



**Department of
Children & Youth**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

DATE: April 23, 2025
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Teleconference and Punderson Room
35 E. Chestnut St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

This meeting will be held by teleconference and in person. If you would like to submit oral testimony, please attend the meeting site location or call in at the date and time to 1-614-721-2972. Then enter the meeting I.D # which is 304 605 379#. Written testimony may also be submitted electronically to rules@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.

Pursuant to sections 5101.1414 and in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Children and Youth gives notice of the department's intent to consider the adoption and rescission of the rules as identified below and of a public hearing thereon.

The following OAC rules are being proposed for adoption and rescission as a result of a review conducted in accordance with section 106.03 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), which requires five-year reviews of all state agency rules. As a result of the five-year rule review and program updates, all rules in Chapter 5180:5-50 are being rescinded and replaced with three (3) new OAC rules, 5180:5-50-01 "Administration of bridges", 5180:5-50-02 "Eligibility for bridges", and 5180:5-50-03 "Title IV-E FCM program eligibility and reimbursability of bridges".

OAC 5180:5-50-01 entitled **Administration of bridges** outlines a definition of who may be a Bridges participant and how they may apply for Ohio's voluntary extended foster care program. This rule identifies the types of housing Bridges will financially support a young adult with as well as the checks that are completed on the living arrangement to ensure the safety of the participant. Activities that are completed while the young adult participates in the program such as assessments, face to face contacts, bridges plan and review, and credit reporting assistance are listed with timeframes for them to be completed. Lastly, this rule addresses the retention of records for the program and the ability for a young adult to obtain a summary of their services when requested. This is being adopted as a new rule.

OAC 5180:5-50-02 entitled **Eligibility for bridges** outlines the program eligibility criteria for a participant to apply, enroll and maintain services in Bridges with documentation that must be submitted for each step. The circumstances and process for a participant's withdrawal or termination from the program, and appeal rights are clarified through this rule. This is being adopted as a new rule.

OAC 5180:5-50-03 entitled **Title IV-E FCM program eligibility and reimbursability of bridges** describes under what circumstances a Title IV-E agency may extend foster care maintenance (FCM) payments, for administration, and training payments for Bridges participants. The details of how a young adult must voluntarily participate through a voluntary participation agreement, have a best interest court hearing and reside in an approved independent living setting to remain IV-E eligible are outlined. This is being adopted as a new rule.

OAC 5180:2-50-01 entitled **Bridges definitions** of the Administrative Code provides definitions for key terms used in the Bridges rules. All pertinent definitions were incorporated into the new rules if applicable. This rule is being rescinded.

OAC 5180:2-50-02 entitled **Requirements for bridges eligibility** of the Administrative Code outlines the eligibility requirements and application process for Bridges. This rule is being rescinded and incorporated in OAC rule 5180:5-50-01 and 5180:5-50-02.

OAC 5180:2-50-03 entitled **Bridges termination and reentry** of the Administrative Code outlines the reasons and process for terminating a participant from Bridges. This rule is being rescinded and incorporated in OAC rule 5180:2-50-02.

OAC 5180:2-50-04 entitled **Bridges Title IV-E eligibility and reimbursability determination** of the Administrative Code provides guidance on how Title IV-E eligibility and reimbursability are determined for a Bridges participant. This rule is being rescinded and incorporated in OAC rule 5180:2-50-03.

OAC 5180:2-50-05 entitled **Bridges appeal process** of the Administrative Code provides guidance on the appeals process when Bridges applicants or participants choose to appeal a denial or termination decision from Bridges. This rule is being rescinded and incorporated in OAC rule 5180:2-50-02.

OAC 5180:2-50-06 entitled **Bridges approved supervised independent living settings** and visitation requirements of the Administrative Code provides guidance on approved supervised independent living settings and visitation requirements for a Bridges participant. This rule is being rescinded and incorporated in OAC rule 5180:2-50-01.

OAC 5180:2-50-07 entitled **Bridges assessment, plan and review** of the Administrative Code provides guidance on assessments, plans, and reviews that are to be completed while a participant is enrolled in Bridges. This rule is being rescinded and incorporated in OAC rule 5180:2-50-01.

OAC 5180:2-50-08 entitled **Case records for bridges** of the Administrative Code provides guidance on case information retention for Bridges. This rule is being rescinded and incorporated in OAC rule 5180:2-50-01.

A copy of the proposed rules is available, without charge, to any person affected by the rules at the address listed below. The rules are also available on the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/>.

A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held at the date, time, and location listed at the top of this notice. Either written or oral testimony will be taken at the public hearing. Additionally, written comments submitted or postmarked no later than the date of the public hearing will be treated as testimony.

Requests for a copy of the proposed rules or comments on the rules should be submitted to the attention of DCY Rules Coordinator by mail to the Ohio Department of Children and Youth, Legal Division, PO Box 183204, Columbus, Ohio 43218, or by e-mail at rules@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.