

Successful Transition to Adulthood

Services & Supports



Objectives

- Learn about Transition Age Services for young people ages 14-23, experiencing foster care in Arizona.
 - Discuss Normalcy and Transition Planning
 - Extended Foster Care Program
 - Financial Aid Opportunities
 - After-care services (TILP)
- ADCS Youth Empowerment Council
 - Foster Child Bill of Rights
 - Adult/Youth Partnerships



Federal Requirements

States must develop a state plan that outlines how they will assist youth to:



- Receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment
- Prepare for and enter postsecondary training and educational institutions
- To support and provide services to former foster youth 18 to 21 to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency



Normalcy



- Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, was passed in 2014. This law requires states to implement a Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to support normalcy for children in care.
- DCS Policy: Chapter 4 Section 15

Transition Planning

- Ideally, transition planning begins the moment a young person enters foster care.
- Most systems require transition plans, it's imperative that all systems supporting a young person are discussing transitions.
- Transition Plans are required in the 90-day period prior to the foster youth's 18th birthday.
- Within ten work days for foster youth who enter out-of-home care during the 90-day period prior to the foster youth's 18th birthday.



Purpose of Transition Age Services

- To support all youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood.
- Supportive services can be delivered through the following avenues:
 - Caregivers: Caregivers are the preferred method of support to young people in foster care, as it replicates the experiences and opportunities that their non-foster care peers are experiencing.
 - School and community programs: school extracurricular classes/activities are a great way for young people to naturally learn about important transitional skills.
 - DCS funded programs: life skills contract and supports like Fostering Sustainable Connections can support young people in the items they need to successfully transition to adulthood.
 - Behavioral health: behavioral health providers can offer a variety of opportunities for youth to learn and practice skills.



Arizona Young Adult Program

- The Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP) is for youth ages 14 and older, who are:
- In the care and custody of the Department
- Reside in out of home care
- Are Residents of Arizona

**It's important to note, youth do not have to be in a specialized Young Adult Program "YAP" Unit, to have the appropriate supportive services in place to assist them in their successful transition to adulthood. Any youth ages 14 and older who meets these criteria, should have their transitional needs discussed and planned for through their DCS Specialist, case plans, caregivers, service providers, etc.



IV-E Extended Foster: Overview

- In 2008, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (H.R.6893/P.L. 110-351) allowed states to receive federal Title IV-E reimbursement for costs associated with supports for young adults to remain in foster care up to the age of 21.
- Arizona has been offering Voluntary Extended Foster Care services for young adults, age 18-21, funded by state funds.
- On May 27th, the Governor signed SB 1539, which was the first step in supporting Arizona's goal towards beginning a Federally supported IV-E Extended Foster Care Program.
- As of October 2019, Arizona has elected to exercise the option afforded in the Social Security Act to utilize Title IV-E funds to provide foster care services for qualified young adults until their 21st birthday



Extended Foster Care Policy- Chapter 5

Section 36

The Department may provide out-of-home care services and supervision to an eligible qualified young adult who reached the age of 18 years while in the custody of the Department as a dependent child, when the young adult:

- is 18, 19, or 20 years of age;
- is a resident of Arizona;
- has signed a Voluntary Extended Foster Care Agreement;
- resides in a supervised living arrangement approved by the Department;
- has an individualized case plan that outlines the activities the young adult identifies as necessary to aid in the successful transition to adulthood, and the supportive services the Department will provide the young adult to work toward the identified goals; and
- is in one or more of the following:
 - completing secondary education or an educational program leading to a GED or be enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education;
 - employed at least eighty hours a month;
 - participating in a program or activity that promotes employment or removes barriers to employment; or
 - unable to be a full-time student or to be employed because of a documented medical condition.



