

Diligent Relative Search

This requirement is for all foster children.

It acknowledges the importance of family to a child.

This service must begin during the CPS assessment or when a parent is requesting a voluntary placement of a child. DHS must make diligent efforts to contact relatives and persons with a caregiver relationship no later than ____ calendar days after a child's initial removal.

DHS' responsibility for this requirement is to help manage safety of the child, to provide a substitute care resource, to provide a permanent resource if needed, to develop and maintain family relationships and cultural connections with the child, and to gather family information and family history to plan for meeting the needs of the child.

Finding 2, Finding 5, Finding 7
Diligent Relative Search

DHS must make diligent efforts to contact the following individuals as soon as reasonably possible and no later than 30 calendar days after a child's initial removal ... adult relatives.

OAR 413-070-0069 Identification of Relatives

(1) DHS must begin the search for relatives or persons with a *caregiver relationship*:
(a) During a CPS assessment when the Department has determined that a *child* is unsafe and an individual other than the *parent* or *guardian* is required to manage a child's safety; or
(b) When a *parent* or *guardian* is (A) Is requesting the **voluntary placement of the *child*; or (B) Is voluntarily giving custody of the *child* to the Department.**

OAR 413-070-0072 Contact with Relatives or Persons with a Caregiver Relationship

(1) ... DHS must make diligent efforts to contact the following individuals as soon as reasonably possible and no later than 30 calendar days after child's initial removal or placement in *substitute care* through voluntary placement agreement or voluntary custody agreement:
(a) The *child's* parents or legal guardians, grandparents, parents of a *sibling* of a *child* where the *parent* has custody of the *sibling*, adult relatives, and persons with a *caregiver relationship*;
(b) When the *child* or *young adult* is a refugee, other individuals identified in OAR 413-070-0300 to 413-070-0380; and
(c) When there is reason to know the *child* or *young adult* is an *Indian child*, the tribe, pursuant to OAR chapter 413, division 115.

Possible Questions

For Finding 2, the board ensures DHS made diligent efforts to place the child with a relative or person who has a caregiver relationship. If the child is not placed with a relative or person with a caregiver relationship, the board asks about DHS' efforts, the status of the relative search, whether services need to be provided in order for a relative to be considered a resource, and, if ICWA applies, DHS' efforts to identify tribal leaders to assist in the search for relatives.

For Finding 5, board confirms a relative search is ongoing when reviewing whether DHS has made reasonable efforts to place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize permanency. This is especially important if a plan of adoption has been implemented and there is not an identified adoptive resource.

For Finding 7, the board asks about the ongoing relative search for concurrent planning.

Tribal Involvement

DHS will make diligent efforts to identify children who are subject to ICWA within ____ hours/___ day(s). When a child is a member of a Tribe or eligible for membership, ICWA applies.

If a parent or legal guardian reports membership to one of Oregon's nine Tribes, DHS must notify the Tribe.

For ICWA cases, DHS is required to make Active Efforts both to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the home and to provide services for the child to safely return home.

Active and early participation, consultation with child's Tribe in all case planning decisions, and notice of meetings and reviews is the cornerstone of active efforts.

Findings are made based on the timeliness and appropriateness of the services.

Tribal Involvement

Identifying Children Subject to ICWA and Notifying Tribe

DHS will make diligent **efforts to identify children who are subject to ICWA within 24 hours/1 day of case opening for assessment.** If a parent or legal guardian reports membership to one of Oregon's nine Tribes, **DHS must notify the Tribe by telephone within 24 hours.**

Every effort made in ICWA cases are measured against these goals:

- Commitment to the requirements and the spirit of ICWA;
- Early contact with an active engagement of the child's tribe;
- Using methods and providing services that are culturally appropriate; and
- A more vigorous and higher level of effort than those that typically constitute reasonable efforts.

Reasonable Efforts

1. Referring for services
2. Managing a case
3. Meeting minimum policy requirements

Active Efforts

1. Arranging services
2. Proactively engaging in diligent caseworker activity
3. Creatively meeting needs of children/families

Active efforts may include, for example:

- (1) Identifying appropriate services and helping the parents to overcome barriers, including actively assisting the parents in obtaining such services;
- (2) Identifying, notifying, and inviting representatives of the Indian child's Tribe to participate in providing support and services to the Indian child's family and in family team meetings, permanency planning, and resolution of placement issues;
- (3) Conducting or causing to be conducted a diligent search for the Indian child's extended family members, and contacting and consulting with extended family members to provide family structure and support for the Indian child and the Indian child's parents;
- (4) Offering and employing all available and culturally appropriate family preservation strategies and facilitating the use of services provided by the child's Tribe.

Possible Questions

- Has DHS consulted with the tribe regarding culturally appropriate services?
- Is the child receiving culturally appropriate services?

Legal and Other Fathers

Research suggests that children with involved and engaged fathers tend to have more positive outcomes relative to physical, cognitive, and social emotional health.

DHS is required to make diligent efforts to contact “... (a) the child or young adult’s parents or legal guardians ...” no later than ___ days after a child’s initial removal from the custody of a parent or placement in substitute care through a voluntary placement agreement or voluntary custody agreement.

The CRB asks about an Absent Parent Search at the review if the father’s whereabouts are unknown.

DHS needs to provide notice to and include the father who has rights in case planning.

Finding 4

Legal and Other Fathers:

Contact with Relatives or Persons with a Caregiver Relationship

(1) ... the Department must make diligent efforts to contact the following individuals as soon as reasonably possible and no later than 30 calendar days after a child's initial removal from the custody of a *parent* or *guardian*, or placement in *substitute care* through a voluntary placement agreement or voluntary custody agreement: **(a) The *child* or young adult's parents**

The caseworker will:

- Locate father when it has been determined the named father is a father with rights.
- Ask the child's mother and other relatives to assist in locating the father.
- Initiate an Absent Parent Search within 60 days if father's whereabouts are unknown.
- Provide notice to and include the father who has rights in case planning.
- Determine how a father has established paternity and document that information.

