THE BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM:
Timeline of Service Provision

A youth adjudicated under § 43-247(3)(a) and in an out-of-home placement turns 16 (or enters care and is age 16+ already)

- ☑ The department begins providing written information about the program and continues to do so every year thereafter

90 days prior to the youth's last court hearing before turning 19 or being discharged to independent living

- ☑ The department again provides written information about the program
- ☑ A representative of the department meets with the youth to explain the program in person and how to avoid a lapse in services and support

The young adult chooses to participate in the program

- ☑ The young adult and the department sign a voluntary services and support agreement
  - For continuous enrollment, the agreement is signed prior to and filed with the court at the last court hearing
- ☑ As soon as possible, the department conducts a redetermination of income eligibility for purposes of federal funding

Within 45 days of signing the voluntary services and support agreement

- ☑ An Independence Coordinator is assigned that, at minimum, has received specialized training
- ☑ The young adult begins receiving program services
- ☑ The department files a written report or petition with the juvenile court, a copy of the signed agreement, a copy of the case plan, and any other information for the court's consideration

Within 180 days of signing the voluntary services and support agreement

- ☑ The court has jurisdiction to review the agreement
- ☑ The court opens a Bridge to Independence file for the purpose of determining whether participating in the program is in the young adult's best interest and to conduct the permanency reviews

The young adult continues to remain eligible and enrolled in the program

- ☑ Services and support continue, with an emphasis on permanency
- ☑ Permanency reviews conducted by the court are held annually (or upon request)
- ☑ Case reviews conducted by the Foster Care Review Office and the department are held every 180 days

If the young adult decides to leave the program:

- ☑ The young adult may terminate the agreement at any time
- ☑ The department will provide written information about the potential negative consequences of this and how to reenter the program anytime before age 21

If the young adult is determined to be ineligible for the program:

- ☑ At least 30 days prior to the termination of services, written notice (including information about the appeal process) is provided to the young adult

(Academic breaks and other transitions of 30 days or less between eligibility requirements cannot be a basis for termination)