



Office of Children's Services
Empowering communities to serve youth

CSA 201 CSA Basics-Can CSA Pay?

"Unlocking Our Potential"
Children's Services Act Conference
October 16-17, 2024

Presented by Carol Wilson
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Recap from CSA 101



- CSA as a System of Care (SOC)
 - Importance of multidisciplinary service planning and provision in local communities
- CSA Funding affects eligibility for CSA
 - Creation of the “state pool”
- Who is eligible for CSA

Today's Workshop

- Focus will be on "Can CSA pay for _____?"
- Why can CSA pay for a service at one point, but in another situation, CSA can't pay for the same type of service?
- Decision tree to help us think critically and logically to make and document decisions
 - *How statutory provisions affect service and funding decisions*
 - *How other factors (e.g., other partner child-serving agency requirements/policy and their responsibilities) influence CSA*

State and Local Implementation

CSA is governed by:

State law

Code of Virginia

Appropriations Act

Policies

adopted by
the State
Executive
Council (SEC)

Guidance
issued by
OCS

State and Local Implementation

CSA “follows”
partner agency
law, regulations,
and policy

CSA cannot be
used to circumvent
another agency's
requirements

Examples?

State and Local Implementation

CSA is state supervised and locally administered

This workshop will provide information on what state laws and policies allow or require

Within the parameters of federal and state law and policy, localities may develop and implement local policies governing CSA

- Leads to variation across localities
- Uncertainty as to what state policy is

Check with OCS if unsure what is current state policy



Can CSA Pay?

It's not a puzzle...



It's not magic...



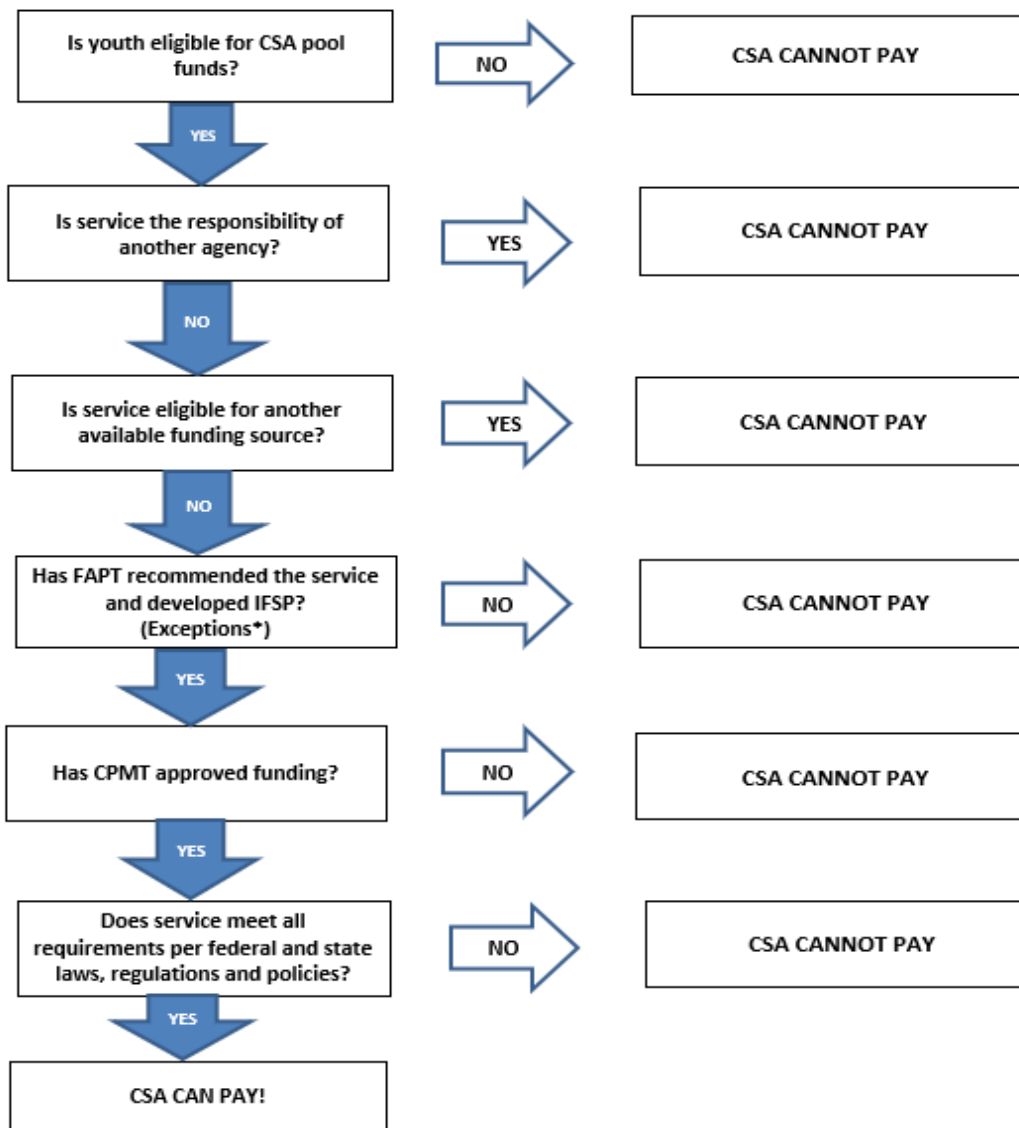
Or a maze...



Can CSA Pay? Flow Chart

- The flow chart walks the user through a series of questions based on statutory requirements that must be met to determine if a service in a specific situation can be funded by CSA.
- The questions are helpful in thinking through the decision, but it is important to fully understand the purpose of each question and be able to consider all the relevant factors.