The Indian Child Welfare Act applies if the named father of a child is a member of or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe and the named father acknowledges he is the father consistent with tribal law. This father is considered the legal father even if he has not legally established paternity through the state of Oregon. He is a father with rights and DHS is required to provide active efforts to the family and discuss with the father ways to establish legal paternity.

Possible Questions

- If a parent's whereabouts are unknown, has an absent parent search been conducted?
- Has paternity been established?
- If a parent is incarcerated, has the caseworker contacted the prison counselor to discuss what services are available to the parent? An incarcerated parent is entitled to participate in case planning, have contact with the caseworker every 30 days, receive an Action Agreement or Letter of Expectation, participate in court and CRB reviews, and maintain communication with their child.

Parenting Time

This service is a service for the child and for the parents.

This service promotes bonding and attachment.

The temporary plan for this service must occur when the child first enters substitute care or at the time of the first court hearing whichever is first.

The ongoing plan for this service is created within ____ days from the date that the child enters substitute care.

This service should occur in settings that encourage the most natural interaction between family members while minimizing any existing risk to the child.

This service should include parental and family participation in normally occurring events such as school conferences, medical appointments and athletic activities.

Findings 3, 4 and 6

Visitation Promotes Permanency

Visitation is a service to children and parents. Each child placed in the legal custody of DHS has the following rights: “[...] to visit and communicate with a parent or legal guardian, siblings, members of his or her family, and other significant people in the child's life.” OAR 413-010-0180 (11). **The ongoing visitation plan is created within 30 days from the date the child enters substitute care.**

Applicable Findings

Finding 3. Has DHS ensured that appropriate services are in place to safeguard the child’s safety, health and wellbeing?

For Finding 3, the board ensures the child is visiting with family and that the visitation plan is in the best interest of the child. Visits preserve a child’s attachments to his or her parents, siblings, and other family members; and can lessen both the child’s and the parents’ anxiety about the child being placed in substitute care. The younger the child, the more frequent the contact must be in order to maintain relationships. Especially for young children, frequency is more important than length.

Finding 4. Has DHS made reasonable/active efforts to provide services for the child to safely return home?

For Finding 4, the board ensures DHS has offered visitation to promote family reunification. If the plan is to start working toward a trial reunification, the board will want to know if DHS has provided unsupervised visits of gradually increasing length in the family’s home to assess child safety. Visitation should occur in settings that encourage the most natural interaction between family members while minimizing any existing risk to the child. For example, visitation may take place at school conferences, medical appointments, church programs, and athletic activities.

Finding 6. Have the parents made sufficient progress to make it possible for the child to safely return home?

For Finding 6, the board reviews parents’ participation in visits. Visitation will likely be supervised at the beginning of a case and can be changed to unsupervised once safety and well-being are assured. Visitation plans should change over time depending on parent progress toward reunification, with visits increasing in length and requiring more responsibility on the part of parents.

Donna Haney, Policy Analyst, Title IV-E Waiver Program

OAR 413-010-0170 thru 0180, DHS Procedure Manual, Chapter 3, Section 7

OAR 413-070-0800

Connection to Family

DHS must provide notice within ____ days of the removal of a child to all grandparents and other adult relatives of the child known to the Department.

DHS must make diligent efforts to place a child with his or her siblings if placement is in best interest of the child.

In addition to identifying relatives for the purpose of providing a substitute care resource, DHS is also required to involve relatives in case planning.

DHS must provide notice of a court hearing to a relative who is currently providing substitute care for a child and to a grandparent of a child in DHS custody.

A relative has the right to communicate and visit with a child in DHS custody when such contact is set forth in the child's visitation plan.

Finding 3

Connection to Family (Child Wellbeing)

DHS must provide notice within 30 days of the removal of a child to all grandparents and other adult relatives of the child known to the Department.

Relative Involvement in Case Planning and Court Hearings

(1) DHS may involve a *relative* as a *safety service provider* after assessment that determines the individual is a safe and appropriate resource for involvement in managing a child's safety.

(2) DHS must consider a FDM that may include any family member as defined in ORS 417.371(4)(a) or *relative* in this meeting.

(3) The Department must provide notice of a court hearing to --

(a) A *relative* who is currently providing substitute care for a *child*; and

(b) A grandparent of a *child* or *young adult* in the Department's custody.

(4) A *relative* who expresses to DHS an interest in a *child* has a right to provide information about the child's background and to provide input on safety, attachment and permanency.

(5) Unless an exception is provided by the child welfare program manager or court order, DHS must provide notice within 30 calendar days after the removal of a *child*, to all grandparents and other relatives known to DHS, that complies with all of the following subsections:

(a) Specifies that the *child* has been or is being removed from the custody of the *parent*;

(b) Explains options to participate in the care and placement of the *child*;

(c) Describes the requirements the individual must meet to become a *relative caregiver* and the services and supports available for a *child* placed with a *relative caregiver*; and

(d) Describes the eligibility criteria for and availability of Guardianship Assistance.

A *relative* has the right to communicate and visit with a *child* or *young adult* in the Department's legal custody when such communication or contact is set forth in:

(1) The *child* or young adult's visitation plan;

(2) The opportunities for ongoing connection and support developed under Child Welfare Policy I-E.1.1, "Search for and Engagement of Relatives", and approved by the caseworker; or

(3) An order of a court.

Permanency

The CRB documents efforts made by DHS to reunify the child with the child's family or to place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize permanency.

Federal and state laws specify that "in making such reasonable efforts, the child's health and safety shall be the paramount concern."

