

Practice Alert



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18 AND ABOVE ADOPTION SUBSIDY AGREEMENT

The purpose of this practice alert is to remind staff of the policy that applies to Adoption Subsidy for youth over age 18. The 18+ Adoption Subsidy Agreement intended to assist youth with a documented extraordinary physical, dental, or mental health condition which requires care beyond the age of 18. At least six months prior to the youth's 18th birthday, staff are to discuss with the adoptive family the supposed need for an 18+ and gather from the parent's documentation to support the request. Additionally, during the six month period, staff are to assist adoptive parents in identifying adult community services/resources that are available to meet the youth's needs and assist with accessing or applying for such services.

If it is determined that the youth is eligible for an 18+ Adoption Subsidy Agreement up to date documentation of the youth's needs must accompany the agreement. The central office PDS should receive all documentation at least 30 days prior to the child turning 18. Documentation must come from a physician, dentist, therapist or other professional involved in the ongoing treatment of the youth. A long-term plan for the child when subsidy is no longer available should also be included in the documentation. Often times, MO HealthNet (Medicaid) may be all that is necessary to meet the youth's needs for medications, therapy, or other medical services that are not covered by other medical coverage. Maintenance does not automatically continue unless there is a clear explanation of how the maintenance will be used to care for the youth's extraordinary need as well as documentation of the lack of a community resource to assist with such needs. 18+ Agreements may only be approved for one year at a time to a maximum age of 21. No Guardianship Agreements will be continued beyond age 18 under any circumstance. If a youth is able to work after graduation or able to be enrolled in college, they would not qualify for an 18+ Adoption Subsidy Agreement.

If it is determined that the youth's physical, dental, or mental health condition does not rise to the level of need for an 18+ agreement, but the young adult is still in need of medical coverage, the family may apply for *MO HealthNet for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled* (MHABD) for the youth or Family MO HealthNet. Both FSD applications may be made by going to mydss.mo.gov.

- The applications should be made prior to the child turning age 18 so the application may be considered for approval and assuring coverage is not interrupted if the youth qualifies for either FSD programs.
- The adoptive parent's income will not be considered in the youth's application for MHABD as the youth will be considered a household of one for these applications.