

TANF IL and Chafee Webinar 7.24.17

Q & A Summary

Q: Will a list of questions and answers be provided in a follow-up email?

Q: Part 2. Will the questions and answers be put on Knowledge base & the BCFTA website?

A: Yes, this Q & A document will be emailed and posted to SACWIS Knowledge Base and BCFTA website.

ALLOCATIONS

Q: When will we be getting our TANF IL allocations for SFY18?

A: As the state budget was recently approved and finalized, county allocations are expected to be distributed by the end of this week (end of July).

Q: Will this amount be adjusted annually to increase funding for counties as we begin to utilize this funding source more or as the children emancipating in our county increases?

Q: Is there ever any adjustment to the allocation for the number of children in the program?

Q: Wouldn't the number of children be a better indicator of costs than what was spent?

A: Chafee allocation provides a base amount of \$5,000 and an amount that is determined by the number of children 14 years old or older in substitute care (OAC 5101:9-6-35). TANF IL allocation will be a base of \$1,000 and an average of the last two years expenditures (OAC 5101:9-6-08.6).

Q: It isn't a problem giving cash to them?

A: We would recommend providing the youth with a check issued by your county. The Caseworker could walk them through the process of opening up a savings account, stressing the importance of saving, and encouraging them to save by offering incentive funding.

Q: Will Bridges effect any of this?

Q: Will there be collaboration with the Bridges program?

A: PCSA's may see the population of youth they are serving for OAC 5101:2-42-19.2 post-emancipation services lowered due to implementation of Bridges programming. PCSA's will still serve post-emancipation youth who don't qualify for Bridges, and we anticipate that some youth may go back and forth between the Bridges population and county population due to eligibility issues. We encourage you to work with the regional Bridges staff to best provide services and financial assistance to these youth based upon their eligibility of both. County collaboration with Bridges programming staff will be essential to our youth's successful transition into independence.

ROOM AND BOARD

Q: Is the 30% cap for Chafee for room and board per child or for the total allocation?

A: The cap for Chafee is 30% of the county's total allocation per year. (Ex: County receives \$10,000, so the maximum that they can spend on room and board is \$3,000. Once they've expended \$3,000, they can use their available TANF IL funding to supplement any room and board needs).

Q: Can you define Room and Board. Does this include rent we may be paying for a youth out on their own?

Q: Can we please get some clarification about the inclusion of supplies and furniture as part of the 30% max for Chafee funding?

A: There is not a formalized definition, but this category typically includes shelter and living expenses of emancipated youth. The expenses may include deposits, rent, utilities and other household start-up costs. Emergency rental assistance may also be included. (Please note that the total amount of expenses will contribute to your county's 30% cap of Chafee funding).

Q: If you are helping a youth pay for his dorm. He is a full time college student do you still need that break after four months prior to helping with payment for his dorm.

A: Dorm payments usually are included within the total tuition payment amount per semester (listed as Residence and Dining plans). The payments typically are a one-time amount due at the beginning of the semester, not often paid per month. We would encourage counties to provide payment to universities to cover a youth's dorm costs at the beginning of the semester, instead of month to month.

If the youth has secured off campus housing and you are using TANF IL funding to assist, the county can only assist with payments for four months consecutively. (Ex: Have the youth save their funds during that four month time period, so that they can be prepared to resume their monthly rental/living expense payments in that fifth month. The county could then offer assistance again, after there has been a break of time).

Q: If a youth is needing assistance with housing has a roommate, can we still utilize TANF or Chafee to assist in room and board (pay their half for a period of time) or do they have to be residing solo for us to assist?

A: Agencies would only assist that portion of the youth's (room and board) rent responsibilities.

Q: Do the same rules apply for the TANF IL four month limitation with Supervised Independent Living?

A: Yes, if it is a monthly payment responsibility for the youth (not per diem expectation).

Q: In order to utilize TANF IL in this manner, must the program be included in the county PRC Plan to access these funds?

A: No, TANF IL is a separate funding stream.

TUITION

Q: Can TANF be used to cover a tuition balance for college after all grants and loans have been exhausted?

A: Yes, if you have TANF IL funds available, they can be used to supplement the tuition balance and other college needs (books, equipment, lab fees, and other necessities).

Q: What is ETV?

A: Education and Training Vouchers. Youth that age out of care or who are adopted at/after age 16 are eligible for up to \$5000 a school year to assist in paying for college.