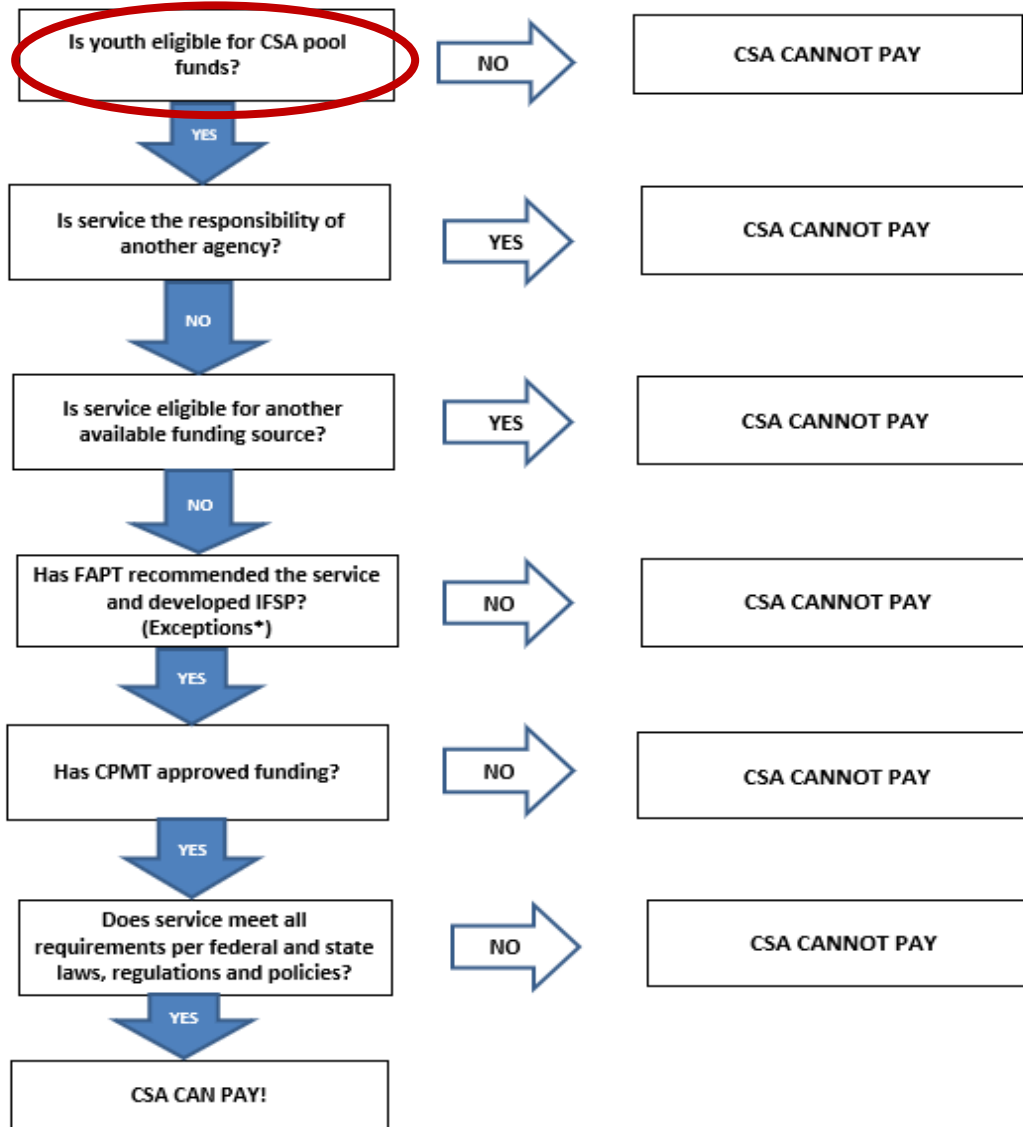
DETERMINING "CAN CSA PAY?" FLOW CHART



**Exceptions-Maintenance-only and IEP-only cases may be exempt from FAPT review if the local CPMT has written policies to that effect.*

Reviewed and Reformatted March 2023

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Who's eligible?



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Can CSA Pay?

Is youth eligible for Pool Funds?

