




COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES *Administering the Children's Services Act*

TO: CPMT Chairpersons
CSA Coordinators
CSA Report Preparers

FROM: Scott Reiner
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DATE: August 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Appropriate Services and Expenditure Coding for Placements and Services Funded through the Children's Services Act (CSA) for Youth in Foster Care (ages 16 – 21)

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the appropriate coding in the CSA Local Expenditure, Data and Reimbursement System (LEDRS) for older youth in foster care receiving Independent Living (IL) services, particularly youth residing in Independent Living Arrangements (ILAs) supervised by the local Department of Social Services (LDSS) or a private provider.

There are two primary categories of youth in an Independent Living Arrangement (ILA) and receiving IL Services:

- Youth in foster care ages 16 – 17 in an ILA supervised by the local DSS or a private provider, and
- Youth in foster care ages 18 – 21 participating in the Fostering Futures program residing in an ILA supervised by the local DSS or a private provider.

Each type is coded differently in LEDRS.

For youth in foster care ages 16 – 17 years old in an ILA supervised by the LDSS or a private provider, title IV-E does not allow maintenance payments. The IL stipend of \$644 a month is available through CSA for basic living expenses such as housing and food.

CSA-funded IL Stipends are recorded as follows (See chart below):

- Expenditure Code 2e (Family Foster Care – Maintenance; IL Stipend/Arrangement)
- Service Placement Type 11 (Independent Living Stipend)
- Service Name 18 (Maintenance – Independent Living)

The provider (typically per diem) costs for Independent Living Arrangements are coded as follows:

- Expenditure Code 2f (Community-based Services)
- Service Placement Type 12 (Independent Living Arrangement)
- Service Name 9 (Independent Living Services)

Note: A service name of “IL Stipend” is included in the list of service name definitions. However, no LEDRS Service Name code is assigned, and OCS will remove it from future revisions of the Service Name Definitions.

For youth in foster care ages 18 – 21 years old participating in Fostering Futures and an ILA supervised by LDSS or a private provider, title IV-E does allow maintenance payments. These Fostering Futures youth are eligible for the basic maintenance payment of \$772 from title IV-E if the youth is title IV-E eligible or through CSA funds if the youth is not IV-E eligible.

CSA-funded IL Maintenance is recorded as follows:

- Expenditure Code 2e (Family Foster Care – Maintenance; IL Stipend/Arrangement)
- Service Placement Type 12 (Independent Living Arrangement)
- Service Name 18 (Maintenance – Independent Living)

The provider (typically per diem) costs for Independent Living Arrangements are coded as follows:

- Expenditure Code 2f (Community-based Services)
- Service Placement Type 12 (Independent Living Arrangement)
- Service Name 9 (Independent Living Services)

For youth in Fostering Futures in a local agency foster home or a treatment foster home (TFC), the foster parents receive basic (and enhanced) maintenance payments from title IV-E or CSA.

CSA-funded Maintenance is recorded as follows:

- Expenditure Code 2e (Family Foster Care – Maintenance; IL Stipend/Arrangement) or 2a1 (Therapeutic Foster Care)
- Service Placement Type 8 (Foster Care Maintenance) or 10 (Therapeutic Foster Home)
- Service Name 14 (Maintenance – Basic) and (as appropriate) 17 (Maintenance – Enhanced)

The chart on the following page provides guidance on LEDRS coding in multiple types of living situations for foster youth ages 16-21.^{1, 2}

¹ Youth discussed in this memorandum are also eligible for community-based services using the usual LEDRS coding for those services.

² Youth in foster care, ages 14 – 21 may also receive community-based independent living services (e.g., life coaching, life skills classes) or other services designed to aid in the successful transition to adulthood.

| Placement | Type of Service | Expenditure Code | Service Placement Type (SPT) | Service Name |
|--|---|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Youth ages 16 – 17 in a private provider or LDSS-supervised ILA ³ | IL Stipend | 2e | 11 | 18 |
| | Private provider costs for support and supervision | 2f | 12 | 9 |
| Youth in Fostering Futures ages 18 – 21 in a private provider or LDSS-supervised ILA | Basic Maintenance | 2e | 12 | 18 |
| | Private provider per diem for support and supervision (for providers) | 2f | 12 | 9 |
| Youth in Fostering Futures ages 18 – 21 in a local agency home (not title IV-eligible) | Basic Maintenance | 2e | 8 | 14 |
| | Enhanced Maintenance (if applicable) | 2e | 8 | 17 |
| Youth in Fostering Futures ages 18 – 21 in TFC | Basic maintenance (if not title IV-E eligible) | 2a1 | 10 | 14 |
| | Enhanced maintenance (if not title IV-E eligible) | 2a1 | 10 | 17 |
| | Private provider per diem for support and supervision (for private providers) | 2a or 2a1 | 10 | 27 |

³ Youth in foster care ages 16 – 17 placed in a local agency or treatment foster home are coded like any child in foster care under the age of 18 in a foster home.