



# *PESS and Aftercare Services*

## Sharing Best Practice

# Learning Objectives

- ▶ Understand outcome goals and expectations
- ▶ Knowledge of applicable legal references
- ▶ Familiarity of eligibility requirements
- ▶ Share best practices



# Legal References

## Chapter 409, Social and Economic Assistance, F.S.

- Section 409.1451, F.S., The Road-to-Independence Program. –

## Chapter 120 Administrative Procedure Act, F.S.

- Section 120.68, F.S., Judicial review. –

## Legal References (continued)

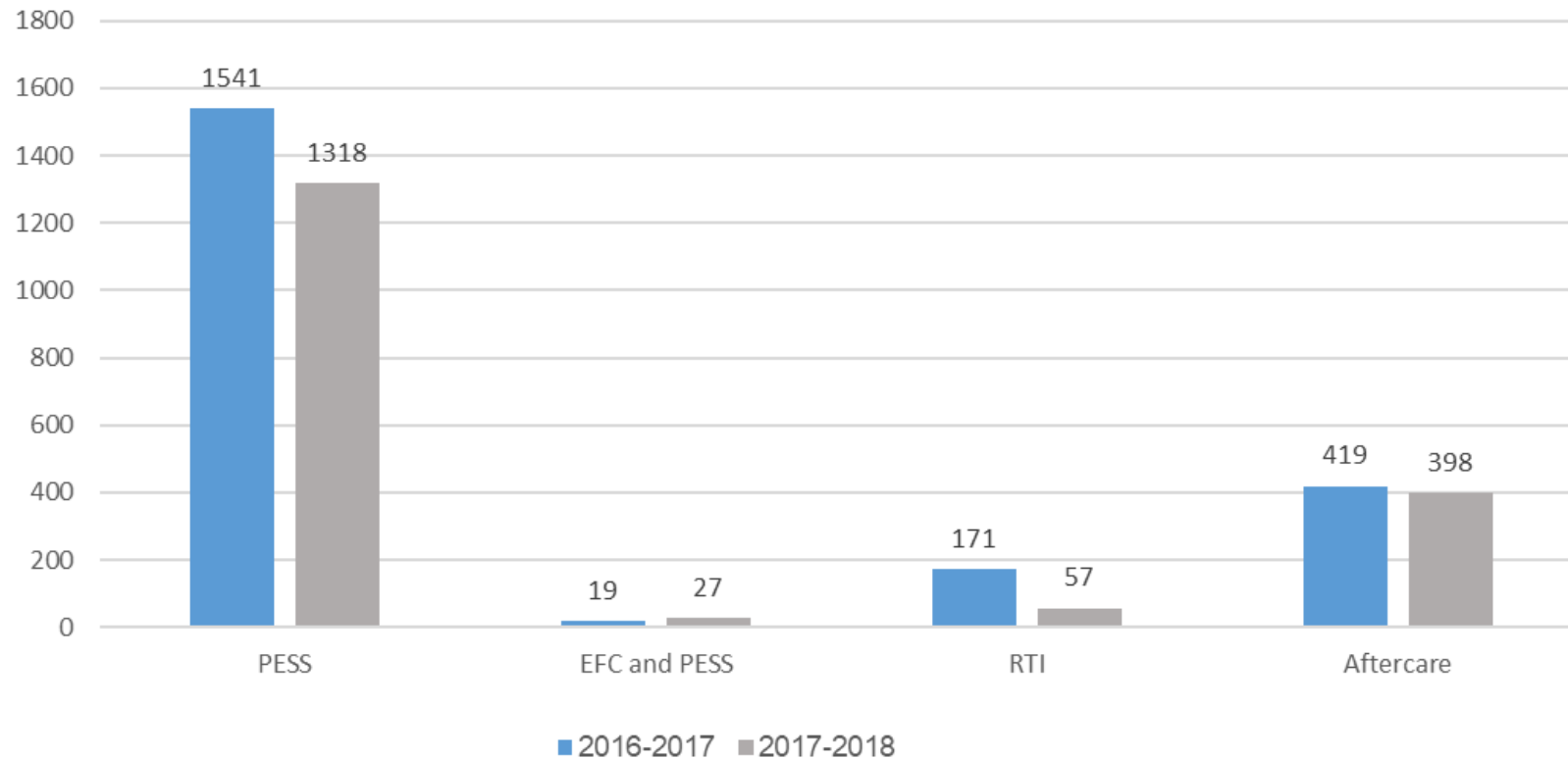
### Chapter 65C Family Safety and Preservation Program, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C)

