

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



Marla McDade Williams, MPA *Administrator*

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.

MTL # 0808-07012025

TO: Frank Prado, Director – Clark County Family Services

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FROM: Betsey Crumrine, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services

POLICY DISTRIBUTION

Enclosed find the following policy for distribution to all applicable staff within your organization:

0808 EYASSP Pregnant and Parenting

This policy is/was effective:			
\boxtimes	This policy is new. Please review the policy in its entirety		
	This policy replaces the following policy(s): MTL # Policy Name:		
	This policy has been revised. Please see below for the type of revision:		
	\square This is a significant policy revision. Please review this policy in its entirety.		
	\square This is a minor policy revision: (List page number & summary of change):		
	☐ A policy form has been revised: (List form, page number and summary of change):		
	☐ This policy has been reviewed for statewide compliance.		

NOTE:

- Please read the policy in its entirety and note any areas that are additionally required by your agency to be in compliance with the policy enclosed.
- This is an ALL STAFF MEMO and it is the responsibility of the person listed above to disseminate the policy enclosed to appropriate staff within his/her organization and to ensure compliance.
- The most current version of this policy is posted on the DCFS Website at the following address: http://dcfs.nv.gov/Policies
 Please check the table of contents on this page for the link to the chapter you are interested in.

CC:

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Policy Approval Clearance Record

☑ Statewide Policy☐ Administrative Policy☐ DCFS Rural Region Policy	☑ New Policy☐ Modified Policy☐ This policy supersedes:
Date Policy Effective:	07/01/2025
Attorney General Representative Review:	06/21/2024
DCFS Deputy Administrator Review:	08/09/2024
DMG Original Approval	09/12/2024
DMG Review:	N/A

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Policy Statement and Purpose: To clarify and communicate the requirements and guidelines of Title IV-E funding eligibility as it relates to young adults participating in the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP) and their dependent children to ensure that payments are processed accurately and in accordance with federal law.

AUTHORITY

Federal: Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-351; 42 U.S. Code § 675; SSA 475

NRS: NRS 432B.410 to 432B.590; NRS 432B.553; NRS 432B.594; NRS 432B.595; NRS 432B.5915; NRS 432B.5919; NRS 432B.601

NAC: N/A Other: N/A

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "child" and "youth" may be used interchangeably.

Agency Which Provides Child Welfare Services: In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the agency is a local office of the Division of Child and Family Services; or in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the agency of the county, which provides or arranges for necessary child welfare services. May also be referred to as "agency" or "child welfare agency".

Child: A person who is under the age of 18 years, pursuant to NRS 432B.591.

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Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP; "the Program"): A Program to provide extended support services to young adults pursuant to the provisions of NRS 432B.5909 to 432B.601, inclusive, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-351, 42 U.S.C. § 675.

IV-E Eligibility: Refers to the criteria for determining initial eligibility for Title IV-E funding when a child enters out of home care.

IV-E Reimbursable: Refers to the criteria for determining federal reimbursement of a child's placement maintenance payments; status may change from month-to-month dependent on type of placement and/or level of care. Child must be Title IV-E eligible to be reimbursable.

Shared Responsibility Plan (SRP): A collaborative written plan with clear and realistic guidelines for both the minor parent in foster care and the adult caregiver that defines each of their roles and responsibilities for the care of the minor parent's child.

State: An alternate word for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) or Family Programs Office (FPO).

Supervised Independent Living Setting (SILS): A broad range of settings as defined and permitted under federal regulation for IV-E eligibility. SILS are not licensed, they are approved by the agency which provides child welfare services. A SILS placement may include apartments, shared apartments, dorm rooms and rented rooms/space. A young adult may rent a room in the home of a parent, legal guardian, or former foster parent as long as it is under Agency supervision. In such a placement, the parent, legal guardian, or foster parent is not considered the foster provider for that young adult and therefore does not need to meet the requirements of a traditional foster home, and the young adult is not considered to have been returned home. The young adult may instead be placed with a foster parent, relative, or in any other traditional (e.g., non-SILS) placement in the same way that a child under 18 may be placed as long as the young adult consents to such a placement.

Voluntary Supports and Services Agreement (VSSA): A contract between the agency and the young adult. The agreement specifies the services and resources that will be provided to the young adult, the responsibilities of the young adult regarding the services, and the responsibilities of the agency to the young adult.

Young Adult: A person who is at least 18 years of age but less than 21 years of age and who: On his or her 18th birthday, was subject to a court order for placement in foster care or was subject of proceedings held pursuant to NRS 432B.410 to 432B.590, inclusive, of which placement in foster care is a potential outcome; or

PARENTING POLICY

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Exited the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program established pursuant to NRS 432B.622 or an adoption assistance program after attaining the age of 16 years of age and is not currently receiving care from his or her guardian or adoptive parent.

Young Adult Self-Sufficiency (YASS) Plan: The case plan document required pursuant to NRS 432B.595 and is reviewed by the court at semi-annual hearings or administrative reviews. The YASSP is to be created through a conferencing process involving the agency assigned worker, young adult, and other designated staff identified by the young adult. The conference and YASS Plan should be developed and implemented using a strengths-focused, youth-centered approach.

