** Youth in extended care are also eligible for Chafee services. The restriction is related to using the supplemental Chafee funds to pay for extended foster care services for IV-E eligible youth.

2. Re-entry into Foster Care

To implement the re-entry provisions, **CCYAs must follow the actions and requirements detailed below.**

- As of December 27, 2020, permit formerly adjudicated dependent, dually adjudicated or shared case responsibility youth, who left foster care due to age during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to voluntarily re-enter care until September 30, 2021.
- Youth are eligible to re-enter if they aged out during the COVID-19 public health emergency. As mentioned above, the COVID-19 public health emergency began on January 27, 2020 and continues to be extended by Order of the Secretary of HHS. See footnote 1 for details.
- Court jurisdiction for youth who request to re-enter foster care is not required, however, courts have been encouraged to resume jurisdiction.
- If court jurisdiction is not provided, CCYAs must create a process for the youth to re-enter care and provide placement and services. This can be in the form of an agreement between the CCYA and the youth. The agreement may be monitored through traditional case planning mechanisms. One example would be for a CCYA to amend the Voluntary Placement Agreement to include a plan for both placement and services.
- The participation requirements as they relate to remaining in foster care are also waived for re-entry. The participation requirements are found in footnote 4.

- Youth between the ages of 18-21, who voluntarily re-enter care, must resume dependency according to Act 91 of 2012 Special Transmittal issued October 16, 2014, with the exception that youth between ages 18 and 21 will not be determined ineligible due to not meeting the participation requirements to remain under court jurisdiction and will be eligible for extended foster care services.
- Directly notify former adjudicated dependent, dually adjudicated or shared case responsibility youth, who left foster care due to age between January 27, 2020 and the present, about the option to re-enter foster care.
- Once a youth re-enters, they should receive extended foster care services as mentioned directly above in Section A. 1. of this Special Transmittal. For example:
 - CCYAs should provide IL services to youth in extended foster care.
 - CCYAs should continue permanency and transition planning for youth who re-enter and are in extended care, including youth who reach age 21.
- Once a youth re-enters care, they are IV-E eligible to the same extent as described above for extended foster care services and CCYAs have the same requirements and flexibilities for funding as listed in Section A. 1. of this Special Transmittal. For example:
 - CCYAs should make reasonable efforts to determine youth IV-E eligible upon re-entry.
 - Youth can continue IV-E eligibility past reaching age 21.
 - Youth can remain IV-E eligible even if they do not meet the participation requirements for extended foster care.
 - CCYAs can use a portion of their supplemental Chafee allocation to pay for the cost of re-entry and subsequent services for youth who are **NOT** IV-E eligible.
- **NOTE:** there is no upper age limit for this provision of the law, however, it will no longer be in effect after September 30, 2021.

3. Chafee Funds and Services

i. Funding Increase

DHS/OCYF is to receive an additional \$12,509,999 Chafee allocation to support the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood. This increase in funds is provided to help child welfare agencies meet the urgent needs of youth during the pandemic and recovery. While child welfare agencies will have until September 30, 2022 to spend these funds, many of the program flexibilities that are allowed under

the law only last until September 30, 2021.⁴ CCYAs should work quickly to develop a plan to use and distribute the Chafee increase to meet the immediate needs of youth, many of whom may be struggling to have their needs met.

These funds are 100 percent federal dollars and do not require a state match. DHS/OCYF will amend the CCYAs FY 2020- 2021 Chafee Needs-Based Plan and Budget allocations to support Division X provisions and program flexibilities.

ii. Chafee Eligible Youth and Chafee Services

The law did not change the permissible uses of Chafee funds as defined in 42 U.S.C.A. 677. Chafee funds remain flexible and can be used to provide direct financial assistance to youth as well as an array of services and supports. This flexibility remains and should be used to meet the needs of youth during the pandemic and recovery. Please consult pages 11-12 of the PI to review examples of permissible uses of Chafee funds. The list provided in the PI is provided in the footnote below for your convenience.⁵

As a reminder, Chafee eligible youth **currently** are youth who are in, or have been in, out-of-home placement on or after age 14, including youth adopted or entering permanent legal custodianship arrangements after age 16, and have been adjudicated dependent; or dually adjudicated dependent and delinquent; or delinquent with shared case responsibility

⁴ The Chafee and ETV additional funding provided under the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act is available for expenditures over a 2-year period from October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022 and must be liquidated by December 30, 2022.

