

# Foster Care Funding Sources



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- Overview of Foster Care Funding
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (2 fliers)

## Quick Guide to Foster Care Funding

### Title IV-E

- Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides state/local matching funds to ensure proper care for foster care children and to provide assistance to children with special needs receiving adoption subsidies. Funding is limited to maintenance, administration, and training.

### Children's Services Act (CSA)

- CSA establishes a single state pool of funds to provide services for eligible youth and their families. Funds are managed by local interagency teams who plan and oversee the provision of services to youth.

### Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSFF)

- The PSFF program provides funds to meet the needs of families at risk of child welfare intervention and families in crisis.

### John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Independent Living)

- Supports youth who experience foster care at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood. Provides funding to promote and support education, training, mentoring, and normalcy.

### Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV)

- Provides federal and state funding to help eligible youth with expenses associated with college and vocational training programs.

### Local-only funds

- Funding that is not supplemented by any state or federal funding.

## OVERVIEW OF FOSTER CARE FUNDING

**Title IV-E** – This is a federal program designed to provide funding to states to ensure proper care for eligible children in foster care and to provide ongoing assistance to eligible children with special needs receiving adoption subsidies. The program is authorized under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and it is funded by federal and state/local matching funds. Administration is handled by state and local public child welfare agencies. Title IV-E is the program under which the Commonwealth of Virginia is entitled to reimbursement for certain foster care and adoption expenses. Although there is no cap on reimbursement, it is currently limited to three areas and the funding formula is different for each:

1. Maintenance (e.g. room, board and transportation to visit parents and siblings)
2. Administration (e.g. eligibility determination and case management activities)
3. Training (e.g. training for child welfare staff and foster and adoptive parents)

All children in foster care are to be referred to benefits program specialist for an initial determination of Title IV-E eligibility. Among other criteria, eligibility is tied to the income level of the family from whom the child was removed.

**Children's Services Act (CSA)** – The Children's Services Act (CSA) is the new name for a law enacted in 1993 that establishes a single state pool of funds to provide services for eligible youth and their families. State funds, combined with local community funds, are managed by local interagency teams who plan and oversee the provision of services to youth. The Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) is a multi-disciplinary group that helps assess the strengths and needs of individual youth and families and together, with those youth and families, decides what services to recommend, prepares a plan, and monitors progress toward accomplishing goals. The Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) manages the local CSA program by coordinating agencies efforts, managing the available funds, and establishing local CSA program policies.

**Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)** – The Promoting Safe and Stable Families program (Title IV-B subpart 2 of the Social Security Act) provides federal child welfare funding, training and technical assistance to help build state and community capacity to meet the needs of families at risk of child welfare intervention and families in crisis. The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF) has four categories:

- Family Preservation
- Family Support
- Time-limited Family Reunification
- Adoption Promotion and Support

**John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood** – The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), signed into law on February 9, 2018, renamed the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program to the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee Program) to reflect the program's purpose of supporting all youth who experience

foster care at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood. In addition, FFPSA allowed VDSS to expand the Chafee Program to serve youth who have aged out of foster care up to age 23. The purpose of this federal program is to provide flexible funding for the following:

1. Helping youth attain a high school diploma and post-secondary education or vocational training;
2. Training and opportunities to practice daily living skills such as financial literacy and driving instruction;
3. Achieving meaningful, permanent connections with caring adults;
4. Engaging in age and developmentally appropriate activities which promote positive youth development; and
5. Experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience.