The caseworker must develop the *case plan* within ____ days of a child's removal from home or within ____ days of the completion of the CPS assessment, in cases where the *child* remains in the home of a *parent* or *guardian*.

The case plan must specify the family's needs and efforts made to provide necessary services. It is on the offer of services and the timeliness and appropriateness of services that the reasonable efforts finding is based.

Findings 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10

Permanency

The caseworker must develop the *case plan* within 60 days of a child's removal from home or within 60 days of the completion of the CPS assessment, in cases where the *child* remains in the home of a *parent* or *guardian*. Foster youth, age 14 and older, can and should participate in the development and review of their case plan.

The CRB documents efforts made by DHS to reunify the child with the child's family or to place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize permanency. Federal and state law specify that "in making such reasonable efforts, the child's health and safety shall be the paramount concern." **"When the *child* has been placed in *substitute care* for more than 30 days, the Department *must consider scheduling an OFDM*. When considered appropriate, the meeting is scheduled, whenever possible, between the 30th and 60th day of the out-of-home care *placement*."**

The case plan must specify the family's needs and efforts made to provide necessary services. It is on the offer of services and the timeliness and appropriateness of services that the reasonable efforts finding is based.

DHS is required to review the case plan a minimum of every 90 days. The caseworker outlines in the Case Plan what the parents must do in order for the child to be returned home and the case plan is reviewed a minimum of every 90 days. Per OAR 413-040-0013(2), "The caseworker is responsible for ... (a) **Contacting and communicating with each *parent* or *guardian* through monthly face-to-face contact** about progress toward achieving the *conditions for return* and the expected outcomes . . . (d) Monitoring the services provided through the *case plan* through **contact with each service provider a minimum of once every 90 days.**"

"Within 30 days of receiving an expert evaluation requested by the Department, the caseworker must consider revising the case plan to include recommendations that will improve parent or guardian protective capacity related to the identified impending danger safety threats. If the recommendations are not included in the case plan, the rationale must be documented in the Department's information system." OAR 413-040-0016(6)

Concurrent planning should be in place. Honoring a child's sense of time, the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) focuses on the safety and health of a child. A permanency hearing will be held 14 months from placement or 12 months from jurisdiction, whichever date is earliest.

Intake Nursing Assessment

This assessment is due shortly after entering care.

The assessment needs to be completed by a DHS contracted nurse.

Finding 3

Intake Nursing Assessment (Health)

This assessment is due shortly after entering care.

The assessment needs to be completed by a DHS contracted nurse.

OAR 413-015-0465

Comprehensive Health Assessment

This assessment is due within ____ days of the child entering care.

This assessment needs to be completed by the child's primary healthcare provider.

Children entering foster care may or may not have had regular visits with their doctor. Some children may have chronic medical problems that have not been identified or have gone unchecked.

Getting a physical exam within the first ____ days of the child entering foster care can help spot problems, start or complete immunizations the child may have missed, and answer any health questions the foster parent may have.

Finding 3

Comprehensive Health Assessment (Health)

This Comprehensive Health Assessment is due within 30 days of the child entering care.

This assessment needs to be completed by the child's primary healthcare provider.

Children entering foster care may or may not have had regular visits with their doctor. Some children may have chronic medical problems that have not been identified or have gone unchecked.

Getting a physical exam within the first ____ days of the child entering foster care can help spot problems, start or complete immunizations the child may have missed, and answer any health questions the foster parent may have.

Possible Questions

Did the child have a comprehensive health assessment within 30 days of entering care?

Are there any medical concerns? If there are concerns, are they being addressed?

Childhood and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

Initial assessments upon entering care are essential in identifying needs and services for children who have suffered trauma, neglect and abuse.

Every child, birth through age 20, who is placed into substitute care receives this screening.

This screening is due within ____ days of a child entering care.

This screening may result in a child's eligibility for a level of care payment, in addition to the base rate reimbursement to the foster parent or relative caregiver.

When the caseworker receives the results of this screening, the caseworker incorporates the information into the case plan and refers the child to services or further assessments recommended, determines if additional services are needed, and determines if the child's educational needs are being addressed.

Finding 3

Childhood and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

The CANS screening is due within 60 days of entering care.

Initial assessments upon entering care are essential in identifying needs and services for children who have suffered trauma, neglect and abuse.

Every child, birth through age 20, who is placed into substitute care receives a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) screening.

This screening may result in a child's eligibility for a level of care payment, in addition to the base rate reimbursement to the foster parent or relative caregiver.

When the caseworker receives the results of this screening, the caseworker incorporates the information into the case plan and refers the child to services or further assessments recommended, determines if additional services are needed, and determines if the child's educational needs are being addressed.

Possible Questions

Did the child receive a CANS assessment?

If services or further assessments were recommended, were these followed up on?

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Screening

This screening is for children age 0 – 2.

This screening is due within ____ days of entering care.

These services are specially designed to enhance children’s physical, cognitive, communication, social, emotional, and/or adaptive development.

For children under the age of 3, board members ask if a referral to this screening was made, if the child qualified for services, and if the child is receiving recommended services.

Some examples of services provided:

- Showing the family how to meet the child’s needs at home; and
- Helping the family learn how to teach the child new skills.

Finding 3

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Screening - Developmental

The ECI screening is due within 60 days of entering care.

This screening is for children age 0 – 2 (Under age 3).

Early Intervention services are specially designed to enhance children’s physical, cognitive, communication, social, emotional, and/or adaptive development.

For children under the age of 3, board members ask if a referral to ECI was made within 60 days of entering care, if the child qualified for services, and if the child is receiving recommended services such as speech services.

Following DHS’ referral to ECI, it is possible that ECI will close out a child’s file if they review the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), submitted by foster parents, if there are no current developmental concerns noted. ECI should send a letter to the foster parents to notify them if ECI is closing the referral.

