

BENEFITS OF EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

What benefits can I get with Extended Foster Care?

You can get:

- Clothing allowance
- Case management services by a social worker
- Independent Living Program services
- Housing

You can live at a:

- Relative's home
- Non-related extended family member's home
- Foster home
- Foster Family Agency certified home
- Group home if you need to because of a medical condition
- Supervised Independent Living Setting (e.g., apartment or college dorm)

Do I qualify to for Extended Foster Care?

You have to meet the following requirements:

- Effective 2012, you were in foster care on your 18th birthday
- You must be:
 1. Completing high school or equivalent program (GED); or
 2. Enrolled in college, community college or a vocational education program; or
 3. Participating in a program to remove barriers to employment; or
 4. Employed at least 80 hours a month; or
 5. Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical condition.

What do I do if I leave foster care but want to return at a later date?

1. Call the DCFS Child Protection Hotline at: 1-800-540-4000
2. Initiate EFC Re-Entry at any Regional Office
3. Go directly to Children's Court to reopen your case by going to the DCFS office on the 1st floor to sign the SOC 163.
4. DCFS is required to help you fill out the paperwork needed to reenter foster care.
5. There will be a court hearing (and you will receive notice about the date, time and location) and the judge will review the information and decide your case. If the court decides you meet the requirements, you will return to court every 6 months to tell the court how you are doing. Your social worker will most likely go with you to the hearing and you will be represented by an attorney at every hearing.

If the court denies your request, you have the right to consult with an attorney per Rule of Court 5.906(d)(2)(A)(iv).you can file your request again if your situation changes and you meet the requirements.

PREPARING FOR “TURNING 18”

Effective 01/01/2012, foster youth who have turned 18 are eligible to continue to receive benefits as non-minor dependents (NMD). Youth remain eligible until 21st birthday.

Eligibility: Youth who turn 18 starting calendar year 2011 and thereafter and there was an order for foster care placement on their 18th birthday, in foster care dependency under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court on January 1, 2012 and meet one of the criteria listed in number 2 below.

Court Reports & TILP*: CSW's must document specific items in the court report of the hearing before the youth reaches the age of majority (18 years old). It's important that the CSW has discussed these items with the youth prior to the court hearing and that the youth attends the hearing. The items include:

1. The youth's plan (including ICWA youth) to remain under juvenile court jurisdiction as a NMD.
2. The youth's plan to satisfy one of the following five criteria:
 - Is completing secondary education or equivalent program (GED).
 - Is enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education.
 - Is participating in a program designed to remove barriers to employment.
 - Is employed for at least 80 hours per month.
 - Is incapable of doing any of the above listed activities due to a medical condition and that incapability is supported by regularly undated information in the case plan.
3. The efforts made by the CSW to help the youth meet the criteria listed in Number 2.
4. Whether the youth has a SSI or SJIS application pending and whether an active dependency case is required for that application.
5. If the youth doesn't intend to remain under juvenile court jurisdiction as a NMD, the youth's plan for his/her transition to independence including housing, education, employment and social support system.
6. The efforts made by the CSW toward completing and providing the youth with everything listed on the JV-365.
7. When and how the youth was informed of her/his right to have juvenile court jurisdiction terminated when (s)he turns 18 years old.
8. When and how the youth was provided with information about the potential benefits of remaining under juvenile court jurisdiction as a NMD and the CSW's assessment of the youth's understanding of those benefits.
9. When and how the youth was informed that if juvenile court jurisdiction is terminated, (s)he has the right to file a request to return to foster care and have the juvenile court resume jurisdiction over (her/him as a NMD. Documentation that the information was provided and the youth's response.

*The TILP must be submitted with this court report and it must include the plan for the youth to:

- Satisfy one or more of the criteria listed above in Number 2; and
- Transition to independence including (even if the youth doesn't want to be a NMD):
 - * Housing, education, employment, support system