

441—156.14(234) Eligibility for foster care payment.

156.14(1) Client eligibility. Foster care payment is limited to the following populations.

a. Youth under the age of 18 are eligible based on legal status, subject to certain limitations.

(1) Legal status. The youth's placement will be based on one of the following legal statuses:

1. The court has ordered foster care placement pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.52(2) "d," 232.102(1), or 232.117.

2. The child is placed in shelter care pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.20(1) or 232.21.

3. The department has agreed to provide foster care under a voluntary placement agreement pursuant to rule 441—202.3(234).

(2) Limitations. Department payment for group care is limited to placements that have been authorized by the department and that conform to the service area group care plan developed pursuant to rule 441—202.17(232). Payment for an out-of-state group care placement shall be limited to placements approved pursuant to 441—subrule 202.8(2).

b. Youth aged 18 and older who meet the definition of child in rule 441—202.1(234) are eligible based on age, a voluntary placement agreement pursuant to 441—subrule 202.3(3), and type of placement.

(1) Except as provided in subparagraph 156.14(1) "b"(3), payment for a child who is 18 years of age is limited to family foster care or supervised apartment living.

(2) Except as provided in subparagraph 156.14(1) "b"(3), payment for a child who is 19 years of age will be limited to supervised apartment living.

(3) Exceptions. An exception to subparagraphs 156.14(1) "b"(1) and "b"(2) will be granted for all unaccompanied refugee minors. The child's eligibility for the exception will be documented in the case record. The service area manager or designee will grant an exception for other children when the child meets all of the following criteria.

1. The child does not have an intellectual disability.

2. The child is at imminent risk of becoming homeless or of failing to graduate from high school or obtain a general equivalency diploma. "At imminent risk of becoming homeless" means that a less restrictive living arrangement is not available.

3. The placement is in the child's best interests.

4. Funds are available in the service area's allocation. When the service area manager has approved payment for foster care pursuant to this subparagraph, funds that may be necessary to provide payment for the time period of the exception, not to exceed the current fiscal year, will be considered encumbered and no longer available. Each service area's funding allocation will be based on the service area's portion of the total number of children in foster care on March 31 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year, who would no longer be eligible for foster care during the fiscal year due to age, excluding unaccompanied refugee minors.

c. A young mother is eligible for the extra payment for her young child living with her in care as set forth in subrules 156.3(3) and 156.6(4) and if all of the following apply:

(1) The mother is placed in foster care.

(2) The mother's custodian determines, as documented in the mother's case permanency plan, that it is in her best interest and the best interest of the young child that the child remain with her.

(3) A placement is available.

(4) The mother agrees to refund to the department any child support payments she receives on behalf of the child and to allow the department to be made payee for any other unearned income for the child.

156.14(2) Provider eligibility for payment. Providers of foster care services shall have a foster care services contract under 441—Chapter 152 in force.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 234.35 and 234.38.

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