WHAT CAREGIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AB 12 FOR PROBATION INVOLVED YOUTH: Transitioning to Independence - Supports and Other Benefits

March 6, 2013
Noon – 1:00 P.M.
Webinar

Caregiver Webinar Series:
AB 12 & Probation Supervised Foster Youth

youth law center
SESSION OVERVIEW

- What is AB 12? (Purpose & Eligibility Review)
- What Cash Benefits Are Available in Extended Care?
- Additional Supports & Services?
- SSI & Foster Youth with Disabilities
- Post-Secondary Education & Financial Aid
- How does AB 12 impact financial aid?
- Additional Education & Training Resources
- What Can Caregivers Do?
WHAT IS AB 12?
AB 12 - CALIFORNIA’S FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

- Helps foster youth, including probation supervised foster youth, transition to adulthood and independence by extending support until age 21
- Establishes new supervised independent living options for foster youth 18 & over
- Provides new options for eligible probation supervised foster youth who have met rehabilitative goals and are ready to get off probation continue to receive support until age 21
- Allows youth to exit and re-enter foster care

GOALS

- PERMANENCY CONNECTIONS
- COMPETENCY COLLABORATION
- INDEPENDENCE SELF-SUFFICIENCY
- STABILITY SUPPORT
EXTENDED FOSTER CARE ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- Have foster care placement order on 18th birthday/meet age req.
- Meet a participation condition
- Sign a mutual agreement*
- Agree to meet with probation officer (or social worker)
- Agree to work on transitional independent living skills
- Live in a licensed or approved setting
- Have 6 month court review hearings

*Not a condition of payment
What Cash Benefits Are Available Beyond 18?
EXTENDED AFDC-FC – WHAT DO YOU GET?

Foster Family Homes
Relative Placements (must be IV-E, aka federally eligible)
NREFM Placements
NRLG

Same rates as minors
- Basic Rate - $799
- Specialized Care Increment
- Infant Supplement for parenting foster youth ($411)
- Clothing allowance if offered by county
- Dual Agency Rates
EXTENDED AFDC-FC – WHAT DO YOU GET?

- FFA certified homes
- Group Homes
- THPP

→ Same rates as minors

- THP+ -FC

→ Provider Rate based on Model Type
SILPs - What do you get?

- Basic rate (currently $799/ month) – no specialized care

- Foster youth may receive the foster care benefit directly

- Clothing allowance available (if offered by county)

- Parenting foster youth receive the Infant Supplement (currently $411.00/month)
**Relative Placements: AFDC-FC vs. CalWORKs**

Federally-eligible (IV-E) = AFDC-FC

NOT federally eligible = CalWORKs

- Lower benefits (CalWORKS 1 person household = max $351)
- No specialized care rates, dual agency rates or clothing allowance

RELATIVE PLACEMENT → SILP

Not federally eligible? Foster youth can receive AFDC-FC at 18 if placement changed into a SILP
PREGNANT AND PARENTING YOUTH

Pregnant and parenting youth are eligible for EFC Benefit Payment

• In a SILP, a parenting youth can receive the foster care payment directly, including the Infant Supplement($411)

• For parenting youth in licensed/approved facilities, the Infant Supplement is paid to the provider

• Whole Family Foster Homes, as FFA’s or THP+FC host family homes, are also eligible for the $200 Shared Responsibility Plan payment
**Extended Kin-GAP & AAP Benefits**

Payment to age 21 up to maximum monthly amount youth would have received in foster family home.

**Kin-GAP** - Kinship Guardian Assistance Payment Program - youth entering a relative guardianship established by the juvenile court at age 16 or later.

**AAP** - Adoption Assistance Program - youth entering AAP at age 16 or later.

Note: AAP available to age 21 for youth with disabilities regardless of age started.
Additional supports & services available beyond 18?
MEDI-CAL

- Youth receiving AFDC-FC, Kin-GAP, AAP, SSI or CalWORKS eligible

- Former foster youth eligible up to age 21 (and up to age 26 beginning next year - 1/1/14) if exited foster care after 18th birthday
**CALFRESH A/K/A FOOD STAMPS**

- **Household based**
  - Living together, buying & preparing food together

- **Youth living with a foster family**
  - Treated as a boarder
  - Not included in the household
  - Foster care benefits don’t count
  - Can opt in

- **Youth in a SILP**
  - Can qualify if otherwise eligible
  - Usual rules apply
## After 18 Benefit Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount of Assistance</th>
<th>Special rates</th>
<th>Extended Benefits</th>
<th>Other services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFDC-FC</strong></td>
<td>$799</td>
<td>Yes - Specialized rates available Except SILP</td>
<td>Yes – if order for foster care at age 18</td>
<td>ILP, county clothing allowance, Medi-Cal, Chafee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CalWORKs</strong></td>
<td>$351 (max) for child only household</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes – if order for foster care at age 18</td>
<td>Medi-Cal, ILP, Chafee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(youth in foster care)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kin-GAP</strong></td>
<td>Negotiated – cannot exceed foster care</td>
<td>Yes – specialized rates available</td>
<td>Yes – if enter Kin-GAP at 16 or older OR disability</td>
<td>ILP, clothing allowance, Medi-Cal, Chafee (if enter at 16 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AAP</strong></td>
<td>Negotiated – cannot exceed foster care</td>
<td>Yes – specialized rates available</td>
<td>Yes – if enter AAP at 16 or older OR disability</td>
<td>Medi-Cal, Chafee (if enter at 16 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SSI</strong></td>
<td>$1,122 (NMOHC or with relative or NRLG); $854.40 (adult in own household)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Redetermination at age 18. Benefits continues as long as disability continues</td>
<td>Medi-Cal, education/work incentive programs</td>
</tr>
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SSI & Foster
Youth with Disabilities
SSI IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR FOSTER YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