NO

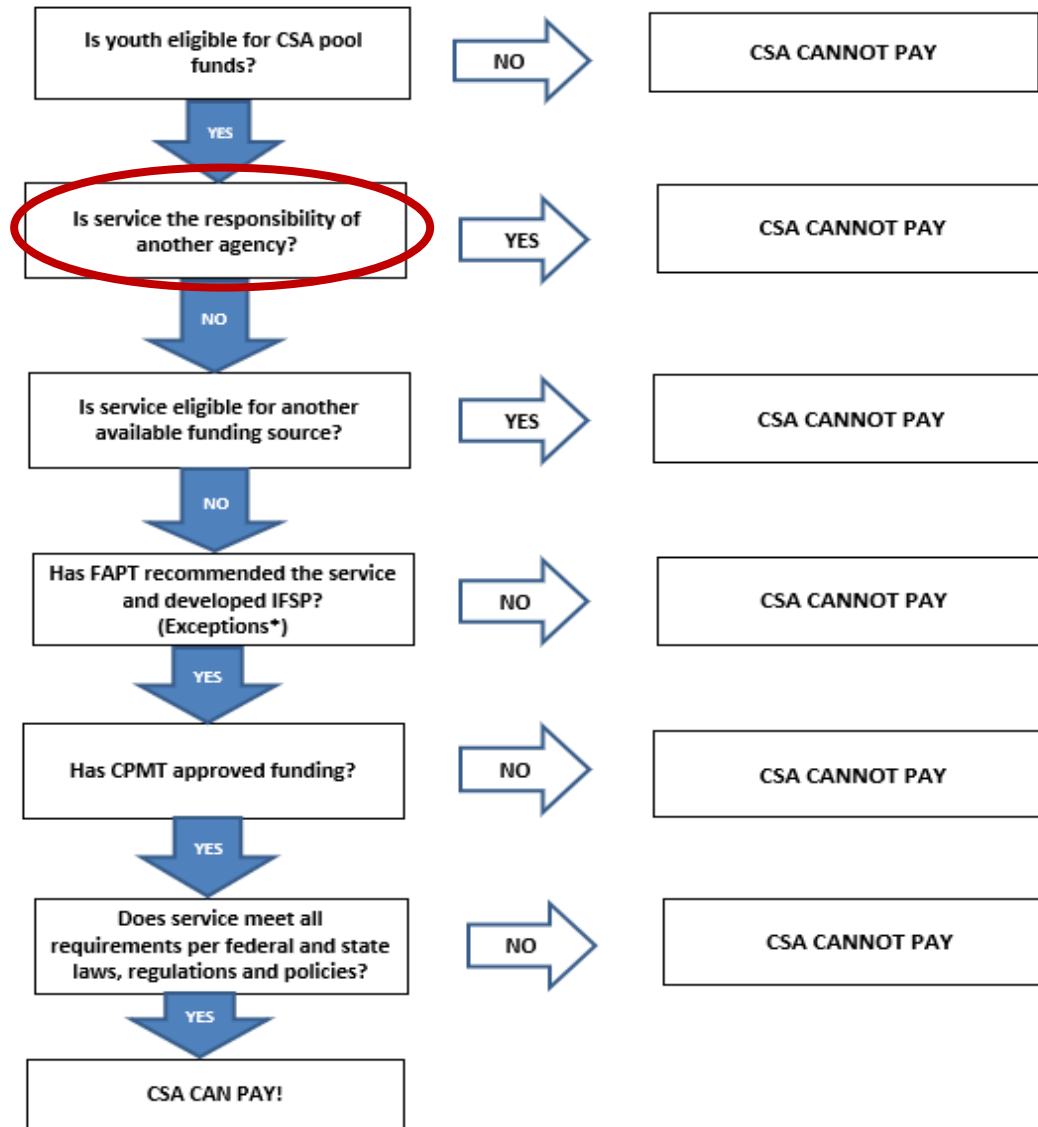
CSA Cannot Pay

YES
(Move to
next
question)

Now what did they
say about
eligibility?



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Responsibility of another agency?

COV § 2.2-5211 D.



“....However, the community services board, the local school division, local social services agency, court service unit or Department of Juvenile Justice shall continue to be responsible for providing services identified in individual family service plans that are ***within the agency's scope of responsibility*** and that are ***funded separately from the state pool.*** (Emphasis added)

Responsibility of Another Agency?

- Part of that agency's mission
- Described in that agency's laws, regulations, policy or guidance
- Agency receives funding for that function
- Examples?
 - Case manager visits to families
 - Case manager travel to visit foster children in out of home placement
 - Private day transportation

Can CSA Pay?

Is service the responsibility of
another agency?

(Code of Virginia §2.2-5211D)

YES

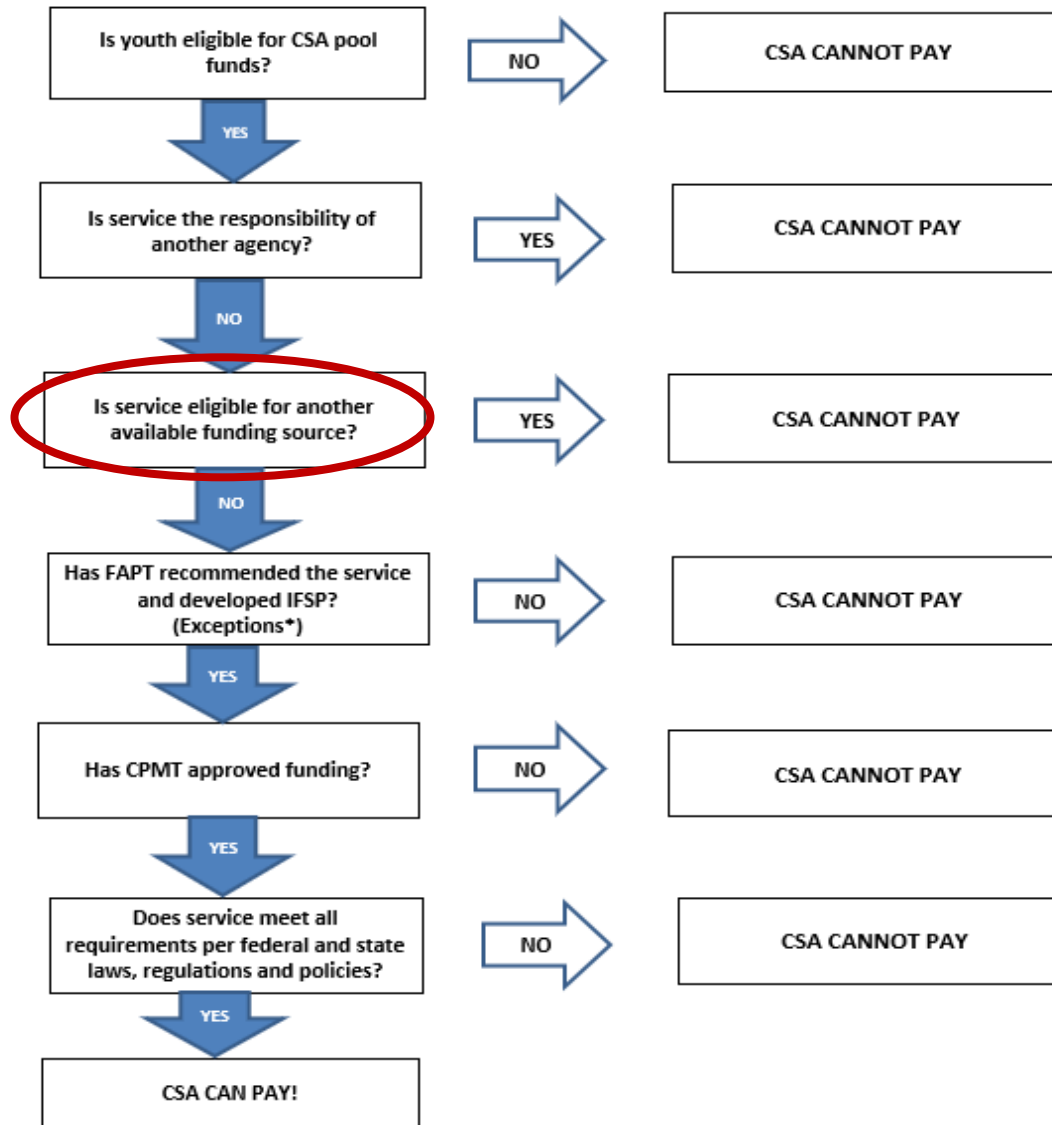
CSA Cannot Pay

NO
(Move to
next
question)

Does this fall within the
routine scope of
responsibility of the
schools, LDSS, DJJ, or the
CSB?



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Examples of Other Funding Sources..

Title IV-E Foster
Care

Title IV-E
Evidence Based
Prevention
Services

Promoting Safe
and Stable
Families (PSSF)

Chafee IL
Services

Chafee
Education
Training Voucher
(ETV)

Adoption
Assistance

Mental Health
Initiative

Virginia Juvenile
Community
Crime Control
Act (VJCCCA)

Transitional
Services Fund

Private Health
Insurance

Title IV-E and CSA

What is Title IV-E of the Social Security Act?

