

Independent Living Benefits



Transitioning from Kansas Foster Care

As you age out of foster care in Kansas, take advantage of numerous benefits designed to help you transition into independence as an adult.

To participate in the DCF Independent Living Program*, you must:

- Contact your IL Coordinator on a monthly basis.
- Maintain passing grades ('C' or better) and part-time employment while in school.
- Obtain full-time employment when not in school.
- Provide your IL Coordinator with requested information, including pay stubs, grades, lease agreements and any other necessary paperwork.
- Participate in the development of case plan updates every six months.

**This program is voluntary. Failure to comply with program requirements may result in case suspension or closure.*

The following benefits may be available to you if you left the foster care system on or after your 18th birthday.

AGED OUT MEDICAL

- Coverage may be utilized until you turn 26.
- Your card is valid with Medicaid providers (you must select a managed care organization, or MCO).
- You must be a Kansas resident.
- You may be responsible for small copays for prescriptions and appointments.
- You must keep your address current and respond to annual update requests from the State of Kansas.
- After you turn 21, full vision and dental coverage ends, but limited vision and dental coverage is available as value added options with your MCO.
- You may be eligible for this coverage if you move to another state. If you turn 18 on or after Jan. 1, 2023, all states must offer this coverage regardless of the state where you aged out of care. Some states may offer this coverage even if you turned 18 prior to Jan. 1, 2023. Check with the state you move to for coverage and application guidelines.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SUBSIDY

- You may be eligible for financial support with identified needs, up to your 21st birthday.
- This subsidy is need-based and must take into account other income and resources.
- Payments decrease over time. You will be responsible for your living expenses.
- You will be required to have either an Employment Plan or an Education Plan.
 - » **Employment Plan:** You must either be employed full-time or actively seeking employment. You will be required to submit documentation of employment or show that efforts are being made to obtain employment.
 - » **Education Plan:** You must have an approved educational goal—working toward a GED or high school diploma. You will be required to submit documentation of enrollment, attendance and passing grades.

BASIC CHAFEE

- You are eligible to receive benefits until you turn 21.
- Basic Chafee can be utilized to support high school graduation, GED completion, daily living, budgeting, money management, transportation and clothing needed for school and work.

START-UP FUNDS

- You may be eligible to receive benefits until you turn 21.
- You may receive assistance with your rental deposit.
- You may receive assistance with independent living necessities, including utility deposits, furniture, appliances and/or other items deemed necessary.
- You may be eligible to receive funds for necessary car repairs. The car must be titled in your name. You must also have valid insurance and a valid driver’s license.

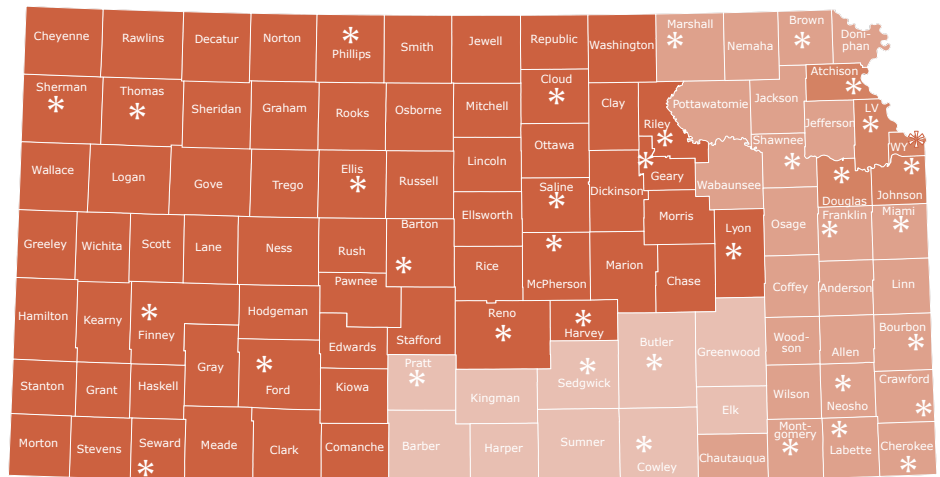
EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV) FUNDS

- ETV funds may be utilized for a total of five years, up to age 26.
- ETV funds are need-based. You will work with your IL Coordinator to determine your level of need.
- To receive ETV funds, you must complete the FAFSA (due by March 31) and a minimum of 3 scholarships (provide documentation of completion).
- On the FAFSA, question 49 asks whether you were in foster care or a ward of the court after attaining age 13. Answering “yes” to this question may qualify you for the full Pell Grant—money you do not have to pay back as long as you are maintaining passing grades.
- ETV funds may be used for necessary education expenses (tuition, books, computer, etc.).

TUITION WAIVER (FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION)

- The waiver may be utilized until the semester of your 23rd birthday, as long as you are in good standing with the school’s academic requirements.
- To be eligible for the tuition waiver, you must have been in DCF custody and out-of-home placement on your 18th birthday and graduated from high school/GED.
- The tuition waiver waives tuition and fees at Kansas Board of Regents public schools. A complete list of approved schools is located at www.kansasregents.org.
- The application can be obtained from the school, usually the financial aid office.

For further help or if you have questions, contact the DCF IL Program at 785-296-4653 or by visiting one of the DCF service centers identified on the map.



* DCF Service Center

REGIONAL IL CONTACTS



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