



Extended Foster Care Program

Foster Care
benefits now
available
until age 21

Aging Out of Foster Care?

An important new law gives emerging adults the option to remain in foster care and receive services and support until age 21!

Things to Know

- This new program begins January 1, 2012. If you turn 18 on or after January 1*, you can stay in foster care up to age 21 as long as you meet eligibility requirements.
- It is up to you. The program is voluntary; you decide if you want to stay in foster care.
- You can change your mind. Should you decide to leave foster care, you can return, provided you meet the requirements.
- You have responsibilities too. You will need to meet with your social worker or probation officer, go to court, and continue to meet the eligibility requirements.

What You Need to Do

You are eligible for this program if you are doing at least one of the following:

- Completing high school or an equivalent program
- Enrolling at least half-time in college, community college or a vocational education program
- Employed at least 80 hours a month
- Participating in a program/activity designed to remove barriers to employment
- Unable to do any of the above because of a medical condition

* If you turn 18 before January 1, 2012, contact your social worker, probation officer, or attorney to learn about options for staying in foster care beyond age 18.

Where You Can Live

You must live in one of the following places to be eligible for this program:

- Home of a relative, non-related extended family member or legal guardian
- Licensed or approved foster home, Foster Family Agency (FFA) certified home, or Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)
- Transitional Housing Program Plus Foster Care
- Supervised Independent Living Program
- Group home (if needed to complete high school or if you have a medical condition)

What Your Responsibilities Are

To be part of this program, you will need to:

- Meet with your social worker or probation officer each month
- Attend a court hearing or administrative review every six months
- Sign an agreement
- Agree to work with your social worker or probation officer to meet the goals of your Transitional Independent Living Case Plan and receive case management services

How to Learn More

- Ask your social worker, probation officer, or attorney for more detailed information
- Visit the Independent Living Program website at www.vchsa.org/ilp

Get the **211** Extended Foster Care

What do emerging adults who want extended foster care need to do? Once they turn 18, emerging adults will automatically be eligible for extended support by living in an approved placement and signing a mutual agreement. A caseworker will be assigned to all emerging adults to assist in developing their own case plan and help them meet program requirements. Those who do not wish to participate can leave the program and “opt-out.”

Can emerging adults leave their current placement at age 18? Yes, they can either choose to remain in their current living setting or choose to live in another placement that is developed as part of their case plan.

What benefits do emerging adults receive? Financial assistance for housing will be provided to them along with case management.

How often do emerging adults meet with their caseworker? They will have monthly meetings with their caseworker and will attend a hearing every six months to review progress on their individual case plan.

What other benefits do emerging adults receive that are not related to AB12?

- Medi-Cal up until the age of 21
- CalFresh (Food Stamps)
- Social Security if qualified
- Financial Aid for emerging adults enrolled in college

Once emerging adults “opt-out,” can they decide later on that they want to participate in the program? Yes, they can “opt out” of the program at any time. Emerging adults can also return to the program as long as they meet program eligibility requirements.

Can emerging adults who are parents participate? Yes, emerging adults who are parents have the same rights in the program as others.



COUNTY OF VENTURA