Since 1980, Title IV-E has been a Federal program to provide states with financial assistance in funding maintenance for foster care placements

Children must be determined eligible based on AFDC rules (pre-1996 program)/TANF

Eligibility is determined by LDSS, usually local Benefits staff or an individual designated to oversee IV-E

Two Funding Sources for FC Maintenance in Virginia

- Federal Title IV-E (federal and state)
- Children's Services Act (state and local)
- Purpose of maintenance is to support or "maintain" the foster child's placement in the foster home.



Title IV-E Pays Maintenance Costs for IV-E Eligible Children

- CSA Maintenance includes:
 - Basic maintenance payment
 - Enhanced maintenance payment as determined by the VEMAT
 - Clothing allowance for foster child
 - Personal incidentals (not a separate payment)
 - Childcare if the foster parent works or to attend specific activities (e.g., court hearing)
 - Transportation for the child to visit parents
 - Transportation for Best Interest Determination (BID) placements

CSA Pays Maintenance Costs for Non-IV-E Children

- CSA Maintenance includes:
 - Basic maintenance payment
 - Enhanced maintenance payment as determined by the VEMAT
 - Clothing allowance for foster child
 - Personal incidentals (not a separate payment)
 - Childcare if the foster parent works or to attend specific activities (e.g., court hearing)
 - Transportation for the child to visit parents
 - Transportation for Best Interest Determination (BID) placements

Title IV-E and CSA

CSA "mirrors" the IV-E definition of "maintenance" for non-IV-E children

CSA supports equal treatment of children in foster care regardless of funding source (local, state or federal)

IV-E has specific requirements in place to protect children who are involved with the child welfare agency and away from their families

- Protection from harm, e.g., approval or licensing of foster homes
- Permanency requirements and timeframes to ensure children do not "languish" in foster care



Maintenance vs. Services

CSA pays maintenance for non title IV-E children

A large blue arrow with a white outline pointing downwards, connecting the first box to the second.

CSA pays for services for all foster children

A large blue arrow with a white outline pointing downwards, connecting the second box to the third.

There are times when IV-E or CSA maintenance cannot cover a specific cost, but it can be considered a CSA service if recommended by FAPT

Example-Services

Travel for parents or other relatives to visit children is not covered by *maintenance* so IV-E will not pay.

BUT

It is definitely a *service* that CSA may provide through the FAPT and CPMT to promote family reunification.



Example-Services

- Childcare is a *maintenance* cost to support the foster home if the foster parents are employed
- Can childcare be provided as a *service* through CSA?
 - Social has social or developmental delays-documentation needed
 - Transition home on trial placement (short-term)
 - All CSA requirements apply (on IFSP/service plan, FAPT review, CPMT approval, etc.)

Title IV-E and CSA

- Can CSA pay when Title IV-E denies?
- It depends.
- Two factors:
 1. IV-E foster care does not pay for services; but CSA does pay for services for foster children.
 2. If IV-E won't pay a maintenance cost because requirements for safety or permanency are not met, or local agency was not timely, CSA cannot pay.

Example-Maintenance

What if a local DSS wants to place a child in an unapproved or unlicensed foster home?

Can IV-E pay maintenance?

NO

Can CSA pay maintenance?

NO

Why not?

Rule is in place to protect the child from possible harm.

Example-Maintenance

- What if an Annual Judicial Review (AJR) is not held for a child in a timely manner?
 - IV-E disallows maintenance payment
- Can CSA pay?
 - No. Why?
 - Because the AJR is a mechanism for the court to provide oversight and to plan permanency for the child
 - CSA, like IV-E, will pay going forward once the hearing takes place

Title IV-E and CSA



Title IV-E

- CSA cannot be used to circumvent IV-E requirements
- For example, IV-E will not pay for a foster child's placement in a childcare program that is not on the "legally operating" list maintained by VDSS/VDOE
 - Can CSA be used?
 - No. This childcare requirement is in place to protect the child in foster care. Use of state funding to circumvent this safety requirement is not permissible.

Title IV-E and the Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA)



Enacted by Congress in 2018, FFPSA allows for the first time for IV-E funds to be expended on services to prevent foster care placement



But FFPSA funds can only be used for specific evidence-based services

Well Supported or Promising
50% have to be well supported

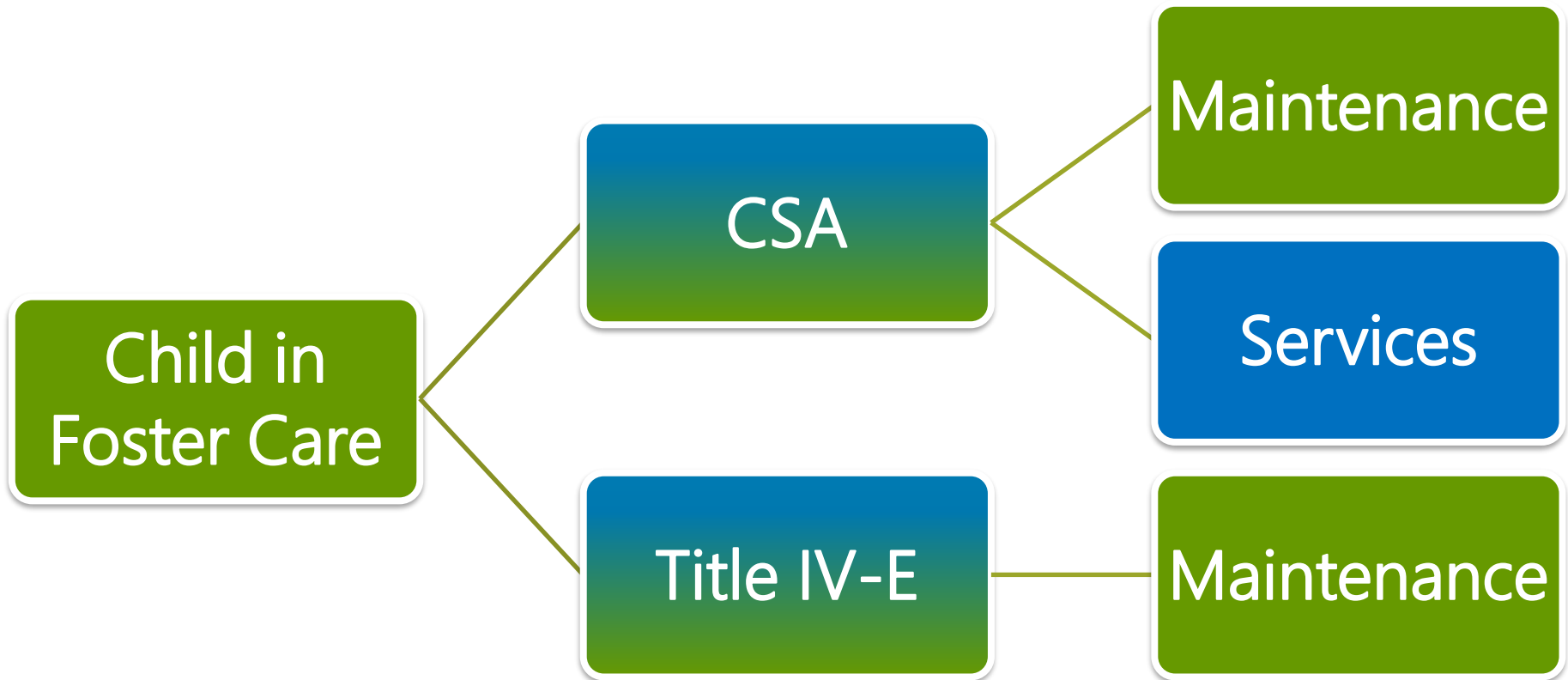
Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