Some examples of early intervention services include:

- Giving the family information about the child’s special needs;
- Showing the family how to meet the child’s needs at home;
- Helping the family learn how other people and agencies can help them, and
- Helping the family learn how to teach the child new skills.

Possible Questions

Has the child had a formal developmental screening?

Were any developmental concerns identified?

If developmental delays were identified, is the child receiving services? What services and how frequently?

Have hearing and vision been assessed as potential contributing factors?

Hearing and Vision

The CRB ensures the health needs of foster children are being met.

Per ORS 418.325,

“... (4) Within _____ days of obtaining guardianship over a child under six years of age, a child-caring agency shall provide for such child to be tested for: ...

(B) Visual and aural acuity consistent with the child’s age ...”

Finding 3

Hearing and Vision

The CRB ensures the health needs of foster children are being met.

Vision and hearing testing begins at age three. CRB Volunteer Board Member Handbook

Per ORS 418.325,

“... (4) Within 90 days of obtaining guardianship over a child under six years of age, a child-caring agency shall provide for such child to be tested for: ...

(B) Visual and aural acuity consistent with the child’s age ...”

Possible Questions

Has the child had hearing and vision screening within the last year?

Are identified problems being addressed?

ORS 418.325, CRB Health Care Checklist

Well-Child Checks and Immuniza- tions

Within _____ days of obtaining guardianship over a child under 6 years of age, a child-caring agency shall have child:

- Inoculated as determined appropriate by the local health department; and
- Tested for:
 - Phenylketonuria;
 - Visual and aural acuity;
 - Sickle-cell anemia;
 - Effects of rubella, if any;
 - Effects of parental venereal disease, if any; and
 - Effects of parental use of drugs or controlled substances (FASD)

Well-child checks by a qualified physician happen at the following intervals:

- Three during first year of a child's life;
- One during second year of child's life;
- One at the age of 4;
- One at the age of 6;
- One at the age of 9; and
- One at the age of 14.

Finding 3

Well-Child Checks

Within 90 days of obtaining guardianship over a child under 6 years of age, a child-caring agency shall have the child:

- **Inoculated as determined appropriate by the local health department and Tested for:**
 - Phenylketonuria pursuant to ORS 433.285 (Policy to control metabolic diseases);
 - Visual and aural acuity consistent with the child's age;
 - Sickle-cell anemia;
 - Effects of rubella, if any;
 - Effects of parental venereal disease, if any; and
 - The hereditary or congenital effects of parental use of drugs or controlled substances

Well-child checks by a qualified physician happen at the following intervals:

- Three examinations during the first year of the child's life;
- One examination during the second year of the child's life;
- One examination at the age of four;
- One examination at the age of six;
- One examination at the age of nine; and
- One examination at the age of 14.

For children, age 0 – age 5, did DHS refer the foster parent to WIC? WIC is a nutritional education program that also provides supplemental foods to promote good health. Foster parents should let WIC know they have a child placed in their care through DHS Child Welfare and this should give them priority in scheduling appointments. Through WIC, foster parents can receive free vouchers for baby formula, cereal, eggs, milk, peanut butter, juice and other nutritional foods to meet the needs of the child in their care.

Possible Questions

When was the child's last comprehensive health visits?

Are the child's immunizations current?

Were there any referrals to specialists and, if yes, were those referrals followed up on?

Are any medical concerns being addressed?

Comprehensive Youth Transition Plan

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS must initiate the development of the comprehensive transition plan for a: (a) youth, age _____ or older and in substitute care.

The comprehensive transition plan must identify goals and services in each of the following domains:

- (a) Education;
- (b) Employment;
- (c) Health;
- (d) Housing;
- (e) Life skills;
- (f) Supportive relationships;
- (g) Cultural/community connections;
- (h) Transportation

The caseworker is responsible for review of the transition plan during monthly face-to-face and 90-day reviews. Progress, any changes and barriers must be documented.

Finding 3

Comprehensive Youth Transition Plan

“(1) Development of the comprehensive transition plan. **The Department must initiate the development of the comprehensive transition plan for a: (a) *Child 14 years of age or older***

(3) ... the Department must convene a planning meeting to develop the comprehensive transition plan. The Department must ensure the *child* or *young adult* plays a central role in planning for and participating in the meeting, when developmentally appropriate.

(4) The comprehensive transition plan must identify goals and services in each domain:

- (a) Education;
- (b) Employment;
- (c) Health;
- (d) Housing;
- (e) Life skills;
- (f) Supportive relationships;
- (g) Cultural and community connections; and
- (h) Transportation.

(5) The *child* age 14 or older, must agree to the comprehensive transition plan and the plan is signed by each person who participated in the planning meeting.” OAR 413-030-0445

“... (2) The caseworker is responsible for regular review of the goals and services of the comprehensive transition plan during monthly face-to-face contacts and the 90-day *case plan* review required under OAR 413-040-0016.

(3) The caseworker must document in the Department's information system:

- (a) The progress in achieving the comprehensive transition plan goals;
- (b) Any barriers and plans to address the barriers;
- (c) Any changes in the comprehensive transition plan; and
- (d) Notification to service providers of changes to the comprehensive transition plan.”

Possible Questions

Is DHS assisting the youth with completion of their Youth Transition Plan?

If youth is age 16 or older and participating in ILP, is ILP assisting the youth with the Youth Transition Plan?

Independent Living Program (ILP) Youth Transition Funds

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence.

One of these programs provides flexible funding for various needs to assist youth to achieve goals for transition, including driver's education course fees.

The caseworker will help the youth, age _____ or older, with this process.

Finding 3

ILP Youth Transition Funds

The caseworker will help the youth, age 14 or older, with obtaining ILP Youth Transition Funds. DHS also offers this service to former foster youth who left child welfare at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) in care after age 14.

