

5101:2-51-02**Eligibility for the adoption assistance connections to age twenty-one.**

(A) To be eligible for the adoption assistance connections (AAC) to age twenty-one, an adopted young adult was adopted at age sixteen or seventeen and was in the permanent custody of an Ohio public children services agency (PCSA) and the child attained the age of sixteen before the adoption assistance agreement became effective. The adopted young adult must meet one of the following requirements:

- (1) Is completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential.
- (2) Is enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education.
- (3) Is participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment.
- (4) Is employed for at least eighty hours per month.
- (5) Is incapable of doing any of the activities described in paragraphs (A)(1) to (A)(4) of this rule due to a medical condition, which incapacity is supported by updated information semi-annually.

(B) The adoptive parent(s) may apply for AAC if the adopted young adult has attained the age of eighteen on or after July 1, 2017 and meets the following requirements:

- (1) The adopted young adult meets one of the requirements in paragraph (A) of this rule.
- (2) The adoptive parent(s) must maintain parental responsibility for the adopted young adult. An adoptive parent(s) maintains parental responsibility if the adoptive parent(s) provides the adopted young adult with shelter, food, and clothing, or other support regardless of the physical location of the adopted young adult.

(C) The adoptive parent(s) shall submit the JFS 00147 "Adoption Assistance Connections to Age Twenty-One Application" (12/2017) and documentation that the adopted young adult meets one of the eligibility requirements outlined in paragraph (A) of this rule to the AAC representative.

(D) The AAC representative shall determine eligibility in the statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS) and approve or deny the application within thirty calendar days after a completed application and all required documentation is provided.

- (E) If an adopted young adult is eligible, the JFS 00148 "Adoption Assistance Connections to Age Twenty-One Agreement" (12/2017) is effective on the date it is signed by both the adoptive parent(s) and the AAC representative.
- (F) The AAC agreement is binding on all parties. The terms of the AAC agreement may be amended at any time if both parties agree to the change.
- (G) The AAC agreement shall remain in effect regardless of the state where the adoptive parent(s) resides unless the AAC agreement is terminated.
- (H) The AAC representative shall give a copy of the signed AAC agreement and all amendments to the adoptive parent(s) and keep the originals in the AAC case record.
- (I) The AAC representative that entered into the AAC agreement shall secure Title XIX medicaid and Title XX social services block grant services if the services are not available in the state or county where the adopted young adult resides in accordance with rule 5101:2-51-01 of the Administrative Code.
- (J) Nothing shall prohibit the adoptive family from seeking Title XX services available in the county of residence even if they are not specified in the AAC agreement. The adoptive parent(s) may:
- (1) Apply for the Title XX services in the county where they reside; and
  - (2) Request to amend the AAC agreement.
- (K) If the AAC representative determines an adopted young adult is ineligible for AAC, the AAC representative shall provide the adoptive parent(s) with the following:
- (1) The JFS 07334 "Notice of Denial of your Application for Assistance" (rev. 9/2011).
  - (2) The JFS 04059 "Explanation of State Hearing Procedures" (rev. 01/2015).
- (L) If the AAC representative proposes to terminate the AAC agreement, the PCSA shall provide the adoptive parent(s) with a written notice of the proposal and the right to a state hearing thirty calendar days prior to the termination date under any of the following circumstances:
- (1) The AAC representative denies eligibility for AAC.
  - (2) The AAC representative denies the amount of monthly payment requested by the adoptive parent(s) in the AAC agreement.

- (3) The AAC representative and the adoptive parent(s) are unable to come to a mutual agreement following a state mediation conference.
- (4) The AAC representative proposes to reduce or terminate the amount of the payment specified on the current AAC agreement.
- (5) The AAC representative denies a request by the adoptive parent(s) to amend the terms of the current AAC agreement.
- (M) The AAC representative shall provide written notification to the adoptive parent(s) if any of the following occur:

