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To: DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency CARES Coordinators <DCFDLW-2AgencyCARESCoordinators@wisconsin.gov>; DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency Directors <DCFDLDFESBFW2AgencyDirectors@wisconsin.gov>; DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency Directors <DCFDLDFESBFW2AgencyDirectors@wisconsin.gov>; DCF DL DFES BWF TJ TMJ <DCFDLDFESBWFJTJMJ@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Youth Formerly in Foster Care Direct Payments

Good Morning,

Recently, the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) highlighted several provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for youth in or formerly in foster care. This law included increased funding and greater flexibility for the Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee program), including providing direct financial payments from [Transition Resource Agencies](#) to youth formerly in foster care. To qualify, youth must have aged out of foster care between January 27, 2020 and September 30, 2021. Youth have the discretion to use these supports as they see fit - including but not limited to meeting basic needs, housing costs, transportation needs, and more.

BWF would like our partner agencies to know that direct financial payments from the Chafee program via Transition Resource Agencies to youth formerly in foster care should be disregarded as income when determining eligibility for W-2 and related programs, including the Transitional Jobs and Transform Milwaukee Jobs programs.

These direct financial payments, from the Chafee program, to youth formerly in foster care are typically disbursed in \$1,000 increments per month for up to six months (no youth shall receive more than \$6,000 total), provided by Transition Resource Agencies, and may be named:

- Direct financial assistance;
- Funding assistance;
- Youth federal COVID stimulus;
- Stimulus payment;
- Stimulus funds;
- Monthly stimulus payment;
- COVID stimulus;
- Stimulus checks for youth who aged out of foster care;
- Special stimulus payment for aging out youth due to COVID;
- Cash payment;
- Stimulus funding;
- \$6000 payment;
- Direct stimulus funding;

- Direct payment;
- Direct monthly stimulus payment; or
- Direct financial payment.

This list may be incomplete, and its purpose is to help W-2 agencies in identifying payments from the Chafee program, so they can be disregarded as income for eligibility for W-2 and related programs. W-2 agency workers should note this disregarded income in PIN comments.

Please note that the Chafee Program is also commonly referred to as Independent Living (IL) or the Independent Living Program (you can find more information about Wisconsin's IL program [here](#)).

In addition to the information above, the following links may be helpful:

- To connect older foster youth with these direct payments, please see [DCF Foster Youth Relief Funds](#). This includes a form youth can complete to inquire about their eligibility for this support.
- The [Foster Youth Relief Funds Tool Kit](#) has resources to spread the word about these payments.

This email will be posted to the [BWF Work Programs Help Desk Home Page](#).