Do You Need Additional Time in Foster Care to Reach Your Career and/or Educational Goals?

EXTENDED CARE GIVES YOU ADDITIONAL TIME TO:

- Complete your high school diploma or get your GED
- Attend college or a vocational/ technical school
- Join a service organization like City Year, AmeriCorps or Job Corps
- Gain job readiness skills

Care ✰ Commit ✰ Connect
Together for Arkansas Children and Families

www.humanservices.arkansas.gov

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EXTENDED FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Learn How You Can Extend Your Time in Foster Care to Achieve Your Personal Goals!

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services
Division of Children & Family Services

www.humanservices.arkansas.gov

It is your RIGHT to remain in foster care until the age of 21! You can gain the life skills that will assist you as you transition out of care. *We are here to work FOR you on your journey!*

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?

- ✓ *Attend college, a vocational or technical school or a qualified training program*
- ✓ *Work a **minimum** of 20 hours a week*
- ✓ *If you are unable to work or attend school **due to a medical condition** – you must be **receiving treatment***

BENEFITS OF EXTENDED CARE

While in the extended care program, you will work with your caseworker, caregiver and members of your transition team to:

- ✓ *Explore less restrictive placement options, including dorms and apartments*
- ✓ *Achieve your educational goals*
- ✓ *Work toward meeting the goals of your transitional plan and enjoy smooth sailing to independence!*

If you decide to continue your stay in foster care, talk with your Family Service Worker or Transitional Youth Services Coordinator prior to your 18th birthday, and they will take care of the paperwork!

FSW Name: _____

FSW Phone: _____

FSW E-Mail: _____

TYS Coordinator Name: _____

TYS Phone: _____

TYS E-Mail: _____

Do you know about the Education Training Voucher (ETV) program?

- ✓ *The ETV program awards grants to current and former foster youth to help pay for college or specialized education.*
- ✓ *Eligible students may receive grants of up to $5,000 per academic year.*

Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must complete the ETV application confirming enrollment, the cost of attendance (COA) and unmet need.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be a current or former foster student who:
   - **Was in foster care on your 18th birthday *OR***
   - **Adopted from foster care with the adoption finalized AFTER your 16th birthday *OR***
   - **Remain in foster care and have completed a secondary education *OR***
   - **Will have your foster care case closed between the ages of 18 and 21**
2. You must be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen.
3. Your personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) are worth less than $10,000.
4. You must be at least 18 but younger than 21 to apply for the first time. You may reapply for ETV funds, if you have a current grant, up to the age of 23.
4. You must have been accepted into or be enrolled in a degree, certificate or other accredited program at a college, university, technical or vocational school. To remain eligible for ETV funding, you must show progress toward a degree or certificate.

» If you would like additional information about ETV funding, send an e-mail to the Arkansas ETV Coordinator at **arkansas@statevoucher.org** or contact your TYS Coordinator.

Ever Heard of the Arkansas Youth Advisory Board?

The YAB is a group of youth from the foster care system that meets with the DHS staff to advocate on behalf of other youth in foster care. Additionally, YAB members:

- **Speak at local conferences**
- **Host YAB meetings**
- **Assist with planning the annual leadership conference and other events for the youth in foster care**
- **Attend national conferences**
- **Serve the community**

» If you are interested in serving on the Arkansas Youth Advisory Board, contact your TYS Coordinator or Family Service Worker!

YAB

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