Extended Foster Care Quality Review Purpose

The Extended Foster Care Quality Review team will:

- ensure that the Department is providing the QYA with the needed services and support to help them move towards permanency and a successful transition to adulthood;
- conduct a Quality Review within 180 days after the young adult signs a VPA, and within 180 days after the initial review until case closure; and
- provide outreach and support to DCS Specialist and QYA



Available Supports and Services

- Funding for items to support self-sufficiency, as noted in Case Plan/Transition Plan- “Chafee Funds”
- Assistance with Education needs by DCS Education Specialists- Rosemary Miller Rosemary.Miller@AZDCS.GOV and Eva Pena Eva.Pena@azdcs.gov
- Life Skills Training: Arizona’s Children Association has a statewide contract with the Department to provide life skills training. Referrals & Information Text or Call: 480.247.1413 Email: YAS@arizonaschildren.org
- Financial incentives



Arizona Tuition Waiver

- The Arizona Tuition Waiver is available to foster youth and former foster youth attending public Arizona State Community Colleges, and Universities. Young Adults can apply for the Tuition Wavier as they apply for ETV at www.statevoucher.org
- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
- You must be a current or former foster youth who:
- was in foster care on or after your 14th birthday,
- Is a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen.
- Your personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) cannot be over \$10,000.
- If you are in good standing and progressing towards earning a credential, you remain eligible for funding until your 23rd birthday.
- After the first academic year youth who receive a tuition waiver scholarship will need to annually complete at least thirty hours of volunteer service during the previous year.



Education and Training Vouchers

The ETV provides funding for eligible post-secondary education and training programs, such as college/university, culinary arts and other vocational based institutions.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

You must be a current or former foster youth who:

- was in foster care on or after your 16th birthday,
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen;
- A resident of Arizona.
- Has accessed ETV funding less than the 5 year limit (consecutive or intermittent).
- If you are in good standing and progressing towards earning a credential, you remain eligible for funding until your 26th birthday.

Eligible students may receive up to \$5,000 per year, not to exceed the total cost of attendance.

Students may apply online at www.statevoucher.org. ETV Provider is Foster Care to Success.



Health Care to Age 26

- Youth who turn 18 while in DCS care are pre-enrolled into an AHCCCS plan of their choice, the month prior to their 18th birthday. AHCCCS will place the young adult in the best health care plan, which can include Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI).
- Youth must complete annual re-determinations to maintain coverage. AHCCCS recommends young people create an account on healtharizonaplus.gov, to receive all of their health communication electronically.
- Young adults are eligible for coverage until age 26 under the Affordable Care Act.
 - Dental and Vision end at age 21.



After Care Services-TILP

- This program is called the Transitional Independent Living Program or TILP.
- Any legal resident of Arizona who is at least age 18 but not older than 20, and who was previously in any State's or Tribe's foster care system at age 16 or older may participate in these services.
- Aftercare provider: Arizona's Children Association
Referrals & Information Text or Call: 480.247.1413 Email:
YAS@arizonaschildren.org



Re-Entry into Extended Foster Care

- To re-enter Extended Foster Care, young person must have reached 18 while in Arizona's foster care system and meet the qualifications for EFC.
- The Provider will:
 - Provide services and support that will assist the young adult to resolve current housing, mental health, employment or other crises.
 - Confirm the young adult's desire to receive long term case management or other services.
 - Assist the young adult to develop an individualized plan
 - Notify the local DCS IL Coordinator of the potential case transfer.



Arizona DCS Youth Empowerment Council (YEC)

- The Department and youth leaders have partnered to develop a Youth Empowerment Council.
- The Youth Empowerment Council developed the following criteria for the Council:
 - Mission: Improve the Experience of Foster Care for Youth
 - All youth must be at least age 14 but not older than 23 residing in the State of Arizona.
 - If you know of any interested youth, please have them contact: DCSYEC@AZDCS.gov.



YEC Goals 2020

- Inform youth in congregate of their rights and opportunities available by the Department.
 - Foster Child Bill of Rights
- Reduce the number of failed adoptions and guardianships.



Additional Resources/Information

- Annie E. Casey Foundation-Promoting Brain Gains for Youth Emerging From Foster Care:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRXQaa-DMXg>
- DCS Policy Manual, Ch. 5 Section 35-38:
<https://extranet.azdcs.gov/DCSPolicy/>
- Foster Club-Transition Toolkit:
<https://store.fosterclub.com/transition-toolkit-download/>
- <http://www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org/>
- <https://www.affcf.org/>



Thank You!

Megan Conrad

DCS Statewide Independent Living Coordinator

Megan.Conrad@azdcs.gov

Barbara Guillen

Permanency & Youth Service Manager

Barbara.Guillen@azdcs.gov