- States must request federal approval to offer specific evidence-based services; in Virginia those services currently are:
 - Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
 - Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
 - Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PICT)
 - Brief Family Strategic Therapy
 - Home Builders
 - Family Check Up
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - High Fidelity Wraparound

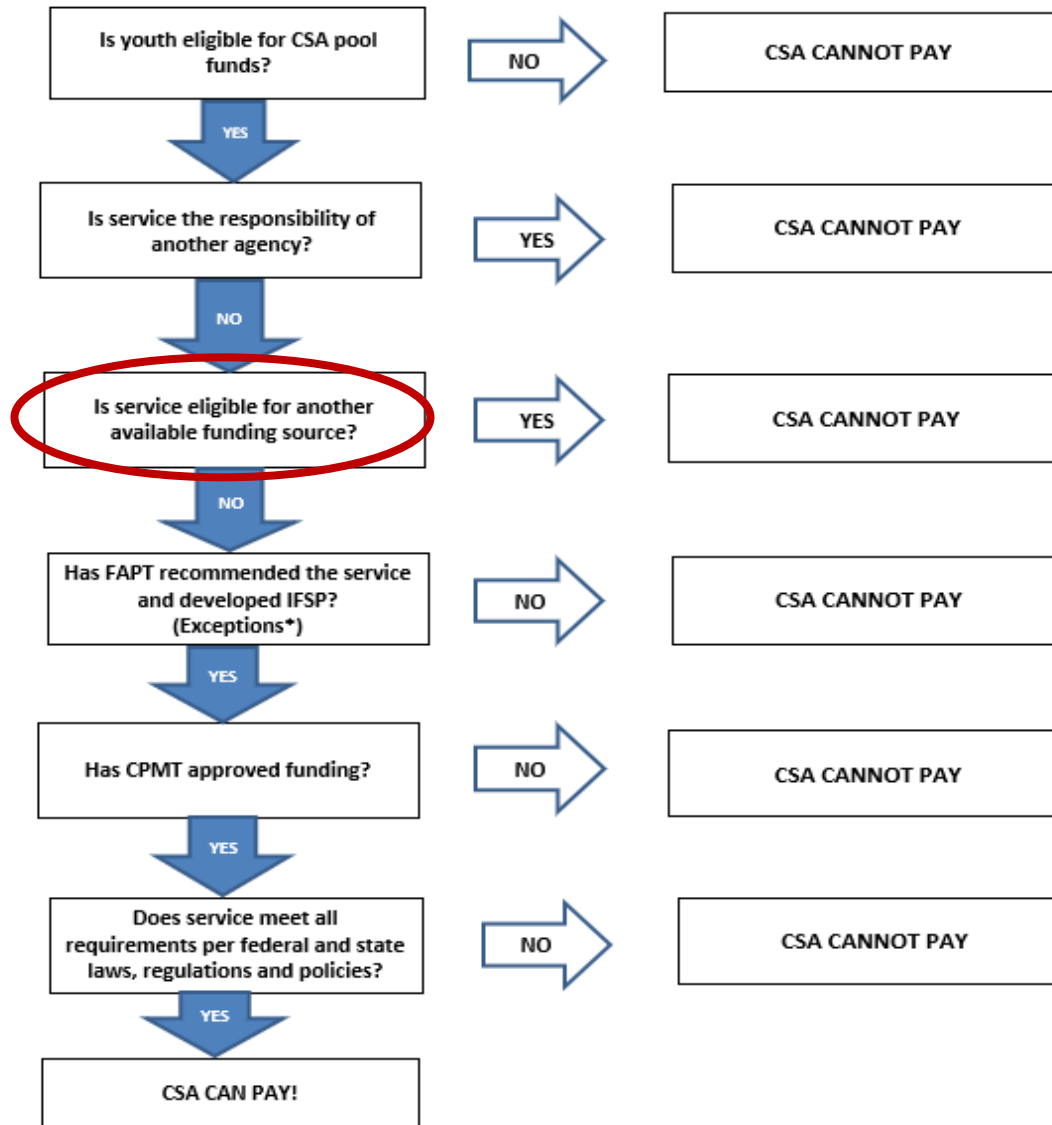
FFPSA (Con't.)

- Eligibility for title IV-E foster care prevention
 - Must meet definition of a Candidate for Foster Care or a Reasonable Candidate
 - VDSS Prevention Plan
 - CANS assessment required

Summary



DETERMINING "CAN CSA PAY?" FLOW CHART



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Exploring Other Funding Sources

- Is CSA "funding of last resort?"
 - NO, but CSA should not be the automatic "default" funder if other resources are available and may be used.
 - CPMTs should planfully determine how they wish to use the various resources available to their agencies and community. Funding streams may be obligated for specific purposes.



"If we want to succeed as a team, we need to put aside our own selfish, individual interests and start doing things my way."

