

## Chapter 9

## EXTENSION OF GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

9-1. Overview. In 2008, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act 110-351) allowed states to receive federal Title IV-E reimbursement for costs associated with supports for young adults up to age 21. Effective July 1, 2019, Florida will use Title IV-E funds to continue to provide benefits for eligible guardians and young adults up to 21 years of age.

a. Participation in the Extension of Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP) authorizes benefits such as a monthly payment to the guardian(s) and the young adult to receive Medicaid.

b. A young adult's participation in EGAP may be funded through Title IV-E federal financial participation or state funded.

9-2. Program Requirements. EGAP is intended to serve young adults, as defined in section [39.6225\(1\)](#), F.S., who are placed in permanent guardianship, with relative guardians, as defined in this chapter.

a. "Relative" means a relative as defined in section [39.01\(73\)](#), F.S., next of kin as defined in section [39.01\(51\)](#), F.S., or fictive kin as defined in section [39.01\(28\)](#), F.S.

b. To be eligible for the program, young adults are required to meet Title IV-E eligibility criteria along with state option requirements outlined in section [39.6225](#), F.S. and CFOP 170-10, [Chapter 13](#), Guardianship Assistance Program.

9-3. Program Funding. Guardian(s) and young adults may participate in EGAP regardless of the Title IV-E Eligibility status of which participation in GAP was funded prior to age 18. If a young adult's participation in GAP was funded through Title IV-E, participation in EGAP will continue to be Title IV-E funded. If a young adult was determined Title IV-E Ineligible, the young adult's participation in EGAP will be state funded. Refer to Chapter 8 of this operating procedures regarding GAP funding determination.

9-4. Funding Type Determination. Funding type determinations for EGAP are not required as the funding is based upon the funding type determination that was in effect for participation in GAP. Therefore:

a. Young adults who were funded by Title IV-E GAP, will continue Title IV-E funding for EGAP.

b. Young adults who were funded by TANF GAP, will be state funded for EGAP.

c. Young adults who were state funded GAP, will continue to be state funded for EGAP.

d. The funding type remains the same regardless of a young adult's discharge and re-entry into the program.

9-5. Extension of Guardianship Assistance Agreement. An Extension of Guardianship Assistance Agreement (EGAA) (form CF-FSP [5434](#), available in DCF Forms) shall be executed between the guardian(s), young adult, and Department designee.

a. The effective date of the EGAA shall be the date of the young adult's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or a date thereafter up until the age of 21.

b. EGAP payments are not authorized until all parties have signed the EGAA and supporting documentation of a qualifying activity has been received by the designated child welfare professional.

The payment shall only be authorized for the period in which supporting documentation reflects participation in a qualifying activity.

c. The EGAA shall reflect the accurate funding type and amount.

d. If the young adult receives SSI, the EGAP payment amount must equal zero. If a young adult loses eligibility for SSI, the guardian and young adult must be advised to contact the lead agency to initiate an EGAA Update to being receiving an EGAP payment. The EGAP payment must be effective from the date the written request was made.

9-6. Ongoing Payment Determination. Every six months the young adult must provide supporting documentation of his or her participation in a qualifying activity, pursuant to section [39.6225\(9\)](#), F.S.

a. If supporting documentation is not provided, payment will not be released for the period until documentation is provided.

b. Payment may resume upon the young adult providing supporting documentation effective for the timeframe in which supporting documentation verifies participation in a qualifying activity.

c. Payment continues through the month of the young adult's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, unless the young adult's date of birth is the first day of the month.

9-7. Termination of EGAP Payment. Termination of payment coincides with the criteria outlined in section [39.6225](#), F.S. Please refer to CFOP 170-10, [Chapter 13](#), Guardianship Assistance Program, for program policy.

9-8. FSFN Documentation.

a. Funding Type Determination. FSFN shall contain the applicable eligibility determination and supporting documentation as required for a foster care determination. Please see Chapter 4 of this operating procedure for additional information.

b. Payment Determination.

(1) Supporting documentation of the young adult's qualifying activity must be uploaded into the FSFN File Cabinet for ongoing payment pursuant to CFOP 170-10, [Chapter 13](#), Guardianship Assistance Program.

(2) The Initial EGAA shall be uploaded into the FSFN File Cabinet.