

## Extended Foster Care



### Connecticut

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Extended Age Limit	Legal Arrangement Type/Court's Involvement	Re-entry	Living Arrangement Type	Financial Assistance Provided by State	Educational Assistance and Services to Youth Living On-Campus Provided by State	Other Support/Services Provided by State
<p>21 (if in high school or GED program; in a 1-year work experience program upon graduation from high school or GED program; or enrolled in post-secondary education program)</p> <p>23 (if the youth completes one year of college by the age of 21 and remains enrolled in college; does not apply to the vocational programs – cut off at 21)</p>	<p>On or before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the youth sign a voluntary agreement to remain in care. Courts have no role in legal arrangement since youth enter into an agreement with state. 90 day case plans are agreed upon by social worker and the youth.</p>	<p>The youth can return to care as long as they were in care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The youth are interviewed and it is made clear that the purpose of re-entry is to either obtain education or work skills for successful transition into adulthood.</p>	<p>If the youth is in high school or a GED program, he or she remains in a foster home, group home or independent living within a foster family where he or she has responsibilities such as rent payments, etc to get experience necessary for independent living until completion of high school or GED program and up to the age of 21</p> <p>Youth in a “One-year work experience program” where for 1 year following high school graduation or GED can be involved in</p>	<p>If in foster home: a small stipend is provided to the youth to pay for utilities or rent in order to give the youth the opportunity to learn financial responsibility; the rest of foster care maintenance payment is paid to the foster family</p> <p>If in dorm: assistance is provided for meals (if not on college meal plan), telephone, some transportation, some spending money (room and board, tuition and fees paid directly to college).</p> <p>If youth are in independent living in own apartment, they receive a larger stipend for all food, transportation, rent to a certain miscellaneous expenses</p>	<p>Youth’s post-secondary expenses are completely covered by the state after the first \$500 for which the youth are responsible. Youth are encouraged to concentrate on education only their first year in college, however after that, youth are encouraged to find simultaneous employment and save for the future.</p> <p>Two pupil personnel specialists assigned to DCF concentrate on working with all youth ages 14 and above to get them through secondary education and into post-secondary education. These specialists arrange for youth to have contacts with tutoring groups and other academic support services for youths in college. Every youth who enters college gets a laptop paid for by DCF.</p> <p>During summer breaks and holidays, youth can return to foster home (foster parents paid for days spent at home),</p>	<p>Youth advisory board is very active and has direct input and influence over department policies concerning such youth. Five of the last seven department policies have been designed and recommended by the youth themselves. The board is active in peer mentoring Youth advisory board travels to group homes to mentor and inform youth of their rights and resources.</p>

**Connecticut (Cont.)**

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			<p>40 productive-hours- a-week program (job training, job or other similar activity) live in independent living programs or live completely independently on campus or apartment.</p> <p>Youths in college or vocational programs are usually living in independent living programs or maintain their own households</p> <p>There are two types of group home living arrangements:                      - 24/7 supervised group home and                      - similar to a transitional living home where youth are mostly independent even though staff are present on site 24/7</p>		<p>enroll in summer classes and remain eligible for dorm space, or stay with another foster youth living independently with department approval (For ex. If the youth knew each other from previous program participation, etc)</p>	

