

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Regulatory Registry Posting

Proposed Policy Directive Updates to Clarify Data Collection and Reporting Requirements for Children's Aid Societies Respecting the New Youth Leaving Care Policy and Ready, Set, Go Program

Proposed Data Elements for Collection

The Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) is proposing to amend the policy directive to clarify that certain information, including personal information, that a society is required to collect from children and youth participating in the youth leaving care policy and RSG program will be shared with MCCSS and used for specific purposes. These purposes include supporting the ministry with service planning, informing continuous improvement efforts, monitoring whether the RSG program is operating as designed and achieving intended outcomes. The ministry is authorized to collect personal information for these purposes under subsection 283(1) of the CYFSA.

Specifically, at a minimum, societies are proposed to be required to collect and report to MCCSS the following information pertaining to children and youth receiving services under the youth leaving care program and RSG program:

Information	Purpose
Age (as determined by Date of Birth)	Required to confirm the individual meets the age-eligibility criteria
Society providing continued care and support to services (13-17 years old) or the Ready, Set, Go program (18-22 years old) to a youth	Required for society funding and audit purposes
Case Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case Type• Plan of Care, Date of Update (for Child 13-17 years old)• Transition Planning Conference, Date Offered (for Child 16 years old)• Youth Plan, Created (for Youth 18-22 years old)• Youth Plan, Date of Update (for Youth 18-22 years old)	Required to ensure that the society is meeting the core program milestones as part of the participation in the program
Education Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current Educational Enrollment (updated at least every six months with Youth Plan)	Required for assessing eligibility for cash disbursements related to post-secondary education

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<p>Workforce Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average Hours Worked Per Week over the last 12 months (updated at least annually with RSG Agreement) • Average Hourly Wage over the last 12 months (updated at least annually with RSG Agreement) 	<p>Required to ensure eligibility for RSG cash disbursements</p>
<p>Serious Occurrence Reporting (SOR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious Occurrence Reports for youth (18-22 years old) • Reporting for youth who have died and participated in the RSG program at any time 12 months prior to their death 	<p>As part of the Ministry’s current SOR policy, societies should report to the ministry if and when they become aware of this information. For more information on what constitutes a serious occurrence and the associated categories, please visit the SOR-RL webpage (External SOR Page – EN (gov.on.ca)). This proposed change will require societies to complete serious occurrence reports for these youth. SO Reporting is a process that allows service providers to manage incidents as they occur, make records of the incidents and monitor actions taken in response to incidents in order to prevent or mitigate further incidents. This also supports the Ministry in monitoring and overseeing service providers in the delivery of services. (Source: SOR Guidelines page 6)</p>

The policy directive and Standard Agreement will also be amended to require a society to obtain consent from participating children and youth for the collection of certain personal information and other program-related participant information. As noted, this personal information and program-related information will be collected by a society and shared with the ministry for the above-stated purposes. This is proposed to apply, at a minimum, to the collection and reporting by societies on the following information:

Information	Purpose
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<p>Personal Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender Identity• Country of Birth• Race• Indigenous Status• Preferred Language	<p>This is personal information that is currently collected through CPIN via the Identity-based Data directive (Policy directive: CW 003-21: Collection and reporting of identity-based data Child protection service directives, forms and guidelines ontario.ca). This information is being proposed to be collected, with youth consent, for a new purpose - to monitor and evaluate the new YLC policy and RSG program. It is beneficial for understanding who is being served, the experience in the program and associated outcomes. This assists societies and the ministry in reviewing and evaluating services through an anti-racism and equity lens. Of note, while preferred language is not specifically listed in the policy directive, it closely aligns to language of origin, which is included.</p>
<p>Other program-related participant information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing Tenure (Placement Start Date) (updated with each new placement)• Housing Type (updated with each new placement and/or at least every six months with Youth Plan)• Completed Educational Credentials (updated at least every six months with Youth Plan)• Eligibility for Developmental Services• RSG Discharge Reason	<p>This additional program-related participant information is being proposed to be collected by societies based on the consent of the youth receiving YLC /RSG services. This information supports societies and the ministry in understanding whether youth are transitioning successfully and focuses on the areas of greatest impact, housing and education. It is also beneficial for information related to developmental services eligibility as this assists the ministry in broader planning for developmental services into adulthood. Understanding why youth are being discharged from the RSG program supports the ministry in assessing any program limitations for future review.</p>