Support, represent and advocate for youth to reach their full potential #safe #well #connected

**Medical Assistance for Former Foster Care Youth**

Youth leaving foster care at age 18 or older are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) until age 26.

Apply on the MNsure website at www.mnsure.org; no need to apply specifically for MA eligibility. Youth apply for help with health care insurance, and the system determines whether they qualify for MA under the former foster care category, or another category of MA, MinnesotaCare, or enrollment in a qualified health plan with or without an advanced premium tax credit.

The online application asks a series of questions designed to identify applicants who qualify for MA as former foster care youth, including:

a. Were you ever in foster care in Minnesota? (If yes, question b appears)

b. Did foster care stop when you were age 18 or older? (If yes, question c appears)

c. Were you on MA or MinnesotaCare at the time foster care ended?

**Overview document:** DHS 7678, Medical Assistance Benefits for Former Foster Care Youth.

**Contact:** Tamara Moore, 651-431-4685, or tamara.moore@state.mn.us.

**Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program**

Federally funded to provide up to $5,000 per year to eligible students to pursue post-secondary education.

**Eligibility:** Under age 26, have not received an ETV for five years, graduated from high school/received a GED diploma, are accepted into an accredited post-secondary institution, awarded financial aid, and one of the following:

- In foster care 30 consecutive days or more between their 17-18 birthdays, or
- Left foster care after age 16 for adoption or transfer of permanent physical/legal custody to a relative, or
- Under state/tribal guardianship on their 18th birthday.

**Resources**

- **Video:** Fostering Success: An Overview of Minnesota’s ETV program @ YouTube and ETV website
- **Brochure:** ETV website.

**Contact:** Paul Minehart, 651-431-6059 or paul.minehart@state.mn.us.

**Credit Reports**

Youth in foster care, ages 14-21, are to annually receive consumer credit reports from the three credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. The responsible social service agency is to assist youth in interpreting reports and resolving credit issues.

**Bulletin #19-68-02:** Consumer Credit Reports for Youth in Foster Care.

**Contact:** Nicolas Vogel, 651-431-4707, or nicolas.vogel@state.mn.us.
Healthy Transition to Adulthood (HTA), Formerly HTHP

Federal and state funds are used to contract with non-profit agencies statewide to improve outcomes, and reduce the risk of homelessness, for youth ages 14 up to 23 who experienced a foster care placement. Contracted agencies collaborate with county and tribal social service agencies and other resources in a community to assist youth in achieving transition goals.

**Eligibility:** Youth ages 14 up to 23 who experienced a county-approved placement of 30 days or longer after age 14.

**Contact:** Kim Lemcke, 651-431-4686, or kim.lemcke@state.mn.us.

Successful Transition to Adulthood for Youth (STAY), Formerly SELF

Federal funds designated to prepare youth for successful transition to adulthood, and to prevent homelessness and welfare dependency.

**Eligibility:** The program is open to youth up to age 23 who are currently, or were previously, in foster care for at least 30 consecutive days after age 14.

**Services:** Youth may get help with independent living skills training, transportation, education, employment, permanent connections and housing.

**Contact:** Kim Lemcke, 651-431-4686, or kim.lemcke@state.mn.us.

Extended foster care ages 18-21 program

Federal, state and county funds are utilized to fund the extended foster care program. The program is possible through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. It allows youth to stay in foster care, including supervised independent living settings, on a voluntary basis up to age 21.

**Eligibility:** Youth in foster care immediately prior to their 18th birthday may continue in foster care past age 18 if they desire to, and are not able to return home, or otherwise achieve permanency prior to age 18. Youth placed solely under Minnesota Statute 260B (delinquency) are not eligible for extended foster care.

**Bulletin #20-68-07:** Extended Foster Care for Youth Ages 18 up to 21.

**Contact:** Nicolas Vogel, 651-431-4707, or nicolas.vogel@state.mn.us.

Minor Connect

Minor Connect uses child welfare resources and community providers to get services to youth under age 18 who are currently not with their parents or legal guardian, or are at risk of being kicked out of their parents’ home.

**Eligibility:** Youth under age 18 and homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Those who have a child protection worker assisting them are not eligible.

**Resources**
- **Video:** YMCA Minor Connect @ YouTube
- **Housing:** [https://mn hb101.org/j/map/homeless_map.htm](https://mn hb101.org/j/map/homeless_map.htm)
- **MinnesotaHelp:** [https://www.minnesotahelp.info/SpecialTopics/Youth](https://www.minnesotahelp.info/SpecialTopics/Youth)
- **Youth Services Network:** [https://ysnmn.org](https://ysnmn.org)

**Contact:** Paul Minehart, 651-431-6059, or paul.minehart@state.mn.us.

Additional resources:
- **Adolescent services website:** [https://mn.gov/dhs/](https://mn.gov/dhs/) click on People We Serve, Children and Families, Services, Adolescent services, Programs and services. Brochures, fact sheets and videos are under Resources.
- **Helping youth transition from out-of-home care to adulthood Best Practice Guide, DHS 6530, 2/21,** [https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserv/Public/DHS-6530-ENG](https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserv/Public/DHS-6530-ENG)
- **Sibling Bill of Rights Commissioner’s form** [https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserv/Public/DHS-8068-ENG](https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserv/Public/DHS-8068-ENG)
- **Normalcy and Prudent Parenting Standards** video @ YouTube and Best Practice Guide, DHS 7684
- **Responding to Youth Who Run Away from Foster Care** bulletin #20-68-05 and Practice Guide