**Massachusetts**

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22 (in some cases, youth can remain in care until the age of 23)	If the youth reach the age of 18 but would like to remain in care, they can enter into a voluntary agreement with DCF to remain in care until their 22 <sup>nd</sup> birthday. Courts have no role in this as the youth are of age and able to sign a legal agreement to remain in care.	Youth are able to re-enter care as long as they have not reached the age of 22, even if they voluntarily exited at age 18.	Youth can remain in their foster home, move into an independent living program, choose to live with relatives or move into an apartment or dorm independently.	<p>Youth receive quarterly clothing checks and birthday and holiday checks.</p> <p>Monthly foster care maintenance payments are paid directly to the youth who live independently in an apartment of their own or in a dorm. A social worker usually takes the payments to such youth in order to check in with them and assess how they are doing.</p> <p>If youth live with foster parent(s) or in an independent living program), maintenance payments are made to foster parents or the independent living programs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State College Tuition and Fee Waiver Program</li> <li>2. Foster Child Grant Program</li> <li>3. Educational and Training Voucher Program</li> <li>4. William Warrant Scholarship</li> <li>5. "Home for the Holidays" program, which provides youth with a foster family for the holiday/break times when the dorms are closed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two social workers to address educational needs of the youth</li> <li>2. Outreach to help youth develop independent living skills</li> <li>3. Assist the youth in creating life-long connections to adults through:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) mentoring programs;</li> <li>b) family finding program which uses the internet to find people the youth identify as important in their lives;</li> <li>c) and family group conferencing, which allows for increased information and involvement of all those interested in the youth's success</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

## Minnesota

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[http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&dDocName=id\\_000164&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&dDocName=id_000164&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased)

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21	Foster youth sign a voluntary placement agreement once they turn 18 and if they wish to remain in care. County can retain legal custody of youth up to age 19 if they are a full-time student	Youth are able to re-enter care as long as they were "wards of the state" and have not reached the age of 21, even if they voluntarily exited at age 18. Youths whose parental rights were not terminated, cannot re-enter care.	Youth live in a foster family, Group Residential Housing (GRH), Independent living or Transitional housing setting (only one county currently has a transitional housing program, the rest simply refer their youth to community non-profit programs). The majority of youth enrolled in post-secondary institutions rent their own apartments.	<p>No stipends for living expenses.</p> <p>As long as the youth is in county care, foster care maintenance payment continue to be made to foster parents.</p> <p>If the youths' cases are closed and they are referred to transitional housing run by a community non-profit, no payments are made to the program.</p>	<p>Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) provide up to \$5,000 for post secondary costs including living expenses. The DCF pays these costs upon youths' submission of bills, receipts, etc.</p> <p>Foster youth who are orphans or wardens of the state are also eligible for a \$2,000 Minnesota State Grant paid directly to the post-secondary education. At the discretion of the Minnesota's public colleges, Foster youth can request and receive a tuition waiver (this is sometimes granted only for the first year).</p> <p>Youth who are enrolled in a post-secondary institution have to return to their foster homes or find another living arrangement for the summer/holiday breaks.</p> <p>For additional info, contact Jill Von Holtum at (651) 431-4663 or via e-mail at <a href="mailto:jill.von.holtum@state.mn.us">jill.von.holtum@state.mn.us</a></p>	<p>Support for the Emancipation and Living Functionally (SELF) fund pays for youth transition planning targeted to teach youth who are either likely to age out of foster care or adopted after 16 independent living skills. For more info, contact Claire Hill (contact info above)</p> <p>Rental assistance and/or transitional services from 24 statewide community-based programs serving youths ages 16+ who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless and have been in care since the age of 16. For more info on this program, contact Kathleen Hiniker at (651) 431-4707</p> <p>Youth Corner website provides access to statewide community resources for youth including housing, education, jobs, money management, etc. For more info, go to <a href="http://youth.minnesotahelp.info/resourcesnavigator/">http://youth.minnesotahelp.info/resourcesnavigator/</a></p>