⁵ Assist youth in meeting living expenses, including rent, groceries, grocery or meal delivery, and utilities. Such assistance may include helping youth pay back payments and fees and/or paying for expenses for youth/young adults who need to stay home for extended periods of time; Purchase cell phones, tablets, laptops, internet service, cell phone plans or other technological tools for young people; Provide respite care services and additional support for parenting or pregnant youth; Help pay salaries of agency staff who administer and oversee emergency assistance for youth, including fiscal staff responsible for generating and issuing payments paid for the Chafee program; Partner with national and state organizations to assist young adults, including for activities relating to locating youth, outreach and marketing; Hire youth/ young adults with lived experience in child welfare to provide navigation services to fellow youth/young adults. Navigation services help to connect youth to services and support them as they apply for or engage in those services; Employ youth/young adults, at the agency level and/or as part of contractor staff, to provide outreach and support to fellow youth and young adults. This could include paid internships for youth/young adults to help prepare them to re-enter the job market; Assist youth in paying medical expenses, including COVID testing and treatment, if these expenses are not already covered by other health insurance or Medicaid; Purchase or reimburse youth for personal protective equipment (PPE), including cloth masks; Provide services and support to combat young peoples' social isolation during the pandemic. This could include sending gift boxes, cooking kits, puzzles, art and hobby supplies, or other interactive items to connect youth/ young adults; Provide outreach and offer any needed assistance to youth who experienced foster care after attaining age 14 and were subsequently reunified and to youth who exited foster care to adoption or guardianship after attaining age 16; In addition to conducting required public awareness campaign about the option for youth to re-enter foster care, use social media and other strategies to perform outreach to youth, young adults, and other community providers to make them aware of expanded Chafee funding and available supports; Expand contracts with service providers who are currently working with youth and young adults formerly in foster care to provide services through the agencies to which such youth are already connected (e.g., supportive housing providers and Runway and Homeless Youth (RHY) grantees); Establish websites, hotlines, and other mechanisms to track and provide information on assistance requests.

between the CCYA and the Juvenile Probation office. Adjudicated delinquent only youth are not eligible for Chafee funds.

Chafee services can be provided to youth while they are in foster care and to former foster youth eligible for aftercare services. Aftercare services are mandatory and include the full range of IL services and supports. Aftercare services are available to any youth who exited foster care on or after their 14th birthday. Eligible youth for aftercare services include:

- Youth who experience foster care at age 14 or older;
- Youth who exited care at age 18 or extended care past age 21;
- Youth who exited care through adoption or legal guardian after attaining age 16; or
- Youth who exited care through reunification at age 14 or older.

iii. Summary of Chafee Program Changes and Flexibilities

As mentioned above, CCYAs should refer to the details of the law in the IM and PI cited above. Below is a brief summary of the changes made in the law related to Chafee services and eligibility. Additional detail is provided below in subsection iv of this Special Transmittal.

- Extends Chafee aftercare eligibility through a youth's 26 year (until their 27th birthday) until September 30, 2021.
- Removes the 30 percent cap on Chafee funds for room and board until September 30, 2021.
- Permits the use of Chafee fund for costs related to driving and getting a driver's licenses for youth who are age 15 and older.⁶

iv. CCYAs Actions to Implement the Chafee Provisions

To implement the Chafee provisions of the federal law, **CCYAs must:**

- Extend the age of eligibility for Chafee aftercare services to eligible former foster youth through age 26 (until their 27th birthday) or until September 30, 2021.
- Use increased Chafee allocation to meet the immediate needs of youth during the pandemic and recovery as the federal law intended. DHS/OCYF expects CCYAs to work quickly with IL coordinators and youth to determine how best to meet the immediate needs of youth during

⁶ As mentioned below, while this is highlighted in the law, this is currently a permissible use of Chafee funds and will continue to be so after the provisions of this federal law end. This provision is in place until September 30, 2021, however, counties may continue to use Chafee funds for costs related to driving as is currently allowed in law past this date.

the pandemic and develop and implement a plan of action that reflects the urgency of the pandemic.