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence.

One of these programs is called **ILP Youth Transition Funds** - Flexible funding for various needs to assist youth to achieve goals for transition, including driver's education course fees.

List of Services and Eligibility Requirements, Oregon Independent Living Program

Independent Living Program (ILP) Skill Building

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence.

This Skill Building program is for foster youth, age _____ or older in substitute care.

This program assists foster youth with daily living skills such as money management, household maintenance, transportation, legal issues, health, community resources, housing options, personal hygiene and employment readiness.

This program also assists foster youth with educational assistance such as tutoring, homework/study groups, college tours and financial aid/scholarship applications.

Finding 3

ILP Skill Building

The ILP Skill Building service is for foster youth, age 16 or older, in substitute care.

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence.

One of these programs assists foster youth with daily living skills such as money management, household maintenance, transportation, legal issues, health, community resources, housing options, personal hygiene and employment readiness.

This program also assists foster youth with educational assistance such as tutoring, homework/study groups, college tours and financial aid/scholarship applications.

While youth may not be referred to an ILP contractor until age 16, this does not relieve DHS of the requirement to assist those youth, age 14 and 15 years old, with a transition plan. “DHS should use community resources to assist youth with skills (e.g., foster parents, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H, etc.)”

List of Services and Eligibility Requirements, Oregon Independent Living Program

ILP Education and Training Vouchers

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

This service provides financial assistance for postsecondary education.

The Training Vouchers must be accessed prior to age ____ in order to continue receiving funds to the age of 23.

These Training Vouchers provide up to \$5,000 per year for youth who were in foster care and dismissed from care at age 16 or older with 180 days of foster care placement.

To receive these funds, youth must be accepted and enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program.

Finding 3

Education and Training Vouchers

To receive ILP Education and Training Voucher funds, youth must be accepted and enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program and must access the funding prior to age 21 in order to continue receiving funds up to the age of 23.

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence.

One of these programs is the **Education and Training Voucher/Grant** program that provides financial assistance for postsecondary education. The youth can use these funds for room and board. It is sent to the school so they will deduct any costs owed and release any amount remaining to the youth.

This service is funded through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program **providing up to \$5,000 per year** for youth who were in foster care and dismissed from care at age 16 or older with 180 days of foster care placement.

Youth may also use these funds for a laptop to support their academic success.

Youth should also apply for FAFSA and OSAC due March 1 every year. OSAC has over 450 scholarships students can apply to with one application. Foster youth should be eligible for the Pell Grant, Tuition and Fee Waiver, the Oregon Opportunity Grant and Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETV).

If the youth is going to college and receiving the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds, they cannot also access Chafee Housing. The youth would access Chafee ETV during the school year (3 quarters) then access Chafee Housing over the summer (or whatever term they take off from school).

List of Services and Eligibility Requirements, Oregon Independent Living Program

Independent Living Program (ILP) Housing Subsidy Program

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence. One of these programs, an ILP Subsidy Program, provides up to \$600 per month (\$795 effective January 1, 2018) to live independently for up to three years until they turn 21. Youth needs to meet all of the following requirements:

- Age _____ or older;
- In custody of DHS;
- At least one previous placement;
- 40 hours of activity per week (work/volunteer);
- High school graduate or actively working to complete high school or a GED;
- Currently enrolled in ILP skill building services; and
- Not living with his/her biological or legal parent(s).

Finding 3

ILP Housing Subsidy Program

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

The ILP Housing Subsidy Program is for youth, age 16 or older.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence. One of these programs provides up to \$600 per month (\$795 effective January 1, 2018) to live independently for up to three years until they turn 21. Until recently, it was *for a maximum of one year*.

Youth needs to meet all of the following requirements:

- Age 16 or older;
- In custody of DHS;
- At least one previous placement;
- 40 hours of activity per week (work/volunteer);
- High school graduate or actively working to complete high school or a GED;
- Currently enrolled in ILP skill building services; and
- Not living with his/her biological or legal parent(s).

How to get services

The youth must go before a screening committee to determine readiness and appropriateness. The DHS caseworker or ILP worker will help youth with this.

List of Services and Eligibility Requirements, Oregon Independent Living Program

ILP Chafee Housing Program

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence. This Housing funding is available to former foster youth who left substitute care placement at age ___ or older, with at least 180 days (6 months) of foster care placement after age 14.

This program provides up to \$795.00 per month to live independently, for a maximum of \$7,000 or age 21, whichever comes first.

In addition to being a former foster youth, age ___ or older, youth needs to meet all of the following requirements:

- 40 hours of activity per week ;
- High school graduate or working to complete high school/GED;
- Enrolled in ILP skill building;
- Not living with parent(s).

Finding 3

ILP Chafee Housing Program

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

DHS offers five programs for helping youth achieve independence. **The Chafee Housing Program funding is available to former foster youth who left substitute care placement at age 18 or older**, with at least 180 days (6 months) of foster care placement after age 14.

This program provides up to \$795.00 per month effective January 1, 2018 (Previously \$600 per month) to live independently, for a maximum of \$7,000 or age 21, whichever comes first.

In addition to being a former foster youth, age 18 or older, youth needs to meet all of the following requirements:

- 40 hours of activity per week ;
- High school graduate or working to complete high school/GED;
- Enrolled in ILP skill building;
- Not living with parent(s).

List of Services and Eligibility Requirements, Oregon Independent Living Program

Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

To receive this Fee Waiver, foster youth must fill out and submit a FAFSA application that is available on October 1 each year.

The CRB should encourage foster youth who are planning on attending college to get assistance from their caseworker and/or ILP worker with applying to FAFSA and applying to colleges by their deadline.

