



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

February 19, 2021

To: Child Welfare Field Operations

From: Kwesi Booker, Assistant Secretary 

RE: Youth re-entering Extended Foster Care who aged out after April 1, 2020

As our state and the nation continues to respond to the COVID pandemic, there has been a focus on youth and their ability to support themselves as they exit Extended Foster Care. On January 29, 2020, Governor Inslee signed [Proclamation 21-02: Extended Eligibility for Foster Care Services](#). This memo serves as interim policy guidance related to policy 43105. Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program.

This memo includes:

- Guidance on how to re-enter youth who have aged out after April 1, 2020 and temporary program changes
- Links to DCYF Extended Foster Care policies and forms
- Link to Federal Stimulus Bill

Re-Entry Procedure for EFC

- The regular EFC Re-Enrollment Prior to the Youth's 21st Birthday process as outlined in policy 43105. Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program and continues to apply with the following changes:
 - Youth who age out of EFC from April 1, 2020 to present day are eligible to re-enter the program as required by federal law and the proclamation.
 - Caseworkers should contact eligible youth as soon as possible to let them know that they can voluntarily re-enter the program.
 - Youth do not need to be actively engaged in the following eligibility criteria upon entry:
 - Enrolled in high school or a high school equivalency program;
 - Enrolled, has applied for, or can show intent to timely enroll in a post-secondary academic or vocational certification program;
 - Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment, including part-time employment;
 - Employed 80 hours or more a month; or
 - Unable to engage in any of the above activities due to a documented medical condition.
 - Contact the assistant attorney general once the youth signs the EFC VPA
 - **File and establish a non-minor dependency action as soon as possible**

Temporary program changes in effect until September 30, 2021, in order to align with federal guidance

- Youth shall not be exited from the EFC program solely due to:
 - Reaching age 21
 - Not being able to participate because they do not meet the eligibility criteria in policy section 1(a)(i.-v.).

If you have questions, please contact Sherrie Flores at sherrie.flores@dcyf.wa.gov or 360-489-5280.

Links to DCYF Policies and Forms

- [Policy 43105. Extended Foster Care \(EFC\) Program](#)
- Forms
 - [EFC Denial Letter \(DCYF 06-165\)](#)
 - [Voluntary Placement Agreement for Extended Foster Care Services \(DCYF 15-431\)](#)
 - [Extended Foster Care Participation Agreement \(DCYF 10-432\)](#)

Link to Federal Stimulus Bill

- [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#)
 - *Section 4: Preventing Aging Out of Foster Care During The Pandemic*
 - Page 3175