

**Residential
and Transitional Services for
Young Adults
Who Have Aged Out of
DFPS
Conservatorship**

**Texas Department of Family &
Protective Services**

Foster Care Statistics

- There are approximately 500,000 children in foster care in the United States.
- Approximately 20,000 youth “age out” of the foster care in the United State every year.
- 1468 Youth aged out of foster care Texas 2008 (DFPS Data Book)

National Foster Care Statistics for Emancipated Youth*

- Within 18 months of emancipation 50% of foster youth become homeless
- 54% of foster youth age out without a high school diploma
- 50% of emancipated youth have incomes at or below the federal poverty level
- 42% of foster youth, including 60% of women, become parents within 2-4 years after exiting care
- Youth transitioning from foster care have higher rates of physical, developmental, and mental health problems
- 25% of former foster youth will be incarcerated within the first 2 years of emancipation

* Statistics taken from BARRIERS FACING FOSTER CARE YOUTH: *National and Local Statistics about Emancipating Foster Youth*, Honoring Emancipated Youth, www.heysf.org

Benefits of Remaining in Care*

- More likely to attend college
- Each year in foster care after age 18 associated with increased earnings
- Reduced risk of teen pregnancy
- More likely to receive more independent living services
- More likely to develop and maintain connections to family and community and supports, such as health care

* Survey of research by the National Coalition on Foster Care

Current CPS Requirements
for Providing Contracted
Residential Care
to Young Adults
Who Have Aged Out
of DFPS
Conservatorship

Residential Contracts Provisions

- Allows your operation to serve any young adults approved by CPS for the Extended Foster Care or Return to Care programs
- Must provide care in accordance with Residential Contract

See the Residential Contracts website at

<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/pcs/residential.asp>

Contracted Care of Young Adults

CPS approval to participate in Extended Foster Care or Return to Care programs and:

- Are under DADS guardianship; or
- Sign Voluntary Extended Foster Care Agreement or Return to Foster Care Agreement on or after 18th birthday

Residential Contract
Provisions Concerning
Extended Foster Care
and
Return to Care

Extended Foster Care

- Attend full time **high school** regularly up to the end of the month of their **22nd birthday**.
- Attend a full time **certified vocational or technical program** regularly that allows for a young adult to be hired into the workforce up to the end of the month of their **21st birthday**. (The number of hours enrolled must be acceptable to the department and consistent with the transition plan.)
- Attend full time **GED (Graduate Equivalence Diploma) classes** regularly up to the end of the month of their **19th birthday**. (The number of hours enrolled must be acceptable to the department and consistent with the transition plan.)
- **Accepted for admission to a college, or to a vocational program not to exceed 3 and 1/2 months** following the end of the month in which they graduate from high school or complete the GED.

Eligible for Extended Foster Care

If CPS determines young adult is eligible for Return to Care program, a CPS caseworker will:

- Be assigned to the case
- Follow CPS processes to secure placement
- Review and sign Voluntary Extended Foster Care Agreement with young adult
- Update Service and Transition Plans

Return to Care

- Attend full time **high school** regularly up to the end of the month of their **22nd birthday**.
- Attend a full time **certified vocational or technical program** regularly that allows for a young adult to be hired into the workforce up to the end of the month of their **21st birthday**. (The number of hours enrolled must be acceptable to the department and consistent with the transition plan.)
- Attend full time **GED (Graduate Equivalence Diploma) classes** regularly up to the end of the month of their **21st birthday**. (The number of hours enrolled must be acceptable to the department and consistent with the transition plan.)
- **Return on a break from college or technical or vocational program** for at least one (1) month, but no more than four (4) months up to the end of the month of their **21st birthday**

Eligible to Return to Care

If CPS determines young adult is eligible for Return to Care program:

- CPS will conduct criminal background check
- A CPS caseworker will:
 - o Be assigned to the case
 - o Follow CPS processes to secure placement
 - o Review and sign Voluntary Return to Care Agreement with young adult
 - o Update Service and Transition Plans

