**Children, Youth and Families Department - Protective Services Division**
**Services and Supports for Older Youth and Young Adults**
Updated December 2022

| Benefit or Service | What is it? | Who is eligible? | How and when it can be accessed? |
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| Life Skill Assessment and Summary | The IL assessment consists of two components:<br>• A psychosocial assessment called the *Let's Get Started and Planning for Our Future.*<br>• The Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA).<br><br>The results of the IL assessments are summarized in an IL assessment summary. The summary identifies the youth's strengths, needs and goals and includes recommendations to assist the youth's team in focusing on the development of transition services and life skills. | All youth in PSD custody beginning at age 13.5.<br><br>Tribal youth are also eligible for this services/support (activities are conducted by the FCB). | The permanency planning worker (PPW) completes the independent living assessment for a youth turning 13.5 years of age or when a youth over the age of 13.5 enters PSD custody and remains in custody after the custody hearing.<br><br>The assessment is conducted at least every 18 months. |
| Life Skill Plan | The life skills plan is a written document outlining the activities necessary to support the youth in acquiring the knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully promote self-sufficiency. | All youth in PSD custody, beginning at age 14.<br><br>Tribal youth are also eligible for this services/support (activities are conducted by the FCB). | The life skills plan is developed within the case planning meeting with the PPW and the youth using the results of the IL assessment. The FCS and other supportive adults are invited to this meeting.<br><br>The plan is reviewed and updated, at minimum, every 6 months. |
| Life Skills Development | Life skills development is based on the youth's Life Skills Plan and is an individualized process of learning the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in living as an adult. | All youth in PSD custody, beginning at age 14.<br><br>Tribal youth are also eligible for this services/support (activities are conducted by the FCB). | Life skills may be acquired through a variety of mechanisms including but not limited to:<br>1. group learning<br>2. teachable moments<br>3. use of community resources and mentors<br>4. self-paced or home-based curricula<br>5. individual practice with out-of-home providers<br><br>Teaching life skills in a classroom setting is not the most effective method for developing competencies; therefore PPWs are encouraged to promote life skills development through hands on, day to day |

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| | | | participatory real life situations with caregivers, resource parents, and community-based providers. |
| Annual Credit Report | Credit report checks are conducted with Equifax, Experian, and Transunion annually to ensure that young people's identity hasn't been stolen and credit hasn't been accessed falsely. If any inaccuracies are identified, they are disputed on their behalf prior to turning 18. | All youth in PSD custody, beginning at age 14.<br><br>Tribal youth are also eligible for this service if the Tribe grants permission to do so. | The Fostering Connections Bureau Federal Compliance Specialist conducts these checks annually and disputes any inaccuracies. Notification is provided to the Fostering Connections Specialist (FCS) and PPW to review with the youth. |
| Transition Planning | Case planning is both a process and a product. It is the <u>process</u> of creating meaningful strategies WITH a youth/eligible adult to build the knowledge, awareness, and skills needed to successfully transition into adulthood. This process results in a <u>product</u>, or the action plan that is based on the goals that a youth/eligible adult establishes, in partnership with their support network, around what they want and need to achieve in all eight life domains to thrive. | Youth in custody of CYFD at age 16.5 or older.<br><br>Eligible Adults enrolled in the Extended Foster Care Program.<br><br>Tribal youth are also eligible for this service/support. | The Fostering Connections Specialist (FCS) contacts the youth, preferably through a warm-introduction, by the Permanency Planning Worker (PPW) when a youth turns 16 to begin the process of developing the youth's first Fostering Connections Plan that is due at 16 ½ years old. |
| Under 18 Independent Living Placement Status (ILPS) | ILPS is designed to assist youth in achieving independence, and permits them to become their own vendors for maintenance payments. Youth participating in ILPS use the maintenance payments to live as a boarder or on their own with PSD supervision. *Please note that licensed caregivers and providers are preferred placements over ILPS and must be exhausted before ILPS can be considered.* | For a youth to participate in ILPS, they must:<br>1. be at least 17 years old (exception for youth 16.5 and older entering a TLYA program)<br>2. be in PSD custody<br>4. participate in a qualifying activity and demonstrate skills for increased self-sufficiency<br>5. not be incarcerated or engaging in activities that compromise their safety<br>6. complete an ILPS agreement that outlines responsibilities and expectations<br>7. have an identified placement that is safe and stable | The PPW is responsible for completing the safety assessment, developing the ILPS agreement, monitoring the ILPS, documentation, and review of the ILPS agreement. The PPW works with the youth to complete the assessment and develop the ILPS agreement.<br><br>The PPW creates the Under-18 ILPS Memorandum for Decision (MFD) and submits to their chain of command (to Regional Manager) for approval. Once approved by the permanency chain of command, final approval is provided by a Fostering Connections Statewide Field Manager. |