To be eligible for this Waiver a youth must:

- Have at least 180 days of Oregon Child Welfare care after the age of 14 and have been in DHS or Tribal custody at age 16 or older;
- Submit the FAFSA application; and
- Enroll prior to age 25.

Finding 3

Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver

If foster youth want to receive a Tuition and Fee Waiver, they must fill out and submit a FAFSA application that is available on October 1 each year.

The CRB should encourage foster youth who are planning on attending college to get assistance from their caseworker and/or ILP worker with applying to the FAFSA and applying to colleges by their deadline.

To be eligible a youth must:

- Have at least 180 days of Oregon Child Welfare care after the age of 14 and have been in DHS or Tribal custody at age 16 or older;
- Submit the FAFSA application;
- Enroll prior to age 25.

Once a student is enrolled and receiving the tuition and fee waiver at one of Oregon's public colleges or universities, the student is entitled to the equivalent of 4 years undergraduate studies.

A student must complete 30 hours of volunteer activities to retain eligibility for year 2 and all subsequent years.

Possible Questions

If youth is present, ask youth if someone, caseworker or ILP, is assisting them with applying to colleges and FAFSA and if someone has spoken to them about how to apply for educational subsidies and the Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver.

If youth is not present, ask the caseworker if educational goals are included in the youth's Transition Plan and who is helping the youth with continuing education and funding.

List of Services and Eligibility Requirements, Oregon Independent Living Program

Benchmark Review

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

For a foster youth with a comprehensive transition plan, the caseworker must schedule this Review six months prior to the *child* reaching _____ years of age.

Some of the items reviewed at this meeting include the plan for housing and employment, agreement on person with decision-making authority for education services after youth reaches age 18, identification of supportive adults, identification of community resources, agreement on person with decision-making authority for health and mental health services, and identification of health, mental health and dental providers for the youth. The caseworker must document this information and it must be signed by the youth.

Finding 3

Benchmark Review

For a foster youth with a comprehensive transition plan the caseworker must schedule the Benchmark Review six months prior to the *child* reaching 18 years of age.

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

Some of the items reviewed at this meeting include:

- Plan for housing and employment;
- Agreement on person with decision-making authority for education services after youth reaches age 18;
- Identification of supportive adults;
- Identification of community resources;
- Agreement on person with decision-making authority for health and mental health services;
- Identification of health, mental health and dental providers for the youth.

The caseworker must document this information and it must be signed by the youth.

The caseworker must provide a copy of the comprehensive transition plan, including the documentation of the determinations made during the benchmark review of the comprehensive transition plan, to the court at the next scheduled permanency hearing. The plan should also be provided to the CRB.

Within 90 days prior to the *child's* 18th birthday, the caseworker must review the determinations and plans made during the Benchmark Review with the *child* and, if identified, the two additional members of the case planning team chosen by the *child*. The caseworker reviews the progress made to date and makes any necessary adjustments to the plan.

Possible Questions

If foster youth is age 17, has the caseworker scheduled a Benchmark Review six months prior to the youth turning age 18?

Does the youth have a copy of their Youth Transition Plan and do they understand their plan for housing and employment or continued education?

Requirements at Independence

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.

Foster youth have the option of remaining in care of DHS until age ____.

When the court relieves DHS of custody of a foster youth reaching independence, DHS must provide the youth with legal documents that will help the youth with independence. This packet of legal documents is sometimes referred to as a Transition Toolkit.

Some of these documents include, for example:

- Health and immunization records;
- Educational summary and records;
- Birth certificate;
- Proof of citizenship or residence status;
- Social Security card;
- Driver's license.

Finding 3

Requirements at Independence

The CRB ensures foster youth are able to make a successful transition to adulthood. **Foster youth have the option of remaining in care of DHS until age 21.** If a youth leaves care after turning 18, they cannot re-enter foster care per DHS policy; however, the youth can sign up for ILP services, the Chaffee Education and Training Grant and housing assistance through the Independent Living Housing Subsidy Program or Chaffee Housing.

When the court relieves DHS of custody of a foster youth reaching independence, DHS must provide the youth with legal documents that will help the youth with independence. This packet of legal documents is sometimes referred to as a Transition Toolkit.

- (a) Information concerning the case of the foster youth, including family and placement history, location and status of each *sibling*, and contact information the youth may use to seek additional information about his or her case or family history.
- (b) Health and education records, including:
 - (A) Health and immunization records;
 - (B) Educational summary and records; and
 - (C) Information on how to identify a Health Care Representative, complete an Oregon Advance Directive, and complete OHP Application for Former Foster Care Youth Medical Program. Youth who age out of foster care remain eligible for medical insurance until they turn 26.
- (c) A copy of each of the following, and documentation that each has been provided to the youth in official form:
 - (A) The birth certificate of the *youth*.
 - (B) Official proof of the citizenship or residence status of the youth in a form acceptable to an employer required to verify immigration status.
 - (C) The social security card, or a copy of the original, of the youth.
 - (D) A driver's license or another form of state identification, or a copy of the original;
 - (E) Where applicable, a death certificate of a *parent* of the youth.
 - (F) Where applicable, the tribal membership or enrollment information of the parents.
 - (G) Written verification of placement in *substitute care* through the Department or one of the federally recognized tribes of the youth when 14 years of age or older and 18 years of age and younger.
 - (H) The youth's credit report.

Child Safety Monthly Face-To-Face Contacts

The CRB monitors the *safety*, health and well-being of children in care.

One of the ways to monitor child safety is by ensuring the required monthly face-to-face contacts with the child are occurring in compliance with the following policy:

Monthly face-to-face contact,”... at least once each and every full calendar month”, with the child must be made by one of the following Department staff:

- The primary caseworker;
- The caseworker’s supervisor; or
- When designated by the caseworker’s supervisor, another caseworker or supervisor or a social service assistant.

