

GIBILITY FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding section 477(b)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act, a State may use—

“(A) more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under section 477(c)(1) of such Act for a fiscal year, for room or board payments; and

“(B) any of such amounts for youth otherwise eligible for services under section 477 of such Act who—

“(i) have attained 18 years of age and not 27 years of age; and

“(ii) experienced foster care at 14 years of age or older.

“(4) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DRIVING AND TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided under section 477 of the Social Security Act may be used to provide driving and transportation assistance to youth described in paragraph (3)(B) who have attained 15 years of age with costs related to obtaining a driver’s license and driving lawfully in a State (such as vehicle insurance costs, driver’s education class and testing fees, practice lessons, practice hours, license fees, roadside assistance, deductible assistance, and assistance in purchasing an automobile).

“(B) MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE.—The amount of the assistance provided for each eligible youth under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed \$4,000 per year, and any assistance so provided shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the recipient’s eligibility for, and the amount of, any other Federal or federally-supported assistance, except that the State agency shall take appropriate steps to prevent duplication of benefits under this and other Federal or federally-supported programs.

“(C) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Within 6 months after the end of the expenditure period, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the extent to which, and the manner in which, the funds to which subsection (a)(3) applies were used to provide technical assistance to State child welfare programs, monitor State performance and foster youth outcomes, and evaluate program effectiveness.”

[For definitions of terms used in section 3 of div. X of Pub. L. 116-260, set out above, see section 2 of div. X of Pub. L. 116-260, set out as a note under section 629h of this title.]

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY OF INDEPENDENT LIVING FUNDS

Pub. L. 107-133, title II, §202(b), Jan. 17, 2002, 115 Stat. 2425, extended the availability of payments made to a State under this section for fiscal year 2000 through fiscal year 2002.

FINDINGS

Pub. L. 106-169, title I, §101(a), Dec. 14, 1999, 113 Stat. 1823, provided that: “The Congress finds the following:

“(1) States are required to make reasonable efforts to find adoptive families for all children, including older children, for whom reunification with their biological family is not in the best interests of the child. However, some older children will continue to live in foster care. These children should be enrolled in an Independent Living program designed and conducted by State and local government to help prepare them for employment, postsecondary education, and successful management of adult responsibilities.

“(2) Older children who continue to be in foster care as adolescents may become eligible for Independent Living programs. These Independent Living programs are not an alternative to adoption for these children. Enrollment in Independent Living programs can occur concurrent with continued efforts to locate and achieve placement in adoptive families for older children in foster care.

“(3) About 20,000 adolescents leave the Nation’s foster care system each year because they have reached 18 years of age and are expected to support themselves.

“(4) Congress has received extensive information that adolescents leaving foster care have significant difficulty making a successful transition to adulthood; this information shows that children aging out of foster care show high rates of homelessness, non-marital childbearing, poverty, and delinquent or criminal behavior; they are also frequently the target of crime and physical assaults.

“(5) The Nation’s State and local governments, with financial support from the Federal Government, should offer an extensive program of education, training, employment, and financial support for young adults leaving foster care, with participation in such program beginning several years before high school graduation and continuing, as needed, until the young adults emancipated from foster care establish independence or reach 21 years of age.”

STUDY AND REPORT EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 101-239, title VIII, §8002(d), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2453, provided that:

“(1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall study the programs authorized under section 477 of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 677] for the purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of the programs. The study shall include a comparison of outcomes of children who participated in the programs and a comparable group of children who did not participate in the programs.

“(2) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study, the Secretary shall issue a report to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.”

§ 678. Rule of construction

Nothing in this part shall be construed as precluding State courts from exercising their discretion to protect the health and safety of children in individual cases, including cases other than those described in section 671(a)(15)(D) of this title.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §478, as added Pub. L. 105-89, title I, §101(d), Nov. 19, 1997, 111 Stat. 2117.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 678, act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §478, as added Oct. 22, 1986, Pub. L. 99-514, title XVIII, §1883(b)(10)(A), 100 Stat. 2917, excluded from AFDC unit child for whom foster care maintenance payments are made, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 101-508, title V, §5052(b), (c), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-228, applicable with respect to benefits for months beginning on or after the first day of the sixth calendar month following November 1990.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Nov. 19, 1997, except as otherwise provided, with delay permitted if State legislation is required, see section 501 of Pub. L. 105-89, set out as an Effective Date of 1997 Amendments note under section 622 of this title.

§ 679. Collection of data relating to adoption and foster care

(a) Advisory Committee on Adoption and Foster Care Information

(1) Not later than 90 days after October 21, 1986, the Secretary shall establish an Advisory