STANDARDS/PROCEDURES

Title IV-E Eligibility

- 1. Section 475(4)(B) of the Social Security Act requires that foster care maintenance payments for a minor parent in foster care cover a child of such parent if the child is placed with the minor parent. The child welfare agency is not required to have legal placement and care responsibility for the minor child in order for such costs to be included in the EYASSP participant's foster care maintenance payment. If an EYASSP participant is IV-E eligible and is parenting, their child(ren) is eligible for a supplemental Title IV-E payment. The child welfare agency must increase the amount of the Title IV-E foster care maintenance payment made on behalf of the eligible EYASSP participant to provide for the board and care of the child.
- 2. By signing the Voluntary Supports and Services Agreement (VSSA), the young adult participating in the EYASSP is considered to be under the placement care and responsibility of the child welfare agency but not under their legal and physical custody. This allows the agency to provide the young adult a supplemental IV-E payment for their minor dependent. This IV-E payment may start at birth, when the EYASSP participant becomes a parent of a child. The supplemental IV-E payment may be equal to but not greater than the approved foster care rate.
 - a. Pursuant to Section 475(4)(A) the costs of care and supervision may include payments to cover the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to a child, reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation, and reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement. In the case of institutional care, such terms shall include the reasonable costs of administration and operation of such institution as are necessarily required to provide the items described in the preceding sentence).
 - b. EYASSP participants are not required to provide proof of appropriate use of the Title IV-E supplemental funds. Title IV-E supplemental payments may not be capped, reduced or withheld. Refer to 0805 EYASSP Title IV-E Eligibility and Court

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Oversight for additional Title IV-E eligibility requirements and 0807 EYASSP Case Management and Services for formal program termination procedures.

- 3. Although the young adult has opted into participating into the EYASSP, the dependent child does not need to enter foster care with their own case unless there is identified abuse or neglect or the child is a candidate for foster care. Refer to 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) for more information. When a child is placed with the EYASSP participant without placement and care responsibility by child welfare agency, no administrative costs can be claimed on the child's behalf because the child is not eligible for their own administrative costs. The EYASSP participant remains eligible for Title IV-E administrative costs.
- 4. If the young adult is living in an approved Supervised Independent Living Setting (SILS), the supplemental payment is provided to the young adult. If the young adult is living in a foster home or another setting with a guardian, the supplemental IV-E payment is provided to the foster parent or guardian.
- 5. In cases where the state has placement and care responsibility for the EYASSP participant and legal placement and care responsibility of their minor child, Title IV-E eligibility would have to be determined individually for each. Likewise, if a minor parent leaves the foster home and does not take the child, the child's eligibility for foster care then would be based upon his or her individual circumstances. In addition, the child welfare agency would have to obtain responsibility for placement and care of the child through either a voluntary placement agreement or a court order with the required judicial determinations. In situations where the eligibility of the minor parent and his/her infant are determined separately and both are placed in foster care, the child welfare agency may claim administrative costs for the child because s/he is eligible for and receiving Title-IV-E maintenance payment in her/his own right.
- 6. Pursuant to <u>section 472(h)</u> of the SSA, an EYASSP participant's minor child is categorically eligible for the title XIX Medicaid program available in their State of residence.
 - a. Due to the agency having placement care and responsibility of the EYASSP participant, the child welfare agency will provide Medicaid through their internal agency processes. The child welfare agency must complete any eligibility applications and provide the information to the eligibility unit for processing to prevent duplication of applications sent to the Medicaid office.
 - b. If the EYASSP participant's minor child is in the legal custody of the child welfare agency, the agency will apply for the minor child's Medicaid using internal agency processes.
 - c. If the minor child is not in the legal custody of the child welfare agency, the EYASSP participant is responsible for applying for Medicaid for their minor child. The EYASSP participant will need to apply for Medicaid each time they give birth to an additional child.

d. Prior to the young adult exiting the EYASSP, the child welfare agency may assist the young adult with applying for Medicaid to obtain Medicaid coverage for themselves and their minor child(ren).