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| Extended Foster Care (EFC) (sometimes called the Fostering Connections Program) | Allows eligible adults to remain in foster care until age 21 to support their transition to adulthood and advance outcomes around permanency, housing, education, and financial stability by providing enhanced services and supports. | Young adults who age out of care at 18 are eligible until their 21st birthday.<br><br>Youth that were adopted or in guardianship after their 14th birthday, but are no longer receiving financial or emotional support from their parent or guardian upon turning 18 may also be eligible.<br><br>Tribal youth and out-of-state youth are also eligible for this support/service. | The FCS is responsible for explaining the program to youth in custody beginning at age 16. Subsequent conversations must occur, at minimum, every six months and prior to the discharge hearing. Review of the VSSA must occur at 17.5.<br><br>If the young person is interested in enrolling, they must have an updated transition plan and sign the VSSA. The young person must be participating in a qualifying activity to be eligible.<br><br>Young adults with a date of birth on or after July 2, 2001 can enroll in EFC upon turning 18 or anytime thereafter until their 21st birthday. |
| Fostering Connections Act Extended Adoption or Guardianship Subsidy | Extension of adoption or guardianship subsidies up to age 21 if youth and family meet eligibility criteria.<br><br>NOTE: The family and youth may also be eligible for ongoing Medicaid coverage but will need to clarify this with the PAR Bureau. | Adoption/Guardianship subsidy agreement took affect when the youth was at least 16 years of age, and the youth turned 18 on or after July 2, 2001, and is participating in a qualifying activity OR the young adult is enrolled in the medically fragile waiver program.<br><br>The family must be providing ongoing financial and emotional support to the young person. | The FCS is responsible for completing the initial form with the family and youth required to extend the subsidy. Whenever possible, it should be completed just prior to the young person's 18th birthday. Once completed and verification of the qualifying activity is obtained, the packet is submitted to the PAR bureau to complete the process (i.e., FACTS work). The family should be cc'd on that email communication.<br><br>The PAR bureau is responsible for completing the annual re-certification process with the family and young adult. |
| Leadership Development | LUVYANM is a statewide youth advocacy and advisory board. The officers of the board facilitate regular meetings with support from Fostering Connections Bureau staff. The board evaluates policies and practices of the child welfare system and advocates for system improvements. | All youth in PSD custody or who aged out of custody, beginning at age 16 until age 21.<br><br>Tribal youth and out-of-state youth are also eligible for this support/service. | Youth are identified for participation in LUVYANM by their PPW, FCS, or can be recommended by a supportive adult. Participation is facilitated by the FCS. |



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| Over 18 ILPS | ILPS is designed to assist young adults in achieving independence. Young adults participating in ILPS live on their own with minimal FCB supervision. | Young adults who are not eligible for extended foster care and have not reached the age of 21.<br><br>Tribal youth and out-of-state youth are also eligible for this support/service. | The Fostering Connections Statewide Manager must determine that the young adult meets eligibility requirements. The FCS works with the young adults to develop the ILPS agreement.<br><br>*This program will no longer be available to any young person after July 30, 2022.* |
| 'Foster Care' Medicaid | Medicaid coverage provides ongoing medical, dental and mental health insurance coverage to eligible youth and young adults. | Young adults who age out of care at 18 are eligible through the month of the young adult's 26th birthday.<br><br>Tribal youth and out-of-state youth may also be eligible for this support/service. | The Fostering Connections Specialist (FCS) assist the youth in completing the one-time Medicaid application prior to their 18th birthday.<br><br>Once this application has been completed, this Medicaid will remain active until the young adult's 26th birthday. The young person must notify the Fostering Connections Bureau (FCB) if they want this coverage discontinued prior to their 26th birthday. |
| Start Up Funds | Start-up funds are funds available through the Chafee Act to assist eligible youth and young adults in purchasing the household items and/or services needed to establish a home or support the youth or young adult's transition into adulthood.<br><br>The maximum award is $1,500.00 per youth/young adult. The funds must be spent prior to the youth/young adult's 21st birthday. Funds do NOT roll over. | Young adults/youth who:<br>• aged out of care at 18 or were adopted/in a subsidized guardianship after their 16th birthday, AND<br>• are between the ages of 18 and 21st birthday, OR<br>• 17 years old and approved for Under-18 ILPS (under limited circumstances)<br><br>Tribal youth and out-of-state youth may also be eligible for this support/service. | The Fostering Connections Specialist (FCS) assists the youth or young adult in completing the Start-Up application.<br><br>The Start-Up application is submitted for final review and approval by the FCB Federal Compliance Manager. |
| Start Up Funds (21 – 23rd birthday) | Start-up funds are funds available through the Chafee Act to assist eligible young adults in purchasing the household items and/or services needed to establish a home or support the young adult's transition into adulthood. | Young adults who:<br>• aged out of care at age 18 or were adopted/in a subsidized guardianship after their 16th birthday, AND<br>• between the ages of 21 and 23rd birthday. | The Fostering Connections Specialist (FCS) or contracted Aftercare provider (in areas where available) assists the young adult in completing the Start-Up application.<br><br>The Start-Up application for review and approval by the FCB Federal Compliance Manager. |



