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

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

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!

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**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.
5. 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.**

**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.

**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!