

Assessment and Planning**28-1-1****Policy**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) shall provide youth in the adolescent and transitional age supports program with the tools necessary to achieve self-sufficiency by offering a life skill assessment.

**Life Skills
Assessment
and
Planning**

The assessment shall be conducted as close to the youth's 14th birthday as possible and shall guide individualized youth planning. The youth shall be provided opportunities to strengthen their skills within their community, with their caregivers and within their living environments.

Areas for building skills include:

- daily living and social relationships
- self-care
- work and study
- career planning
- community and civic engagement
- understanding and navigating transportation and housing
- financial literacy
- communication
- well-being (i.e. medical/physical, mental health, emotional and psychological health)
- reproductive health care counselling consistent with national guidelines

**Driver's
Permit and
License**

If a youth aged 16 or older who is in DCF care wishes to secure a driver's license, the Transitional Support Social Worker (TSS) shall review the request with the youth and caregiver and determine whether the youth is eligible to receive a driver's license based on the youth's age and circumstances. If eligible, DCF shall provide the youth financial assistance to obtain a driver's license.

All youth under age 18 shall successfully complete a certified driver's education program to obtain a driver's license while in DCF's care. DCF shall pay 100% of the cost of one driver's education program for eligible youth. DCF shall also pay 100% of the cost of the license, and the learner's permit.

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Assessment and Planning**28-1-1****Driver's
Permit and
License,
continued**

At the age of 16, a youth may take the written exam to obtain a driver's permit. A youth may take the driving test to obtain the youth's license six months after obtaining the permit.

The program supervisor or designee shall sign the department of motor vehicles (DMV) form 2D, "Parents' or Guardians' Certification," for youth who are ages 16 and 17.

For any vehicle being operated by a youth, the TSS shall verify with the owner of any car (including the youth if the youth is the owner) that the required insurance is being carried and that the owner assumes responsibility for the actions of the youth while the youth is driving the car.

**PSE
Participation
for Youth
Transition-
ing to
DMHAS**

Youth who are in foster care or were in foster care when turning 18 years old and have completed high school or a high school equivalency are eligible to be considered for PSE (Post-Secondary Education). Youth approved for PSE who are in foster care, a congregate care setting, or young adult support services placement are only eligible for the tuition part of the PSE budget.

Based on individual circumstances, youth accepted and/or transitioned into the Department of Mental Health and Addiction services (DMHAS) program can be considered for eligibility to pursue post-secondary education support (PSE). DCF staff shall work with DMHAS to address, plan for, and prioritize each youth's treatment needs while pursuing post-secondary education.

Cross Reference: DCF Policy 3-2-1 DCF Post-Secondary Education Assistance