



ENHANCED SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP WAIVER EXTENSION

FACT SHEET

The original five year title IV-E waiver authorizing the Subsidized Guardianship Waiver Demonstration Program officially ended in the spring of 2002, but the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services granted Illinois an extension of the Subsidized Guardianship Waiver Demonstration until December 31, 2008.

The Subsidized Guardianship Waiver Demonstration Extension will soon include a new Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship and Adoption Program. The program is designed to test the impact of offering transition services to youth on the achievement of permanency.

1. **Site Eligibility:** The enhanced program is ONLY available to children whose cases are assigned to the Cook Central, East St. Louis Sub-Region and the Peoria Sub-Region and who meet eligibility for BOTH the Standard Subsidized Guardianship Program and the Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship and Adoption Program.
THIS IS NOT A STATEWIDE PROGRAM AND SERVES A LIMITED POPULATION.
2. **Age Eligibility:** Eligibility will not be determined until children reach age 14. As they reach that age, children will randomly be assigned to either the demonstration/eligible group or the control/ineligible group. In order to be eligible for the Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship and Adoption Program, a child must first be eligible for the Standard Subsidized Guardianship Program.^{1*}
3. **Enhanced Service Package:** The program makes available a limited package of transition services to a child for whom guardianship has been transferred or is adopted at 14 years of age or older. The enhanced service package being offered as part of the Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship Program includes youth in college, youth in employment, housing cash assistance and life skills training. Currently, these services are only available to youth who are being transitioned to independence from the foster care system. Youth eligible for the enhanced service package will also be able to receive education and training vouchers currently only available to youth who go to guardianship or who are adopted at age 16. The enhanced service package does not include transitional or independent living placement programs.
4. **Control Group:** Youth assigned to the control group of the Enhanced program continue to be eligible for the Standard Subsidized Guardianship Program, but they will not have access to the enhanced service package if they are adopted or go to guardianship.

¹*To be eligible for Standard Subsidized Guardianship and Adoption Program, which is available statewide, a child must meet the criteria listed on the reverse side of this sheet.

The Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship and Adoption Program will be implemented July 1, 2005, and will continue through December 2008.

Standard Subsidized Guardianship Eligibility Criteria

- Each child must have been in DCFS custody for one continuous year (there is no sibling group exception to this and no possibility of a 'waiver');
- Each child must have been in the home of the caregiver for one continuous year
Exception: if a child is a member of a sibling group in a home, only one of the children needs to have been in the home for one year, but no 'waiver' is available
- If the child is in a non-relative home, the child must be 12 or older --
Exception: with sibling groups going to Subsidized Guardianship (SG), only the oldest child has to be 12 or older
- If the child is in a non-relative home and no child in the home going to SG is 12 or over, the caseworker may seek a waiver from the DCFS Guardianship Administrator, D. Jean Ortega-Piron
- The proposed guardian/s may not have any felony convictions
No exceptions or waivers are possible
- In order to be eligible for Standard Subsidized Guardianship, the child cannot be in the control group. Generally, no new children are being added to the Standard Subsidized Guardianship control group at this time. For children already assigned to the control group, it will continue to exist through December of 2008, when the program will end.
Exception:
 - 1) If a child originally assigned to the control group moves into a home with an experimental group assignment, the recently moved siblings will be considered to be eligible after the child or the child's sibling has been living in the home for one year. Before guardianship is legally established, the child will be assigned to the experimental group.
 - 2) If siblings have received two different assignments while living in different homes, and they move into the same new home where no children have previously received a group assignment, then all children will be eligible for a guardianship subsidy after they have been living in the home for one year. Before guardianship is legally established, all of the children will be assigned to the experimental group.