

 <p><b>Children's Services Agency</b></p> <p><b>Communication Issuance</b></p> <p><b>20- 066</b> <b>Revised 4/30/20.</b> <b>Prior version obsolete.</b></p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response: Opportunities to Support Older Youth-Updated
	Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational Memorandum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Instruction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy Guide
	Issuance Date	05/01/20
	Obsolete Date	06/12/20
	Contact Name	Ann Rossi, Departmental Analyst
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	Due Date	N/A
	Due to	N/A
<i>Distribution</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS BSC and County Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Workforce Development and Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

**This version replaces prior versions of 20-066.**

Maintaining the health and safety of older youth is critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. Four ways to support youth over age 18 include:

1. **Continue Foster Care.**
  - A youth who is a temporary court ward under an abuse and neglect order, between the ages of 18-20, can remain under court jurisdiction, maintain stability in their current placement, and receive case management supports. Engage with your court to maintain court jurisdiction, if appropriate.
  - Youth committed to Michigan's Children's Institute (MCI) who reach the age of 19 can remain under the care and supervision of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) until age 20, either in family foster care or independent living.
2. **Enroll Youth in Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC).** Enroll eligible youth in the YAVFC program. YAVFC offers eligible foster youth ages 18, 19, and 20, who were in state-supervised foster care under an abuse/neglect order at the age of 18 or older, to extend foster care maintenance payments until age 21 if they meet one of the eligibility criteria of education, employment, volunteerism or medical needs.
3. **Maintain Youth in YAVFC.** Youth currently enrolled in YAVFC should remain in the program and not enter a grace period if they lose employment due to not meeting school, employment or volunteerism requirements for the month.

4. **Extend Stipends.** Stipends can be extended beyond a youth's YAVFC case closure at age 21 until 30 days after the [Executive Order \(EO\) 2020-033](#), Declaration of Disaster Order, or the applicable follow-up Executive Order is lifted.
- The independent living stipend will continue to be paid to the youth during this time and 30 days after the EO has expired.
  - The YAVFC case in MiSACWIS must close payments and case services on the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday; however, the local MDHHS office should begin the payment beyond case closure immediately.
    - The local MDHHS office should identify the person in their office who will take lead for processing these payments.
    - Program office will contact the local MDHHS office and private agencies who have youth known to be turning 21.
  - Instructions regarding submitting payment requests for the stipends will be sent to the local MDHHS office and/or private agency for cases this impacts.

For immediate review and resolution, concerns about payments to youth during the COVID-19 State of Disaster should be sent to [MDHHS-FosterCarePayments@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-FosterCarePayments@michigan.gov).