

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

October 8, 2012

PI- 12-17

TO: Directors, County Social Service Boards
Regional Supervisors
Tribal Social Services
Division of Juvenile Services
Chafee Independent Living Administrators

FROM: Kelsey Bless, Administrator, Chafee Independent Living

SUBJECT: Education and Training Voucher eligibility policy change

PROGRAMS: Foster Care Independent Living-Manual Chapter 624-10-25-15-05

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

RETENTION: Until Manualized

The Chafee Independent Living Education and Training Voucher (ETV) provides a funding resource specific to meet the education and training needs of eligible Foster Care Alumni in our state. Eligible youth can receive up to \$5,000 in ETV awards per academic year and \$20,000 lifetime maximum.

The changes to policy include the addition of the language “aged out of foster care” and “18+ Continued Care” for criteria #1. Also, the ETV eligibility standard for the length of time in foster care has changed. In the past, policy stated a youth must have been in foster care for at least one year. This will no longer be a determination in eligibility; however preference will be given to youth applicants who were in foster care for twelve months or greater see criteria #7 (new).

The youth meeting the following criteria will be considered for an Education and Training Voucher Award.

1. **Youth who “aged out of foster care”**, were discharged on or after their 18th birthday, or **continue in 18+ Continued Care** past their 18th birthday, and who have not reached their 21st birthday at the time of application.
2. Youth who were adopted or entered kinship guardianship from foster care after age 16, but have not reached their 21st birthday.
3. Youth participating in the ETV Program on their 21st birthday can remain eligible until they turn age 23, as long as they are enrolled and making satisfactory

- progress toward completing their post-secondary education or training program.
4. Youth who are United States Citizens or qualified non-citizens.
 5. Youth who are, or will be enrolled into a program at an accredited or pre-accredited college, university, technical or vocational school.
 6. Youth who agree to be an active participant in the Chafee Independent Living Program while they are receiving ETV funding.
 7. **ETV award preference will be given to youth who were in foster care for twelve months or greater.**

ETV Applications are due to Children and Family Services by:

- Fall Semester = August 15th
- Spring Semester = December 15th
- Summer Semester = May 15th

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kelsey Bless at kmbless@nd.gov or 701-328-4934.

Thank you.