LB 216: THE YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTARY SERVICES AND SUPPORT ACT

LB 216 Program Overview

Overall Highlights
Here are a few key things to know about LB 216:
• It is voluntary. Eligible young adults who choose to participate sign an agreement with DHHS to receive services.
• It is flexible. Eligible young adults can choose to opt in and/or opt out any time before turning 21.
• Periodic administrative/permanency reviews and monthly caseworker visits would help ensure young adults are safe and that their needs are being met.

Services and Support for Young People:
Services for youth who age out of foster care would include:
• Housing support
• Youth-directed case management services
• Medicaid coverage

Services for youth who were adopted or who entered a guardianship at age 16 or older would include:
• Continued adoption/guardianship subsidies
• Medicaid coverage

Who Could Participate:
To participate in the program, young adults would need to:
• Be doing at least one of the following:
  o Completing high school or an equivalent program
  o Enrolled at least part-time in post-secondary education
  o Employed at least 80 hours per month
  o Participating in a program/activity to remove barriers to employment
  o Unable to do any of these things because of a medical condition
• Meet monthly with a case manager
• Attend informal permanency and case reviews
• Participate in other program requirements
**LB 216 Talking Points for Adults**

The current system results in poor outcomes for too many young people who age out.
- We’re missing out on human potential and a stronger workforce.
  - Youth who age out are significantly less likely to get a college degree or a stable, well-paying job than their peers.
- We’re paying more money in the long run.
  - These young people re-enter our prison systems and rely on our welfare systems at alarming rates due to homelessness, unemployment, lack of health insurance, and overall poverty.

**LB 216 is a proven program.**
- Fifteen other states have plans that are approved by the federal government, and many more are showing interest.
- National research shows that similar programs improve long-term outcomes by:
  - Decreasing homelessness, unplanned pregnancies, and incarceration rates.
  - Increasing lifetime earnings and college attendance.

**LB 216 is a good investment in the future of our children and our state.**
- It is cost effective.
  - The financial benefits outweigh the cost by a factor of approximately 2 to 1.
- It is supported by federal funding.
  - The federal government covers nearly half of the cost.