- Rule 65C-30.001, F.A.C., Definitions
- Chapter 65C-42, F.A.C., Road to Independence Program (PESS and Aftercare)

# Independent Living Services

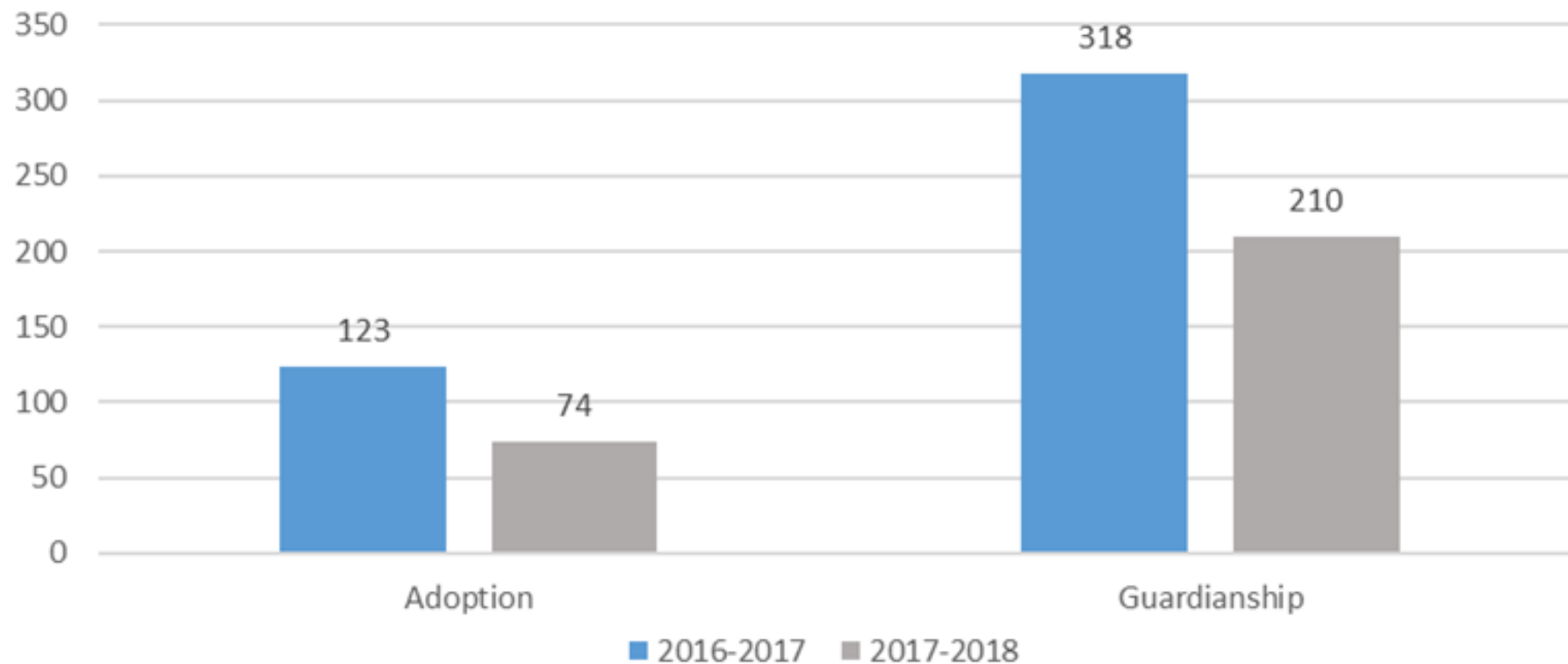
- ▶ Services to assist older children in foster care and young adults who were formerly in foster care
  - ▶ Obtain life skills and education for independent living and employment
  - ▶ Have a quality of life appropriate for their age, and assume personal responsibility for becoming self-sufficient adults

