

Texas Transitioning Youth Benefits



FINANCIAL

Tuition & Fee Waiver: Youth are exempt from paying tuition and fees at a state supported school, college, or university. Youth are eligible if they were in Family and Protective Services conservatorship on their 18th birthday or received a GED/Diploma, whichever occurs first. To remain eligible throughout their lifetime, youth must activate the tuition and fee waiver benefit before their 21st birthday or 3 years following the day they received their GED/Diploma.

NOTE: A complete list of state supported institutions and list of PAL Coordinators can be found on www.texasyouthconnection.org. Youth must contact the PAL Coordinator to inquire about this benefit.

Education & Training Voucher (ETV): Youth may receive up to **\$5,000** a year until their 23rd birthday to cover the cost of attending college or trade school that is not a state supported university. Also this benefit can be used for the cost of educational needs to include but not limited to housing, child care, computers/educational equipment, etc. To qualify for this benefit youth must...

- Graduate from high school or receive a GED
- Age out of foster care
- Be adopted after age 16
- Participate by their 21st birthday
- Complete ETV application and provide all supporting documentation

NOTE: Youth can remain eligible for ETV as long as they are making satisfactory progress toward completing their education, as determined by the ETV specialist. For more information contact, **Caroline Bogues (ETV Specialist)** at etv@dfps.state.tx.us or by phone (512) 438-3312.

Transitional Living Allowance (TLA): Youth receive **\$1,000** upon aging out of foster care to help pay for transitional living costs such as housing deposit, dishes, rent, etc. Checks are disbursed regionally and can not exceed monthly increments of \$500. Contact the PAL Coordinator for more information. Youth qualify if...

- They completed the 6 core elements of Life Skills Classes
- Graduated from PAL
- Aged out of foster care
- Currently attending school/training
- Can not return to live with a known designated perpetrator

PELL Grant (FAFSA): Youth fill out FAFSA application online and note that they were a ward of the state. Youth are required to attend school at least part-time and apply annually.

Aftercare Room & Board and Case Management: Youth can receive up to **\$3000** in a life time between the ages of 18-21. This benefit is to serve as financial assistance to youth who prove financial need. To qualify youth must...

- Be enrolled in an educational program at a state supported school, university, or vocational/technical school or working or actively seeking employment.
- Aged out of foster care at age 18 or older
- Can **NOT** be living with a known designated perpetrator

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MEDICAL

Transitional Medicaid (STAR Health): It is a statewide program designed specifically for children in foster care and youth transitioning from foster care to independent living. STAR Health is contracted by HHSC through Superior Health Plan Network (SHPN). Youth will be able to choose a primary care provider as well as receive case management. Visit www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Renewal for more information or call the member service number 1(866) 912-6283. Youth must meet the following requirements to remain eligible...

- Be in PRS Conservatorship on the 18th birthday including, foster care, kinship care, unauthorized placement up to 60 days, pre-consummated adoption placements, and RTCs
- In extended foster care and are not older than 22 years of age or older
- Previously in foster care who are 21 years and younger and are receiving Transitioning Medicaid
- Returned home but are still in PRS Conservatorship
- Participating in the CPS Return to Care Program



EXTENDED FOSTER CARE & RETURN TO CARE

Extended Foster Care: Effective September 1, 2005, CPS can now pay for youth to remain in foster care until age 22 as long as the youth is attending high school or technical/vocational school. Eligibility for this benefit ends when the youth graduates, receives a GED, drops out of school, or turns 22.

Return to Care: Available to youth who have left foster care and may return to complete their high school education, obtain a GED, attend a technical/vocational school (for at least one month, but no more than four months), or during breaks while attending a college. Youth between the ages of 18 and 22 may utilize this benefit. Youth must contact their case worker.



PAL ACTIVITIES: PEAKS, Texas Teen Conference, TAMU and More! Contact the Regional PAL Coordinator for more information. Youth may also attend as a Peer Leader as requested.