

## **2021 Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform - Requested DCF Information**

DCF tracks the volume of young people who pursue post-secondary education, an average of how much is spent per young person in Educational Training Voucher funds (dedicated post-secondary educational funds), but we don't track specific degree pursuit. We also track Tuition Waiver applications processed.

**During SFY 21 276 young people received Educational Training Voucher Funds;** payments totaled \$1,046,850 with an annual average amount of financial support provided being \$3,792.93.

**During SFY 21, 171 Kansas Foster Care Educational Assistance Act Program (known as the Tuition Waiver) applications were processed.**

### **Education & Training Voucher (ETV):**

- Young people who are eligible for ETV have earned a high school diploma or GED, are enrolled in a post-secondary education that is a pre-accredited, accredited, or certified training program, and the young person meets one of the following:
  - In the custody of DCF, KDOC-JS, or Tribal Authority and in a foster care placement on the date the young person attained 18 years of age; or
  - Left a foster care placement subject to a permanent custodianship or guardianship under chapter 38 or 59 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated on or after the youth's 16th birthday; or
  - Adopted from a foster care placement on or after the youth's 16th birthday; or
  - In an eligible out of home placement for any length of time on or after the 14th birthday, unless an adoption, permanent custodianship, or guardianship is finalized prior to the youth's 16th birthday.

Young people are eligible until they turn 26 years of age as long as they are enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program (satisfactory progress is defined by individual program guidelines). Education and Training Vouchers are available to eligible young people for assistance based on need with post-secondary education and certified training programs. ETV funds may be used for costs associated with post-secondary education and/or training only and cannot exceed \$6,250 (federal maximum of \$5,000 with state match of \$1,250), or the total cost of attendance per young person per plan year, whichever is less. All young people must have an open service case to receive ETV. Young people may only participate in the ETV program for a total of five years, whether or not the years are consecutive.

### **Tuition Waiver:**

- The Kansas Foster Care Educational Assistance Program, also known as the Tuition Waiver Program, is available to youth who are enrolled at a Kansas Board of Regents post-secondary institution (university, community college, technical program) and meet one of the following criteria:
  - In the custody of DCF and in a foster care placement on the date the youth attained 18 years of age; or
  - Released from custody of DCF prior to attaining 18 years of age, after having graduated from high school or fulfilled the requirements for a GED while in foster care placement and the custody of DCF; or
  - Adopted from a foster care placement on or after the youth's 16th birthday; or
  - Left a foster care placement subject to a permanent custodianship or guardianship under chapter 38 or 59 of the Kansas Statute.

For students who qualify for this program, educational institutions waive the costs of tuition and associated fees. Assistance to cover additional costs, such as room and board and textbooks, may be provided to eligible youth who participate in the Independent Living Program. A youth does not have to participate in the Independent Living Program to receive the Tuition Waiver. However, youth who apply for the Waiver are referred to the Independent Living Program, based upon their eligibility. Youth

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remain eligible for the Tuition Waiver through the semester in which they turn 23, as long as they remain in good standing at the educational institution and are making satisfactory progress toward completing the educational program (as defined and monitored by the institution).

### **Kansas Promise Scholarship Act:**

On Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Independent Living Program hosted it's IL Statewide Quarterly Meeting. This meeting ranges in attendance from 60- 85 participants including representatives from DCF Independent Living, DCF Special Response Team, DCF Crossover Youth team, Cornerstones of Care, KVC, Saint Francis Ministries, TFI, Kansas Department of Corrections- Juvenile Services, Native American Family Services, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP, Jobs for America's Graduates- Kansas Transitions Program, YouThrive and other community partners who serve transition age youth. Diane Lindeman the Director of Student Financial Assistance with the Kansas Board of Regents shared about the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act. Printed information and how to apply was distributed to all afterwards in the meeting notes. In the future the Kansas Promise Scholarship will be added to the PPS 3059 My Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood as a prompt under Post-Secondary Educational Planning.