

# Advocates Opening Doors to Extended Foster Care





# *Advocates Opening Doors to Extended Foster Care*

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# Extended Foster Care (“EFC”)

- 36% of Foster Youth Experience Homelessness within one year of exiting care
- EFC allows youth to stay in care until age 21
- Youth may enter directly when turning 18  
or  
If exiting care at 18, can enter until age 19.

# EFC Provides:

- Placement in licensed care OR monthly rent stipend for Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP),
- Continuity of placement,
- Continuity of support system,
- Connection to new resources,
- Continuity of education,
- Other support services and stipends,
- Monthly contact with social worker,
- Court review.

# Supervised Independent Living Placement

RCW 74.13.020(16)

- Youth receives \$575 per month to help with rent
- SILPs must be approved, and may include:
  - Relative
  - Other suitable adult
  - Apartment living
  - Room and Board arrangements
  - College dorms
  - Shared roommate settings
- Parent, if appropriate

# Youth may qualify if they:

- Are finishing high school or an equivalent program (GED);
- Are in or have applied for a post-secondary education or vocational program;
- Are in a program or activity to remove barriers to or promote employment (includes pt job);
- Are working over 80 hours per month;
- Have medical condition preventing participation (effective July 1, 2016)

# Youth must be dependent and “in foster care” **when they turn 18**

- DSHS excludes from “foster care” definition
  - youth in JJRA,
  - youth in detention for 30 or more days,
  - and youth in dependency guardianships.

WAC 388-25-0508, 0510

These WACs have been and are continuing to be successfully challenged in individual cases.

# Youth in JJRA facilities

- EFC can help with transition planning to the outside (e.g., wrap-around services and connection to supports).
- EFC can smooth the transition to the community
- Under the WAC, youth are barred from EFC if in a facility – but not if in a JJRA group home
- Need to coordinate and advocate with JJRA
- The WAC can be challenged (contact CLS for help).



# 17.5 Shared Planning Meeting

- Often is first time youth have heard of EFC – advocates can discuss EFC with youth at earlier age,
- Discuss DD v. EFC – advocate may request DD personnel attend meeting,
- Discuss IYHP v EFC – advocate may request IYHP caseworker attend meeting,
- Discuss other public benefits and how to access,
- Address independence checklist.

# 17.5 Shared Planning Meeting

SB 5740 requires CA invite to the 17.5 staffing:

- Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
- Disability Services Administration
- Economic Services Administration
- Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration

*(effective July 1, 2016)*

## DD and EFC

*“If foster youth who are the subject of this meeting may qualify for development disability services pursuant to Title 71A RCW, the children’s administration shall direct these youth to apply for these services and provide assistance in the application process.”*

*SB 5740 (effective July 1, 2016)*

# DD and EFC

Youth in EFC can continue in same placement – youth may need to move if in DD.

Foster parents with youth going into DD may find the physical placement does not meet DD licensing requirements.

DD programs available to young adults vary greatly from county to county.

# IYHP v EFC

- EFC is an entitlement, IYHP is not.
- Youth are not eligible for both housing programs.
- However, EFC youth may access non-housing independent living services with IYHP providers.
- Youth receiving SSI benefits will have \$575 EFC payment deducted from SSI, but not IYHP rent stipend (SSI is income ).

# EFC Youth Entitled to Attorney

The court shall appoint counsel to represent a youth, as defined in RCW 13.34.030(2)(b), in dependency proceedings under this section.

*RCW 13.34.267(6)*

# References

- RCW 74.13.020(7): Def. of EFC services
- RCW 74.13.020(15): Def. of SILP
- RCW 74.13.031(11): EFC program eligibility
- RCW 13.34.267: EFC services, app't of counsel
- Parent as placement: ACF, Child Welfare Policy Manual, [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/policy\\_dsp.jsp?citID=530](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=530) (accessed 9/27/2014).
- WACs 388-25-0110, *et seq.* (June 12, 2014)



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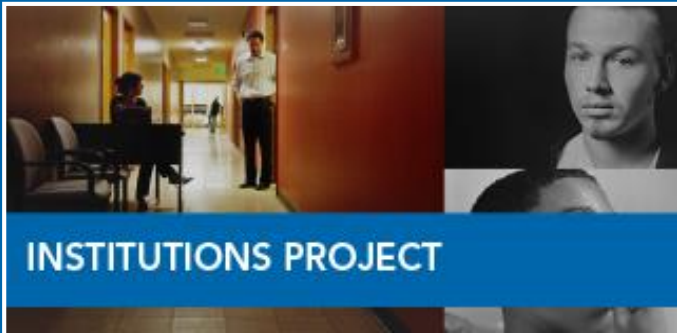




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