



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families


Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

DATE: July 1, 2022

TO: Family Well-Being Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: Molly McKinstry, Chief of Staff

FROM: Jessica Tharpe, Assistant Secretary for Child and Family Well Being 

SUBJECT: Department of Children and Families (DCF) Tuition and Fee Exemption

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding updates to the DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption.

BACKGROUND: Florida public postsecondary education institutions provide eligible former foster students tuition and fee exemptions. To waive tuition and fees, students must obtain a signed CF-FSP 5220, available in DCF Forms, validating eligibility from a Community-Based Care lead agency representative.

Effective July 1, 2022, s. 1009.25 Florida Statutes (F.S.), expands the population of students eligible for the tuition and fee waiver, to include:

- A child that is, or was at the time of reaching 18 years of age, placed in the custody of a relative or non-relative under s. 39.6221, F.S.
- A child who was reunified with his or her parents, who spent at least 18 months in out-of-home care after reaching their 14 years of age, including a reinstatement of parental rights pursuant to s. 39.8155, F.S. Those students who are eligible through the reunification criteria must also be Pell Grant eligible. The Pell Grant eligibility is determined by the postsecondary institutions and not the Department.

All other tuition exemption fee eligibility criteria have remained the same.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this memorandum with all child welfare professionals with the Community-Based Care lead agencies, their subcontracted providers, all relevant staff, and caregivers as appropriate. Please make diligent efforts to ensure that eligible youth and young adults are made aware of these changes.

2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4190

Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this memorandum, please contact Cal Walton, III, Deputy Director of the Office of Continuing Care, at Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com or 407-241-4712.

cc: Sharron Washington, Assistant Secretary for Quality and Innovation
Hue Reynolds, Director, Office of Licensing
Child Protection Directors
Regional Licensing Managers
Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
Florida Guardian Ad Litem
Brett McNaught, Educate Tomorrow
Steve Rios, Positive Pathways Program
Lynda Page, Board of Governors, State University System of Florida
Shana Autry, Florida College System
Kathleen Taylor, Florida Department of Education