



Memorandum

To: Child Welfare Staff

From: Mary Havick, Deputy Division Director of Child Welfare

Date: March 11, 2021

Re: Temporary Extension of the Allowable Age of Youth Receiving Extended Youth Services – Extended Until September 30, 2021

The federal *COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* signed on December 27, 2020 included funding to support older youth in care including a temporary extension of the allowable age of youth receiving extended youth services. This act extends the current provisions in place under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency period through the end of the federal fiscal year which is September 30, 2021. **As a result, youth should not be involuntarily discharged from extended foster care/extended youth support services, have a request to reenter care denied, or discharged without a sustainable transition plan in place with the necessary resources for transition.**

Along with the extension of the public health emergency period to September 30, 2021, the education and work requirements that became effective July 1, 2020, for youth over 18 years old, have been waived during this period. Any failure to meet those requirements will not provide cause for an involuntary discharge.

The GA RYSE/Chafee State Independent Living Program (ILP) remains available to partner with county offices, provide technical assistance and review and approve any requests to discharge or deny reentry to youth consistent. If you have any questions, please contact your GA RYSE ILP Independent Living Program Specialist or email AskILP@dhs.ga.gov.