



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY

**Chapter 11:** Older Youth Services

**Section 10:** Education and Training Voucher Program

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2023

**Version:** 5

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### POLICY OVERVIEW

Indiana receives federal funding to ensure older youth currently or formerly in foster care are educated, housed, financially stable, employed, and connected to a support system. Through the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, eligible older youth may access funding and academic resources to assist with the cost of postsecondary education, college, or vocational training programs.

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### PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make funds of up to \$5,000 (not to exceed the cost of attendance) available for eligible students for the ETV Program through a contracted service provider; as funds are made available from the federal government. The ETV Program is contingent upon available funding.

The following older youth meet the DCS eligibility requirements for ETV assistance:

1. An older youth in foster care who is between 16 and 18 years of age and is not enrolled in secondary school, but has earned a High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate or diploma, Vocational Certificate, or has a high school diploma;
2. An older youth adopted or placed in a guardianship from foster care on or after the older youth's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday;
3. A Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) older youth in foster care (out-of-home placement ordered by the juvenile court that is not a detention placement) on the older youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday;
4. An older youth who is a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen;
5. An older youth that has personal assets (e.g., bank account, car, home) worth less than \$10,000;
6. Eligible older youth must have been accepted into or be presently enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other program at a college, university, technical, or vocational school. The older youth must notify ETV if any classes are dropped. If an older youth is currently receiving funds and enrolled, the older youth must show progress toward that degree or certificate; and

**Note:** Eligible older youth may not participate in the ETV program for more than five (5) years regardless of whether or not the years are consecutive.

7. An older youth up to 26 years of age who:

- a. Reapplies every year on the Indiana ETV webpage,
- b. Is enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program,
- c. Is making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program with a cumulative 2.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher, and

**Note:** An academic success plan will be created for older youth who receive a semester/term GPA of 2.0 or lower. Older youth who fall below a 2.0 GPA for two consecutive semesters/terms may not receive further funding until they apply for an ETV appeals through the ETV provider.

- d. Send the Indiana ETV provider the older youth's school transcript every semester/term.

Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) staff will:

1. Monitor the ETV applications as submitted and determine eligibility for all applications in a timely manner;
2. Respond to queries regarding ETV eligibility and eligible services through ETV funding;
3. Monitor the ETV contract expenditures.

**Note:** ETV funding may be used for tuition and fees, textbooks and supplies, a computer package, housing expenses, childcare expenses, and transportation expenses;

4. Verify eligibility for older youth applying for ETV funds who were in foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in the state of Indiana or in another state and are current residents of Indiana; and

**Note:** Residency in Indiana may be established for postsecondary education reasons.

5. Maintain e-mail contact with the ETV provider and provide information regarding available scholarships, internships, and other areas of interest to older youth participating in postsecondary opportunities.

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## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

N/A

### Forms and Tools

- [Indiana ETV website](#)

### Related Policies

N/A

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## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 677 John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)

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## PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 11.10

*Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.*

### Cost of Attendance

Each youth may access up to \$5,000, not to exceed the cost of attendance, for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program. The cost of attendance is the total amount of money it will cost a student to attend a school for the fall, spring, and summer semesters. This is calculated differently at each college, university, or trade school. The cost of attendance is calculated using actual figures (not estimates) for the following:

1. Tuition/fees (hours enrolled including full-time,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time,  $\frac{1}{2}$  time, or less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  time);
2. Room and Board (on campus or off campus in the student's own apartment or shared housing);
3. Books/supplies;
4. Personal (including clothes and personal items – each university figures this differently);
5. Transportation (each university figures this differently);
6. Day care and computers (these are not automatically included but may be allowed if students ask for this to be included);
7. Healthcare (not always included); and/or
8. Expected family contribution or the youth's expected contribution.

Standard amounts regarding where the youth is living are based on self-report. If the youth needs the personal and/or transportation costs increased, the school will ask for receipts to document how much has been spent in each area to justify the additional costs. If day care, computer, or student healthcare is needed, the student must check to see if these items were included in the cost of attendance. If not, the youth may request that the items be included, which could raise the cost of attendance for the youth and potentially increase the amount of funds available for the youth.

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