



Commonwealth of Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

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Eric Friedlander, Secretary

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Pandemic Funds Available to Help Youth, Young Adults Transitioning Out of Foster Care System

Applications are open for submission through Sept. 30, 2022

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 25, 2022) – To help mitigate challenges brought on by the pandemic, time-limited [relief funds](#) are available to help youth and young adults transitioning out of the foster care system with mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, car loans, groceries and other basic needs.

The funds are through the Federal Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act, which provides child welfare agencies with resources to respond to the needs of those who transitioned from foster care at or after their 18th birthday or were adopted at the age of 16 or older.

“There is concern that current and former foster youth – who have disproportionately faced higher rates of unemployment, housing instability and disrupted education throughout the pandemic – could be among the last Kentuckians to fully recover from COVID-19,” said Eric Friedlander, secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

“We are continuing to help provide direct assistance to current and former foster youth to mitigate some of the worst impacts of the pandemic and help foster youth get back on their own two feet,” he said. “The deadline to apply for these special

pandemic benefits is Sept. 30, and to help spread the word about this opportunity, the pandemic relief registration link will continue to be posted to the [Ky RISE](#) site.”

The site provides information on eligibility, including minimum age limitations and program details.

“Too many Kentuckians who have aged out of foster care and who are currently in foster care are forced to live on the margins, and those who are eligible are encouraged to apply for this help,” Friedlander said, adding that cash assistance is a benefit.

The cabinet is partnering with community advocates, colleges and universities, foster parents and others and asking them to help spread the word, and a radio and social media campaign is being planned to help raise visibility.

Independent living specialists are on standby to assist foster youth transitioning, or who have recently transitioned, to independent living. [Find one here](#).

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The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state’s human services and health care programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services; the Department for Community Based Services; the Department for Public Health; the Department for Aging and Independent Living; and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.