### Young Adults Receiving PESS, EFC and PESS, RTI, and Aftercare by Program Type and SFY



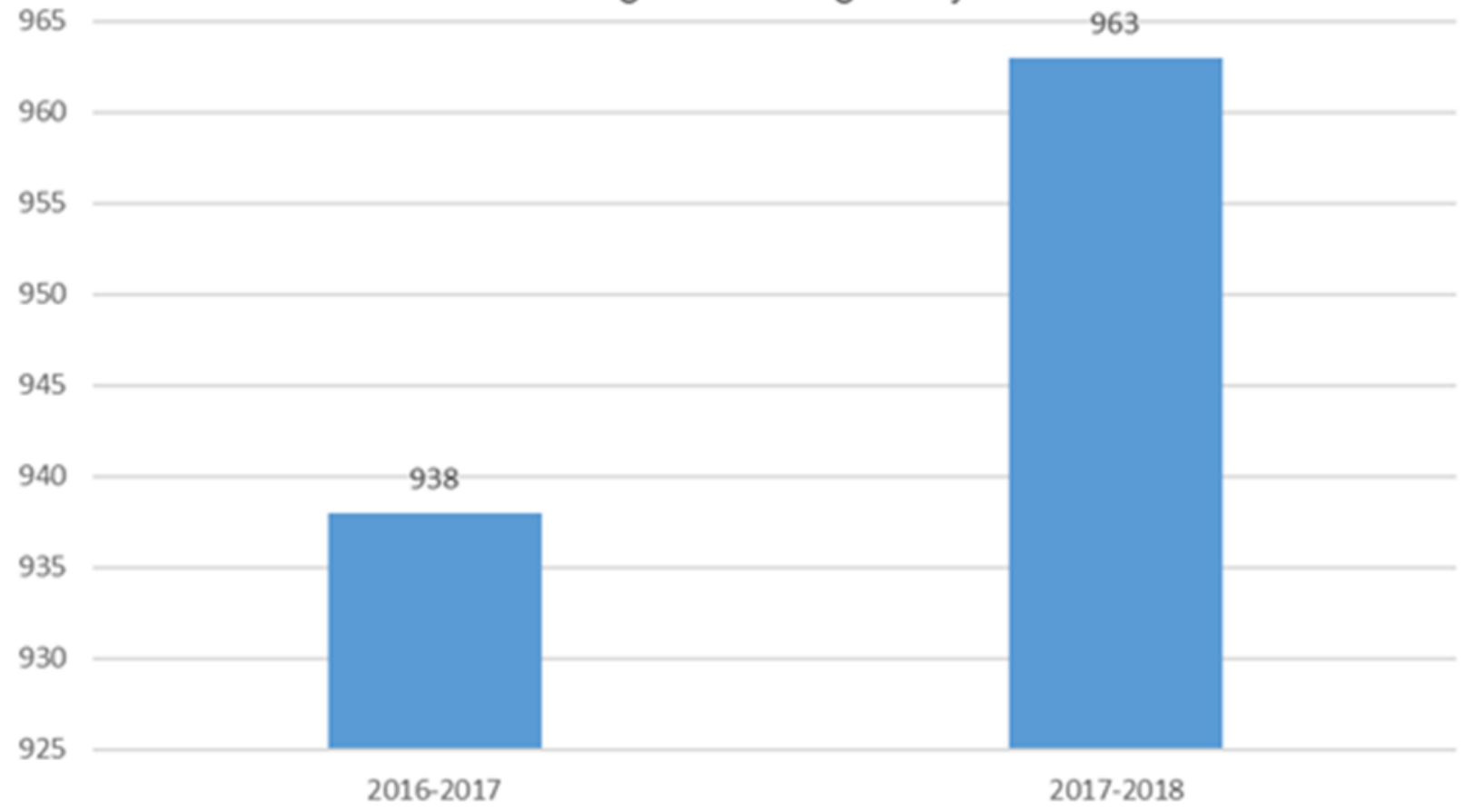
Source: OCW Data Reporting Unit, Report #1173

## Number of 16 and 17 Year Olds Discharged to Adoption or Guardianship by SFY



Source: OCW Data Reporting Unit, Scheduled Report #182

Number of Youth in the  
Legal Custody of the Department  
Discharge to Turning 18 by SFY



Source: OCW Data Reporting Unit, Scheduled Report #182



# Preparing Youth Who are Turning 18 in Department Custody

- ▶ During the 90-day period before turning 18, the following must occur:
  - ▶ My Pathway to Success Plan (Transition Plan) must be updated
  - ▶ Discussion about young adult program options
- ▶ Unless youth opts out of program, they will remain in foster care, entering EFC. The following must occur:
  - ▶ Extended Foster Care Agreement form (CS-FSP 5432)
  - ▶ Assessment of Supervised Living Arrangement
  - ▶ Development of a Shared Living Plan

- ▶ Increase financial self-sufficiency
- ▶ Improve educational attainment
- ▶ Increase connections
- ▶ Reduce homelessness
- ▶ Reduce high-risk behavior
- ▶ Improve access to health insurance



