

# TN Strong Families HRA

## What is TN Strong Families HRA?

Tennessee Strong Families (TSF) helps kids who have an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) and are currently in Tennessee state custody by providing flexible funding so families can pay for needed services and supports.

In partnership with TN Department of Children's Services (DCS), TSF provides critical supports needed by foster and adoptive families to care for children with IDD and create stable placements for children with high medical and/or behavioral needs.

TN Strong Families will provide up to \$20,000 annually in Healthcare Reimbursement Account (HRA) expenditures for each child enrolled in the program.

## Eligibility

- All referrals for TN Strong Families HRA will come from DCS Case Managers
- Children must have a diagnosis of an intellectual or developmental disability
- Children must be in state custody at time of referral

## How does the program work?

- DCS Case Managers identify children currently in DCS custody who have or may have an IDD diagnosis and make a referral to DIDD TN Strong Families.
- DCS Case Managers provide documentation supporting IDD diagnosis or request additional clinical or medical assessments within 30 days.
- DIDD Independent Support Coordinators (ISCs) receive the DCS referral and attempt to make contact within two business days to evaluate eligibility.
- If eligible for TSF, the ISC works with the foster family to enroll in TSF and set up a PayFlex account to access HRA funds, up to \$20,000 annually.
- Foster parents use HRA funds to secure necessary services and supports to provide for the needs of the child. They can either use a card at participating providers to pay up front for medical services or be reimbursed for expenses afterward. *Please see "TSF Healthcare Reimbursement Guide" for guidelines and details.*
- ISCs provide ongoing case management specific to the HRA, meeting with the family by phone monthly and in-person at least once every six months.
- HRA funds renew at the beginning of each calendar year.
- If there is a disruption in placement for the child during the calendar year, the HRA funds follow the child to the new foster placement.

## Important Notes:

- DIDD ISCs have experience in developing person-centered support plans allowing people with IDD to live the lives they envision for themselves. They connect people with IDD to service and supports and provide advocacy
- ISCs will participate in DCS permanency planning as a member of the DCS Child and Family Team and provide case management specific to the HRA program
- Enrollment in TN Strong Families HRA is an additional service and the DIDD Independent Support Coordinator (ISC) does not replace the DCS Case Manager Family Service Worker (FSW) role

