

## ETV Program Implementation Guidance

Information in the following paragraphs is provided to assist States in establishing, expanding and strengthening the implementation of the ETV program in an effective manner.

Case Planning: Key among the child welfare well being measures is the requirement that youth receive services to meet their educational needs. Meeting the educational needs of youth in care requires systematic case planning and periodic case reviews in which the youth should be involved. Good practice calls for a youth's involvement in the development of their educational plans and in the preparation for post-secondary education/training. Each educational plan should specifically identify the following:

- links/communication with secondary educational counselors, officials, and other support persons;
- a plan for successful completion of secondary education;
- a plan for completion of required applications, tests, and financial aid forms;
- a plan for providing support during post-secondary educational attendance including, but not limited to, housing, child care and tutoring. These activities are allowable costs related to successful participation in post secondary education and training.

Outreach to Eligible Program Participants: Section 477(i) identifies several categories of youth potentially eligible to receive vouchers under the ETV program who presently may not be in foster care. (For specific information on the categories, see the **Background** section of this PI.) In the CFSP, States must discuss the issues related to identifying and informing the youth eligible for the vouchers; and describe in detail the approaches being developed and implemented to address this issue.

Determining and Maintaining Program Eligibility: In accordance with section 477, subsection (i)(6), we advise States of an existing Federal financial aid resource known as the Free Application for Student Financial Assistance (FASFA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Question # 57 of FASFA may be a helpful tool for identifying youth eligible for the ETV program as a part of the case planning activities specifically related to preparation for post secondary education and training and as a method for certifying the youth's financial status.

States must also have procedures for ensuring that eligible youth receiving assistance accept responsibility for living up to their part of the program [(section 477(b)(3)(H)]. For example, a youth could be required to maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), or what is considered a satisfactory level of performance, if an alternative grading system is used.

Youth Involvement: Youth involvement in the designing of their own program activities, e.g. the development of the individual case plan, is required by section 477 (b)(3)(H), and is a developmentally appropriate aspect of preparation for adulthood.

*Coordination With Other Education and Training Programs:* States and counties are strongly encouraged to coordinate the ETV program with existing post secondary programs and school financial aid offices. Appropriate education and training programs include, but are not limited to, the Department of Education's Upward Bound program, the Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Programs for out-of-school youth, and private sector initiatives such the Orphan Foundation of America's Scholarship program ([www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)) and the Community College Foundation's Peer Counseling program ([www.communitycollege.org](http://www.communitycollege.org)). States are also encouraged to coordinate the ETV with dropout prevention programs.