- Identify Chafee eligible youth under the new law and begin outreach to eligible youth and offer assistance.
- Proceed immediately to develop a plan of how to use the increased Chafee allocation to meet the urgent needs of youth during the pandemic and recovery. DHS/OCYF encourages CCYAs and IL coordinators to ensure that youth are included in the planning and implementation of the law, including developing effective ways to outreach and engage youth.
- DHS/OCYF expects CCYAs to use a portion of the increased Chafee allocation for targeted outreach and public awareness.
- DHS/OCYF expects CCYAs to use a portion of the increased Chafee allocation to provide stimulus style direct financial payments to youth. Direct financial assistance should be provided to eligible youth and conditions should not be placed on receipt that would delay direct assistance. During a public health emergency, aid and assistance should be made easily available to youth and CCYAs should provide them multiple ways to stay connected and reconnect to services. In the near future, DHS/OCYF will provide direction on ways to provide direct financial payments. However, CCYAs should not delay with implementing direct payments.
- CCYAs may use more than 30 percent of their Chafee allocation to provide room and board services to youth who obtained the age of 18 through age 26 (until their 27th birthday) for youth who experienced foster care at age 14 or older. Youth have identified paying rent and securing stable housing as one of the biggest challenges during the pandemic. DHS/OCYF encourages CCYAs to expand room and board programs and consider development of new ways of providing housing assistance, such as the development of a rental subsidy, to meet this urgent need.
- CCYAs may use the additional Chafee funding to support Chafee eligible youth ages 15 through age 26 with up to \$4,000 per year to be used for driving and transportation assistance for costs related to obtaining a driver's license and driving lawfully as required by Pennsylvania statute. Costs include vehicle insurance, driver's education class and testing fees, practice lessons, practice hours, license fees, roadside

assistance, and assistance with purchasing a vehicle. Costs for these services cannot exceed \$4,000 per youth per year. (**NOTE:** These funds should not be counted towards a youth eligibility for other federal or federally supported assistance.) DHS/OCYF will not be implementing a state driving and transportation program for foster youth as allowed with the supplemental Chafee appropriations as stated in Division X.

4. Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)

Pennsylvania is to receive \$1,818,314 million to support ETG funding for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022. DHS/OCYF will work with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to determine any increase in the award amount students will receive. DHS/OCYF and PHEAA will also work with post-secondary institutions on the dissemination of additional funds to eligible students. Direction to post-secondary institutions will specify that these additional dollars include expenses that are not part of the cost of attendance.

ETG funds must be spent by September 30, 2022, however, the program flexibilities only last until September 30, 2021.

- During academic year 2020-2021, eligible youth include youth through age 26 (until their 27th birthday) through September 30, 2021. Eligible students must be enrolled in post-secondary or training program, however, as allowed by Division X, DHS/OCYF will waive the making satisfactory progress toward completing an education or training program criteria and allow youth to be enrolled under part time status.
- Youth can use ETG funds for costs outside the “cost of attendance” formula to assist with addressing challenges related to enrollment and retention until September 30, 2021.
- The new law allows the maximum ETG award to increase to \$12,000 per youth until September 30, 2022.

As always, CCYAs should continue to educate youth about ETG, assist them with application requirements and instruction. Given the temporary flexibilities of the law, CCYAs should identify youth who are facing challenges to maintaining enrollment, keeping their grades up, and who have costs they cannot meet. CCYAs should help them make requests that allow youth to use the flexibilities of the law to help keep them in their programs of higher education or training.

B. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

DHS/OCYF will provide public awareness outreach efforts targeted to youth who aged out of foster care during the COVID-19 public health emergency of the option to re-enter foster care. General information about Division X, Sections 3 and 4 will be provided on the Keep Kids Safe (www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov) and Youth Advisory Board (www.payab.pitt.edu) websites.

CCYAs shall provide youth friendly and easy to access information about the law on their websites and this information should be disseminated through the various avenues that are already used to communicate with youth and stakeholders. Youth and those who support them in each county, should have clear information about what assistance is available under the new law and how to access it. As mentioned above, CCYAs must use some of their Chafee allocation for this purpose. DHS/OCYF encourages CCYAs to partner with youth and other stakeholders, like FosterClub, to develop and use already created materials.

C. ONGOING GUIDANCE FROM DHS/OCYF

The United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) issued a PI related to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, P.L. 116-260, Division X on March 9, 2021.

As mentioned in this Special Transmittal, DHS/OCYF will provide additional direction and support in the coming weeks and months to support your implementation. Technical assistance can also be provided by the OCYF Regional Offices and Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC). Please refer to the attached *PA DHS Division X Chart and Timeline*, that outlines the timelines and shared actions between OCYF and CCYA related to the implementation of Division X, Sections 3 and 4.

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

DHS/OCYF is required to include information on planned use of the additional Chafee and ETG funding in fiscal year (FY) 2022 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) due to the Administration of Children and Families on June 30, 2021 and information on the actual use of funding in the FY 2023 APSR due June 30, 2022. The information reported in the FY 2022 APSR should describe:

- Type(s) of assistance to be or being provided to youth/young adults;
- Strategies the agency is using to engage youth/young adults; and
- Description of the agency's outreach efforts to foster parents, providers, schools, colleges, and the community to make them aware of the additional funding and types of Chafee and ETV support available.

Therefore, CCYAs must track the following:

Number of youth:

- **Continued foster care services past age 21:**
 - Eligible to remain in care past age 21
 - Voluntarily elected to remain in care past 21
 - IV-E eligible
 - Non-IV-E eligible
- **Re-entry into foster care:**
 - Eligible to resume jurisdiction or re-enter
 - Age 21 and older who voluntarily re-enter care or resume jurisdiction
 - Between the ages of 18-21 who resume dependency jurisdiction
- **Aftercare services:**
 - Between ages 18 and 23 receiving aftercare
 - Between the ages of 23-27 receiving aftercare services
- **Other Chafee program provisions and flexibilities:**
 - In addition to number of youth, track direct stimulus payment to individual youth.
 - In addition to number of youth, track driving and transportation assistance costs, not to exceed \$4,000 per year, per youth.
 - Track CCYA-specific targeted outreach and public awareness efforts.
 - Track CCYA-specific engagement strategies of youth/young adults.
 - Track CCYA-specific community outreach efforts.
- **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD):**
 - CCYAs must track all youth who receive IL services and/or financial assistance regardless of age for reporting requirements related National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).
 - CCYAs conducting NYTD 21-year old follow-up surveys should inform these youth/young adults of the opportunity to re-enter foster care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please direct any questions you may have to, Teresa Musser, OCYF, Human Services Program Specialist at temusser@pa.gov.

Attachment:
PA DHS Division X Chart and Timeline



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Summary of Actions and Timelines Older Youth Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Division X

PROVISION	OCYF ACTION	CCYA ACTION	TIMELINE
Moratorium on Aging Out			
Provide continued foster care services to youth who reach age 21.	Provide CCYAs information and a process to receive reimbursement.	Provide continued placement and services to youth who reach age 21.	Until September 30, 2021.
Youth who reach age 21 can retain IV-E eligibility.	Provide CCYAs information and a process to receive IV-E reimbursement for eligible youth.	Follow IV-E claiming processes provided by OCYF for youth age 21+	Claiming for youth 21+ is available until September 30, 2021.
Youth are eligible for extended care and retain their IV-E eligibility in extended foster care even if they are not able to meet the participation requirements. ¹	Provide CCYAs information and a process to receive IV-E reimbursement for eligible youth.	Continue with IV-E claiming processes for youth 18-21 and follow IV-E claiming processes provided by OCYF for youth age 21+ Continue case planning with youth, assisting them with setting and achieving goals, but eligibility for extended care continues if they cannot meet the participation requirements.	Claiming for youth in extended foster care and youth 21+ who are not able to meet the participation requirements is available from until September 30, 2021.

¹ The participation requirements for extended foster care are found in federal law at 42 U.S.C.A. 675 (8)(B)(iv) and in the Juvenile Act at 42 Pa. C.S.C.A. 6302 and include: completing secondary education or an equivalent credential; enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education; participating in a program actively designed to promote or remove barriers to employment; employed for at least 80 hours per month; or incapable of doing any of the activities described above due to a medical or behavioral health condition, which is supported by regularly updated information in the permanency plan.

