

Aftercare Services

Two Types of Aftercare Services:

Short-Term Independent Living Aftercare Services (Up to 6 Months*):

Eligibility: For youth that left foster care after their 18th birthday and have not reached the age of 21 or; youth that have exited foster care via adoption or guardianship after their 16th birthday

Types of Services:

- Financial Assistance;
- Life Skills Classes;
- Temporary Assistance with utilities, room, and board;
- Counseling;
- Educational Services;
- Employment Assistance;
- Medical Assistance;
- Other appropriate services to assist with self-sufficiency.

**Types of Aftercare services available may vary based on jurisdiction.*

Enhanced Aftercare Services:

Eligibility: Only for Maryland foster youth that left foster care after their 18th birthday and have not reached the age of 20 and 6 months

Types of Services:

- Enter into a Voluntary Placement Service Agreement
- Placement Services
- Case Management
- Monthly Visitation with Case Management
- Service Planning **May be extended based on case-by-case circumstances.*

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Use the Web Links:

Please visit our [MyLife](#) website for updates, news, and information on everything.

- To access resources for [Social Awareness and Self Care](#)
- Complete your Free [Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- Find your [Local Department of Social Services](#)
- Find and stay in touch with your local [Independent Living Coordinator\(s\)](#)
- Access information regarding [Education and Employment](#) resources and opportunities
- Learn about [Upcoming Events](#)
- Get additional information and to apply to receive the [Education Training Voucher \(ETV\)](#)



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**Maryland Department of Human Services
Social Services Administration (SSA)**
311 W. Saratoga Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
www.dhs.maryland.gov

DHS/SSA 2096

Annual Notice of Resources

*Here's what you
Need to Know:*



Benefits for Youth

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I'm Leaving Foster Care, What May I Be Eligible To Receive?

You can exit foster care through reunification, guardianship, adoption or becoming independent. This brochure highlights some of the benefits and resources that you may be eligible to receive while in foster care or when exiting foster care.

Financial Empowerment

Credit Report

- All youth in care ages 14-17 will receive free annual consumer credit reports from the 3 credit reporting agencies.
- The youth's worker will discuss the results of their credit reports with them and assist them to complete the steps needed to repair their credit history.
- Youth ages 18-20 can access their credit report through annualcreditreport.com.

Health

- Recertification for Health Insurance through the Maryland Medicaid program is required for eligible foster youth once the youth has exited care:
<https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>
Health Choice help line: 1(800) 284-4510
- Dental insurance under MD Medicaid, Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program is available up to a former foster youth's 26th birthday.

Housing

- The Family Unification Program (FUP) and the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI), offer subsidized housing and supportive services upon exit to independence. See your caseworker for eligibility information.

Higher Education Resources

- **The Maryland Tuition Waiver*** - The tuition waiver provides eligible foster care youth exemptions from paying any tuition and mandatory fees at a Maryland public college or university for a period of 10 years or at completion of a bachelor's degree, if utilized on or before the 25th birthday.

Eligibility: Youth who were placed in foster care by the Maryland Department of Human Services; and were in care on their 18th birthday or at the time of graduation from high school OR were in foster care on or after their 13th birthday for at least one year, and was adopted, entered into guardianship, or reunified with at least one parent. Younger siblings of an individual who met the qualifications above may be also be eligible for the tuition waiver if they were adopted or entered a guardianship with the same parent at the same time.

- **The Maryland Education & Training Voucher* (ETV)** provides eligible foster care youth with additional educational funds up to \$5,000 (maximum) per year for certain qualified post-secondary expenses. In order to remain eligible youth must maintain contact with the ETV coordinator and submit their official transcript showing satisfactory progress towards completion of their degree or vocational program. Funding is dependent on satisfactory progress and attendance at an education or training program.

- For more information and to apply for MD ETV, go to: <https://www.fc2sprograms.org/maryland/>
Eligibility: Youth who were in foster care by the Maryland Department of Human Services on their 18th birthday and have completed high school or a GED program; Or exited foster care at age 16 and was adopted or entered a guardianship. Youth must initiate their first application for ETV before their 21st birthday to remain eligible for no more than 5 years, up to age 26.

For more information please contact the DHS Education Specialist.

- ***Both the MD ETV and the MD Tuition Waiver requires the completion of the FAFSA annually. To complete the FAFSA, go to: www.studentaid.ed.gov .**

Hotlines:

Maryland Youth Crisis Line

- 1(800) 422-0009
- Call 2-1-1, Press 1
- Text Zip Code to 898-211 or TXT-211

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

1(800) 273-8255

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Call 2-1-1

Maryland Foster Youth Ombudsman

1(410) 767-9621

National Runaway Switchboard

1-800-RUNAWAY 1(800) 786-2929

LGBTQ Services & Support Hotline

- **The Trevor Project**
1(800) 850-8078
- **Chase Brexton**
1(410) 837-2050

FOR HELP, QUESTIONS, OR TO APPLY FOR SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CASE WORKER OR YOUR INDEPENDENT LIVING COORDINATOR.

**Some services may be extended based on certain circumstances.*