

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 11:</b> Older Youth Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 1, 2021
	<b>Section 10:</b> Education and Training Voucher Program	<b>Version:</b> 4

**POLICY OVERVIEW**

Indiana receives federal funding to ensure that foster care youth are educated, housed, financially stable, employed, and connected to a support system. Through the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, eligible youth may access funding and academic supports to assist with the cost of postsecondary education, college, or vocational training programs.

**PROCEDURE**

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make funds of up to \$5,000 (not to exceed the cost of attendance) available for eligible students for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program through a contracted service provider; as funds are made available from the federal government. The ETV Program is contingent upon available funding.

The following youth meet DCS eligibility requirements for ETV assistance:

1. A youth in foster care who is between age 16 and 18 and is not enrolled in secondary school, who has earned a High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate or diploma, Vocational Certificate, or has a high school diploma;
2. A youth who turns age 18 while placed in foster care and has a high school diploma or earned an HSE certificate or diploma;
3. A youth adopted or placed in a guardianship from foster care on or after the youth's 16th birthday;
4. A Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) youth in foster care (out-of-home placement ordered by the juvenile court that is not a detention placement) on the youth's 18th birthday;
5. A youth participating in the ETV program may continue until the youth turns 26 years of age. The youth must:
  - a. Reapply every year on the Indiana ETV webpage,
  - b. Be enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program,
  - c. Be making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program with a cumulative 2.0 grade point average (GPA), and

**Note:** An academic success plan will be created for youth who receive a semester/term GPA of 2.0 or lower.

- d. Send the Indiana ETV provider his or her transcript every semester/term.
6. Eligible youth must have been accepted into or be presently enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other program at a college, university, technical, or vocational school. The

youth must notify ETV if any classes are dropped. If a youth is currently receiving funds and enrolled, the youth must show progress toward that degree or certificate.

**Note:** Eligible youth may not participate in the ETV program for more than five (5) years regardless of whether or not the years are consecutive.

Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) staff will:

1. Monitor the ETV applications as submitted and determine eligibility for all applications in a timely manner;
2. Respond timely to queries regarding ETV eligibility and eligible services through ETV funding;
3. Monitor the ETV contract expenditures. ETV funding may be used for tuition and fees, textbooks and supplies, a computer package, housing expenses, childcare expenses, and transportation expenses;
4. Verify eligibility for youth applying for ETV funds who were in foster care on their 18th birthday in the State of Indiana or in another state and are current residents of Indiana; and

**Note:** Residency in Indiana may be established for post-secondary education reasons.

5. Maintain e-mail contact with the ETV provider and provide information regarding available scholarships, internships, and other areas of interest to youth participating in post-secondary opportunities.

#### LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 677 John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)

#### RELEVANT INFORMATION

##### Definitions

N/A

##### Forms and Tools

- [Indiana ETV](#)

##### Related Policies

N/A