



MEMORANDUM

To: RBWO Providers

From: Melody DeBussey, Deputy Commissioner | Office of Family Independence
Mary Havick, Deputy Commissioner | Office of Child Welfare

Date: February 23, 2023

Re: Cash Assistance Program Fund Disbursement for Children in Foster Care
Receiving Medical Assistance Benefits

Children in Georgia's foster care system who were receiving Medical Assistance benefits on July 31, 2022, are eligible for Governor Brian Kemp's Cash Assistance Program. This program provides cash assistance of \$350 to active enrollees of Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids®, SNAP, and/or TANF. To be eligible, Georgians must have been enrolled in one of these programs and actively receiving benefits on July 31, 2022. You can learn more about the program here: gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2022-08-15/gov-kemp-dedicates-more-1-billion-dhs-provide-cash-assistance-medicaid.

Program funds for eligible children and youth will be disbursed to their placement provider agency next week through regular payment methods. Child Placing Agencies should distribute these funds directly to the caregivers of these children and Child Caring Institutions should spend the funds on the named child. Providers will receive a list of each child who is eligible and the total amount of the disbursement next week. Since these funds are subject to regular provider agency financial audits, Child Placing Agencies should keep an accurate record of when the funds were dispersed to caregivers, and Child Caring Institutions should keep a copy of all spending receipts as supporting documentation for the use of funds.

It's important to note that each child is the named recipient of the \$350 and that children, especially older children, should have discretion on how funds are spent on their behalf. However, it is also acknowledged and recognized that parental guidance and authority should factor into decisions about how the funds are utilized by children recipients.

We have established an email address – fcgrants@dhs.ga.gov – for any provider with questions and/or concerns about this particular fund disbursement, so should you receive any questions, please direct them there.