

Safe Connected
Well Family Healthy

m DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

Extended Foster Care

Support Education
Community Independent
Transition Future Leadership
Success Employment



Foster care benefits past age 18

Youth have the right to remain in foster care past age 18. All eligible youth in foster care will receive a written notice within six months prior to turning age 18, informing them of their right to extended foster care up to age 21. This notice is sent by the county or tribal agency responsible for placement. The notice includes information on:

- Eligibility
- Types of placements
- Independent living plans
- Return to foster care
- Notice of termination
- Right to appeal a decision to terminate placement.

Eligibility for extended foster care

Youth in foster care immediately prior to and on their 18th birthday, are eligible for extended foster care benefits. Foster care placement must be under Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 260C or 260D. Youth placed solely under 260B (delinquency) are not eligible. Youth should not be discharged prior to age 18 unless:

- They are reunified with their primary caregiver
- They have a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody
- They are adopted, either traditional or customary.

Continuing in extended foster care

Youth must meet at least one of the following conditions to continue in or return to foster care, and remain in placement to age 21:

- Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential, such as General Education Development (GED) diploma or certificate
- Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
- Employed for at least 80 hours per month
- Incapable of doing any of the activities described above due to a medical condition.

Two types of extended foster care settings

There are two types of extended foster care settings, traditional foster care and supervised independent living settings, including:

- Apartment
- Dormitory
- Host home
- Shared living arrangement
- Other approved county or tribal agency setting.

Maintenance payment eligibility

All youth in supervised independent living settings remain eligible for foster care maintenance payments. Foster care maintenance payments include the basic foster care rate and an assessed supplemental rate. These payments are used for:

- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Daily supervision
- School supplies
- Personal and other basic needs expenses.

If youth are in a traditional foster care setting, payments will continue to go to the foster care provider. If youth are in a supervised independent living setting, the agency may pay all or part of the payment directly to youth. An agency may also pay all or part of maintenance payments to a vendor. Youth must receive the entire maintenance payment amount, either directly to them or to a vendor.

Casework requirements

All ongoing casework requirements and responsibilities continue for all youth in extended foster care, including:

- Out-of-home placement plan
- Independent living plan
- A 90-day transition plan
- Annual permanency review hearing
- Administrative review
- Monthly face-to-face contact.

Discharge from extended foster care

Youth who no longer meet at least one of the eligibility conditions, or fail to meet requirements of their case plan, may be discharged from foster care. Social workers should make efforts to engage youth in a planned discharge from foster care. Notice of termination of benefits and their right to appeal under Minnesota Statutes 260C.045, must be given to youth. A 90-day transition plan for youth must be offered.

Return or re-entry into care

Youth who were under guardianship of the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (parental rights were terminated by the court) have the right to return to foster care any time between the ages of 18-21. If not under state guardianship, youth must have been in placement for six consecutive months prior to age 18, or discharged on runaway status after age 15. Youth must still meet eligibility criteria and live in an approved setting.

For more information

For questions about transition or extended foster care policy and services, contact Nicolas Vogel, agency policy specialist at 651-431-4707 or nicolas.vogel@state.mn.us.



651-431-4707

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LB2 (8-16)



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