



INFORMATION MEMO

Title: Training & Technical Assistance for Credit Remediation and Promoting Healthy Credit Education for Youth in Foster Care in SFY 2022		Office/division: OCYF Division of Child Welfare Division Director: Joe Homlar	
Memo number: IM-CW-2021-0042		Program area: Child Welfare	
Keywords: Consultation, Credit History, Foster Care, Inaccuracies, Remediation			
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Intended recipients

This communication has been sent to all county human/social service directors, Division of Youth Services (DYS), subscribers to the Office of Children, Youth and Families community partners email list who elect to receive notification when the Office issues a memo. Please forward pertinent information on to staff members as you deem necessary.

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum from the Division of Child Welfare (DCW) is to provide information about services intended to assist county department and DHS staff in meeting federal and state requirements for remediation of inaccuracies in credit reports for youth in foster care, as well as credit education and health. These services can also improve the well-being of youth who are preparing for adulthood and provide professional development and growth for individuals working with youth.

Action

County departments and the Division of Youth Services (DYS) are required in Section 7.305.2.E, to annually review the three (3) major credit reporting agencies (CRAs), Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion, for credit histories of youth in foster care who are 14 years of age or older and to remediate inaccuracies in credit histories prior to the youth exiting foster care. Access to these data systems is provided by DCW. Youth younger than 18 years of age should not have credit record histories.

Staff that will benefit from the services provided by Credit Builders Alliance (CBA), the contractor, include administrators, supervisors, caseworkers, Chafee workers, client

managers (DYS), and other staff or individuals that complete credit report inquiries or credit remediation for youth in foster care.

Training Services:

Credit Health and Remediation for Youth in Foster Care

Open to those involved with youth in foster care (i.e. county department and DYS staff, volunteers, foster parents, and other relevant parties):

Part 1: This training will provide information and resources about teaching youth about credit and financial wellness. This training will teach participants how to communicate credit education to youth, including why credit is important for financial independence, the benefits of having good credit, and basic strategies for building and sustaining good credit as youth emerge into independent adulthood.

Part 2*: Part 2 of the training will discuss the detailed steps needed to review a credit report for errors, dispute inaccuracies and address identity theft. This training is designed to fulfill the responsibility of child welfare agency staff to assure that youth aged 14 and older who are in foster care receive a copy of their credit report and assistance with resolving any inaccuracies found on the report.

* Staff responsible for credit remediation must take Part 1 and Part 2 due to the breadth of the content that is delivered. Part 1 and Part 2 total five (5) hours of training credit.

Five (5) combined sessions are scheduled virtually for 2021-2022.

- Part 1: September 30, 2021: 9:00am - 11:30am
Part 2: October 7, 2021: 9:00am - 11:30am
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xmT2F0n9TVSb93IHTZg32Q
- Part 1: December 8, 2021: 1:00pm - 3:30pm
Part 2: December 9, 2021: 1:00pm - 3:30pm
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JR5JBo5CS4yh7UDR13J92Q
- Part 1: February 10, 2022: 9:00am - 11:30am
Part 2: February 17, 2022: 9:00am - 11:30am
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eyt2WQQjS5qkw3FeFScjuA
- Part 1: April 19, 2022: 1:00pm - 3:30pm
Part 2: April 20, 2022: 1:00pm - 3:30pm
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Olzxlh9KTGax5YOvZT0Yng
- Part 1: June 1, 2022: 9:00am - 11:30am
Part 2: June 2, 2022: 9:00am - 11:30am
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qk7pl7B9QByOxEeo1n7I_g

Details about training will be located on CBA's Website here:

<https://cbatraininginstitute.org/codhs/>

Refresher Webinars:

Two (2) one-hour webinars are intended to orient county department and DYS staff to the credit check mandate and the resources available to support them in their work.

- August 10, 2021: 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_S6mL8kOzSlmFba1i6chPsg
- January 19, 2022: 10:00am - 11:00am
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IRr4pOaQR5qPPcL494blMg

Supplemental Training:

Two (2) two-hour training sessions with supplementary topics of interest are available. These trainings will be held in conjunction with Chafee Quarterly meetings but are open to any of those involved with youth in foster care (i.e. county department and DYS staff, volunteers, foster parents and other relevant parties):

Understanding Student Loans and Options for Repayment

- January 27, 2022: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x4Dnva3AQym61KjpMw-lqw

Addressing Debt and Collections on the Credit Report

- April 28th, 2022: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LTL8gykqTg6TfMOgShbgLA

Training credit will be given to participants that attend the entire training indicated in the registration. For those who have a Child Welfare Training System (CWTS) account, a sign-in sheet will be provided at the training and the credit will be uploaded into the participants training account. A certificate will be issued for those that don't have a CWTS account.

Technical Assistance Services

- Support and consultation is available for county department and DYS staff, as well as other designated volunteers to address credit remediation steps, questions, and concerns; and,
- Quarterly communications will provide helpful information to support county departments and DYS to resolve issues and exchange information about credit issues for youth in foster care.

To register for quarterly email communications and/or the webinars, go to:

<http://eepurl.com/cy8yH9>

A certificate will be issued for the training indicated above. In order to receive credit, participants must attend the entire training indicated in the registration.

Background

Section 475 [42 U.S.C. 675] (5) (I), requires the following: “each child in foster care under the responsibility of the State who has attained 14 years of age receives without cost a copy of

any consumer report (as defined in section 603(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act) pertaining to the child each year until the child is discharged from care, receives assistance (including, when feasible, from any court-appointed advocate for the child) in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report ...”

DCW contracts with CBA to support county departments and DYS to:

- Meet federal and state requirements;
- Protect youth in foster care from the consequences of identity theft; and,
- Help youth in foster care understand the benefits of good credit and how to strengthen their credit profiles prior to and after exiting foster care.

Attachments

None

Supersedes

IM-CW-2020-0034

Contact

For access to training and technical assistance:

Carmina Lass, Chief Program Officer at Credit Builders Alliance at 202-888-7589, carmina@creditbuildersalliance.org or training@creditbuildersalliance.org

For questions about the Information Memorandum and access to credit reporting agencies:

Mary Griffin, MSW, Program Administrator for Foster Care and the Relative Guardianship Assistance Program at 303-866-3546 or mary.griffin@state.co.us

An information memo contains important information for counties that is strictly informational and timely. Information memos are active for one year; then they are archived and reissued if necessary. Access the CDHS Memo Series at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/cdhs-memo-series>