Re-Entry			
Permit any youth who left foster care due to age during the COVID-19 public health emergency, beginning January 27, 2020, to voluntarily re-enter foster care even if they are 21+.	Provide CCYAs support in developing mechanisms to provide re-entry if court jurisdiction is not provided.	Provide re-entry to youth who left foster beginning in January 27, 2020 until Provide re-entry through court if possible, or through an agreement with the youth.	Until September 30, 2021.
Provide direct notice of the option to re-enter foster care to youth who aged out during the COVID-19 public health emergency, beginning on January 27, 2020.	Provide CCYAs support in developing notification materials.	CCYAs provide notice to potentially eligible youth who left care beginning on January 27, 2020 going forward.	Until September 30, 2021.
Conduct a public awareness campaign about the option of re-entry for youth who have not attained 22 years of age, who aged out of foster care in FFY's 2020 and 2021, and who are otherwise eligible to return to foster care.	DHS/OCYF will provide public awareness outreach efforts targeted to youth who aged out of foster care during the COVID-19 public health emergency of the option to re-enter foster care. General information about Division X, Sections 3 and 4 will be provided on the KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov website.	CCYAs should do outreach and public awareness about all provisions of the law through social media and channels designed to reach youth and stakeholders.	Until September 30, 2021
Youth who re-enter care at age 21+ can retain IV-E eligibility.	Provide CCYAs information and a process to receive IV-E reimbursement for eligible youth.	Follow IV-E claiming processes provided by OCYF for youth age 21+.	Claiming for youth 21+ is available until September 30, 2021.
Youth are eligible to re-enter and retain their IV-E eligibility in extended foster care even if they are not able to meet the participation requirements.	Provide CCYAs information and a process to receive IV-E reimbursement for eligible youth.	Allow youth to re-enter even if they are not able to meet the participation requirements. Continue with IV-E claiming processes for youth 18-21 and follow IV-E claiming processes provided by OCYF for youth age 21+.	Claiming for youth in extended foster care and youth 21+ who are not able to meet the participation requirements is available until September 30, 2021.

Chafee Funding Increase and Program Flexibilities			
<p>PA receives an increase in Chafee funds in the amount of \$12.5 million</p> <p>No state match. Exempt from the NYTD penalty calculations.</p>	<p>Provide CCYAs their supplemental Chafee allocation and direction on permissible funding uses.</p>	<p>Plan for use of and implement plan for use increased Chafee allocation to meet the needs of youth during the pandemic and recovery, including provision of direct financial assistance.</p>	<p>October 1, 2020-September 30, 2022 to spend the increased allocation.</p> <p>**Note below that some of the program flexibilities last until September 30, 2021.</p>
<p>Expansion of Chafee eligibility for aftercare through a youth's 26 year</p>	<p>Provide TA if CCYAs request.</p>	<p>Outreach to and provide services to eligible youth through age 26.</p>	<p>October 1, 2019-September 30, 2021.</p>
<p>Remove 30% cap on Chafee funds for room and board.</p>	<p>Provide TA if CCYAs request.</p>	<p>Determine the need for housing supports for youth in aftercare and use Chafee funds to meet this need.</p>	<p>April 1, 2020-September 30, 2021.</p>
<p>Use of up to \$4,000 per youth who is age 15 and older for costs related to driving and getting a driver's license.</p>	<p>Assist the CCYA in requesting TA from ACF</p>	<p>Develop a plan to use Chafee funds for costs related to driving.</p>	<p>April 1, 2020-September 30, 2021.</p>

Education and Training Grant (ETG)			
PA receives \$1.8 million in additional funds for ETG	Work with PHEAA to determine policies and program flexibilities.	Work to identify the needs of youth in or entering higher education and training.	October 1, 2020-September 30, 2022 to spend the increased allocation.
Expansion of ETG eligibility to youth through their 26 th year.	Work with PHEAA to identify eligible youth.	Work to identify the needs of youth in or entering higher education and training.	October 1, 2019-September 30, 2021.
ETG maximum award can be increased to \$12,000	Work with PHEAA to determine how much current awards can be increased given demand.	Work to identify the needs of youth in or entering higher education and training.	October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022
The requirement for enrollment and satisfactory progress can be waived for ETG eligibility. No state match. Exempt from the NYTD penalty calculations.	Issue policy that that SAP requirement will be waived and youth can be eligible for ETG and be enrolled at less than half time status.	Work to identify the needs of youth who are facing challenges with grades and enrollment.	April 1, 2020-September 30, 2021.
ETG can be used to help support youth to remain enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program, including expenses that are not part of the cost of attendance.	Develop policy with PHEAA.	Work with youth to identify costs related to remaining and entering higher education and training that may not be currently covered by financial aid.	April 1, 2020-September 30, 2021.