Face-to-face contact with a child or young adult in substitute care must occur in the substitute care placement every other month.

During the face-to-face contact, DHS must ensure safety, permanency and well-being, and staff must notify a supervisor and certifier when there are safety concerns.

Face-to-face contacts must be documented.

Finding 3

Child Safety

The CRB monitors the safety, health and well-being of children in care. One of the ways to monitor child safety is by ensuring the required monthly face-to-face contacts with the child are occurring in compliance with the following policy:

Monthly face-to-face contact, "... at least once each and every full calendar month", with the child must be made by one of the following Department staff:

- The primary caseworker;
- The caseworker's supervisor; or
- When designated by the caseworker's supervisor, another caseworker or supervisor or a social service assistant.

Face-to-face contact with a child or young adult in substitute care must occur in the substitute care placement every other month.

During the face-to-face contact, DHS must ensure safety, permanency and well-being, and staff must notify a supervisor and certifier when there are safety concerns.

Face-to-face contacts must be documented.

Possible Questions

- If a face-to-face contact with a child is missing from the case plan, ask the caseworker for the date of the missing contact. Face-to-face contacts must occur each and every full calendar month and in the substitute care placement every other month.
- Do the parents, child's attorney and CASA, if one appointed, have any concerns?
- When did the child's attorney last see the child?
- If the board has concerns about safety issues at a child's placement and the caseworker has exhausted current available resources trying to find a safe placement, the board can make a negative finding and specify that this is a resource issue, not a casework issue.
- If parents express concerns during the CRB review, please ask follow-up questions and ask the Field Manager to detail the concerns in the Findings and Recommendations.

Foster Children's Bill of Rights

Every *child* and *young adult* in the *legal custody* of the Department has rights including the right:

(A) To receive a document setting forth such rights within _____ days of the date of any placement or any change in placement;

(B) To have a document setting forth such rights posted at the foster placement;

(C) To have an annual review of such rights;

(D) To be provided with current contact information within _____ days of placement or change in placement, for adults involved in the child's case; e.g., caseworkers, attorneys, CASA, etc.; and

(E) To have a hotline phone number that is available to the *child* or *young adult* at all times for concerns regarding the child's or young adult's care, safety, or well-being.

Finding 3

Foster Children's Bill of Rights

Every *child* and *young adult* in the *legal custody* of the Department has rights including the right:

(A) To receive a document setting forth such rights within 60 days of the date of any placement or any change in placement;

(B) To have a document setting forth such rights posted at the foster placement;

(C) To have an annual review of such rights;

(D) To be provided with current contact information within 60 days of placement or change in placement, for adults involved in the child's case; e.g., caseworkers, attorneys, CASA, etc.; and

(E) To have a hotline phone number that is available to the *child* or *young adult* at all times for concerns regarding the child's or young adult's care, safety, or well-being.

I have the right:

To have what every child needs.

To be healthy.

To be in a place that meets my needs.

To make decisions for myself.

To learn.

To be safe.

To be informed.

To see and talk to people I care about.

To have my rights protected.

Possible Questions

Is the Foster Children's Bill of Rights posted in the foster home?

Has foster youth, age 14 and older, signed acknowledgment of receipt of the Bill of Rights?

Does the foster child have the Important Contact Information sheet listing the adults who are involved in the child's case?

Requirements for Older Foster Youth

In addition to the rights outlined in the Foster Children's Bill of Rights, every *child* and *young adult* in the legal custody of the Department has the following rights, as provided in ORS 418.201:

When the *child* or *young adult* is _____ years of age or older, to be provided with written information within 60 days of the date of any placement or any change in placement, regarding:

- (A) How to establish a bank account;
- (B) How to acquire a driver license;
- (C) How to remain in foster care after reaching 18 years of age;
- (D) The availability of a tuition and fee waiver for a current or former *foster child*;
- (E) How to obtain a copy of credit report;
- (F) How to obtain medical, dental, vision, mental health services, or other treatment;
- (G) A transition toolkit including a Comprehensive Youth Transition Plan.

Finding 3

Requirements for Foster Youth, age 14 and older.

In addition to the rights outlined in the Foster Children's Bill of Rights, every *child* and *young adult* in the legal custody of the Department has the following rights, as provided in ORS 418.201:

When the *child* or *young adult* is 14 years of age or older, to be provided with written information within 60 days of the date of any placement or any change in placement, regarding:

- (A) How to establish a bank account;
- (B) How to acquire a driver license;
- (C) How to remain in foster care after reaching 18 years of age;
- (D) The availability of a tuition and fee waiver for a current or former *foster child*;
- (E) How to obtain a copy of credit report;
- (F) How to obtain medical, dental, vision, mental health services, or other treatment;
- (G) A transition toolkit including a Comprehensive Youth Transition Plan.

The case plan for any child or young adult in foster care who is age 14 or older must include:

A document that describes the rights of the child with respect to education, health, visitation and court participation, and the right to be provided with the above documents, and a signed acknowledgment by the foster youth that the youth has been provided with a copy of the document and that the rights have been explained in an age-appropriate way.

Possible Questions for Youth Age 14 and Older:

Has DHS assisted the youth with completing a Youth Transition Plan? If a youth is receiving DD services, the Individual Support Plan may satisfy the requirements of the Youth Transition Plan.

Has DHS met with the youth to talk about the above items; e.g., (a) How to establish a bank account in the foster child's name; (b) How to acquire a driver's license, etc.?

For youth, age 16 and older, has DHS referred the youth to ILP? If a DD youth's developmental capacity does not allow him/her to participate in traditional ILP services, is DHS and DD Services working together to help the youth develop a transition plan?

Dental

This assessment is due within ___ days of any foster child, age 1 and older, entering care.

Some foster children have never had this assessment prior to entering care.

