

SUPPORT SERVICES TO FAMILIES

Foster Care funds are only to be used to pay for services to the youth and family while they are in care and not when they have returned home except as noted in FOM 901-8, Fund Sources. However, other non-foster care funded services are available to maintain children in their homes or to provide services to help reunite families. These services are described in this policy item.

Family Reunification Program (FRP)

Family Reunification Program (FRP) services are available to families with a child(ren) residing in an out-of-home placement due to abuse or neglect. A court order must exist allowing return of a child(ren) to a permanent family home. A referral may be made to FRP within 30 calendar days prior to a scheduled court hearing where a recommendation for the child(ren) to be returned home will occur. The return home must be planned **within 30 calendar days of the referral** to FRP, **or** if the child(ren) was previously returned home unexpectedly at a court hearing, the referral to FRP is made within 48 hours of the court order. The child(ren) must be in out-of-home placement due to wardship for abuse, neglect, or as a dual ward (in out-of-home placement due to abuse or neglect **and** delinquency). Through various services and supports, FRP aims to help the child(ren) and family achieve and maintain permanency in the family home. FRP services may reduce the risk of further Children's Protective Services (CPS) involvement and out-of-home placement.

Families First of Michigan Program (FFM)

Families First of Michigan (FFM) serves families with children in out-of-home care due to abuse, neglect or delinquency when it is determined that reunification is not appropriate without intensive services. FFM offers families intensive, short-term crisis intervention and family education services in their home for four weeks using the FFM model. An extension of up to two weeks may be available. FFM services are designed to support the family unit and to protect the well-being of the child(ren). FFM commits to help increase family safety and support for changes families make to ensure the family remains **safely** intact or that the child(ren) may remain **safely** in the care of their parent/guardian.

Family Reunification Funds

The State Emergency Relief Program and Family Reunification funds may be available to assist families in crisis to stay together or help accomplish an early return home for a child placed in care. The State Emergency Relief Program Manual has guidelines for its use. Instructions for the use of the Family Reunification funds can be found in FOM 722-12, Financial Support.

TUITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

TIP provides tuition assistance and mandatory fee payments for students who qualify to attend college at participating institutions. This includes youth in foster care, state wards, court wards and FIP, MA, SFA and FS-only recipients.

TIP is recognized as a state funding resource for students who wish to further their education and attend college. TIP provides tuition assistance on behalf of eligible students who meet the following requirements:

- **Apply before graduation** from high school or receiving a GED (General Education Development) certification.
- Are **under the age of 20** at the time of graduation or GED completion.
- Are identified by DHS as having met the Medicaid eligibility requirement. Students may be identified as TIP eligible as early as sixth grade, using the 36-month period immediately preceding enrollment in the sixth grade. Medicaid eligibility prior to that 36-month period is not counted. To review the TIP Fact Sheet and a list of participating Michigan institutions, visit this website at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/FactSheetTIP_161201_7.pdf.

The Michigan Department of Treasury will send an application form to the home of each of these identified students. Questions regarding the TIP program can be directed to 1 (888) 4-GRANTS, or visit their website at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid.