

 <p><b>Children's Services Agency</b></p> <p><b>Communication Issuance</b></p> <p><b>20-036</b></p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response-Independent Living Skills Coach Contract and Education Training Voucher Updates
	Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Memorandum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Guide
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Due Date	N/A	
Due to	N/A	
<i>Distribution</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS BSC and County Directors <input type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Workforce Development and Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: IL Skills Coach Contractors	

The Education and Youth Services Unit is providing updated information and resources for Independent Living (IL) Skills Coach Contractors, the Education Training Voucher (ETV), and participating students. The highest priority is the health and safety of college students being served through the campus-based support programs, the ETV and the staff working with these students.

- **Contacts:** As the state takes proactive steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 the contract requirements for in-person contact with students is suspended at this time. Use of phone calls, Skype, Facetime or other technology should be used to maintain relationships and provide assistance to students being served.

**Independent Living Skills Coach Contract Updates:**

- **Specific Assistance:** The IL Skills Coach contracts allow \$300 per year, per student in specific assistance. To cover extraordinary and immediate needs for students on campus, the amount of specific assistance is increased to \$500 per student for the rest of this academic year but will need prior approval from the Education and Youth Services contract analyst. Please note, if this will lead to going over your total allowable amount in specific assistance listed in your contract, a contract amendment for a line item transfer will be needed and the request should be submitted to Ann Rossi at [RossiA@michigan.gov](mailto:RossiA@michigan.gov). If additional funding is needed for housing supports, this should be requested through the local MDHHS office as a request for Youth In Transition (YIT) funds as discussed below.

## **Education Training Voucher Contract Updates:**

- **Regional Trainings:** In accordance with the Governor and MDHHS' suspension of all meetings involving large groups of individuals, the regional trainings on higher education and financial aid opportunities that were scheduled throughout the state have been cancelled.

## **Resource Updates:**

- **Local MDHHS YIT Funds:** YIT funds can be utilized to assist eligible students who need to move from campus or to prevent losing off-campus housing due to inability to pay rent due. Students can request this assistance through their case worker or local MDHHS office.
- **Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program (YAVFC):** Youth who are in the YAVFC program may retain eligibility even in the scenario that classes are canceled or if they experience a reduction or loss of employment. Youth who have had their classes canceled and are working to maintain YAVFC eligibility through employment, but are not able to work 80 hours for the month based on COVID-19 (either quarantined, sick, or place of employment closing temporarily) will NOT lose YAVFC eligibility and will not enter a grace period, as they normally would. We encourage YAVFC caseworkers to maintain regular contact with youth to ensure they are aware of their situation.

Please also see communication issuance #20-031 for additional information on YAVFC and YIT funding during the COVID-19 response.

*\*Please note that all COVID-19 related communications will be revisited, at minimum, every two weeks, unless additional interim guidance is needed.*