



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist  
Governor

George H. Sheldon  
Secretary

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**DATE:** September 15, 2009

**TO:** Regional Directors

**THROUGH:** Peter Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations *manu to*  
David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs *David L. Fairbanks*

**FROM:** Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety *Alan Abramowitz*

**SUBJECT:** Clarification of Due Process for Benefits for Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care

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**PURPOSE:** This memo is to provide clarification about due process requirements for services to young adults formerly in foster care applying for Road to Independence, Aftercare and/or Transitional Support services. This includes any case in which the decision is made to deny, reduce or terminate benefits. For further information, I have attached my memo dated July 28, 2009 entitled, "Services to Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care Spending Plan, Federal Minimum Wage Increase and Technical Assistance for Eligibility Determinations".

**BACKGROUND:** The spending plan referenced in the memo above is critical to this process. Lead agencies must document the funds available to provide independent living services. It is important to document funds from other sources used to supplement the specific allocation for independent living services. Lead agency's spending plans will be the source document regarding funding availability specified in Section 409.1451(5), Florida Statutes. The spending plan must be updated as new funds are available.

The Family Safety Program Office is aware of the substantial resources (beyond the specific independent living allocation) that lead agencies have contributed to supporting this vulnerable population. Last fiscal year, community-based care agencies used more than 6 million dollars beyond the legislative allocation to meet this need. We encourage continuation of this practice and appreciate your strong leadership in this arena.

**Requirements**

- The new minimum wage monthly amount must be included as a dollar figure on all correspondence related to applications and appeals for youth formerly in foster care. The maximum amount is \$1,256 per month.
- If the youth is receiving a reduced amount, the maximum monthly amount (\$1,256) must be included on the correspondence.

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1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

**New Funding**

As soon as it is available, the Department will provide information regarding the anticipated 6.4 million dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Permission must be granted from the Legislative Budget Commission to utilize these funds. We appreciate any feedback that you, your staff and/or lead agency staff have to offer regarding allocation methodologies.

**Technical Assistance and Contact Information**

As described in my July 28 memo on related issues, we are pleased to be able to provide additional resources for technical assistance. We look forward to working with your Regional Family Safety Program Office staff as well as lead agency staff to address questions and concerns regarding services to former foster youth. For your information, attached is the list of contacts identified for each regional office for appeals issues.

Deborah Schroth of Children's Legal Services is available to provide consultation for legal and appeals issues. She can be reached at [Deborah\\_Schroth@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Deborah_Schroth@dcf.state.fl.us) or at 850-524-5815.

Julie Mayo is the State Independent Living Program Specialist and she is available for technical assistance on policy and practice issues. She can be reached at [Julie\\_Mayo@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Julie_Mayo@dcf.state.fl.us) or at 850-922-0375.

Thank you for your on-going efforts to provide guidance and support to former foster youth.

**Attachments**

cc: Deborah Schroth, Children's Legal Services  
Peggy Sanford, General Counsel's Office

# Region Appeals Contacts

## Central Region

Stephanie Weis  
Department of Children & Families  
Family Safety Program Manager  
400 W. Robinson, Suite S930  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Office - (407) 245-1709 x750  
Cell - (407) 766-7100  
Fax - (407)245-0577

## Northwest Region

Melissa Sidoti  
Family Safety Program Manager  
Northwest Region  
1317 Winewood Blvd  
Bldg 2, Room 309  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700  
850-921-3015  
cell 850-519-5286

## Northeast Region

Susan Bell  
Family Safety Program Administrator  
5920 Arlington Exy  
Jacksonville, FL 32211  
(904) 723-2199  
cell (904)370-4827  
fax (904)727-5518

## Southeast Region

Lori M. Scott  
Family Services Specialist  
1400 West Commercial Boulevard, Room 210M  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
Cell: (954) 812-8166  
Fax: (954) 267-4038

## Southern Region

Alejandro Villibord, MBA  
Program Administrator  
Department of Children and Families  
401 NW 2nd Ave, N514 Miami FL 33128  
305.377.5119  
305.377.5245 FAX

## Suncoast Region

Lisa Mayrose  
Department of Children and Families  
SunCoast Family Safety Program Administrator  
9393 N. Florida Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33612  
(813) 558-5610  
Fax: 813-558-5643

Friday, July 17, 2009