



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF TRANSITIONAL LIVING SERVICES REVISED MARCH 2016

Transitional Living Services provide a multipurpose, systemic and integrated approach for youth and young adults to help in transitioning to a successful adulthood through coordinated permanency and transition planning. The provision of Transitional Living Services includes access to information about benefits, supports, and resources that affect both older youth in foster care and those who have aged out of foster care. Transitional Living Services apply to youth and young adult's ages 14 up to age 23 (depending on the program) and up to age 26 for continuous healthcare coverage.

Experiential Life Skills Training

Foster parents and other providers are required to train youth age 14 and older in life skills through practical activities such as meal preparation, nutrition education and cooking, use of public transportation when appropriate, financial literacy training such as money management, credit history, balancing a checkbook and performing basic household tasks. If a youth has a source of income the provider will assist the youth in establishing a savings account. In addition, foster parents and providers must connect youth and young adults to community resources such post-secondary education; employment; and vocational/technical school opportunities. These life skills activities provided by the caregiver along with the receipt of PAL services should complement one another and are discussed and addressed in each core life skill area within the transition plan. http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_x10000.asp#CPS_10111

ACCESS Granted -Texas Foster Care Handbook

This handbook helps children and youth in foster care to better understand how the foster care system works and to address many of the questions and concerns they have regarding foster care. It provides information in an understandable manner on topics such as the CPS chain of command, the rights of children/youth while in foster care, health passport, the education portfolio, transition plans and Transitional Living Services. *Updates are underway to reflect recent legislation and policy changes. http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6300.asp#CPS_6315_1to

the youth's plan of service to ensure consistency of services. Identifying caring adults for youth and involving them in transition planning help to ensure personal and community connections are incorporated into the transition planning process. Transition planning continues to be conducted for those young adults in the Extended Foster Care program. HTTP://WWW.DFPS.STATE.TX.US/HANDBOOKS/CPS/FILES/CPS_PG_6200.ASP#CPS_6214

Circle of Support (COS)

A COS is a youth driven process beginning at 16 years of age and may take the place of the required permanency planning meetings as a means of developing a transition plan. The COS is facilitated by the family conference specialist and is coordinated by the youth's support system. COS participants can include a youth's family members, foster care providers, teachers, church members, a mentor and so on. Participants meet to develop and review the youth's permanency and transition plan, identify strengths, goals and needs in the areas of permanency, education, employment, health/mental health needs, housing, and PAL life skills training components. http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6270.asp#CPS_6274

OTHER INFORMATION-Under 18:

Medical Consent

A youth in foster care who is at least 16 years old may consent to receiving medical care if the court with continuing jurisdiction determines that the youth has the capacity to consent to medical care. Caregivers are required to advise youth of their right to request to become their own medical consenters. http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_x11000.asp#CPS_11140



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Life Decisions/Responsibility;
Personal/Social Relationships
Educational/vocational services

Supportive services (based on need and funding availability) may include:

graduation items,
counseling,
tutoring,
and U L Y education fees, or
mentoring.

A transitional living allowance of 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 costs in adult living.

Aftercare room and board assistance (ages 18-21) is 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).

Case management to help young adults with self-



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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



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DFPS College Scholarships:

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.

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 sophomore, junior or senior year students. More information about these scholarships is available at: [https://www.dfj EF](https://www.dfj.texas.gov/ef)



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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:

Be age 18 through 20 years of age;

Have been in Texas

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Texas Youth Connection -FACEBOOK PAGE is another source for youth and young adults to find current, relevant resources, information,

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