

Stop DCF from Taking Federal Benefits of Foster Youth

A look at the numbers:



Nearly 1,250 children in foster care are eligible for federal Supplemental SSI or RSDI benefits, largely due to disability or the death of a parent.

However, DCF currently takes up to 90 percent ¹ of this money for the benefit of the Commonwealth. Like other states, we can change this to ensure that the benefits of foster youth are saved for their transition to adulthood.

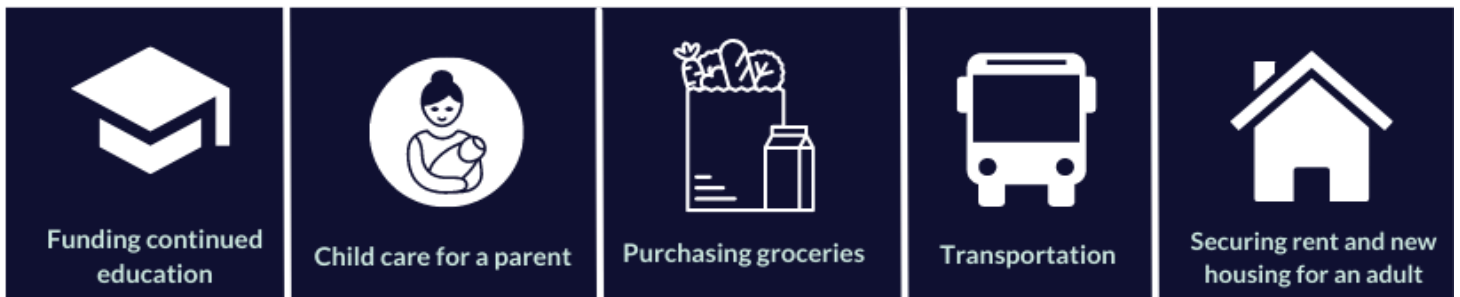
Under Bill HB 1517/SB 65, the DCF will be required to:

- Screen a child for benefit eligibility when they enter care;
- Notify the child of eligibility, DCF applications to be rep payee, and the amounts received annually; and
- Conserve SSA benefits, and manage savings to made available to foster youth after they reach adulthood.

\$5,500,000

The estimated amount of SSI and RSDI benefits that DCF diverted into MA's state coffers (General Fund) in 2022 ²

These funds can create a bridge of support & stability for a new adult, including...



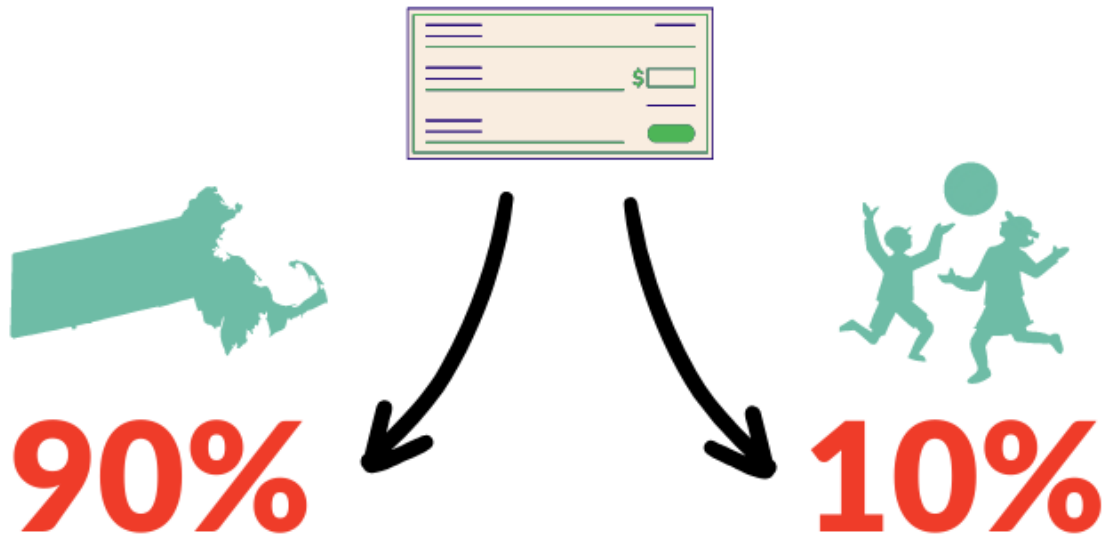
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Where do a foster child's SSA benefits go?

When DCF is a foster child's representative payee, DCF receives their full benefit payments from SSA³



90% of a child's disability or survivor's benefits are **absorbed into MA's General Fund.**

10% of a child's benefits **go into a Personal Needs Account for the child to use.**

We can protect foster children's benefits to support their transition into adulthood.

Endorsing Organizations

- Disability Law Center
- Committee for Public Counsel Services

Contact Us

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¹See 110 C.M.R. § 4.05 (2023)

²From DCF records, Jan. - Nov. 2022, furnished in response to DLC public records request.

³See 110 C.M.R. § 4.05 (2023)