

Transitional Benefits for Out of State Former and Current Foster Youth

Updated November 18, 2014

Under 18 years old:

If you are under the age of 18 years old and move to Texas from another state, you may qualify for **Independent Living Skills Assessment and Training** (often called Life Skills or PAL class) through the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program if:

- you were placed in Texas through an interstate compact agreement (ICPC);
- you were placed in a licensed placement; and,
- your permanency goal was to age out of the foster care system.

You should contact the foster care coordinator for your state if you have questions on whether you meet these three requirements. You can view a list of state contacts at

www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/more/contacts/StateFosterCareContacts.pdf.

Other support services may be provided to you by the PAL program if the region in Texas you move to provides the services needed AND the state you move from provides the funds. Other support services may include driver education, counseling, GED classes and others.

For more information on the PAL program including information on PAL Independent Living Skills Assessment and Training and other support services, visit

www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living.

For a list of PAL coordinators by region, visit:

www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp.

18 through 21 years old:

If you are a former foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years old who aged out of foster care in a different state and then moved to Texas, you could qualify for Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) benefits in Texas. However, keep in mind that the region you move to in Texas must be able to provide the services you need and you must meet other eligibility requirements.

Possible benefits include:

- After Care Room and Board- up to \$500/ month not to exceed \$3000 (based on need/emergency)
- Case management
- Education and Training Voucher- up to \$5000/ year for education related expenses
- Other financial assistance when available.

For a list of PAL coordinators by region, visit:

[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection/Youth and Young Adults/Preparation For Adult Living/PAL coordinators.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp).

Medicaid

At this time Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Medicaid is **not** available to former foster youth who **aged out in another state**.

You should note that as long as you **are living in the state where you aged out of care**, and you meet other Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Medicaid requirements, you are eligible for FFCC Medicaid in that state.

So, if you aged out of foster care in Texas **AND** currently live in Texas, you will be able to apply for FFCC Medicaid in Texas as long as you meet the eligibility requirements. You are also eligible to apply if you aged out of foster care in Texas, moved to a different state and then move back to Texas. **You must still meet the eligibility requirements.**

A few states also provide FFCC Medicaid to foster youth who live in the state but did not age out there. So, if you aged out in Texas and are living in another state, you should check with that state's foster care coordinator to see if you qualify in your new state.

For more information on FFCC Medicaid, eligibility and the application process, visit texasfosteryouth.org/medical-issues-and-health-insurance.

Tuition Waiver

The Texas Tuition Waiver is only available to those who were in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; it is not available to those who aged out of foster care in another state or who were sent to Texas under an interstate compact agreement (ICPC). For more information about the Tuition Waiver, including how those who were in the Texas foster care system but did not age out of care might qualify, see: texasfosteryouth.org/tuition-and-fee-waiver-for-foster-youth.

Other Resources

- DFPS Handbook regarding PAL benefits for out of state foster youth §10214: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_x10200.asp#CPS_10213
- DFPS Handbook regarding FFCC benefits for out of state foster youth §10151: www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_x10000.asp#CPS_10151_1

If you are needing advice or assistance to see if you qualify for or help obtain Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) services or Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Medicaid and have not been able to obtain advice or assistance through your state's coordinator or a Texas PAL coordinator, you can contact the **Texas Foster Youth Justice Project** toll free at 877-313-3688 or at info@texasfosteryouth.org.

**Did you age out
of care in Texas?**

YES

NO

**Do you live in
Texas?**

YES

NO

You are NOT eligible for
FFCC Medicaid in Texas.

You will be eligible for FFCC
Medicaid in the state where
you aged out, or in a few other
states that provide FFCC
Medicaid to all former foster
youth under age 26 who meet
FFCC Medicaid requirements.

You are eligible for FFCC
Medicaid in Texas as long
as you meet the FFCC
Medicaid requirements.

You are NOT currently eligible
for FFCC Medicaid in Texas.
However, if you ever decide to
move back to Texas and are still
under age 26, you will be
eligible for FFCC Medicaid in
Texas if you meet the FFCC
Medicaid requirements.

You should check with the state
where you currently live to see
if you are eligible there. Some
states provide FFCC Medicaid
to all former foster youth
regardless of where they aged
out of care.