

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Can I live with my birth parents and receive extended foster care benefits?**
No. If you live with your parents, you are not eligible to receive benefits. As an adult, you can arrange visits with your parents outside of your home.
- 2. If I am returned to my parents before the age of 18 and am still there by the time I turn 18, am I eligible to receive benefits?**
No. You must be placed in out of home care on your 18th birthday.
- 3. If I am AWOL, or I was AWOL when my case closed, can I receive the benefits?**
Yes. If your case is open, contact your attorney or social worker/probation officer to get started. If your case is closed and you want to re-enter, refer to the section "If my case is closed, what are my options?" for information.
- 4. Can I be on probation and still get benefits?**
Yes, certain probation youth can remain in extended foster care. Talk to your PO or attorney to see if you are eligible.
- 5. Do I have to stay on probation to take advantage of extended foster care?**
No, if you are no longer on probation, you may be eligible for benefits. Talk to your PO or attorney about a new type of jurisdiction, called "transition" jurisdiction where you can still get help without being on probation.
- 6. 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 get services. Talk to your social worker/PO or lawyer about these decisions.
- 7. Can I receive the benefits if I am pregnant or have a child?**
Yes. In some situations, you may be eligible for both Extended Foster Care funding for yourself and an infant supplement for your child.

Contact Information



Children's Law Center of California

Phone (LA): 323-980-1700 (Sacramento): 916-520-2000
Email: extendedcare@clccal.org
Website: clccal.org

Children's Law Center of California is a legal organization that serves as the "voice" for foster youth in Los Angeles and Sacramento. Call us if you need help contacting your attorney.



ALLIANCE for CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Phone: 213-368-6010 Website: kids-alliance.org
Email: NextSTEP@kids-alliance.org
Address: 3333 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 550, Los Angeles, CA 90010

The Alliance helps guide youth through the difficult transition from foster care to independence by providing legal services, connections to housing, education and employment.



California Youth Connection

Phone: 800-397-8236
Website: calyouthconn.org
Email: info@calyouthconn.org

California Youth Connection is a youth led organization that transforms the foster care system through legislative and policy changes.

CA USEFUL RESOURCES

after18ca.org
cafosteryouthhelp.ca.gov
CA Youth Ombudsman:
(877) 846-1602
CA Youth Crisis Line:
(800) 843-5200
Still have questions?
Email: AB12@dss.ca.gov

LA USEFUL RESOURCES

after18ca.org
Probation: (323) 226-8511
Ombudsman: (626) 229-3811
ILP: ilponline.org
(877) 694-5741
SAC USEFUL RESOURCES
Ombudsman: (916) 875-2000
ILP: (916) 874-9412

Know Before You Go



Learn About Extended Foster Care for Current or Former Foster/Probation Youth

Know your rights!
Know your responsibilities!



Children's Law Center
of California



California Youth Connection

What are my rights after 18?

-  A new law called AB 12 extends foster care up to age 21.
-  If you are 18 or over, keeping your case open is a choice *unless you are still on probation.
-  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.
-  The goal of extended foster care is to give you more time to work on your **Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)** so you are eventually 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.**
-  If you decide to leave foster care, you now have the option to re-open your case should you change your mind.
-  If your case is closed because you have been adopted or live with a legal guardian, you may still be eligible for extended benefits.

What if I don't want to stay in foster care?

There are other services out there for you! The Independent Living Program (ILP) is for youth who have aged out of foster care. It can help with housing, employment and education. Visit: ilponline.org.

If I stay in care after 18, what are my CHOICES and RESPONSIBILITIES?

If you decide to stay in foster care or re-enter foster care, you will need to meet at least one of the following participation requirements:

1. Go to high school or enroll in a GED program.
2. Enroll part time in a college or trade school.
3. Work at least 80 hours per month.
4. Participate in a program that helps you find a job.
5. Have a medical condition that would make it impossible to meet one of the first four.

Where can I live?

You can live in a foster home, group home or home of a relative or family friend.

There are also 2 NEW choices for youth 18 and older:

Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)

-  A SILP is a placement that you find for yourself, like a college dorm, apartment, or a room to rent.
 - You can live on your OWN and you may be able to receive your foster care payment directly!
-  THP+FC is a program that provides housing and case management to help you meet your goals.
 - You will probably live in an apartment with a roommate.

For more resources, check out the back of this brochure.

If my case is closed, what are my options?

You might be able to re-enter back into foster care! To re-open your case, you must take two steps:

FIRST: Sign a voluntary re-entry agreement with the probation or dependency agency that supervised your case.

Who do I call to start the process?

Re-entry in LA

-  For dependency/DCFS, start with the hotline:
 -  Within CA: (800) 540-4000
 -  Outside of CA: (213) 639-4500

-  For probation: (213) 351-0243

Re-entry in Sacramento

-  Start with ILP: (916) 874-9412

Other Counties in CA

-  Call or go to probation or children & family services in your community and ask for help re-opening your case.
-  If you don't get help or still have questions, call the CA Youth Ombudsman: (877) 846-1602.

SECOND: File a re-entry form at court. Go to the clerk's office and request the form JV-466, called Request to Return to Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and Foster Care. You must fill it out and turn it in to the clerk. If you have already signed a voluntary re-entry agreement, the agency will file this form for you.