Case Management

- 1. For EYASSP participants who are pregnant or parenting, it may be appropriate to reconsider which EYASSP eligibility criteria option will best fit their current situation. The EYASSP participant may be eligible to use the documented medical criteria to address any medical needs, support and bonding for up to a 12-week period. An exception to the 12-week time period may be made on a case-by-case basis. Refer to policy 0806 EYASSP Program Eligibility and Enrollment for further information around documentation for medical or cognitive criteria.
- 2. It is the responsibility of the agency assigned worker to discuss strengths and needs and as needed provide services to the EYASSP participant and their child that exceeds monitoring basic safety. Although the EYASSP participant's child may not be in the care and legal custody of the agency, the expectation is the agency will continue to provide preventative services to the family unit. Discussion of these needs should utilize the young adult's strengths with a focus on prevention, to provide additional services and resources when creating goals. This discussion must be documented in the Young Adult Self-Sufficiency (YASS) Plan.
- 3. When a child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility for both the EYASSP participant and the minor child (due to legal custody), the agency assigned worker must follow the standard policies and procedures for children entering care. Regardless of whether the child and minor parent are in the same placement, their cases are handled individually. The agency assigned worker works with the assigned permanency worker to coordinate service referrals and delivery.
- 4. Support services must be offered through case management for the EYASSP participant which should assist in accessing resources and gaining knowledge around parenting. Supportive services should be offered for EYASSP participants who have their child placed with them as well as EYASSP participants who do not have their child placed with them. During monthly visits, the agency assigned worker does the following:
 - a. Meets with the EYASSP participant, to ensure that both the minor child and the EYASSP participant's needs are being met.
 - b. Discusses the EYASSP participant and minor child's needs with the caregiver if applicable.
 - c. Creates a Shared Responsibility Plan as needed and provides ongoing assessment and evaluation of the Shared Responsibility Plan. Refer to the statewide 0804 Pregnant and Parenting Youth Policy for more information and a Shared Responsibility Plan Template.

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- d. Discusses with EYASSP participant, ongoing needs such as childcare, child supplies, budgeting, safe sleep etc. For specific information refer to statewide policy 0518 Safe Sleeping of Infants in Child Welfare Cases and use the "Find a Tech" link at https://cert.safekids.org/ to access car seat resources.
- 5. The agency assigned worker must staff with the supervisor any time there is a concern that the minor child's needs are not being met. Addressing concerns around the EYASSP participant and/or their minor child's needs should be a collaborative effort amongst the assigned agency staff to ensure timely resolutions.

Placement Considerations

- 1. EYASSP participants retain the same rights to custody and visitation as other parents and must be placed with their child whenever possible. The agency assigned worker and/or IL worker must assess the appropriateness of the current placement, and if necessary, adjust placement to address the needs of the EYASSP participant. This may include assisting the EYASSP participant in identifying a new placement which demonstrates a willingness and ability to provide support and assistance, including enhancing or providing parenting skills and independent living skills, to the EYASSP participant and their child.
- 2. There are times when the safety of the EYASSP participant and/or the child needs to be assessed as part of a Nevada Initial Assessment. At those times the agency assigned worker should work with the assessment worker to determine if a safety plan is needed to mitigate safety threats/risks. If the child must be removed from the EYASSP participant and placed into foster care, the agency assigned worker should continue to work with the child's case workers and assist the EYASSP participant in meeting conditions for return. If the minor child is not able to be placed with the EYASSP participant, the agency should make ongoing efforts to identify a placement option that supports the minor child and EYASSP participant residing together. Refer to the FPO 0804 Pregnant and Parenting Youth Policy and internal agency procedures or guidelines on how to assess safety for a EYASSP participant who is considered a minor parent. Additional things to consider may include:
 - a. Is the EYASSP participant appropriate for a supervised independent living situation? Connect the EYASSP participant to peer-to-peer resources and support systems.
 - b. If the minor child was removed, this collaboration (IL Team and Safety/Permanency Team) may result in a quicker reunification as appropriate.

Equal Support and Services to Mothers and Fathers Participating in EYASSP

1. When appropriate, the Agency shall provide equal support to expecting and parenting mothers and fathers participating in EYASSP.

- a. When applicable, the Agency shall provide service referrals to address the individual needs of the EYASSP participant as it relates to their pregnant and/or parenting status. The child welfare agencies shall promote preventative services relating to pregnancy prevention, prenatal, post-natal, pediatric care, dating violence and education on other risky behaviors such as substance use and abuse. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- b. As appropriate, parenting EYASSP participants will be encouraged to abide by any established court orders.
- c. Refer to the FPO 0804 Pregnant and Parenting Youth Policy and internal agency procedures or guidelines on how to encourage equal parenting for a EYASSP participant.

Documentation:

In addition to other EYASSP documentation requirements, the agency assigned worker should document the following in the EYASSP participant's monthly contact:

- a. Whether the caseworker was able to see the EYASSP participant's child.
- b. Observations.
- c. Any needs of the child.
- d. Any service referrals for pregnant and parenting EYASSP participants when applicable.

JURISDICTIONAL ACTION

Development of Internal Policies: Agencies which provide child welfare services shall develop internal policies and procedures as necessary to implement the provisions of Federal and State law and this policy.

Supervisory Responsibility: Provide guidance to the agency assigned worker during times of concern or uncertainty in regard to this policy. If an EYASSP participant is determined to be at risk for child welfare involvement, additional supervisory meetings should be considered.

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

The State will provide technical assistance regarding program development and implementation to the child welfare agencies.

POLICY CROSS REFERENCE

Policies:

0508 Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) 0518 Safe Sleeping of Infants in Child Welfare Cases 0804 Pregnant and Parenting Youth FAMILY PROGRAMS OFFICE: PREGNANT AND PARENTING POLICY

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0806 EYASSP Eligibility and Enrollment 0807 EYASSP Case Management and Services

History and Updates: This is a new policy.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A