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Date: 01/12/2022 01:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: Supporting Transportation Needs of Youth in and Formerly in Foster Care

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From: "Mucha, Marsha" <marsha.mucha@csa.virginia.gov>
To: Marsha Mucha <marsha.mucha@csa.virginia.gov>
Date: Wed, 12 Jan 2022 10:52:40 -0500
Subject: Fwd: Supporting Transportation Needs of Youth in and Formerly in Foster Care

Good morning, CSA Coordinators and CPMT Chairpersons,

Please see the below Broadcast from the Virginia Department of Social Services regarding additional federal Chafee funds to support older and former foster youth in obtaining transportation, particularly associated with getting a driver's license, such as payment for driver's ed classes, purchasing auto insurance or buying a car. Please read the Broadcast carefully, as there is a short time frame for use of these funds (February 1, 2022-September 30, 2022) and LDSS must submit a brief application to access the allocation. Up to \$4000 per youth is available.

Carol

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From: Fusion Server <donotreply@dss.virginia.gov>

Date: Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 9:29 AM

Subject: Supporting Transportation Needs of Youth in and Formerly in Foster Care

To: <carol.wilson@csa.virginia.gov>

[Supporting Transportation Needs of Youth in and Formerly in Foster Care](#)

Categories: [Family Services](#)

The Division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (The Act) specifically authorizes Chafee COVID funds to be used to provide driving and transportation assistance to youth who experienced foster care at age 14 or older, have attained age 15, and are under age 23. These costs may be related to obtaining a driver's license, vehicle insurance, driver's education classes and testing fees, practice lessons, practice hours, license fees, and assistance in

purchasing an automobile. This Act offers up to \$4000 per youth for driving and transportation assistance and will start February 1, 2022. These funds must be expended by September 30, 2022. These funds do not require a local match.

It is estimated that less than 5% of teens in foster care obtain their driver's license by their 18th birthday (Virginia Commission on Youth, 2018). Young people who participated in a recent focus group reported having a driver's license is important because it can provide them independence and reliable transportation for school and work. However, they stated they need support and resources with getting documentation required by the Department of Motor Vehicles, cost of car insurance and fees, access to a car to practice driving and purchasing a car. A recent survey completed by local departments of social services (LDSS) identified the same barriers.

The additional Chafee funds provided to states under the Act are meant to alleviate as many barriers as possible to ensure eligible youth receive the services and support necessary to meet their individualized transportation needs. Funding under this program can be used to help youth achieve an important milestone, skill, and experience towards normalcy and self-sufficiency. It is crucial that LDSS maximize these additional Chafee COVID funds during this time by assisting all eligible youth with their driving and transportation needs.

The Virginia Department of Social Service strongly encourages LDSS to take advantage of the additional Chafee funding available by completing the brief Transportation Assistance Program application and emailing it to va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov by January 26, 2022. The application is located [here](#) with the other funding applications for child welfare.

LDSS that submit an application by January 26, 2022 will be approved and receive an allocation per eligible youth in Budget Line 884 on or around February 1, 2022. If funding is not used prior to the end of the local fiscal year (May 31, 2022), it will be reallocated in June. The additional Chafee and Education Training Voucher (ETV) COVID funds end September 30, 2022. If there are questions or request for technical assistance, please contact Gwendolyn Castillo, Youth Services Program Specialist, at Gwendolyn.castillo@dss.virginia.gov, 804-659-2568; or Letha Moore-Jones, State Independent Living Coordinator and Youth Services Supervisor, at letha.moore-jones@dss.virginia.gov, 804-726-7576.

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