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| | The maximum award is $1,500.00 per young adult. The funds must be spent prior to the young adult's 23st birthday. | Tribal youth and out-of-state youth may also be eligible for this support/service. | |
| Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) | Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) are funded through the federal Chafee Act that to provide financial assistance to eligible young adults who are enrolled in an accredited post-secondary educational or vocational setting.<br><br>The ETV program provides up to $5,000 per year, based on cost of attendance and unmet need, for eligible young adults to pay for allowable expenses as outlined in current PSD procedure.<br><br>The lifetime maximum award is $25,000. The funds must be spent prior to the young adult's 26th birthday. | Youth/young adult who:<br>• aged out of care at age 18 or were adopted/ in a subsidized guardianship at age 16 or left PS custody after turning 16 years old but were in custody for, at minimum, 6 consecutive months AND<br>• is under the age of 26, AND<br>• obtained a high school diploma/GED or currently enrolled in a dual credit course/program<br><br>Must be attending an accredited post-secondary or vocational institution.<br><br>Tribal youth and out-of-state youth may also be eligible for this support/service. | The Fostering Connections Specialist (FCS) or contracted Aftercare provider (in areas where available) assists the young adult in completing the ETV application.<br><br>The ETV application is submitted for final review and approval by the FCB Education/Vocation Specialist.<br><br>If a youth or young adult is eligible for ETV, they must first access these funds prior to accessing Start Up funds. |
| Tuition and Fee Waiver Verification Letters | Free college tuition and fees at any New Mexico public university or community college.<br><br>A school of higher education includes any publically-funded and accredited state college or university or any of their branches, a community college, or a technical/vocational institute in New Mexico. | Youth and young adults are eligible if they are/were in the legal custody of CYFD on or after their 14th birthday and enrolled in a school of higher education before their 25th birthday.<br><br>Tribal youth are also eligible for this service/support. | The Fostering Connections Education and Vocation Specialist will verify eligibility and provide the letter to the young adult. |
| Case Management Support | Utilizing the practice model to assess, prioritize, and teach; FCSs partner with young adults to provide case management services | Young adults are eligible for case management services if they are: | Case management may be provided by the Fostering Connections Specialist, a contract provider, and/or a |



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| | by connecting them to the supports and services needed in the community, around ALL 8 life domains, to ensure a successful transition to adulthood.<br><br>Case management occurs that the level of 'Active Efforts' for those enrolled in the Fostering Connections (extension of foster care) program. | • 18 years old and enrolled in Extended Foster Care<br>• Under the age of 26 and otherwise eligible for services provided by the Fostering Connections Bureau (FCB)<br>• For those youth under 18 and in custody of CYFD – only secondary assignment support is provided | community-based organization depending on the area of residence and funding available. |
| Housing Programs Funded or Managed by Fostering Connections | Transitional Living for Young Adults (TLYA), Transitions Supportive Housing (TSH), Family Unification Program (FUP), and Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) are all housing programs or voucher programs that are funded, managed and/or coordinated by Fostering Connections.<br><br>These programs offer a continuum of developmentally appropriate support for young people ready to live more self-sufficiently in the community. Support ranges from 24/7 staff availability to limited case management. | Eligibility varies from program to program. Please contact the Fostering Connections Housing Navigator for more details – fc.housingnavigator@cyfd.nm.gov | Each program has a separate application process that must be completed to determine eligibility.<br><br>The Fostering Connections Housing Navigator will explain the process in detail and support staff and/or young people in completing the application and admission processes. |
| EMS Corps | EMS Corps is a statewide program operated by Fostering Connections that provides training and support to young people impacted by the foster care or juvenile justice systems or from underserved communities across New Mexico for careers in the field of allied health services.<br><br>Along with EMT training provided by UNM, the program provides holistic support to students to ensure their success, including housing for out-of-town students, a monthly success stipend, individual and group | Youth and young adults between the ages of 18 and 26 are eligible if they are/were in the legal custody of CYFD, involved with Juvenile Justice Services, or are from an underserved community.<br><br>Additionally, they must have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent to be eligible to apply. | The program operates in five-month cohorts. Participants must be able to commit to the entire 5-month program. Cohorts run from:<br>• June through October<br>• December through April.<br><br>To apply, interested youth/young adults can submit an application on our website at https://abqemscorps.org. |



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| | counseling and academic support, life coaching, mentorship, job readiness training and post-program employment support, physical fitness, yoga, and massage. | For more information and to view a short video about the program, visit https://abqemscorps.org | |

Feel free to contact us with questions or if you would like additional information. We will always do our best to help. You may contact your Fostering Connections Specialist or the Fostering Connections email at Info.YouthServices@state.nm.us and we will connect you with someone who can assist.



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