# Aftercare Services

## ► Eligibility Overview

- 18 years of age but not yet 23
- In the legal custody of the Department on 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Not in EFC or PESS

## ► Types of Services or referrals

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Counseling
- Temporary Financial Assistance



## Aftercare Services

- ▶ 65C-42.003 (3) If the application is not completed at the time of the request for referrals or services, designated staff shall offer to assist the young adult in completing the application within 10 business days. Referrals may be provided prior to the completion of the application.
- ▶ 65C- 42.003 (10) If the request for assistance is to prevent homelessness, no application is required before services are provided and services shall be provided as expeditiously as possible, but in no case longer than 24 hours. If the application is not completed at the time of the request for referrals or services, designated staff shall offer to assist the young adult in completing the application within 10 business days.

# Aftercare Services Plan

- ▶ Young adult shall complete an Application for Aftercare Services (CF-FSP 5391)
  - ▶ If the application is not completed at the time of request for services, designated staff shall assist the young adult with the application
- ▶ Young adult shall complete an Aftercare Services Plan (CF-FSP 5400)
  - ▶ If the plan is completed by designated staff, the plan should be in consultation with the young adult.
  - ▶ The plan has some components that are similar to the Transition Plan addressing:
    - ▶ Strengths and needs
    - ▶ Short term and long term goals
    - ▶ Housing and Health
    - ▶ Education and Employment



- ▶ Include the specific activities the young adult will complete in order to achieve self-sufficiency or transition into extended foster care or PESS.



- ▶ Reassess every three (3) months for as long as services are provided.
- ▶ The community-based care lead agency may discontinue Aftercare Services if the young adult has not made efforts to complete the activities outlined in his or her Aftercare Services Plan.



# PESS

## ▶ **Eligibility Overview**

- ▶ 18 but not yet 23 years of age
- ▶ Living in legal custody of the Department on 18<sup>th</sup> birthday AND spent a total of 6 months in licensed care prior to aging out
- ▶ OR was at least 16 and was adopted or placed with court-approved dependency guardian after spending 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding such placement or adoption
  - ▶ AND earned a high school diploma or its equivalent
  - ▶ AND has been admitted for enrollment full-time (9 credit hours) in Florida Bright Futures eligible postsecondary educational institution\*\*\*

\*\*\*May still be eligible for ETV



PESS

“court-approved dependency guardian”



- ▶ Means the caregiver for a child placed in out-of-home care pursuant to a custody order entered by the dependency court
- ▶ The term includes a permanent guardian under section 39.6221, F.S., and a permanent placement with a fit and willing relative under section 39.6231, F.S.

## Eligibility (continued)

- Has submitted applied for any other grants and scholarships
- Has submitted FAFSA
- Has signed an agreement to allow the access to school records
- Has completed an application with necessary documentation

## Eligibility Ends

- Not meeting academic progress at renewal, with certain exceptions
- Aged out, turned 23 years of age
- If young adult becomes incarcerated for a period longer than 30 days
- Eligibility may end before the renewal period if no longer enrolled or is no longer a resident of Florida.

# PESS Renewal and Reinstatement

## ▶ **Renewal Process**

- ▶ Young adult shall complete a Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Initial, Renewal, and Reinstatement Application (CF-FSP 5382) annually to continue to receive the \$1256 stipend.
  - ▶ Designated staff shall engage the young adult during the 90-day period before the annual award period to ask if applying.
  - ▶ Young adult must be meeting standards of academic progress to continue in the program with some exceptions

## ▶ **Reinstatement**

- ▶ Follows the same process as Renewal

Child

Child: Starnell, Thomas Case Name: Starnell, Thomas

Living Arrangement

Living Arrangement Begin Date and Time: 10/30/2018 09:00  AM  PM  
Living Arrangement End Date and Time: 00/00/0000 00:00  AM  PM

Living Arrangement Category: Living Arrangement (18+)

- Living Arrangement:  
Primary Caregiver:  
Comments:
- Assisted Living Facility (Age 18+)
  - County Detention Facility (Age 18+)
  - DJJ Facility (18+)
  - Dorm (Age 18+)
  - Homeless (Age 18+)
  - Individual Renting Housing (18+)
  - Military (Age 18+)
  - Own Housing (Age 18+)
  - Residential Treatment Facility (18+)
  - Shared Renting Housing (18+)
  - State Correctional Facility (age 18+)
  - Transitional Living Program (18+)

Secondary Caregiver:

