



The Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship and Adoption Program

To address the permanency needs of children in long-term kinship and foster care, the Department of Children and Family Services implemented the Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship and Adoption Program. This program, an extension of the Subsidized Guardianship Waiver Demonstration Program, is designed to provide an enhanced service package of transition services for a limited group of children who are adopted or for whom a private guardian is appointed at 14 years of age or older.

Site Eligibility:

Currently, ESGAP is available to children being served by the Peoria Sub-Region, East St. Louis Sub Region, and Cook Central. Beginning on April 1, 2006 the program will be available to all regions of the state.

Youth Eligibility:

- Youth must be assigned to the standard subsidized guardianship waiver demonstration group. Assignments can be found on screen CM24.
- At the time permanency is achieved, youth must meet the eligibility criteria for either the standard subsidized guardianship program or the adoption assistance program. See Rule and Procedure 302.310 and 302.405.
- Youth must also be assigned to the ESGAP demonstration group.
- Children under the age of 14 qualify for ESGAP if their guardianship is transferred or adoption finalized at the same time as that of an older sibling living in the same home, who is assigned to the ESGAP demonstration group and meets all criteria for either the enhanced waiver or the adoption assistant program.

Assignment Process:

Assignment to the ESGAP demonstration group occurs when a child is:

- 14 years of age or older and not yet 18
- Assigned to the standard guardianship demonstration group

Benefits:

The enhanced service package includes services that until now have been only available to youth who are being transitioned to independence from the foster care system. The following programs will be available to youth who at age 14 or above are adopted or for whom guardianship has been transferred:

- Youth in College Vocational Training
- Education and Training Vouchers
- Employment Incentive
- Housing Cash Assistance
- Life Skills Training

The enhanced service package does not include transitional or independent living placement programs.

For more information, contact:

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