



Center for

Children's Advocacy

Advocating for Youth Aging Out of DCF Care

DCF Transition Services

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Advocating for Adolescents

A 17 year-old is about to turn 18...

- Can he remain in DCF care?



DCF Services Post-Majority

Committed youth who turn 18 may remain in care of DCF, by consent of the youth, provided he/she has not reached age 21, if the youth is:

- Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
- Enrolled full-time in institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education; or
- Participating in job training program or activity designed to promote employment.

Terms to Know

- **DCF-779 form – Agreement for Services Post-Majority**
- **DCF-800 form used for “uncooperative youth”**
 - Sent to last known address, and, if applicable, youth’s most recent caregiver, attorney, and any person who may have knowledge of whereabouts.
 - If youth chooses to appeal DCF decision to discontinue benefits, may request Fair Hearing pursuant to instructions on DCF-800 form.

Court Process for DCF Youth 18+

- Within 120 days of youth's 18th birthday, DCF shall file in the Juvenile Court, a Motion for Determination Regarding Continuance of Care.
- Within 180 days of youth's 18th birthday, the Court must rule on the Motion.
- If not already in place, A Motion for Review of Permanency Plan shall be filed concurrently, and regardless, filed annually thereafter.

CGS 46b-129(j) (5); DCF Policy 28-1

Why Should We Care?

Outcomes for Youth Aging Out

- Homelessness
- Criminal justice involvement
- Cycle of DCF involvement for pregnant/parenting youth
- Lack of education
- Lack of employment

Why is this Important?

Adolescent Services/Benefits

DCF Policy 28-1

- Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)
- Community Housing Employment Enrichment Resources (CHEER)
- Access to DCF Adolescent Specialist
- Access to annual credit reports
- Assistance with driver's permit/license
- Senior Year expenses (up to \$500)
- Funding for Post-Secondary Education (including tuition, fees, room and board, books, computer, transportation, etc.)

Why is this Important?

Adolescent Services/Benefits

DCF Policy 28-1 *(continued)*

- Instruction in “life skills” training
- Reproductive health services
- Medical coverage
- Behavioral health services
- Mentor services
- Adolescent Parent Program and funding

DCF Adolescent Transition Plan

- Developed for every youth aged 16+ in DCF care
- Personalized in collaboration with the youth
- Includes specific options on housing, health insurance, education, personal and community supports, work force supports, and employment services
- Updated, revised and reviewed at each ACR
- **Reviewed for each youth transitioning from DCF care, even if being terminated from services due to non-compliance**

42 U.S.C. 675(1)(D); DCF Policy 28-1

DCF Transition Plan

Contents of Transition Plan

- Anticipated date youth will leave DCF care
- Names/contact info for 3+ significant family members or adults
- Youth's anticipated living arrangements
- Estimated budget
- Sources and amount of income
- Health insurance
- Education
- Local opportunities for mentoring

DCF Adolescent Services Policy 28-1

DCF Transition Plan

Contents of Transition Plan *(continued)*

- Continued support services, including application of benefits and how to access them
- Workforce supports
- Employment services
- Immigration services
- Any other needs youth may have

DCF Adolescent Services Policy 28-1

Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)

Offered to 18+ youth interested in & able to pursue post-secondary education or vocational training.

Requirements:

- Committed to DCF at age 18;
- Obtained high school diploma or GED;
- Exhibited adequate social, behavioral, and life skills;
- Signed DCF-779 form;
- Completed DCF-approved Life Skills Program;
- Have an approved Post-Secondary Education Plan;
- Be enrolled & in good standing in an educational or vocational program; and
- Review & approval by DCF Central Office CHAP Coordinator

CHAP Qualifications

40+ “Productive Hours” per week, i.e. time devoted to:

- Classes
- Study
- Extra-curricular activities
- Part-time work
- Internship
- Volunteering
- Training
- Apprenticeship
- Treatment activities

CHAP Funding

- One-time apartment deposit, including first & last month rent if within guidelines
- Up to \$1,500 to purchase furniture
- Up to \$150 to purchase housewares & household supplies
- Up to \$100 to purchase food staples
- **Post-secondary tuition, books & fees subtracted from annual funding limit**
- **Social Security benefits subtracted from funding limits**

Post Secondary Education (PSE) Funding

- Eligibility requirements found in DCF Policy 28-1.
- Must take 24 credits in each consecutive 12-month period.
- Maintain GPA of at least 2.0 each semester.
- Limited to an amount not to exceed cost of attendance at a Connecticut State University.
- Includes: tuition & fees, room & board (on campus), books, supplies.
- Can apply for additional funding for a computer & 2 round-trip transportation expenses to visit caretakers during breaks.

Community Housing Employment Enrichment Resources (CHEER)

- Offered to 18+ youth demonstrating strong motivation & ability to pursue post-secondary employment training & career development.
- Requirements are the same as for CHAP, but focus is on employment training or job readiness services that will lead to gainful employment.
- CHEER contract & funding similar to CHAP as well.

Supportive Work Education & Transition Program (SWETP)

- “Transitional living programs”
- Learn independent living skills, attend school in the community, and hold job while residing in a 24-hour supportive structured supervised setting.
- Must be age 14+, prepared for involvement in less-restrictive setting, and not yet ready for living independently in the community.
- Cannot have an active substance abuse problem that would interfere with the group process, or display actively violent or assaultive behavior.
- Program staff develop a service agreement that includes roles, responsibilities, expectations, goals & time frames for the youth.

Re-Entry to Adolescent Services Program

- **Eligibility: Youth may apply for Re-Entry if:**
 - Committed as of his/her 18th birthday;
 - Left DCF after age 18 but before age 21;
 - Has had case closed or services discontinued for at least 90 days;
 - Has proof of an educational plan or employment, including transcripts, certificates, report cards, or proof of enrollment/acceptance/start date;
 - Is not married; and
 - Is not on active duty with any of the U.S. armed forces

Re-Entry Services

- Case Management services
- Referrals to community services
- Referrals for evaluations, e.g. medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse, educational, cognitive, vocational, trauma assessment.
- Assistance with obtaining needed documents
- Assistance with obtaining medical benefits
- Financial assistance for education and vocational programming

Primary focus is education & training – shouldn't be construed as a housing program.

Questions/Contact

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