New 18+ Category

Service Reasons

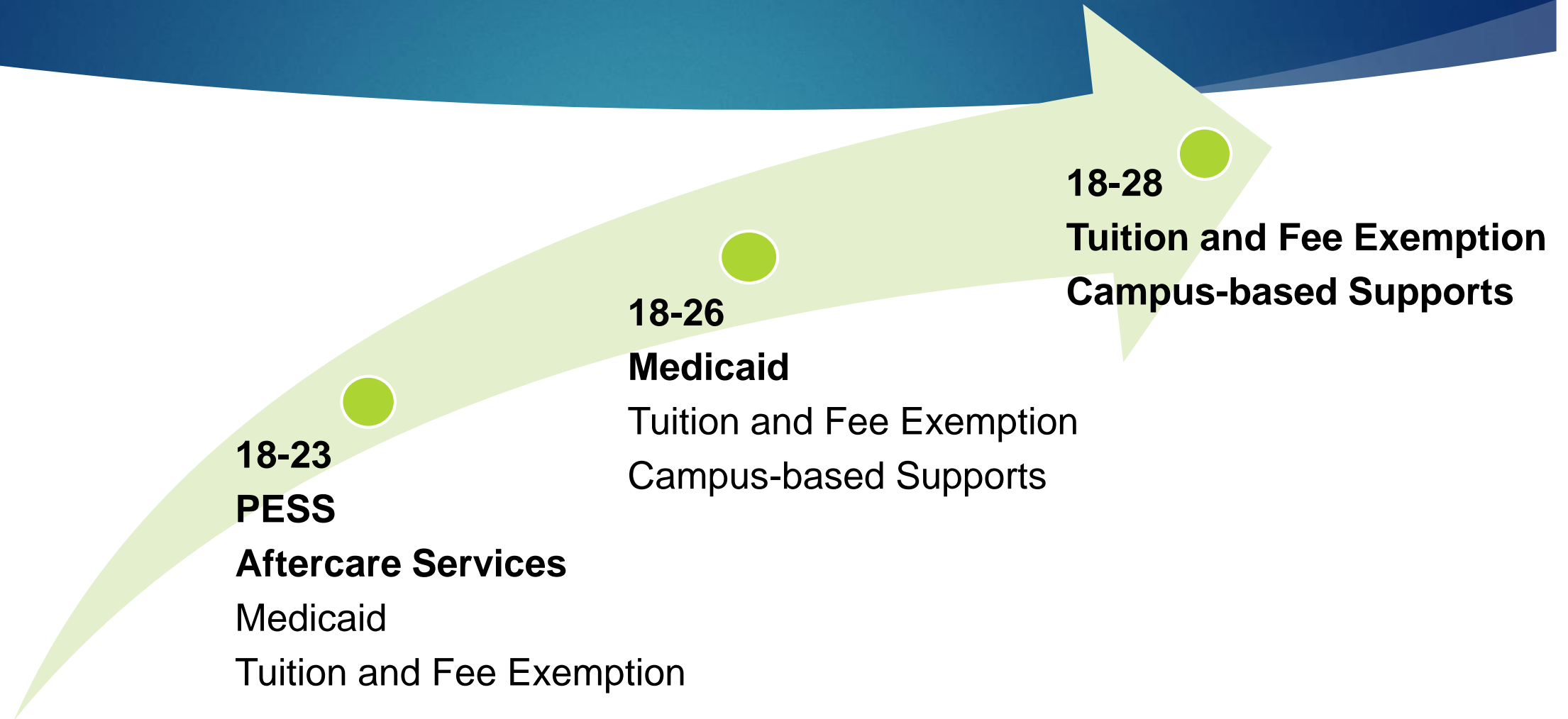
- Abandonment
- Adoption Dissolution
- Alcohol Abuse (Child)
- Alcohol Abuse (Parent)
- Caregiver's Inability to Cope
- Child's Behavior Problem
- Child's Disability
- Drug Abuse (Child)
- Drug Abuse (Parent)
- Emotional Abuse / Neglect
- Inadequate Housing
- Inadequate Supervision
- Incarceration of Parent(s)
- Medical Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Relinquishment
- Request for Services
- Sexual Abuse

Updated Living Arrangement Values

Save Close

Living Arrangement Page

# Other Services and Supports



# Forms and Contacts

- ▶ **Forms**

- ▶ <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/Forms.shtml>

- ▶ **Statewide Independent Living Contacts**

- ▶ <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IndependentLiving/IL%20Directory-Revised.pdf>