Exploring Other Funding Sources

- FAPT members should be aware of their agency's funding sources and how those sources may be used
- The possibility of other funding should be explored and documented. However, exploration of other funding streams should not delay the provision of services to a child and family. If time is needed to get another funding stream in place, CSA may pay initially (if FAPT recommends) until the other funding stream is accessed

Other Funding Sources-Appropriations Act Item 282

Medicaid

"D. Community Policy and Management Teams shall use Medicaid-funded services whenever they are available for the appropriate treatment of children and youth receiving services under the Children's Services Act. Effective July 1, 2009, pool funds shall not be spent for any service that can be funded through Medicaid for Medicaid-eligible children and youth *except when Medicaid-funded services are unavailable or inappropriate for meeting the needs of a child.*" (emphasis added)

"Unavailable or Inappropriate"?



- "Unavailable" could mean that
 - There is no Medicaid provider of that service is within reasonable travel distance (greater than 50 miles)
 - Medicaid providers of that service have long waiting lists and child/family need intervention right away
- "Inappropriate" means the service does not "fit" the need. For example,
 - Use of IHH for solely abuse/neglect cases
- Locality must document why non-Medicaid provider was used if CSA is accessed for a Medicaid service for a Medicaid eligible child.

What Does Medicaid Cover? (Examples)

- Community based services *such as*
 - Intensive In-home
 - Therapeutic Day Treatment
 - Mental Health Skill Building
- Treatment costs in group homes (TGHs)
- Room, board and treatment in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Programs (PRTFs)
- Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS)

Can CSA Pay?

Is service eligible for another
funding source?

(SEC Policy-4.4 ; Appropriations Act Item 274 E.)

YES

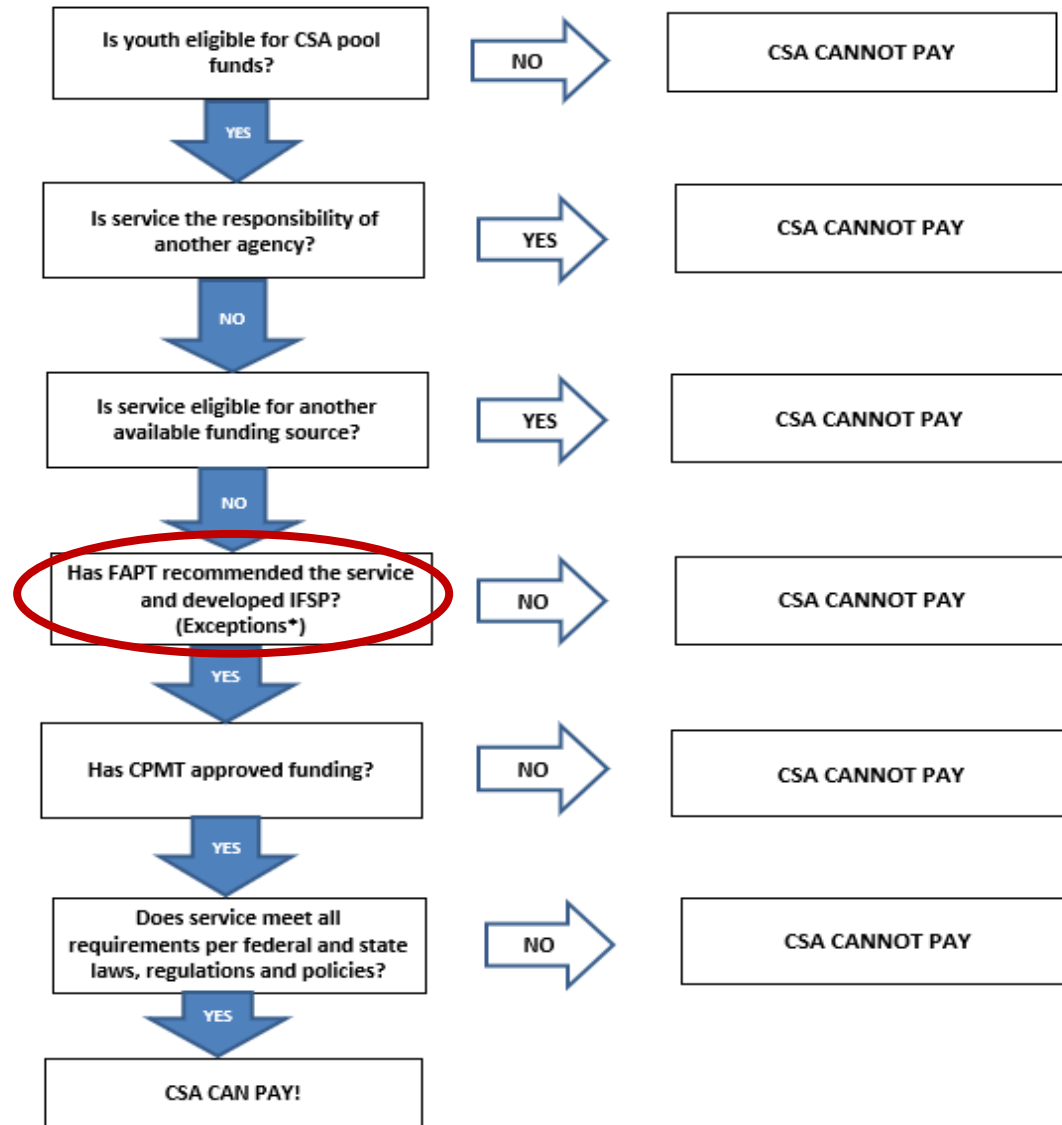
CSA Cannot Pay

NO
(Move to
next
question)

Can this service be
funded through another
funding stream such as
Medicaid or DD Waiver?



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FAPT Review

Code of Virginia
§2.2-5209

“...Except for cases involving only the payment of foster care maintenance that shall be at the discretion of the local community policy and management team, *cases for which service plans are developed outside of this family assessment and planning team process or approved collaborative, multidisciplinary team process shall not be eligible for state pool funds.*” (*Italics added*)

FAPT Review

- Code of Virginia §2.2-5209
- "...Except for cases involving only the payment of foster care maintenance that shall be at the discretion of the local community policy and management team, *cases for which service plans are developed outside of this family assessment and planning team process or approved collaborative, multidisciplinary team process shall not be eligible for state pool funds.*" (Italics added)

Exceptions to FAPT Review

Maintenance if the CPMT has a written policy to that effect

IEP cases (private placement) if the CPMT has a written policy to that effect

Emergency placement and services (FAPT must review within 14 days.)

