

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 17-26 Date: 08/29/17

2017 BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE (BTSCA)

This is to advise staff that on September 1, 2017, the automatic Back-To-School Clothing Allowance (BTSCA) warrants will be issued for currently placed foster care children. **August 24, 2017 at 7:00 pm was the last day to update CWS/CMS** in order to add a new foster child to include or exclude the child in the automatic Back-to-School Clothing Allowance (BTSCA) process due to reasons outlined below:

1. NMDs receiving extended foster care benefits are eligible for county clothing allowances if the placement type is otherwise eligible for these allowances. A youth in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) is also eligible for the applicable county clothing allowance.
2. The BTSCA for an out-of-county/state placement may be paid only when the county/state in which the child is placed allows such an additional payment, **and** entered into CWS/CMS in the amount allowed by that county/state.
3. The child must have been or is expected to be in placement for at least three (3) full consecutive months as of September 30th of the current year.
4. The current placement action must have been made prior to July 1st of the current year and the child must **not** have received an initial/replacement clothing allowance after June 30th of the current year.

NOTE: In relative placement (Youakim) cases, the BTSCA may be issued for a child who received an initial/replacement clothing allowance after June 30th if the child was placed prior to June 30th and Youakim eligibility determination exceeded thirty (30) days.

5. **The allowance will be issued automatically in or close to August of each year for children who meet the above-stated criteria and who have reached age five (5) before December 1st of the current year.**
6. Emergency Aid Requisitions (EARs) **are not to** be used for the issuance of BTSCAs and staff shall adhere to this in order to avoid an overpayment. If an EAR was used to issue a BTSCA for this year, an automatic BTSCA will be issued – generating an overpayment. See Procedural Guide [0900-527.10](#), Emergency Aid Requisition (EAR) for more information.

NOTE: Current policy does not allow BTSCA for children residing in Group Homes. Procedural Guide [0900-506.10](#), Clothing Allowances, specifies that children receiving the dual agency rate are also **not eligible** for the BTSCA. However, children three (3) years and older are eligible for the BTSCA if in qualified placements.

Please see Procedural Guide [0900-506.10](#), Clothing Allowances, for eligibility criteria and rates.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

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