

Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) – Transitional Living Services Overview

The PAL program assists older youth in foster care prepare for their departure and transition to a successful adulthood. Supportive services and benefits are provided by PAL Staff or PAL Contract Providers to eligible young adults up to the age 21 to become self-sufficient and productive.

Life Skills Assessment	Casey Life Skills Assessment to assess strength and needs in life skills attainment. Assessments are conducted before Life Skills Training. MANDATORY. www.caseylifeskills.org
Life Skills Training (PAL Classes)	Age 16-18 - MANDATORY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety • Housing & Transportation • Job Readiness • Financial Management • Life Decisions/Responsibility • Personal/Social Relationships • Educational/Vocational Services
Supportive Services	Based on need and funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation Items • Counseling • Tutoring • Driver’s Education Fees (HAY Center reimburses payment of \$450) • Mentoring
Transitional Living Allowance (TLA)	Up to \$1,000 is distributed in increments of up to \$500 per month, for young adults up to age 21 who participated in PAL training, to help with initial start-up in adult living. Young Adult must be working or attending school. Young Adults must have Aged-Out of CPS Care.
Aftercare Room and Board Assistance	Ages 18-21 Based on need of up to \$500 per month for rent, utilities, utility deposits, food, etc. (not to exceed \$3,000 of accumulated payments per young adult). Young Adult must be working or attending school. Young Adult must have Aged-Out of CPS Care.
Case Management	In-care case manager or Aftercare case manager will be assigned to help young adult with self-sufficiency planning and resource coordination.

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<p>College Tuition & Fee Waiver</p>	<p>The college tuition and fee waiver provides exemptions from payment of tuition and fees at a Texas State Supported College or University to individuals formerly in Texas state foster care and adopted youth.</p> <p>Youth or young adults must have been in DFPS conservatorship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The day before the student’s 18th birthday; • The day of the student’s 14th birthday, if the youth was eligible for adoption (parental rights terminated) on or after that day; • The day the student graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma; • If a youth was adopted and the adoption occurred on or after September 1, 2009; • If permanent managing conservatorship (PMC) of the youth was granted to a non-parent on or after September 1, 2009; or • If the youth was returned to the legal responsibility of the parent at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Age 14 and older on or after June 1, 2016 and was in DFPS’s permanent managing conservatorship; or ○ Age 16 and older on or after June 1, 2016 and was in DFPS’s temporary managing conservatorship; or • When a student is enrolled in a dual credit course or other courses in which the student may earn joint high school and college credit and if tuition hasn’t been waived. <i>NOTE: Youth enrolled in a dual credit course may enroll in the ETV program to have some education expenses covered.</i> <p>Youth or young adults must check with each school to ensure that the courses they are enrolling in are exempt from tuition and fees. Some vocational/certificate courses may not be exempt from tuition and fees.</p> <p>Young adults must be enrolled in a Texas State supported college or university no later than his or hers 25th birthday.</p>
<p>Education & Training Voucher Program (ETV)</p>	<p>Based on the cost of attendance as established by higher education, youth in foster care or other eligible youth and young adult’s ages 16 up to the age 23 may be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in financial assistance per year to help them reach their postsecondary education goals if they meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a high school diploma or GED or be exempt from required school attendance; or

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- The student is enrolled in a dual-credit course or other course at an institution of higher education for which the student will earn high school and college credit.

Individuals eligible for ETV include:

- Youth in DFPS foster care who are at least **16** and likely to remain in care until **18**; or
- Youth who aged out of DFPS foster care but have not yet turned **21**; or
- Youth who were adopted from DFPS foster care after turning **16** and are not yet **21**; or
- Youth who enter Permanency Care Assistance after age **16**; or
- Youth who are in the custody of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (formerly TJPC) and are in a Title IV-E placement when turning age **18**;
- Tribal youth or young adults in tribal foster care; or
- The above eligible who move out of state to attend school and were originally enrolled in ETV in Texas.

