



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY

**Chapter 11:** Older Youth Services

**Section 03:** Emancipation Goods and Services

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2023

**Version:** 4

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### POLICY OVERVIEW

Emancipation Goods and Services (EG&S) are made available to meet the youth's needs as the youth becomes independent of the foster care system. The youth is assisted in locating services and connecting to community resources as needs arise, which helps the youth become familiar with available local resources and learn how to access those resources after successful case closure.

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### PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make funds of up to \$1,000 per youth available to purchase needed goods and services through the use of EG&S, if such funds are available. The youth must be:

1. Between the ages 18 to 23;
2. Previously in foster care; and
3. Receiving John H. Chafee Foster Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program) Voluntary Older Youth Services (OYS) (see policy 11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services).

The Chafee Program OYS service providers will submit the Emancipation Goods and Services Request form to DCS when working with youth who wish to utilize EG&S funds. DCS will ensure EG&S funds are made available in the Chafee Program OYS service provider contracts, so long as Chafee Program funds are available.

The Independent Living (IL) Specialist will:

1. Provide a timely response to requests for goods and services indicated on the Emancipation Goods and Services Request form;
2. Authorize funds in excess of \$1,000 when extenuating circumstances exist; and

**Note:** Requests for additional funds will be considered on a case-by-case basis by DCS Central Office staff only, based on availability of funds.

3. Ensure the Chafee Program OYS service provider:
  - a. Completes requests for funds for eligible youth for goods and/or services such as: a State identification (ID), personal copy of the youth's birth certificate, tutoring, college application fees, drivers' education, and work-related items, as needed,
  - b. Makes requests for goods and services identified on the Emancipation Goods and

Services Request form for eligible youth receiving voluntary services to ensure successful transition to adulthood,

- c. Requests approval from the IL Specialist for any goods and services not identified on the Emancipation Goods and Services Request form to determine if the item is an appropriate Chafee expenditure prior to making a request (written approval for items not on the list must be included with the request), and

**Note:** Requests for items not listed on the Emancipation Goods and Services Request require pre-approval by the Older Youth Initiatives Manager or IL Specialist. If these items are purchased without prior approval, they will become an expense to the OYS provider and will not be paid through Chafee Program funds.

- d. Verifies all approved requests for EG&S are purchased within 45 calendar days of the signed approval form. If the form is not dated by the approving authority, the purchases will be made within 45 calendar days of the date requested.

**Note:** If the items are not purchased in that time period, a new request for EG&S must be made.

The Older Youth Initiatives Manager or IL Specialist will:

1. Approve the signed Emancipation Goods and Services Request form, and
2. Track expenditures to ensure funds expended for EG&S do not exceed \$1,000 per youth from the first request up to age 23.

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## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

N/A

### Forms and Tools

- [Emancipation Goods and Services Request \(SF 55230\)](#)

### Related Policies

- [11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services](#)
- [11.10 Education and Training Voucher Program](#)

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## LEGAL REFERENCES

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

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## PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 11.03

*Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.*

### **Items not Included on the Emancipation Goods and Services (EG&S) List**

The following are items not included on the EG&S list and may not be paid through Chafee Program funds:

1. Medical expenses;
2. Car purchases and payments; or
3. Repairs on a vehicle that is not titled in the youth's name.

Post-secondary education items are not eligible to be funded through EG&S since funding for those items is available through the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program (see policy 11.10 Education and Training Voucher Program).

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