Can CSA Pay?

Has FAPT recommended the service and developed the IFSP?

(Code of Virginia § 2.2-5209)

IEP

Foster Care Maintenance if local CPMT policy permits

No

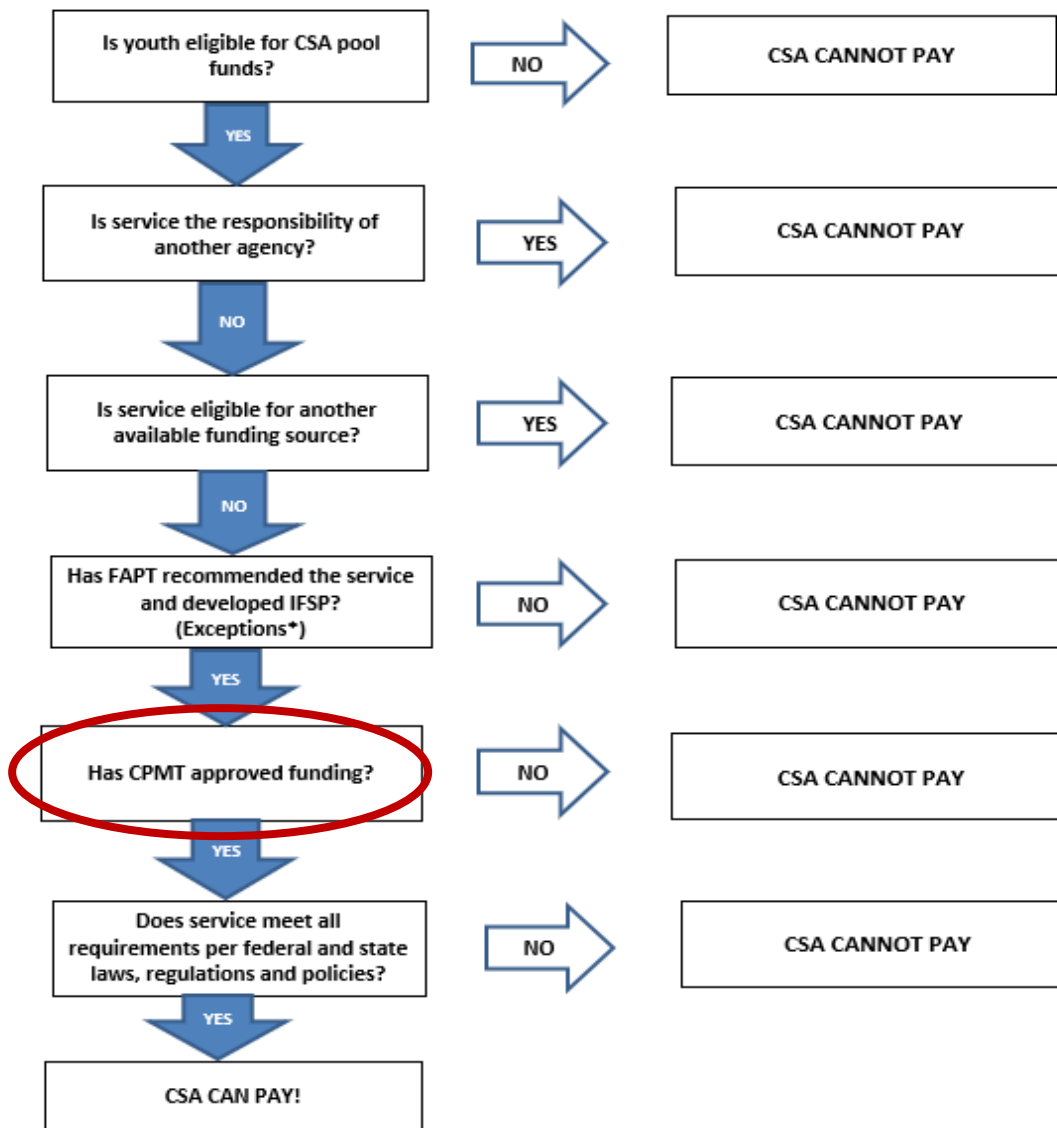
CSA Cannot Pay

Yes
(Move to
next
question)

Was this case reviewed by FAPT? Did FAPT recommend these services in the IFSP?



