



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy
1977 HOPE PROGRAM – VOLUNTARY EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Chapter: **Adolescent Services**

Section: **Supporting Transitions**

Approved:

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director

Policy Directive: **20-05**

Effective Date: **April 2020**

References Of Note

Federal Authority: [42 USC 675](#), and [42 USC 677](#)

Statutes: [RSA 170-G](#) and [RSA 170-E](#)

Administrative Rules:

Case Law:

This policy establishes the DCYF HOPE Program for extended foster care services.

Required Practices

Any deviations to the following information must be documented with Supervisory Approval.

- I. The HOPE Program allows a young adult to reside in a paid foster care placement after turning age 18 if they participate in qualifying activities as detailed in this policy and there is a suitable foster care placement available pursuant to RSA 170-E:53. In addition to standard foster care settings, the HOPE Program includes supervised independent living settings.
- II. Eligibility requirements for the HOPE Program:
 - A. The young adult has attained the age of 18 but not attained the age of 21;
 - B. The young adult was in the custody of DHHS, including at SYSC, upon attaining the age of 18; and
 - C. The young adult is:
 1. Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential (GED/HISET);
 2. Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education for a minimum of 6 hours per semester;
 3. Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to employment for a minimum of 15 hours per week;
 4. Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or

5. Incapable of doing any of the activities in this section due to a medical condition including mental health diagnoses.
 - (a) This incapacity must be supported and annually updated on the Young Adult Health Verification for Extended Services (Form 2663) and placed in the young adult's case record.
- III. ICPC regulations must be followed when placing young adults participating in the HOPE Program across state lines- see policy 1585.
- IV. The CPSW/JPPPO must ensure all applicable case management practices continue for young adults participating in the HOPE Program:
 - A. Goals and objectives must be based on assessed needs for safety, permanency and well-being.
- V. DCYF has established 3 ways for approved young adults to participate in the HOPE Program:
 - A. Young adults who continue in placement upon turning 18 and engage in a qualifying activity or are determined to be incapable of engaging in a qualifying activity due to a medical condition, including mental health diagnosis;
 - B. Young adults who have completed High School or obtained their GED/HiSet by their 18th birthday, or at any age while participating in the HOPE Program, and continue to meet eligibility criteria by participating in a qualifying activity; and
 - C. Young adults between ages 18-21, who submit a Form 1977, consent to Criminal Background and DCYF Central Registry checks, and are approved to enter into a HOPE Program Voluntary Placement Agreement (Form 1987) regardless of previously declining to participate, or ending participation in the HOPE Program.
- VI. Data Collection and Documentation Requirements:
 - A. The CPSW/JPPPO must document the discussion and the youth's decision about participation in the HOPE Program in the youth's contact log at the time of the youth's 90-day transition meeting.
 - B. Upon a youth or young adult's initial request to participate in the HOPE Program, a contact log entry must be entered with the purpose being *Independent Living* and the first line "HOPE Program request by youth approved";
 - C. Upon a youth or young adult declining to participate in the HOPE Program, a contact log entry must be entered with the purpose being *Independent Living* and the first line "HOPE Program declined by youth";

- D. If there are concerns about the youth or young adult's participation and further consideration is required, a contact log entry must be entered with the purpose being *Independent Living* and the first line "HOPE Program request by youth and approval under consideration.";
1. In these instances the CPSW/JPPPO must complete Form 1987;
 2. Youth or young adults with concerns that are approved to participate in the HOPE Program must have a contact log entry with the purpose *Independent Living* and the first line "HOPE program request by youth approved after consideration"; and
 3. Youth or young adults with concerns that are denied participation in the HOPE Program must have a contact log entry with the purpose *Independent Living* and the first line "HOPE program request by youth denied".
 - (a) The CPSW/JPPPO must discuss the reasons for the denial with the youth or young adult and document the discussion in the contact log entry.
- VI. DCYF will continue payment for a young adult's HOPE Program placement during a residence at a post-secondary education program as long as the young adult meets eligibility requirements and the foster care provider maintains the placement for the young adult.
- VIII. Participation in the HOPE Program must be terminated when:
- A. The young adult reaches 21 years of age;
 - B. The young adult no longer meets the eligibility criteria including exceeding the time limits for temporary breaks;
 - C. The young adult requests termination from the HOPE Program; or
 - D. The court has determined the young adult is not meeting the goals of their case plan or has violated the Voluntary Placement Agreement and vacates the order to participate.

Standard Operating Procedures		
SOP	Title	Applicable Disciplines
1977.1	Engaging in the HOPE Program	Field Services
1977.2	HOPE Program Case Management	Field Services
1977.3	Exiting the HOPE Program	Field Services

Applicable Forms

Form	Title
1977	HOPE Program Application
1987	HOPE Program Voluntary Placement Agreement
2663	Young Adult Health Verification for Extended Services

Glossary and Document Specific Definitions

A - B C - D E - F G - I J - L M - N O - Q R - S T - V W - Z

For the Purpose of this Document:

"HOPE Program" means extended foster care to young adults who voluntarily consent and meet criteria established by RSA 170-E:53. Extended foster care includes any other traditional services or programs for which a youth may be eligible, including but not limited to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (42 USC section 677).

"Young Adult" means an individual who is age 18 to 21.

Document Change Log

PD	Modification Made	Approved	Date
----	-------------------	----------	------