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<tr>
<td>Classify frontline case workers as Level 1 Emergency Responders to ensure greater access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>HHS Deputy Secretary letter to states urging them to have child welfare workers and service providers classified as Level 1 emergency responders to gain greater access to PPE</td>
<td>DFCS policy</td>
<td>• Complete. (DFCS Communication, 05/01/20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• With reports of child abuse significantly down in Georgia, it is imperative that child welfare workers can continue to make in-person visits safely to ensure the safety of children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure that youth who could age out of foster care can remain in care if they choose</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DFCS practice</td>
<td>• <strong>Executive Order</strong> issued on 04/23/20 suspends the definition of child such that those in DFCS’ care who would typically age out of the system during the public health state of emergency can remain in their placement and eligible to continue receiving services for 90 days after the state of emergency is lifted.</td>
<td>• D.C.: passed legislation that allows the agency and requires the courts to continue their care/jurisdiction of youth who are turning 21 during this crisis—this happens automatically unless the youth objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Waive education and employment requirements for youth age 18 to 21</td>
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<td>• IL and AK: advocates have made requests to their governors to suspend “aging out” of the system during the public health</td>
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### Potential Policy and Practice Changes

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<td><strong>Meet the needs of children in emergency situations who are experiencing child abuse to the greatest extent possible</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Grant Program, CJCC, DFCS</td>
<td>• Ongoing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ensure that children being released from Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) are given adequate support services, to the greatest extent possible</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DFCS and Amerigroup collaboration and practice</td>
<td>• Unknown.</td>
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- The Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has made $3 million in new emergency funds available to meet the emergency needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Discharge planning is always important, but particularly now without the structure and support of school attendance.
- Protect children with high needs from suffering during the public health emergency.


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<td>Keep children in the child welfare system enrolled in Medicaid even as they “age out” of the system</td>
<td>FFERA (3/18/20): States are automatically eligible for a temporary Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase, but they must freeze Medicaid disenrollment to demonstrate a maintenance of effort</td>
<td>DFCS practice and DCH 1115(a) waiver</td>
<td>- 03/28/20: Under DCH’s <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/COVID-19">submitted</a> 1115(a) waiver, individuals, for the demonstration period (03/01/20 through 60 days past the end of the federally declared emergency), will continue to receive coverage through this demonstration to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.</td>
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| **Suspend in-person visits; continue reunification services to the greatest extent possible**         | Administration for Children and Families (ACF) (03/18/20) guidance: monthly visits must be conducted, but no longer have to occur in person (can be done via videoconference) | DFCS administrative policy; DFCS caseworker practice                                | - DFCS advised case workers to use videoconferencing for monthly contacts, and encouraged increasing frequency. Videoconferencing will also be used for quarterly contacts with foster parents. (DFCS Communications, 03/16/20)  
- However, caseworkers are still meeting families in person in cases of serious allegations or involving very young children. (04/02/20)  
- DFCS Director Tom Rawlings emphasized the importance of continuing reunification services to the greatest extent possible. (04/03/20) |                                |
<p>|                                                                                                      |                                                                                           |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                    | MI: <a href="https://www.cps.state.mi.us/cps/Home">suspended in-person caseworker visits</a>, but allowing in-person family visits as long (as all parties are not exhibiting symptoms) |                                |
|                                                                                                      |                                                                                           |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                    | ME: temporarily <a href="https://www.me.gov/me/cps/field-caseworker-virtual-meetings">suspended all in-person parental and caseworker visits</a> |                                |
|                                                                                                      |                                                                                           |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                    | Los Angeles County: continuing some in-person home visits, especially after an |                                |</p>
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<td><strong>Ensure continued communication with biological families, where appropriate</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DFCS caseworker practice and administrative communication</td>
<td>• DFCS Director Rawlings emphasized the need for continued communication with biological families. (04/03/20)</td>