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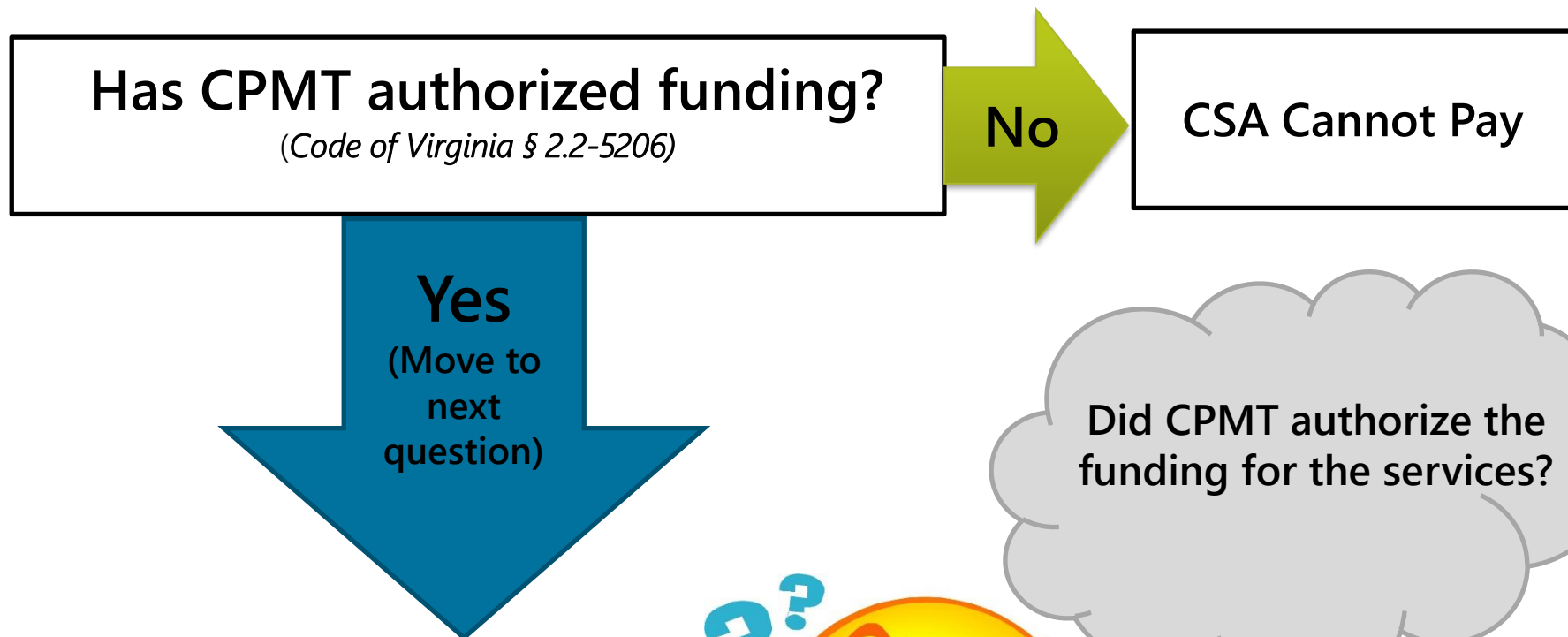
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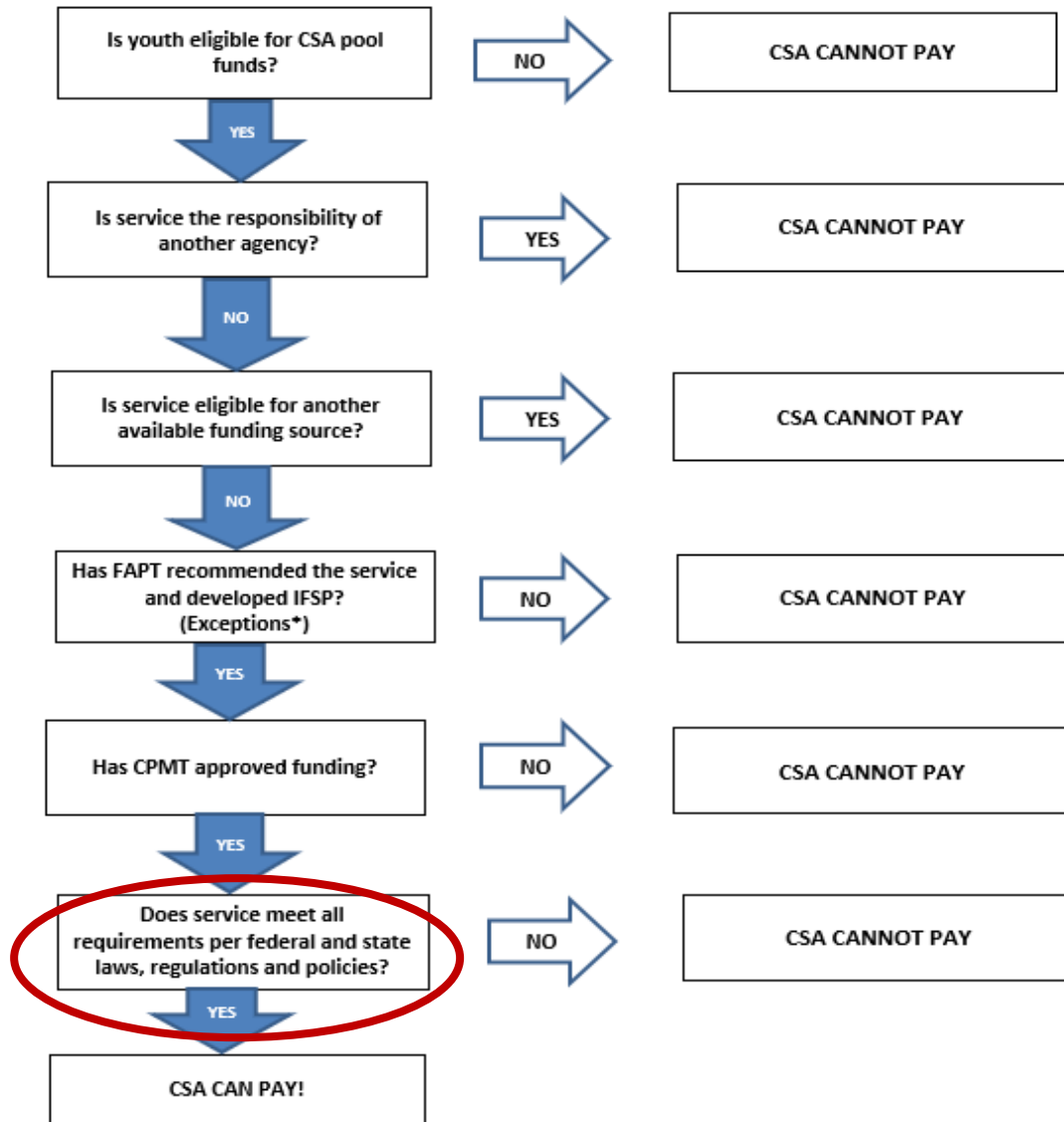
CPMT Authorization of Funding

- The COV §2.2-5206 (9) requires that the CPMT “shall authorize and monitor the expenditure of funds by each family assessment and planning team or a collaborative, multidisciplinary team process approved by the Council...”

Can CSA Pay?



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Requirements of Law, Regulation and Policy

1

Services must be appropriately licensed or approved

2

State Executive Council (SEC) policy re: Denial of Funds

- If a service requires licensure in VA, then it must be licensed for CSA funds to be accessed

3

CSA policy must be consistent with other partner agency policies; CSA cannot be used to circumvent their requirements

- For example, childcare must be on the VDSS/VDOE "legally operating" list for IV-E or CSA to be used

Can CSA Pay?

Does service meet all requirements per federal and state laws, regulations and policies?

(Code of Virginia § 2.2-2648)

No

CSA Cannot Pay

Yes
Guess what...

Is the service/placement required to be licensed?
If so, is the service provider licensed?



CSA Can Pay!!!



- If the decision is made that CSA can pay, document reasons and be confident in your decision making!!
- CSA is intended to provide services to youth and families!!!



Thank you!

Contact Information

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