## Missouri

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<p>21 (Youth can remain in care past 18 if youth desires, if the youth is in school, it's court-ordered, or if it is determined it's in the youth's best interest.)</p>	<p>Same conditions for extended age limit.</p> <p>When youth turn 18, they can petition court to be released if they want to be released.</p> <p>If not asking to be released and the family support team (which includes the youth) decides that youth should remain in care, then a recommendation is made to court to extend care. As soon as they turn 21, they are released.</p> <p>When in care, still wards of the court.</p>	<p>Once youth decides to leave care after 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, they cannot return.</p> <p>But, they can receive After Care services through Chafee funds.</p>	<p>Any housing options are available to youth still in care</p> <p>If in college → they can do Independent Living</p> <p>Other living arrangements include foster home, transitional living, &amp; relative care</p>	<p>Financial assistance depends on living arrangements</p> <p>If in foster home, they are afforded same benefits as all foster youth. Maintenance payments go to foster parent.</p> <p>If in independent living, the youth receives maintenance payments directly, which include clothing vouchers and medical vouchers.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No tuition waivers</li> <li>2. Youth are have access to ETV</li> <li>3. Can also apply for outside educational assistance.</li> <li>4. B.E.L.I.E.V.E (Bringing Educational Leadership by Investing and Expecting Victory in Every Child) – this program allows businesses to sponsor foster youth by setting up an account to save for college tuition tax free for up to \$8000/child/year. However a lot of businesses do not utilize this program.</li> <li>5. A+ program → a lot of youth aren't eligible for this because of strict attendance requirements</li> <li>6. <u>Living arrangements during the holidays</u> depends on schools – some schools stay open for international and foster youth. Others don't. This has become an issue - Some youth return to previous foster homes, if they'll take them back or contact caseworker for assistance. Others choose to live in an apartment to avoid this problem.</li> </ol>	<p>If still in care, youth have access to all and any support they had gotten previously.</p> <p>State provides support financially, emotionally, and whatever the case maybe</p> <p>Only issue is transportation policy → Current law allows reimbursement to foster parents for taking youth to see their siblings. Foster youth living independently are not covered - they are not reimbursed for the transportation costs of visiting siblings. State is working on changing that.</p>

## New York

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Extended Age Limit	Legal Arrangement Type/Court's Involvement	Re-entry	Living Arrangement Type	Financial Assistance Provided by State	Educational Assistance and Services to Youth Living On-Campus Provided by State	Other Supports/Services Provided by State
21	<p>When a foster youth turns 18 they can leave care or they can consent to remain in care, but they must be in school, college, or vocational/technical training.</p> <p>The Family Court maintains jurisdiction, meaning that 18 to 21-year olds are still considered "wards" of the state (NY CLS Family Ct Act § 1055, 2007). The Court continues to hold annual permanency hearings to monitor the youth's progress.</p>	<p>The only time a youth (older than 18) can re-enter care is if they are on a "trial discharge" and they are in need of services.</p> <p>Youth older than 18 with a status of final discharge cannot return to care, although some agencies may provide assistance to these youth at their own discretion.</p>	<p>Foster home</p> <p>College dorm, if the youth is attending college</p> <p>Supervised Independent Living Programs</p>	<p>Foster parents continue to receive a monthly maintenance payment (a check) for the youth who remain in care past their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> <p>In the case that a youth is attending college, foster care maintenance payments are made directly to the college or university for room and board.</p> <p>(Youth who attend independent living workshops provided by their supervising agency receive a small monthly stipend.)</p> <p>Youth participating in Independent Living Housing Programs, monthly maintenance payment goes to program</p>	<p>If a foster youth attends college during school breaks that youth may return to his or her previous foster home. (During the break period the foster home receives payment for the days that the youth was there.)</p> <p>Youth who do not have a foster home to return to are an issue that NY is addressing.</p> <p>Educational training vouchers (ETV) Funds- if you were receiving funds before your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday then you can continue until you are 23.</p> <p>(ETVs, Education and Training Vouchers, provide up to \$5000/yr to foster care youth who are over 18 years old (and will have completed their secondary education before turning 19 years old) to attend higher education institutions or accredited post-secondary training programs.)</p>	<p>Supervision until 21- In NY, a youth who chooses to leave care after turning 18 is still eligible to receive services such as financial, housing, counseling, employment and education assistance until they turn 21. The youth does not re-enter care.</p> <p>A youth older than 18 years old can be adopted, as long as the youth consents, termination of parental rights does not need to occur.</p>