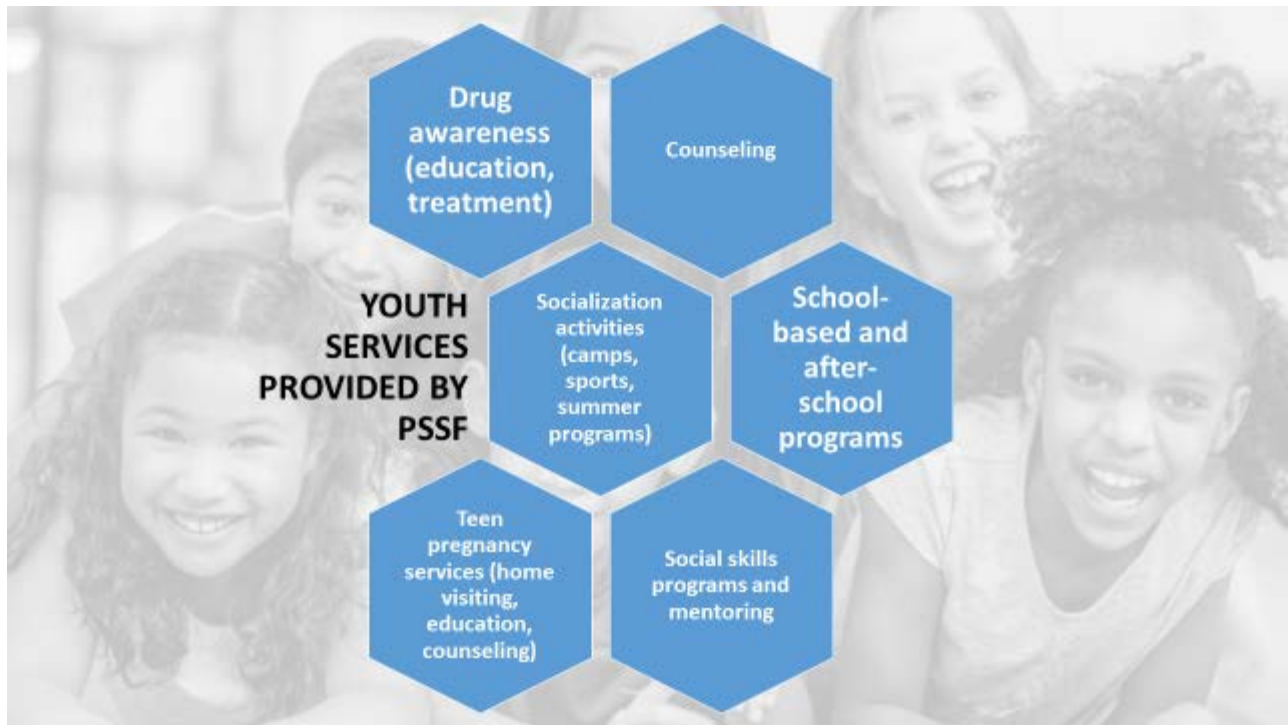
Each fiscal year, VDSS makes an allocation available to the LDSS based on a formula of approximately \$300 per youth aged 14 to 20 in custody. The LDSS determines how to use their allocation based on the needs of the youth they serve.

**Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV)** – The ETV Program provides federal and state funding to help eligible youth with expenses associated with college and vocational training programs. Allowable expenses include:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Rental or purchase of required educational equipment, materials, or supplies (including a computer, printer, and needed software for school)
- Allowance for books, supplies and transportation
- Special study projects related to education
- Child care
- Other related expenses

