



Youth who have experienced foster care on or after the age of 14 have access to many supports and services into young adulthood. When working with older youth and assisting them in making crucial decisions about their future, have you considered....

EDUCATION

- [Chafee Education and Training Grant \(ETG\)](#)
 - This federally funded program offers grants to Pennsylvania undergraduate students aging out of foster care who are attending an eligible post-secondary institution
 - To be considered for this grant, youth must:
 - Be a Pennsylvania resident
 - Be eligible for services under Pennsylvania's John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
 - Be identified as a youth who has **experienced foster care at age 16 or older** or, after attaining 16 years of age, exited foster care to adoption or permanent legal custodianship (PLC)
 - Have not reached the age of 26 by July 1 of the upcoming academic year for which Chafee ETG is received
 - File a FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Be enrolled as an undergraduate, at least half time in a college or career school that is approved by the U.S. Department of Education for Title IV student assistance programs

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- Demonstrate financial need for the grant (as determined by the post-secondary institution)
 - Maintain satisfactory academic progress (as determined by the post-secondary institution)
 - Not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a refund on other Title IV aid
 - Have not received Chafee ETG for 5 years (consecutive or not), defined as 10 semesters or the equivalent, for undergraduate study
 - Have graduated from high school or have received a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma
- [Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver \(FosterEd\)](#)
 - The FosterEd Program provides a waiver for tuition and mandatory fees charged by most post-secondary institutions located in the Commonwealth for youth who are or were in foster care. This waiver applies only to charges that remain after all other gift aid (federal, state, and other scholarships or grants) have been applied to the student's account.
 - There is not a separate application for FosterEd. All youth who apply for Chafee ETG are automatically evaluated for FosterEd.
 - Eligibility requirements mirror Chafee ETG.

HEALTH INSURANCE

- [Affordable Care Act: Former Foster Youth](#)
 - The Affordable Care Act (ACA) makes Medicaid/Medical Assistance available to former foster youth, ages 18 to 26, even if they are working. Only those who were **in foster care on or after their 18th birthday are eligible.**

SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Extended Foster Care:
 - Youth can remain in foster care until their 21st birthday. This includes a youth who is under the age of 21 years who was “adjudicated dependent before reaching the age of 18 years, who has requested the court to retain jurisdiction, and who remains under the jurisdiction of the court as a dependent child because the court has determined that the child is: (i) completing secondary education or an equivalent credential; (ii) enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education; (iii) participating in a program actively designed to promote or remove barriers to employment; (iv) employed for at least 80 hours per month; or (v) incapable of doing any of the activities (i) – (iv) due to a medical or behavioral health condition.
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- Resumption of Jurisdiction:
 - **Youth are eligible for resumption if dependency jurisdiction was terminated within 90 days prior to the youth's 18th birthday or on or after the youth's 18th birthday, but before the youth turned 21.**
 - Youth must be participating in one of the following activities. If they are not, agencies should work with the youth to make them eligible:
 - Completing secondary education or an equivalent credential;
 - Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education;
 - Participating in a program actively designed to promote or remove barriers to employment;
 - Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or
 - Incapable of doing any of the activities described above due to a medical or behavioral health condition, which is supported by regularly updated information in the permanency plan of the child.
 - Independent Living Services:
 - Youth who have experienced foster care (adjudicated dependent, and in out-of-home placement) on or **after their 16th birthday** are eligible for IL services. If youth relocate to a different state or county, they may receive IL services in those areas.
 - **All youth who turn 14 while in care including youth who enter care at any point after their 14th birthday are eligible for Chafee IL services and supports as long as they remain in care.** Chafee eligibility is tied to a youth's court adjudicated dependency including dually adjudicated or shared case responsibility with JPO.
 - Youth who exit care prior to their 16th birthday (14 & 15) to reunification are Chafee eligible and can receive aftercare services and supports until their 23rd birthday (if they want them).
 - Youth who exit care after their 16th birthday – regardless of how they exit care – reunification, adoption, PLC/SPLC or runaway – are Chafee eligible and we are required to provide aftercare services and supports until their 23rd birthday. Services are voluntary and youth are able to decline services and later request services.
 - Youth who are adopted or find permanency (PLC/SPLC) prior to their 16th birthday **are not Chafee eligible** however; the county can continue to provide aftercare using their state and local dollars.
 - Counties can (not required to) provide services to youth who do not meet Chafee eligibility using their state and local dollars.
 - Youth may continue to receive IL aftercare services until their 23rd birthday.
 - IL services are voluntary services intended to assist youth in developing the skills they need to become productive and healthy adults.
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- Services may include:
 - job readiness and job searching;
 - Budgeting;
 - Financial management;
 - Educational planning;
 - Housing search and assistance; and/or
 - Mentoring.
- Aftercare Services:
 - These may include the full range of services available to IL participants, including any service areas addressed in the assessment, counseling, and/or stipends. However, if the youth entered an adoptive or Permanent Legal Custodianship situation before turning age 16, they would not be eligible for any stipends.
 - The difference between aftercare services and re-entering foster care (for eligible youth) is significant. Youth should be given clear examples of the differences of services and placements available to them to avoid miscommunication.

HOUSING:

- Room and Board:
 - The IL Program offers financial aid and casework services to **youth who have left placement on or after their 18th birthday**. This includes payment or reimbursement for shelter, food, rent, security deposits, utilities, furniture, household items and other start-up expenses that may be incurred for youth exiting care. These services may be temporary, extended, or used during an emergency situation. Room and Board services must be requested and utilized prior to a youth's 23rd birthday.
 - An example of an emergency short-term arrangement would be if youth are at risk of homelessness or to prevent potentially serious conditions that may jeopardize their physical health. Payments are made to the housing resource on the youth's behalf for situations less than 20 nights.
 - Have you considered if your county offers FYI or FUP vouchers?

For Additional Information and Resources: <https://www.payab.pitt.edu/>



Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