Nationally, children with dental problems miss more than 51 million hours of school each year and are 4 times more likely to have lower grades than their peers.

Even very young children should be examined as soon as their first teeth have come through looking for areas of concern so future problems can be prevented.

Finding 3

Dental Assessment

A Dental assessment is due within 30 days of any foster child, age 1 and older, entering care.

Some foster children have never had this assessment prior to entering care.

Nationally children with dental problems miss more than 51 million hours of school each year and are 4 times more likely to have lower grades than their peers.

Even very young children should be examined as soon as their first teeth have come through looking for areas of concern so future problems can be prevented.

Possible Questions

When was the child's last dental examination?

Has there been an annual tooth cleaning?

What dental needs does the child have and how are they being addressed?

When is the next exam scheduled?

Mental Health Assessment and Psychotropic Medication

This assessment is due within ___ days of the child entering care.

Studies show that children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care, even very young children, have higher than average rates of mental and behavior health issues.

Getting a prompt mental health evaluation can help identify potential problems and provide assistance to the child and foster parents to help with child well-being and foster care stability.

The CRB helps ensure this evaluation takes place in a timely manner and that any recommendations and referrals are followed up on.

For children who are prescribed psychotropic medication, the CRB ensures DHS is monitoring medication and holding an annual medication review if required.

Finding 3

Mental Health Assessment

The mental health assessment is due within 60 days of the child entering care.

Studies show that children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care, even very young children, have higher than average rates of mental and behavior health issues.

The CRB helps ensure this evaluation takes place in a timely manner and that any recommendations and referrals are followed up on.

For psychotropic medications, an annual medication review, by an individual other than the prescriber, is required for any child under age 6 or any child who is prescribed more than two psychotropic medications.

Prior to authorization and administration of a new prescription for more than one psychotropic medication or any antipsychotic medication, DHS must ensure a child or young adult in substitute care has received an assessment from a qualified mental health professional or licensed medical professional unless there is an urgent medical need or it meets an exception allowed under the OAR such as in the case of a change in the dosage of a previously prescribed medication. The required assessment must have been completed within three months prior to the prescription for psychotropic medication or be an update of a prior assessment.

The substitute care provider must keep a medication log listing all of the medications administered to the child.

Possible Questions

Did the child receive a mental health assessment?

Is the child receiving all recommended services?

Are foster parents receiving the necessary support to help manage mental/behavioral issues?

If the child is prescribed psychotropic medications and is either under age 6 or prescribed more than two psychotropic medications, has the child had the required annual medication review? What are the possible side effects of the medication and are there any concerns?

Extracurricular Activities (Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard)

This requirement is for all foster children.

DHS shall include in their court reports the steps DHS is taking to ensure the substitute care provider is following this standard, and ensuring the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities.

Age appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities are activities that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are developmentally appropriate for the child.

Finding 3A

Finding 3B

Extracurricular Activities (Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard)

This Extracurricular Activities requirement is for all foster children.

DHS shall include in their court reports the steps DHS is taking to ensure the substitute care provider is following this standard, and ensuring the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities.

This standard is defined as the careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interests of a child used by a substitute care provider when determining whether to allow a child to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.

Age appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities are activities that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are developmentally appropriate for the child.

I have the right:

“To have the opportunity to participate in activities that interest me; including sports, art, music or others.” Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights.

Possible Questions

Is DHS ensuring child has ongoing opportunities to engage in age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities?

When did DHS last consult with child and foster parent about opportunities for ongoing activities?

If there are barriers, can they be remedied?

What activities is the child interested in?

ORS 419A.004. ORS 419B.443, OAR 413-040-0000(40)

Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights

Education

This requirement is for all school age foster children.

The DHS caseworker is responsible for working collaboratively with the *parent* or legal guardian; the local school officials; the *substitute caregiver*; the *surrogate*, if one is appointed; the CASA and attorney of the *child*; local Department of Education District Homeless Liaison; and service providers involved in the case plan of the *child*, as appropriate, in order to ensure school enrollment and promote academic achievement.

The preferred school or educational setting when a *child* first enters *substitute care* is the *school district of origin* unless:

- (a) Remaining in the same school or is not in the best interest of the *child*; and
- (b) Continuing to attend the same school is not consistent with the ongoing safety plan or jeopardizes the child's safety.

Finding 3

Education

413-100-0915 Ensure Child's Enrollment in School or Educational Setting

Some of the things the caseworker must document in the case plan include, for example:

- Information about the current school or educational setting of the *child*.
- All schools the *child* has attended since the date the *child* was placed.
- The number of high school credits each *young adult* 14 years of age or older has earned.
- Information regarding educational records; e.g., report cards, IEP, 504 plan, etc.

413-100-0925 Consent for Special Education Services

When there is reason to believe the *child* has a disability, the caseworker must identify who is the *parent* or *surrogate* making educational decisions for the *child* or *young adult*. Persons who qualify to make educational decisions include the biological or adoptive *parent*, a *foster parent*, a *legal guardian*, or an individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive *parent* (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative).

413-100-0940 Early Education and Post-Secondary Education

The caseworker must ensure that an eligible *child* has access to public preschool education and early intervention education programs. The caseworker must ensure a *child* victim under three years old has been referred to an early intervention education program. The caseworker must ensure that a foster youth has access to information and resources to explore post-secondary education and training opportunities.

Possible Questions

- Does the child have appropriate clothing to attend school and the necessary supplies and equipment to be successful in school?
- Are there appropriate educational and developmental services in place?
- Is child on an IEP? Is the IEP current and is school in compliance?
- For older youth, is the youth on track to graduate (24 credits required) and, if not, what assistance is being provided for credit recovery? Does the youth need an education advocate?
- If youth is not on track to graduate, has DHS met with the youth and school about a GED?