

Will I receive money directly to pay my rent and personal expenses?

If you reside in a foster placement, the foster parent will receive the money. If you are approved to reside in an independent living setting, you can receive the money directly to use toward rent or personal incidentals.

Do I have to remain in care when I turn 18?

No. The program is voluntary. If you do not want to be in the program on your 18th birthday your dependency will be dismissed.

Can I change my mind later?

Yes, you have until your 19th birthday to request to participate in the program.

resources

www.independence.wa.gov
www.washingtonconnection.org



frequently asked questions

- 1** Can I live with my birth parents and receive extended foster care services?

No. If you live with your parents you are not eligible to participate in the Extended Foster Care Program.

- 2** How do I request to be in the program after my dependency was dismissed?

Contact the Department at 1-800-562-5624 and let us know you want to be a part of the program. We will ask you some questions to determine if you qualify.

- 3** Can I live in a different county or state and still get these services?

Yes, you may be able to move out of the state or county and still receive services. Talk with your assigned worker or lawyer about these decisions.

- 4** Can I receive the EFC services if I am pregnant or have a child?

Yes, if you are eligible for EFC you may participate. Your child may also receive additional supports.

To be a part of this program, talk to your worker or call 1-800-562-5624



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how
can
the
extended
foster care
program
benefit you?



what is extended foster care?

You may be eligible for the Extended Foster Care Program.

EFC is a voluntary program that offers youth in foster care the option of remaining in care until 21 to support a successful transition to independence.

What are my choices?

- If you are 18 or over, remaining in foster care is your choice.
- If you decide to stay in foster care, you'll have a place to live. You may stay in your current home or you may be able to move out on your own.
- If you are ready to be on your own, you may be given money directly to take care of yourself.
- If you decide to leave foster care, you have the choice to return to care before your 19th birthday if you change your mind.

- The goal of extended foster care is to give you more time to work on your **Transition Plan** so you will eventually be ready to live on your own! You can work on things like:
 - > Finding a job.
 - > Applying to school and for financial aid.
 - > Opening a bank account.
 - > Finding a permanent connection to an adult supporter.

What will Extended Foster Care do for me?

If you are eligible for the program, you can receive foster care services and supports until your 21st birthday. You will be able to stay in your foster/relative care placement or an approved, supervised independent living setting. Services could include:

- Case planning support
- Chemical dependency treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Financial support
- Placement

How is my eligibility determined?


A CA worker will determine your eligibility at the time of your request. To be eligible you must be legally dependent and in foster care on your 18th birthday and meet one of these requirements:

- Enrolled in high school or an equivalency program; or
- Applied for or enrolled in college or a vocational program
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
- Working 80 hours or more a month.*

What if I don't want to stay in a foster home, but want to participate in the program?

Placement decisions are based on your transition plan. Your placement options may include a licensed foster home; with a relative or other suitable person; a group home; a behavioral rehabilitative setting; or, with Children's Administration and court approval, a supervised independent living setting that includes:

- Apartments
- Room and board arrangements
- College or university dormitories
- Shared roommate settings



While in the program, you can finish high school, go to college or find a job. You will be appointed an attorney and your CA worker will continue to support you.