

 <p><b>Children's Services Agency</b></p> <p><b>Communication Issuance</b></p> <p><b>20-092</b></p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response: Updated Information for Older Youth Services During COVID-19 Pandemic
	Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational Memorandum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Instruction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy Guide
	Issuance Date	06/23/20
	Obsolete Date	09/01/20
	Contact Name	Ann Rossi, Departmental Analyst
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	Due Date	N/A
	Due to	N/A
Distribution	<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:	

The following communication provides updated guidance initially offered in CI 20-031 and CI 20-066. Those CIs are now obsolete.

Updates on support for older youth experiencing and leaving foster care:

**1. Extended Stipends for Youth in YAVFC Turning 21**

CI 20-066, *COVID-19 Response: Opportunities to Support Older Youth*, allowed for exceptions to be made for those who were in the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC) program and turned 21 on or after March 10, 2020, to continue to receive a stipend. **As of June 30, 2020, this exception will no longer be approved.** All youth who were being provided the stipend under this exception will be paid until June 30, 2020.

**2. Maintaining Youth in YAVFC**

Youth currently enrolled in YAVFC, and under the age of 21, should remain in the program and not enter a grace period if they lose eligibility due to not meeting school, employment, or volunteerism requirements for the month. This exception remains in effect until September 1, 2020. At that time, a youth who does not meet school, employment, or volunteerism requirements may maintain eligibility by entering a grace period.

- a. For youth who have an approved 90-day review, no action needs to be taken.
- b. A comment should be entered indicating that, due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the youth is considered to be meeting the YAVFC requirements.
- c. If a youth enrolled in YAVFC relocates and the check is being mailed directly to the youth, the caseworker must update the address in the youth's profile to ensure there is no disruption in payment.

### 3. Enrolling Youth in YAVFC

For a youth to enter or re-enter YAVFC, they must meet all regular eligibility requirements. YAVFC allows 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.

Questions regarding YAVFC eligibility can be forwarded to [MDHHS-YAVFC@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-YAVFC@michigan.gov).

### 4. Continuing Foster Care

- a. A youth who is a temporary court ward under an abuse/neglect order, between the ages of 18-20, can remain under court jurisdiction, maintain stability in their current placement, and receive case management supports. Caseworkers are encouraged to engage with the court to maintain court jurisdiction, if appropriate.
- b. 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.

### 5. Youth in Independent Living with Housing Needs

If a youth in out of home placement at age 18 and older loses their housing or is at risk of losing housing due to loss of employment or school closure due to COVID-19, Chafee (YIT) funds can be used to (re)establish housing or pay rent that is due.

- a. Policy office will make a policy exception to exceed the lifetime limit if the youth previously accessed and exhausted their lifetime limit, or if funds are needed to cover rent due to loss of employment. An exception request should be made for monthly rent and should be submitted through the established procedures using the DHS-720 to [MDHHS-YouthInTransition@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-YouthInTransition@michigan.gov).
- b. If the request does not exceed the lifetime limit for first month's rent/security deposit, an exception request is not needed.