  - (1) A determination to deny AAC eligibility.
  - (2) A denial for a request to increase the amount of the monthly payment.
  - (3) A denial for a request by the adoptive parent(s) to amend the terms of the current AAC agreement.
  - (4) The AAC representative and the adoptive parent(s) are unable to come to a mutual agreement following a state mediation conference.
  - (5) A reduction or termination of the monthly payment.
- (N) The AAC representative shall inform the adoptive parent(s) of all decisions to deny or approve AAC and include a copy of the JFS 04059.
- (O) The AAC representative shall provide the adoptive parent(s) with the JFS 00149 "Adoption Assistance Connections to Twenty-One Semi-Annual Assurance of Parental Responsibility, School Attendance and Eligibility for Continued Medicaid Coverage" (12/2017) and adopted young adult with JFS 00150 "Adoption Assistance Connections to Twenty-One Adopted Young Adult Semi-Annual Assurance of Parental Responsibility, School Attendance and Eligibility for Continued Medicaid Coverage" (12/2017). The adoptive parent(s) and the adopted young adult shall submit the JFS 00149 and JFS 00150 semi-annually or whenever there is a significant change in the family situation for continued eligibility.

  - (1) If the documentation is received within thirty calendar days of the mailing date of the JFS 00149 and the JFS 00150 the AAC representative will check for continued eligibility.

    - (a) If eligible, the AAC representative will send a notice of eligibility.
    - (b) If determined ineligible, the AAC will send a notice of termination.

- (2) If documentation is not received within thirty calendar days of the mailing date of the JFS 00149, the AAC representative will send a notice of termination as specified in paragraph (T) of this rule.
- (P) For an adopted young adult who has an AAC agreement, the AAC representative shall assure that the case record contains documentation of one of the circumstances described in paragraphs (A)(1) to (A)(5) of this rule.
- (Q) The adoptive parent(s) shall notify the AAC representative within fifteen calendar days of the date of any of the following:
- (1) The adopted young adult's primary health care insurance coverage changes from medicaid to private health care insurance. The adoptive parent(s) shall complete an ODM 06612 "Health Insurance Information Sheet" (rev. 9/2016) as a result of this change.
  - (2) The family relocates.
  - (3) The adopted young adult enlisted in the military service.
  - (4) The adopted young adult has married.
  - (5) The adoptive parent(s) no longer has parental responsibility for the adopted young adult.
  - (6) The adopted young adult is no longer eligible pursuant to paragraphs (A) and (B) of this rule.
- (R) If the adopted young adult meets the requirements described in paragraphs (Q)(3) to (Q)(6) of this rule, the AAC representative shall terminate the AAC agreement.
- (S) The AAC agreement shall terminate when any of the following circumstances apply:
- (1) At the end of the month of the adopted young adult's twenty-first birthday.
  - (2) If the adoptive parent(s) no longer has parental responsibility for the adopted young adult as defined in paragraph (B) of this rule.
  - (3) If the adoptive parent(s) requests to terminate the AAC agreement.
  - (4) If the adoptive parent(s) dies.
  - (5) If the adopted young adult dies.

(T) If the AAC representative proposes to terminate the AAC agreement, and the adoptive parent(s) has requested a state hearing, the following shall apply:

(1) If a state hearing is requested within fifteen calendar days of the mailing date on the notice in accordance with provisions set forth in Chapters 5101:6-1 to 5101:6-9 of the Administrative Code, the AAC agreement shall continue to be in effect until a state hearing decision is issued.

(2) If a state hearing is requested within fifteen calendar days of the mailing date on the notice and the hearing decision is favorable to the adoptive parent(s), the AAC agreement shall remain in effect or an amended AAC agreement may be entered into by mutual agreement.

(3) If a state hearing is requested within fifteen calendar days of the mailing date on the notice and the hearing decision is to terminate the AAC agreement, the adoptive parent(s) is not required to return the payments received prior to the issuance of the state hearing decision.

(4) If no timely hearing is requested, the AAC agreement shall be terminated. Following the termination, the adoptive parent(s) may reapply for the AAC at any time prior to the adopted young adult attaining the age of twenty-one.

(U) If the AAC representative determines the AAC agreement should be terminated, the AAC representative shall complete the ODM 01958 "Referral for Medicaid Continuing Eligibility Review" (rev. 7/2014) pursuant to rule 5160:1-2-01.2 of the Administrative Code and send the ODM 07236 "Your Rights & Responsibilities as a Consumer of Medicaid Health Coverage" (rev. 7/2014) to the adoptive parent(s).

Effective:

Five Year Review (FYR) Dates:

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Certification

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Date

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