• SSI available to youth with disabilities regardless of eligibility for AFDC-FC benefits

• Aids in transition planning

• Ongoing resource for foster youth once they leave foster care
WHAT’S SSI/SSP?
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) / STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT (SSP)

Needs-based program that provides cash aid and Medicaid to aged (65↑), blind or disabled citizens (or qualified immigrants) with limited income and resources

Disability for SSI:

Child Standard
- Having an impairment resulting in marked or severe functional limitations, expected to last for at least 12 months or result in death

Adult Standard
- Having an impairment resulting in the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity, expected to last for at least 12 months or result in death
SSI & EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Can participate in extended foster care and receive SSI

• Offset required – receive SSI, AFDC-FC, or a combination of both benefits

SSI continuing disability review in year after 18th birthday

• Probation/supervising agency must assist youth in review process
SSI HELPS TRANSITION OUT OF FOSTER CARE

• SSI links to Medi-Cal (while in care and after exit)

• Often provides more support while a youth is in care and can help avoid homelessness once a youth exit cares

• SSI eligibility may qualify youth for permanent affordable housing – can use time in EFC to apply for these housing slots!

• Social Security has programs to help recipients pursue education or attempt work without losing eligibility

• Youth can receive school scholarships and receive SSI simultaneously

• Allows youth additional time to establish SSI eligibility under adult standards
SSI & Foster Youth with Disabilities - Transition Planning – Probation/Child Welfare

• Screen every youth for SSI eligibility between age 16.5 and 17.5
• Make an SSI application on behalf of likely eligible youth
• Assist youth in receiving direct payment or finding payee
• Inform youth of process of maintaining eligibility as adults

Goal to have SSI in place by age 18
NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR SSI ELIGIBLE FOSTER YOUTH

➢ If foster youth receives a monthly SSI benefit elects & remains in EFC, county must assist youth in receiving direct payment

➢ A youth who is at least 17.5 years is presumed to be capable of becoming own payee.

➢ If youth is approved for SSI but receives federal foster care in excess of SSI – county must maintain SSI eligibility (using workaround)

Ensuring SSI is in place at age 18 provides youth maximum flexibility and choice among benefits, services and supports.
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & FINANCIAL AID
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS

Community college

Career & Technical Education

Private colleges

CSU

UC
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPTIONS

- Regional Occupational Centers & Programs (ROCPs)
- Community Colleges
- Private Schools
- Adult Schools
- Non-Profit Community Based Programs
APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

• The FAFSA - www.fafsa.gov
  (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

• How to get help completing the FAFSA

• Deadlines – apply early when possible
  o March 2nd for maximum aid
  o CCC: Prior to start of term – sooner the better!

• Applying for BOG fee waiver
CHAFFEE GRANTS
EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Who?
• Juvenile court dependent or probation supervised foster youth after 16th birthday
• Under 22 as of July 1 of the year they are applying
• Enrollment in at least ½ time in 1 year (or more) program of study & satisfactory academic progress

What?
• Up to $5000 for college or vocational school

How?
• To apply: FAFSA + Chafee application
• Award priority system — if apply in first year and do not get it, you have greater priority the next year
HOW DOES AB 12 IMPACT FINANCIAL AID FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?
INDEPENDENT STUDENT STATUS. FEE WAIVERS & INCOME EXCLUSIONS

Foster Youth-

- Independent student status on FAFSA if in foster care at age 13 or later
- Qualify for BOG fee waiver at California Community Colleges if in foster care at age 13 or later
- SILP payments are not reported as income on FAFSA
- Financial Aid not income for AFDC-FC eligibility
Additional Resources
CAMPUS BASED RESOURCES

• Comprehensive campus support programs
  • Offer supportive services, both academic and non-academic
  • Located on CC, CSUs and UCs

• Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)
  • Liaisons located at each community college
  • Assist with navigating all academic and student
    support services and programs and accessing
    financial aid

• Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) – CC
• Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) – CSU & UC
  • EOP/EOPS provide wide range of assistance to full-time low income & educationally
    challenged students (book vouchers, academic counseling, tutoring, ...)

• Disabled Students Programs & Services

More information on post-secondary education for foster youth
www.cacolleagepathways.org
OTHER RESOURCES

Employment & Training

California One Stop Centers

Job Corp*
http://www.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx

Americorp*
http://www.americorps.gov/

California Conservation Corp*
http://www.ccc.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx

More information on career & employment training & development
http://www.cacollegepathways.org/additional-resources-foster-youth#career

*Requires criminal background check; can’t be on formal probation
What Can Caregivers Do?
WHAT CAREGIVERS CAN DO

Help young adult:

• Develop the skills necessary for self-sufficiency including educational and career development

• Identify & connect to campus based & other supports (FYSI, EOP/EOPS, Disabled Student Programs, Comprehensive Student Support Programs)

• Connect with employment, education & training resources
WHAT CAREGIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AB 12 FOR PROBATION INVOLVED YOUTH: TRANSITIONING TO INDEPENDENCE - SUPPORTS AND OTHER BENEFITS

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Session 4

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