

State Certifications for the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

As Chief Executive Officer of the State of _____, I certify that the State has in effect and is operating a Statewide pursuant to section 477(b) and that the following provisions to effectively implement the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood are in place:

1. [Check one of the following boxes]:

The State will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(A)(i)];

OR

The State will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care, and have not attained 23 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(A)(ii)];

AND:

the State has elected under section 475(8)(B) of title IV-E of the Social Security Act to extend eligibility for foster care to all children who have not attained 21 years of age;

OR:

the State agency responsible for administering the State plans under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act uses State funds or any other funds not provided under title IV-E to provide services and assistance for youths who have aged out of foster care that are comparable to the services and assistance the youths would receive if the State had elected to extend eligibility for foster care up to age 21 under section 475(8)(B) of title IV-E;

2. Not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment for a fiscal year will be expended for room or board for youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certification under section 477(b)(3)(A)(ii) to provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained age 23) [Section 477(b)(3)(B)];
3. None of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment will be expended or room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(C)];
4. The State will use training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance to provide training including training on youth development to help foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting youth preparing for a successful transition to adulthood and making a permanent connection with a caring adult [Section 477(b)(3)(D)];
5. The State has consulted widely with public and private organizations in developing the plan and has given all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(E)];
6. The State will make every effort to coordinate the State programs receiving funds provided from an allotment made to the State with other Federal and State programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under part B of title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974), abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies [Section 477(b)(3)(F)];

7. Each Indian tribe in the State has been consulted about the programs to be carried out under the plan; that there have been efforts to coordinate the programs with such tribes; that benefits and services under the programs will be made available to Indian children in the State on the same basis as to other children in the State; and that the State will negotiate in good faith with any Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium in the State that does not receive an allotment under subsection (j)(4) for a fiscal year and that requests to develop an agreement with the State to administer, supervise, or oversee the programs to be carried out under the plan with respect to the Indian children who are eligible for such programs and who are under the authority of the tribe, organization, or consortium and to receive from the State an appropriate portion of the State allotment for the cost of such administration, supervision, or oversight [Section 477(b)(3)(G)];
8. The State will ensure that youth participating in the program under this section participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and that the youth accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program [Section 477(b)(3)(H)];
9. The State has established and will enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse in the programs carried out under the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(I)]; and
10. The State will ensure that a youth participating in the program under this section is provided with education about the importance of designating another individual to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the youth if the youth becomes unable to participate in such decisions and the youth does not have, or does not want, a relative who would otherwise be authorized under State law to make such decisions, whether a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document is recognized under State law, and how to execute such a document if the youth wants to do so [Section 477(b)(3)(K)].

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Date