<td>initial health screening of the home</td>
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<td>• FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom</td>
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<td>• Phone calls</td>
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<td>• Outdoor visits</td>
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<td>• Recorded storytelling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Develop a contingency plan, including for congregate care, and emergency communication protocols</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DFCS administrative communication</td>
<td>• Providers have contingency plans in place. • DFCS emergency communication protocol same as pre-COVID: Caregivers to continue current process; reach out to supervisor for emergencies, use direct line to reach a county point of contact when needed. • DFCS workers given protocol for suspected child COVID-19 cases. (DFCS Communications, 03/16/20)</td>
<td>• NY: issued interim guidance on cleaning congregate residential facilities and isolation and quarantine • WI: issued recommendations on creating a preparedness plan for congregate care providers, and a Q&amp;A for child welfare workers, foster families and kinship caregivers regarding emergency protocols</td>
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<td>• <strong>Large numbers of children</strong> may need to be quarantined and/or relocated, as has happened in other states</td>
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<td>• Include information on which medical centers youth should be taken to if needed</td>
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<td>• Severe staffing limitations are likely</td>
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<td>• Elderly kinship caregivers are at heightened risk of severe illness</td>
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<td>Conduct health screenings of children and foster families before they enter a new placement</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DFCS administrative policy</td>
<td>• Children are being pre-screened before entering new placements.</td>
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<td>• Take temperature of children and foster families</td>
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<td>• Conduct health assessments by phone when possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suspend in-court visitation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DFCS administrative policy</td>
<td>• DFCS and courts are using videoconferencing in some cases to have dependency hearings and process adoptions. (DFCS Communications, 04/23/20)</td>
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<td>• DFCS recommended suspending in-person court-ordered visitation in lieu of frequent video conferencing to stay safe and connected to their parents.</td>
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<td>• County DFCS offices will need to get local juvenile court approval to implement this. (DFCS Communications, 03/16/20)</td>
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<td>Clearly communicate dependency hearing timeline changes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Judicial Courts</td>
<td>• Ongoing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assist transition age youth with housing needs</td>
<td>HUD (03/05/20): <a href="#">51.1 million to Foster Youth to Independence</a></td>
<td>DFCS administrative policy</td>
<td>• The state is partnering with the GA Department of Community Affairs to create pathways for youth to seek housing assistance.</td>
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<td>• The Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood funds are eligible for use</td>
<td>Initiative to go to ten housing authorities, including Albany, GA. U.S. Children’s Bureau (03/12/20): Asked child welfare directors to help transitioning youth with housing</td>
<td>DFCS public communication; advocacy partners; private businesses</td>
<td>• Albany’s Housing Authority will receive $160k in Foster Youth to Independence Initiative funds.</td>
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<td><strong>Urge the public to be on alert for child abuse and neglect</strong></td>
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<td>• Make a public service announcement that Georgia’s children in abusive home settings are at an increased risk right now</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Gov. Kemp <a href="#">urged the public</a> to be aware of possible child abuse and call DFCS Child Protective Services if they suspect abuse in his 04/07/20 address. • DFCS Director Rawlings made this <a href="#">announcement</a> on a GA CALL (Child Advocacy Leadership Lab) meeting. (04/03/20)</td>
<td>• Los Angeles County: child welfare director <a href="#">urged the public</a> to be aware and report such cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase funds for Title IV-B programs</strong></td>
<td>$45 million was allocated in the CARES Act for Title IV-B services, which can be used for a wide range of child abuse</td>
<td>Congress legislative action</td>
<td>• N/A.</td>
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<td>• Title IV-B of the Social Security Act funds major components of child welfare: maltreatment prevention, family preservation and reunification, foster care and adoption services, and training for child welfare workers</td>
<td>prevention and response services, including foster care and adoption. (03/27/20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Add supplemental funding for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood and the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Congress legislative action</td>
<td>• N/A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Chafee program supports foster youth ages 14 to 21; includes educational and housing assistance</td>
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<td>• ETV assists transitioning youth in foster care with no alternative housing when dorms close; approx. 10,000 youth will rely on assistance</td>
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