**[INSERT CAS LOGO]**

**Continued Care and Support for Youth: FACT SHEET**

As of May 15, 2013, the Continued Care and Support for Youth (CCSY) program has replaced the former Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM) guidelines. Through CCSY, youth ages 18, 19, and 20 can receive financial and other supports from a Children’s Aid Society (CAS). This support is intended to help youth build on their strengths and meet their goals during their transition into adulthood.

**AM I ELIGIBLE FOR CCSY?**

You are eligible if you are 18, 19 or 20 years old and:

* 1. Were subject to a Crown wardship or legal custody order immediately prior to your 18th birthday (or prior to your marriage, if it occurred before your 18th birthday); or
  2. Were the subject of a customary care agreement for which the CAS paid a subsidy to your caregiver immediately prior to your 18th birthday; or
  3. Were eligible to receive Renewed Youth Supports (RYS) at ages 16 and/or 17, whether or not you actually received RYS.

Your eligibility for CCSY is not affected by any of the following:

* Family status (e.g. whether you have children);
* Relationship status (e.g. married, single, living with a partner);
* Education or employment status (e.g. whether you’re in school, employed full or part time, or unemployed).

**HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR CCSY SUPPORTS?**

If you’re eligible for CCSY and would like to receive CCSY supports, you must enter into an agreement with your CAS. To do so, you and your CAS will sign a CCSY Agreement, which describes the roles and responsibilities of you and of the CAS. The CCSY Agreement will be in effect for one year, and may be renewed on an annual basis until your 21st birthday.

**WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME UNDER CCSY?**

CASs will provide $850 per month in CCSY support. This will be provided either directly to you, on your behalf, or a combination of both. The support is intended to address basic needs, like food and shelter. CASs may provide additional support for things like transportation, moving costs, first/last month’s rent, etc.

If you and your caregiver (e.g. a foster parent) agree that it would be in your best interest to remain in the home of your current caregiver, such an arrangement may be negotiated between you, your caregiver and the CAS. In such a case, some or all of the monthly CCSY payment may be provided to the caregiver, on your behalf, to help with costs associated with housing, food, and other basic needs.

If you are living in a facility that has no costs associated with housing, such as a treatment centre or secure custody facility, you may still be eligible for CCSY. In this case, you may receive less than $850 per month.

**BESIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT, HOW CAN CCSY HELP ME REACH MY GOALS?**

Within thirty days of signing a CCSY Agreement, you and your CAS worker will meet to develop a personalized Youth Plan. The Youth Plan is meant to document your strengths, needs and goals in areas like health and well-being, relationships, housing, education/employment, and personal development. The financial and/or other supports (e.g. counselling) to be provided to you by your CAS will be outlined in your Youth Plan.

You and your CAS worker will review the Youth Plan together at least once every three months, either in person or by other means (like over the phone). This is a time to discuss your progress towards meeting your goals and address any challenges you have identified. The Youth Plan will be formally updated by you and your CAS worker at least once every 12 months.

The Youth Plan process is meant to support you in developing goals and working towards them; however, your CCSY financial support does not depend on you meeting those goals.

**CAN A CCSY AGREEMENT BE CANCELLED?**

A CCSY Agreement is a voluntary agreement between you and your CAS and can therefore be cancelled by either you or the CAS, in which case written notice must be given to the other party. The CAS will continue to provide you with the current level of financial and other supports for three months following receipt of written notice (by you or the CAS). If a CCSY Agreement has been cancelled or is not renewed, you and the CAS may enter into a new CCSY Agreement at any time in the future, as long as you still meet the eligibility criteria.

**WHAT IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT MY CCSY?**

If you are unable to resolve an issue with your CAS worker, you can bring forward a complaint to your CAS, as set out in your CAS’s complaints process. If your complaint relates to the CAS’s decision to cancel your CCSY Agreement, you will continue to receive CCSY support during the three month notice period and during the complaints process. When you sign your CCSY Agreement, your CAS will also provide you with written information about their complaints and dispute resolution processes.

**WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFO ON CCSY?**

Please speak with your CAS [INSERT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER] to get more information about CCSY.