

## Pandemic Support for Foster Youth and Young Adults

*Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act was enacted as Division X of P.L. 116-260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.*

Since the passage of **Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act**, enacted on December 27, 2020, DFPS has been reviewing this legislation and consulting with federal partners as it relates to youth currently and formerly in foster care.

With the March 9, 2021 release by the federal government of additional instructions and clarifications as provided by **Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-21-04**, DFPS is finalizing plans to provide needed financial support to those impacted by the pandemic.

DFPS is working to amend the ETV and PAL Aftercare contracts, providing guidance and financial resources to our PAL staff, and continues to pursue other mechanisms to make funds available to eligible young adults ages 21 up to age 27.

As we are finalizing plans, the following information and guidance may help those serving youth currently and formerly in foster care:

- Young adults currently participating in extended care and those who have recently left care, were notified through their caseworker they can remain in care or return to care through September 30, 2021, even if the young adult is older than the traditional age to be in care, i.e. 21, or 22 (for those attending high-school or a GED program), and that the education and employment requirements continue to be suspended through September 30, 2021.
- The return to care provision applies to those who left care on or after January 27, 2020 and is subject to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services extending the determination that COVID-19 is a public health emergency every 90 days. Regardless of any future extensions, the return to care option expires after September 30, 2021. For any young adult interested in returning to care, please reach out to

the [Regional Preparation For Adult Living \(PAL\) Coordinators](#) or directly to their PAL staff.

- For young adults participating in the Educational Training Voucher program (ETV), or those who lost eligibility at age 23, they can submit a supplemental budget for the fall 2020 semester and the spring 2021 semester or a new application for consideration of funds at <https://discoverbcfs.net/texasetv/>.
- For young adults who aged out of foster and are age 18 or older but have not turned 21, they can seek resources through [PAL Aftercare Case Management Services](#).
- For youth and young adults 14 and older in foster care or participating in extended foster care, they can seek resources through their PAL staff or [Regional Preparation For Adult Living \(PAL\) Coordinators](#).
- For young adults who aged out of foster care and are 21 but have not turned 27 with a critical need(s), they can reach out to the [Regional Preparation For Adult Living \(PAL\) Coordinators](#).

While DFPS anticipates sharing additional information with the community and posting information on our public websites during the month of April, the [CPS Transitional Living Services staff](#) is available to answer any questions you may have regarding youth in foster care approaching 18, young adults participating in extended foster care, and young adults who aged out of foster care or who are receiving assistance through ETV.