



Adolescent Services
Successful Transition to Adulthood

Support, represent and advocate for youth to reach their full potential #safe #well #connected

Medical Assistance for Former Foster Care Youth

Youth leaving foster care at age 18 or older are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) until age 26.

Apply on the MNsure website at www.mnsure.org/; no need to apply specifically for MA eligibility. Youth apply for help with health care insurance, and the system determines whether they qualify for MA under the former foster care category, or another category of MA, MinnesotaCare, or enrollment in a qualified health plan with or without an advanced premium tax credit.

The online application asks a series of questions designed to identify applicants who qualify for MA as former foster care youth, including:

- a. Were you ever in foster care in Minn.? (If yes, question b appears)
- b. Did foster care stop when you were age 18 or older? (If yes, question c appears)
- c. Were you on MA or MinnesotaCare at the time foster care ended?

Overview document: DHS 7678, Medical Assistance Benefits for Former Foster Care Youth.

Contact: Aubrey Haddican, 651-431-4685, or aubrey.haddican@state.mn.us.

Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

Federally funded to provide up to \$5,000 per year to eligible students to pursue post-secondary education.

Eligibility: Under age 26, have not received an ETV for five years, graduated from high school/received a GED diploma, are accepted into an accredited post-secondary institution, awarded financial aid, and one of the following:

- In foster care 30 consecutive days or more between their 17-18 birthdays, or
- Left foster care after age 16 for adoption or transfer of permanent physical/legal custody to a relative, or
- Under state/tribal guardianship on their 18th birthday.

Website: [ETV website](#)

Contact: Paul Minehart, 651-431-6059, or paul.minehart@state.mn.us.

Credit Reports

Youth in foster care, ages 14-21, are to annually receive consumer credit reports from the three credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. The responsible social service agency is to assist youth in interpreting reports and resolving credit issues.

Bulletin #21-68-26: Consumer Credit Reports for Youth in Foster Care.

Contact: Nicolas Vogel, 651-431-4707, or nicolas.vogel@state.mn.us.

Extended foster care ages 18-21 program

Federal, state and county funds are utilized to fund the extended foster care program. The program is possible through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. It allows youth to stay in foster care, including supervised independent living settings, on a voluntary basis up to age 21.

Eligibility: Youth in foster care immediately prior to their 18th birthday may continue in foster care past age 18 if they desire to, and are not able to return home, or otherwise achieve permanency prior to age 18. Youth placed solely under Minnesota Statute 260B (delinquency) are not eligible for extended foster care.

Website: [Extended foster care website](#)

Contact: Nicolas Vogel, 651-431-4707, or nicolas.vogel@state.mn.us.



Successful Transition to Adulthood for Youth (STAY)

Federal funds designed to prepare youth for successful transition to adulthood, and to prevent homelessness and welfare dependency.

Eligibility: The program is open to youth up to age 23 who are currently, or were previously, in foster care for at least 30 consecutive days after age 14.

Services: Youth may get help with independent living skills training, transportation, education, employment, permanent connections and housing.

Website: [STAY website](#)

Contact: Kim Lemcke, 651-431-4686, or kim.lemcke@state.mn.us.

STAY in the Community

Federal and state funds are used to contract with non-profit agencies statewide to improve outcomes, and reduce the risk of homelessness, for youth ages 14 to 23 who experienced a foster care placement. Contracted agencies collaborate with county and tribal social service agencies and other resources in a community to assist youth in achieving transition goals.

Eligibility: Youth ages 14 to 23 who experience a county-approved placement of 30 days or longer after age 14.

Website: [STAY in the Community website](#)

Contact: Kim Lemcke, 651-431-4686, or kim.lemcke@state.mn.us.

Additional resources:

- [Adolescent services website](#), Programs and services. Brochures, fact sheets and videos are under Resources.
- Helping youth transition from out-of-home care to adulthood Best Practice Guide, DHS 6530, 2/21, [Helping youth transition from out-of-home care Best Practice Guide](#)
- Sibling Bill of Rights Commissioner's form, [Sibling bill of rights Commissioner form](#)
- Normalcy and Prudent Parenting Standards [video@ YouTube](#) and Best Practice Guide, DHS 7684
- **Foster Care Sibling Bill of Rights**, [Sibling bill of rights \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- **Responding to Youth Who Run Away from Foster Care Practice Guide**, [Responding to youth who run away from home practice guide](#)