Q: Did she mention a maximum on the ETV, or can you explain the ETV piece a little more?

A: The Education and Training Voucher Program provides up to \$5,000 a year for college and vocational training. You can find additional information on Ohio's program at www.fc2success.org. July 1st opens the new application window and it's time to apply for a 2017-18 ETV – youth should visit www.fc2sprograms.org, click on ETV and then scroll down to their state (OHIO).

Q: When a child is attending College are there usually people in the financial aid departments who understand Chafee and TANF IL?

A: All of our Ohio universities have a good understanding of these funding streams and ETV.

CASE DOCUMENTATION

Q: If we offer an incentive to an IL youth, we apply that payment towards the IL case service that applies to what activity they attended/completed?

A: Counties should document any assistance that they provide and align the assistance with one of the 11 IL skills/needs as identified within the youth's IL plan. Documentation should be reflected with an activity log, during the 90-day review of the plan, and SAR.

Q: Can IL funds be used to purchase food for IL activities such as a graduation party or other IL events we hold?

A: Yes, this is allowable if you are providing a graduation party for multiple foster youth or if you are facilitating an IL class on Health Education and Nutrition where food purchases would be used as a teaching mechanism. You would then document how it was provided for that specific need.

Q: Do caseworkers just need to make sure that they are documenting all these type items in the child's case files, or is there anything program wise that is required.

A: Documentation in SACWIS of the activity, funding assistance, and how it is tied to an IL skill or need.

Q: When a child has aged out of the county system and you continue to work with them how do you document the activity you are working on them with since the agency no longer has an open case.

Q: Is the emancipated youth to be tracked in SACWIS?

A: Yes, an opened Emancipated Youth case should reflect the services provided.

Q: Where in SACWIS would you enter the post emancipated youth from another county?

A: Per 5101:2-42-19.2, counties are required to provide youth with post-emancipation services upon their request. When a young adult contacts your county and expresses a need (services, resources, goods, financial needs, etc.), a new Emancipated Youth referral should be created in SACWIS. It is within this EY case record that you will record/document any and all services that were provided to the emancipated youth.

Q: We may have missed this point, but what is the agency's responsibility to ensure that procurement (or best, reasonable cost) for some of these items purchased for youth are followed?

A: As best casework practice, counties are encouraged to ensure that the most reasonable costs are obtained for either purchased services or goods that will also align with development of that youth's specific IL skill/need and they would document this in SACWIS.

Q: If a youth is moving for college and /or job out of your County do you still pay for the County moving too?

A: The custodial agency/county would arrange to provide for most expenses prior to emancipation. If the youth finds themselves in need later on, they can reach out to the county where they are residing and request assistance. This would be documented in SACWIS.

DRIVER'S EDUCATION/DRIVER'S LICENSE/CARS/CAR REPAIRS/CAR INSURANCE

Q: Are we still unable to pay for auto insurance for the emancipated youth?

A: Driver's education classes, driver's license fees, and a one-time payment to a contractor for purchase of a used car or up to \$2,000 for car repairs are allowable expenditures. The young adult would need to demonstrate an ability to maintain the costs and responsibilities of the car, including maintaining their own car insurance.

Q: slide 4 of the power point mentions age 14, however the eight purpose of Chafee foster care Independence program under # 7 says 16? Can you clarify the age on the programs?

A: The correct #7 of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program states, "To provide the services to children who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship, guardianship or adoption".

Q: Under normalcy if you place a child in a kinship home can you use Chafee or TANF IL funds for a per diem for that provider?

A: Neither funding streams can be used for per diem expenses.

Q: We have an Ind living youth who has a child. She has emancipated and will be paying rent for her to the foster parent. We have agreed to pay \$44 for the youth a day and \$12 a day for the baby. Can we use IL funds for baby?

A: No, IL funds cannot be used for the baby or used to pay per diem. Counties cannot mix Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance and Chafee IL funding.

County participant's comment: Chafee and TANF IL are very small allocations and greatly limit what services a county can provide these youth. Don't forget about Title XX funding, which can also be utilized for Independent Living Services and the CCMEP Program.

Q: What can be done as an Independent Living Agency who exists in a county that refuses to use Independent living funds? Are there any resources at the state level to connect agencies with counties who properly utilize these funds?

A: If you contract with a county to provide IL services on their behalf and they don't seem to understand the proper use of the funds, please let our office know and we can reach out to them. If you want to contract with additional counties you can reach out to them. We cannot give out county information to other entities.