My Responsibilities if CPS
Does Not
Provide a Copy of the
Voluntary
Extended Foster Care
or Voluntary Return
to Foster Care Agreement

Provider Responsibility

You should:

- Request copy from CPS
- Document your attempts

Legal Status
of
Young Adults
in
Extended Foster Care
or
Return to Care

Legal Status

- DFPS conservatorship ends when a youth turns 18 years old
- Youth has the rights of an adult, unless a guardian is appointed by the court
- Participation in Extended Foster Care or Return to Care programs by eligible young adults is voluntary, unless the young adult is under a DADS guardianship

Residential Child Care
Licensing
Requirements
Related to Caring
for Young Adults Who Have
Aged Out of DFPS
Conservatorship

RCCL Requirements

Minimum standards allow you to care for a young adult in the voluntary care of DFPS if:

- Your admission policies allow for this, and
- The young adult is appropriate for your program/setting.

RCCL Requirements

- A young adult in your care does not affect the age range on your license or on a foster home's verification.
- RCCL does not regulate adult care.
- However, some minimum standards do apply to adults in care at your RCCL operation. See the RCCL FAQs on the DFPS web site for details.

RCCL Requirements

To access the RCCL FAQs on the DFPS web site:

- Go to www.dfps.state.tx.us
- Click on "Child Care Licensing"
- Click on "Residential Child Care Licensing"
- Scroll down and click on "Frequently Asked Questions"

Restrictions to Serving
Young Adults Based
on
Your License Type

License Restrictions

There are no restrictions based on license type. RTCs, GROs, and CPAs can all serve young adults in the voluntary care of DFPS if minimum standards are met (see FAQ) and the young adult is appropriate for your program.

Authorized or
Unauthorized
Overnight Stays
Away from
Placement

Overnight Stays Away from Placement

DFPS will continue to make payments in accordance with Residential Contract sections:

- Approval for Travel and Visits (Section 28 or FY 2010 Residential Contract)
- Conditions of Payment (Section 34.E of FY 2010 Residential Contract)

Overnight Visits
to Foster Homes
by
Young Adults
Not Approved
by CPS for
Extended Foster Care
or Return to Care

Overnight Visits in Foster Homes

- Foster parents may invite young adults not approved for Extended Foster Care or Return to Care programs for overnight visits as “visitors”
- DFPS will not pay for the overnight visit
- Licensing rules require CPAs to conduct background checks on young adults who are frequent or regular visitors to a foster home

Residence in Foster Homes

- Foster parents may invite young adults not approved by CPS for Extended Foster Care or Return to Care programs to reside in the foster home
- Foster parents should refer the young adult to CPS to determine eligibility for Extended Foster Care or Return to Care programs
- DFPS will not pay for placement unless the young adult is eligible and voluntarily participates in Return to Care
- If the young adult is not in voluntary DFPS care, the CPA must comply with the requirements of TAC §749.2653

Helping
a Young Adult
Who Wishes to
Participate in the
Return to Care
Program

Young Adult Wishes to Return to Care

- You should refer the young adult to his or her previous CPS caseworker, PAL staff, other DFPS staff, or SWI at 1-800-252-5400
- CPS staff will determine if needs can be met with additional PAL services or young adult is eligible for Return to Care program

Helping
a Young Adult
Who Wishes
to Participate in
the Extended
Foster Care
Program

Young Adult Wishes to Participate in Extended Foster Care

- Notify CPS caseworker of young adult's wishes and your interest in serving the young adult
- If under a DADS guardianship, notify CPS caseworker and DADS guardian

Service
Levels
for
Young Adults
in Care

Service Levels

Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) may continue to review service levels of young adults in Extended Foster Care or Return to Care programs who will be or are enrolled in:

- A technical or vocational program
- High-school
- A course of instruction to prepare for the high school equivalency

Rate will be paid at Basic, or operation's lowest contracted rate, for young adults who are returning on break from college or technical/vocational program for one month but no more than 4 months

Transitional Services

Transitional Services

For information about transitional services visit:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Transitional_Living/default.asp.

