

Extension of Foster Care Services

Extension of Foster Care Services allows eligible young adults between the ages of 18 to 21 to continue to receive foster care services. The purpose of this is to provide additional time for allow young adults to prepare for their futures through educational and employment training opportunities, find and secure consistent and safe housing, and build permanent connections with caring adults including relatives, mentors and community members. Here are some things to know about eligibility for Extension of Foster Care Services:

- Youth must be released/discharged from DCS custody at or after age 18 in order to receive Extension of Foster Care Services
- Youth who are adjudicated delinquent must turn 18 years of age in DCS custody and considered to be in foster care at age 18 to be eligible for Extension of Foster Care Services
- Youth who turn 18 years of age while in a Youth Development Center or detention center are not eligible for Extension of Foster Care, but would be eligible for the State Funded Scholarship
- Youth on Aftercare may receive Extension of Foster Care Services, but EFCS must end if youth re-enter DCS custody
- Extension of Foster Care Services are voluntary, so the young adult must agree to participate and meet the required responsibilities
- Young adults must participate in a high school or equivalent program (example: HiSET), or enroll in college, community college or a vocational program. If the young adult is unable to do either of those requirements due to a serious medical condition, they may still be eligible for services and supports. Eligibility for Extension of Foster Care Services must be verified before approval can take place, and must be maintained in order for services to continue

Some specific benefits that may be available to participating young adults (if eligible, per service) include:

- Education and Training Vouchers (up to \$2500/semester or up to \$5000 a year) to help pay for post-secondary education *
- State-Funded Scholarship (Bright Futures): (up to 2,500/semester or up to 5,000 a year) to help pay for post-secondary education *
- Youth Villages LifeSet Program
- Placement support in an approved placement or an Independent Living Allowance (ILA)
- Independent Living Wrap Services
- Resource Centers serving youth and young adults 14-26 who are transitioning from foster care with a variety of supports and services.
- Access to life skills classes and leadership opportunities
- Support of a child and family team and court representatives to help young adults achieve their goals
- Case management services including monthly contact with a Family Service worker
- Court Oversight

If a young adult leaves custody at the age of 18 or later and declines to participate in Extension of Foster Care services, he or she can return to DCS at a later date and request services be provided to them. If they meet the other eligibility requirements, they can start services any time up until their 21st birthday.

* The ETV and State Funded Scholarship (Bright Futures) can't be used concurrently