



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

DATE: July 16, 2024

TO: Community Directors
Community Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

FROM: Kate Williams, Assistant Secretary for Child and Family Well-Being *K. Williams*

SUBJECT: Changes to the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Program

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide implementation guidance for changes to the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Program (EMAS) subsequent to the passage of Chapter 2024-177, Laws of Florida (HB 1083).

BACKGROUND: The existing Federal Title IV-E Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (EMAS) program allows adoptive families who entered into the initial Adoption Assistance Agreement (AAA) when the child was either 16 or 17 to receive adoption subsidy and Medicaid until the young adult reaches the age of 21.

With the passage of Chapter 2024-177, Laws of Florida, effective July 1, 2024, the EMAS program will now allow young adults whose adoptive parent(s) signed their initial AAA when the child was 14 or 15 years old to be potentially eligible for adoption subsidy and Medicaid until the young adults reaches the age of 21.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this memorandum with all staff who will be completing tasks associated with the EMAS program. Notification to eligible families should be completed by September 30, 2024.

To appropriately identify the population of young adults whose adoptions have already finalized, a listing of individuals shall be provided through DCF Regional Contract Managers to each lead agency contract manager. Adoption staff will be responsible for providing written correspondence regarding the EMAS program and its requirements to families whose initial adoption assistance agreement was executed when the child was between the age of 14 or 15 years old.

Should the adoptive family elect to participate in the EMAS program, the closed post adoption cases would need to be re-opened and the Extension of Adoption Assistance Agreement ([CF-FSP 5433](#)), found on the DCF Forms website, must be completed. The worker will need to identify that the family is electing into the EMAS program. The initial AAA and the EMAS agreements must be uploaded into the Post Adoption Case in the adoption file cabinet in the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS).

A non-placement service would need to be created to pay maintenance adoption subsidy and the following new OCA should be used for payment: CBC Child Welfare Extended Adoption Subsidies WO008 (State Funded). Lastly, an application for Child in Care Medicaid will need to be completed in CCWIS.

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MEMO: Changes to the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Program

July 16, 2024

Page 2

Please note that CCWIS currently limits the documentation on the existing initial AAA to opt-into the EMAS program. In addition, the EMAS program is subject to available funds.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this memorandum, please contact Sonya Graham, Adoption Policy & Program Specialist, at Sonya.Graham@myflfamilies.com.

cc: Community-Base Care Lead Agency CFO's
Office Of CBC/ME Financial Accountability
Child Protection Directors