ETV program participation requirements: Students must apply for and be approved for ETV before his or her 21st birthday, meet school enrollment requirements, and be *enrolled in at least 6 semester hours* in an accredited or pre-accredited public or private, non-profit program/institution that:

- Provides a bachelor's degree or not less than a 2 year program that provides credit towards a degree or certification; or
- Provides not less than a one-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment; or
- Has been in existence for two years and offers training programs to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation (training may be less than one year).

Students participating in the ETV program on their 21st birthday may remain eligible until the month of their 23rd birthday as long as they are enrolled in ETV and meeting the satisfactory academic progress policies toward completing their postsecondary education or training program as determined by the institution.

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	<p>After the age 21, the student must be continuously enrolled in the institution to remain eligible for the ETV program up to their 23rd birthday.</p> <p>Students interested in specific educational programs through <i>Correspondence Courses, Distance Education Courses or Continuing Education courses</i> must contact ETV staff for prior approval to ensure proper school accreditation and that courses lead to a degree or recognized certification program. Courses must apply to a Student’s academic degree or certification program.</p> <p>NOTE: <i>Youth or young adults in DFPS paid foster care, enrolled in higher education and eligible for ETV may have certain expenses paid by the ETV program (ex., books, computers, child care, and transportation). ETV will NOT cover residential housing, personal items and food since this is provided for in the placement.</i></p> <p>Apply for the ETV Program at: http://www.texasetv.com or call toll free 877-268-4063.</p>
<p>DFPS College Scholarships</p>	<p>Freshmen Success Fund for Foster Youth (est. April 2013) This is a grant for first time college freshmen formerly in DFPS foster care. Each year there will be 4 one time grants of \$1,000 available for young adults enrolling in their freshmen year. These grants are to cover basic non-tuition related expenses such as books and supplies, computers and software, tools and uniforms and transportation. Students must be enrolled in a Texas state-supported college, university or vocational/technical school that accepts the state college tuition and fee waiver.</p> <p>C. Ed Davis-PAL Scholarship (est. July 2012) This scholarship is for basic non-tuition needs for former foster youth who are majoring in government, political science, history, or other pre-law field. Scholarships are for \$1,000 per academic year and are available to <i>sophomore, junior</i> and <i>senior</i> year students.</p>
<p>Texas Medicaid – Former Foster Youth</p>	<p>Ages 18-25</p> <p>Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) Program</p>

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	<p>The FFCC program provides continuous healthcare coverage through age 25 to young adults who age out of Texas Foster care and are receiving Medicaid when they aged out. The population will receive healthcare services in two separate programs based on age;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young adults aged 18 through 20 will be enrolled in STAR Health but can switch to STAR upon request; and • Young adults aged 21 through 25 will receive Medicaid through the STAR plan of their choice. <p>To be eligible for the FFCC program, the young adult must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be age 18 through 25; • Have been in Texas foster care on his or her 18th birthday or older; • Be receiving Medicaid when he or she aged out of Texas foster care; and • Be a U.S. citizen or be a qualified alien for example have an I-551 permanent resident card. <p>Medicaid for Transitioning Foster Care Youth (MTFCY) Provides medical coverage to young adults age 18 through 20 who are not eligible for the FFCC program because they were not receiving Medicaid at the time they aged out of foster care. The following eligibility criteria apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be age 18 through 20 years of age; • Have been in Texas foster care at age 18, or older; • Have no other healthcare coverage; • Meet program rules for income; and • Be a U.S. citizen or have a qualified alien status.
<p>Superior Healthplan-a2A CentAccount Rewards Program</p>	<p>This program offers reward dollars of up to \$160 for members who complete wellness visits, dental check-ups and other health screenings for members ages 18 through 21. https://www.fostercaretx.com/for-members/transitioning-youth/a2s.html</p>
<p>Driver License Fee Waiver</p>	<p>Driver license fees are waived for youth in DFPS temporary or permanent managing conservatorship and for young adults at least 18 years of age, but younger than age 21, who reside in a DFPS paid foster care placement.</p>
<p>Aging Out Seminars</p>	<p>Age 17 - MANDATORY Seminars include topics identified by youth to reinforce their knowledge and skills about DFPS programs, benefits, resources and other life skills such as nutrition and</p>

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	information about human trafficking. These seminars build on information from PAL Life Skills Training classes.
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