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## **POLICY 1208 – Independent Living Aftercare**

### **A. POLICY**

Independent living case management services shall be provided to eligible youth to help the transition to adulthood, providing them with services to gain self-sufficiency.

### **B. PROCEDURES**

1. Youth between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-one (21) who age out of foster care or were adopted or placed under guardianship agreement at age sixteen (16) or older and have a current Independent Living (IL) plan shall receive voluntary support services to continue learning and practicing independent living skills and activities.
2. The DFS caseworker or the IL contractor will inform eligible youth of the IL after care services. The youth's case will remain open in FOCUS as an IL case only.
3. The IL contractor will coordinate and provide services to the youth. Each youth will have an IL plan that will be developed jointly with the youth and the contractor. The plan will be jointly reviewed every six months
4. Youth formerly in foster care who are interested in the IL aftercare program shall:
  - Apply to the IL service provider in their county at the agency where services are contracted or
  - Apply through the IL Program Manager if the youth will reside outside of Delaware. The IL Program Manager will refer the youth for aftercare in the state where they are residing. Youth and/or caseworker shall provide the out-of-state address.
5. The IL contractor in consultation with the IL Program Manager will determine if youth are eligible using the following criteria:
  - Exited foster care after their eighteenth (18th) birthday but have not attained the age of twenty-one (21)
  - Were adopted or placed under guardianship at age 16 or older
  - Accepts personal responsibility for achieving self-sufficiency
  - Has demonstrated an ability to manage money
  - Sustains employment if enrolled in an educational program as a part-time student
  - Needs continued help in transitioning to self-sufficiency
6. Youth formerly in foster care who turned age eighteen (18) and are less than age twenty-one (21) and exited foster care due to reaching the age of majority or are otherwise eligible for independent living aftercare services are eligible to receive financial assistance through the ASSIST (Achieving Self Sufficiency and Independence through Supported Transition) stipend. Additional eligibility criteria include:

- Active participation with an IL provider
- Completion of financial literacy training within one year of application (6 hours of training)
- Youth must work/attend school/volunteer or have a disability
- Youth eligible for ASSIST shall apply through their IL provider or through the Independent Living Program Manager and complete the required application forms.

**C. FOCUS**

Independent Living Case

IL Referral

Monthly contact, case planning and service screens

**D. FORMS**

None