

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260

Fact Sheet

April 9, 2021

Expanded Foster Care 18 to 21 Program Services

As a result of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, young adults 18 to 21 who exited foster care during the pandemic due to age must be provided the opportunity to re-enter the foster care program. Agencies must not terminate or suspend a young adult from participating in Foster Care 18 to 21 due to age or failure to meet employment and educational criteria before October 1, 2021.

County child welfare agencies must identify and provide notice to eligible young adults about their ability to re-enter the Foster Care 18 to 21 program. NC DSS will assist counties in identifying eligible young adults.

Eligibility

For young adults who will remain in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program under the provisions of Public Law 116-260, their original *Determination of Foster Care 18 to 21 Benefits and/or Medical Assistance Only*, form number DSS-5120E, may continue as their foster care and Medicaid eligibility determination.

If a young adult chooses to re-enter into the Foster Care 18 to 21 program under the provisions of Public Law 116-260, redetermination of eligibility on the appropriate form must be completed, as their funding determination may change.

Use the following forms and processes to reflect ongoing participation in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program:

- [DSS-5097](#) – Voluntary Placement Agreement for Foster Care 18 to 21
- [DSS-5099](#) – Placement Agreement for Foster Care 18 to 21
- [DSS-5096A](#) – Transitional Living Plan for Youth/Young Adults in Foster Care
- [DSS-5096C](#) – Transitional Living Plan 90 Day Transition Plan for Young Adults in Foster Care 18 to 21
- [DSS-5120E](#) – Determination of Foster Care 18 to 21 Benefits and/or Medical Assistance Only
- Document in the young adult's case record that the young adult is eligible for entry, re-entry, or continuation in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program in accordance with Public Law 116-260.

Education and Training Vouchers

Maximum award amounts for eligible young adults qualifying for Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) have increased. Waivers are available for young adults who may not meet scholarship requirements due to the pandemic. Currently enrolled students should contact their ETV Coordinator. New students may apply for the ETV program beginning July 1, 2021 at <https://www.fc2sprogramms.org/north-carolina/>.

Next Steps

- Additional guidance will be provided regarding the provisions in the act that impact LINKS.
- Webinars and presentations will be scheduled to provide additional technical assistance to agencies.

Questions? Contact

Erin Conner, MSW
LINKS Program Coordinator
(919) 527-6351
Erin.conner@dhhs.nc.gov

LeAnn McKoy, MPA
Foster Care 18 to 21 Program Coordinator
(919) 527-6375
Leann.mckoy@dhhs.nc.gov