These services include:

- Aftercare services, benefits, and provider contacts
- Education supports, services, and benefits [e.g., counseling, mentoring/tutoring, driver's education, graduation items, college tuition and fee waiver information and verification letters, Education and Training Voucher (ETV)]
- Extended Care and Return to Care information
- Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) services
- Texas Foster Care Handbook for Youth
- Transitional Medicaid and STAR Health
- Other region-specific services available

Provider
Responsibility
Concerning
CPS Transition Plan

CPS Transition Plan

- You must coordinate with CPS regarding the CPS Transition Plan for all youth 16 years old and older, including young adults in care
- You should contact the CPS caseworker if you have not received a copy of the CPS Transition Plan
- To view a blank copy go to:
[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Transitional Living/forms.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/TransitionalLiving/forms.asp)

Circles of Support

A Circle of Support is used to help young people develop a plan for their future beyond foster care.

It's a meeting with the youth, their family, their foster family, friends, and professionals who care about them and their future.

At a Circle of Support, we will discuss the young adult's:

- **Living Situation**
- **Family Connections**
- **Educational Needs**
- **Employment Needs**
- **Financial Needs**
- **Medical Needs**
- **Basic Life Need**
- **Concerns**

Preparation for Adult Living

Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)

- Established in 1986
- Chafee Foster Care Independence Act – 1999
- Youth received PAL Services in 2008 -7,622 (DFPS Data Book)
- 1468 youth aged out of foster care in FY 08 (DFPS Data Book)

PAL Training

- **Ansell- Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA)**
 - www.caseylifeskills.org
- **Life Skills Training (30 hours experiential curriculum)**
 - Health and Safety
 - Housing/Transportation
 - Job Readiness
 - Financial Management
 - Life Decisions/Responsibility
 - Personal/Social Relationships

PAL/Transitional Benefits

- Support Services (based on availability of funding)
- Transitional Living Allowance (TLA) - \$1,000
- Tuition Fee Waiver
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
 - 16-23 year olds up to \$5000 per year for post secondary or vocational
- Star Health/Transitional Medicaid (18-21 year olds)
- Former Foster Care in Higher Education (FFCHE) health benefit program (21-22 year olds)
- Chafee Aftercare Room & Board
 - Up to \$3,000 before their 21st birthday

After Care Case Management Services (Post PAL)

- Young people ages 16 - 21
- Case-Management
- Support Group Meetings
- Youth Activities

PAL
Aftercare
Room
and
Board

Aftercare Room & Board

If a young adult is not eligible for the Return to Care or Extended Foster Care programs:

- In an emergency and for a limited time, the young adult may be eligible for PAL Aftercare Room and Board
- You should refer the young adult to CPS to determine eligibility

Chafee Aftercare Room & Board

- Young Adults 18 – 21 who have emancipated out of State care.
- Distributes **Emergency Funds**
 - o Housing
 - o Utilities
 - o Food
- Case-Management Services

Eligibility Criteria for PAL Aftercare Room & Board

- Between 18 and 21
- Aged out of foster care at 18 or older
- US citizen, permanent resident, or qualified alien
- Not living with perpetrator (being revised with HB 1912)
- Proven financial need
- In educational, pre-vocational or vocational program, employed, or actively seeking employment

Education and Training Vouchers

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

- BCFS is the provider for the ETV program for the State of Texas.
- FY 08-09 641 youth accessed ETV funds
- Can access up to \$5,000 a year up to their 23rd birthday, if enrolled at 21
- Allowable expenses
- Changes in distribution of funds

Thank You for
Serving
Transitioning Youth and Young Adults
Who Have
Aged Out of
DFPS
Conservatorship

For more information go to:
www.dfps.state.tx.us
www.texasyouthconnection.org