

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services	Effective Date: September 1, 2018
	Section 3: Emancipation Goods and Services	Version: 2

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

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 Emancipation Goods and Services (EG&S), if such funds are available. The youth must be between the ages 18 to 21, previously in foster care, and receiving John H. Chafee Foster Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program) Voluntary Older Youth Services (OYS) (see separate policy, [11.07 Voluntary Older Youth Services](#)).

The Chafee Program OYS service providers will submit the [Emancipation Goods and Services Request \(SF 55230\)](#) 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.

Code References

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

PROCEDURE

The Independent Living (IL) Specialist will:

1. Provide timely response to requests for goods and services indicated on the [Emancipation Goods and Services Request \(SF 55230\)](#);
2. Authorize funds in excess of \$1,000 when extenuating circumstances exist; and
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 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 \(SF 55230\)](#) for eligible youth receiving voluntary services to ensure transition to successful adulthood;
 - c. Requests approval from the IL Specialist for any goods and services not identified on the [Emancipation Goods and Services Request \(SF 55230\)](#) 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
 - d. Verifies all approved requests for EG&S are purchased within 45 days of the signed approval form. If the form is not dated by the approving authority, the purchases will be made within 45 days of the date requested.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Emancipation Goods and Services

EG&S is a funding source not to exceed \$1000 per youth and is for goods and services a youth may need as he or she becomes independent of the foster care system. The Chafee Program OYS provider should act as a broker of resources by assisting the youth in finding services and connecting them to community resources when needs arise in order for the youth to become familiar with available local resources and learn how to access those resources after successful case closure.

Approval Process

The Older Youth Initiatives Manager or IL Specialist will approve the signed [Emancipation Goods and Services Request \(SF 55230\)](#) and track expenditures to ensure funds expended for EG&S do not exceed \$1,000 per youth from the first request up to age 21.

Requests for items not listed on the [Emancipation Goods and Services Request \(SF 55230\)](#) 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.

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

Items not Included on the EG&S List

The following are items not included on the EG&S list and may not be paid through Chafee Program funds: medical expenses, car purchases and payments, or 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 program. See separate policy, [11.10 Education and Training Voucher Program](#).

Length of Approval

Approval for an EG&S expenditure is good for 45 days from the date of signature. If the items are not purchased in that time period, a new request must be made. If the approval signature is not dated, items must be purchased within 45 days of the date of the request.

FORMS AND TOOLS

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

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A