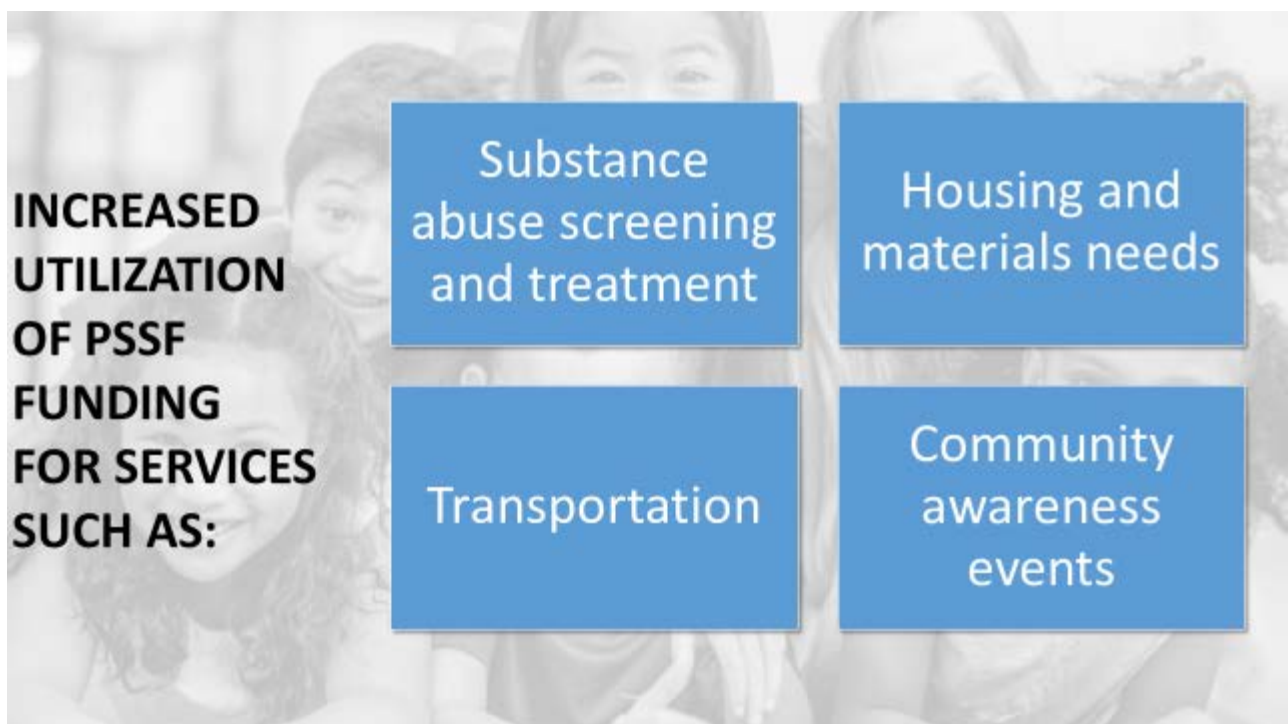
As a result of changes made by the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), ETV benefits are available to eligible youth from age 14 to 26 years of age. Eligible youth can access up to \$5,000 per year or the total cost of attendance per year (whichever is less), depending on availability of funds. Virginia does not receive \$5,000 per youth in funds. Youth may utilize ETV funds for a maximum of five years. Although the ETV Program is integrated into the overall purpose and framework of the Chafee Program, the program has a separate budget authorization and appropriation from the Chafee Program funding.

**Local-only Funds** – When agencies are unable to utilize the funding streams described above (either due to the service provided, agency error, or ineligibility), local-only funds may have to be utilized. These funds will not be supplemented by any state or federal funding and will be the locality's responsibility.



## PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES (PSSF)

**PSSF funding** is authorized under Title IV-B, Subpart II of the Social Security Act. The services provided through the program should be child-centered, family-focused, and community-based and are intended to provide coordinated services for children and families across the continuum from prevention to treatment through aftercare. The four PSSF components include family preservation services, family support services, family reunification services, and adoption Promotion and support services. There is an opportunity for increased spending in family reunification service funding as the time limit for using funds was removed during the foster care placement and allows funds to be used up to 15 months once the child returns home. There is also more support available to retain foster parents.





VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DFS Division of Family Services



# Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program is authorized under Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act. The purpose of this program is to enable States to develop and establish, or expand, and to operate coordinated programs of community-based family support services, family preservation services, family reunification services and adoption promotion and support services. In order to receive available funding through PSSF, an application must be submitted to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).

## Objectives:

- ◆ To prevent child maltreatment among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services.
- ◆ To assure children’s safety within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been mistreated, when the family’s problems can be addressed effectively.
- ◆ To address the problems of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and stable manner in accordance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.
- ◆ To support adoptive families by providing support services as necessary so that they can make a lifetime commitment to their children.

## Service Programs for PSSF:

- ★ *Family Support* – Community-based services designed to promote the safety and well-being of children and families within the home and to preserve and strengthen families.
- ★ *Family Preservation* – Services for children and families designed to help families (including adoptive and extended families) who are at risk or in crisis.
- ★ *Family Reunification* – Services provided to a child in foster care or a child who has been returned home and to the parents or primary caregiver of such a child in order to facilitate safe and timely reunification.
- ★ *Adoption Promotion and Support* – Pre-and-post adoptive services that are designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

## ★ Array of Services:

- \*Assessment
- \*Case Management
- \*Counseling and treatment
- \*Day Care Assistance
- \*Educational
- \*Financial Management
- \*Housing and Other Material Assistance
- \*Intensive In-Home Services
- \*Mentoring
- \*Substance Abuse Services
- \*Socialization and Recreation
- \*Transportation
- \*Parenting Education

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) - Foster & Adoptive Family Recruitment Contacts

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