# Administrative Policies and Procedures: 16.52

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<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Extension or Re-Establishment of Foster Care for Young Adults</th>
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<tr>
<td>Authority:</td>
<td>TCA 37-2-417, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351); Tennessee Transitioning Youth Empowerment Act of 2010; The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999; Rules of the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services, Social Services Division, Chapter 0250-04-02 Standards for Group Homes and Family Boarding Homes; Rules of the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services Standard for Regulated Institutions, Chapter 0250-04-05 Standards for Residential Child Care Agencies.</td>
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<td>Standards:</td>
<td>DCS Practice Model: 8-108.COA PA-CM 2.01-2.02, PA-CM 3.02-3.07, PA-CM 4-5, PA-CM 8-9;</td>
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<td>Application:</td>
<td>DCS Employees and Providers with Independent Living Services Responsibilities</td>
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## Policy Statement:

The Department of Children’s Services extends foster care services to young adults ages 18-up to age 21 who meet established Title IV-E criteria and voluntarily agree to accept extension or re-establishment of foster care services as a young adult.

## Purpose:

To assist young adults, ages 18 up to age 21, transition to adulthood with skills, knowledge, experience, and supports necessary for them to obtain education, housing, employment, health services and permanent supportive relationships.

## Procedures:

### A. Eligibility for extension or re-establishment of foster care for young adults

Young adults released from the custody of DCS are eligible to continue receiving foster care services, or have foster care services re-established, on the following basis:

1. Young adults who emancipate to adulthood directly from DCS custody at or after 18 years of age are eligible.

2. Youth adjudicated delinquent are eligible upon release from DCS custody, with the following restriction:
   - Youth housed in secure facilities upon attaining 18 years of age are not eligible. These facilities include the Youth Development Center and detention facilities.

3. The young adult meets the following conditions:
   - a) Is a United States citizen, or meets certain other guidelines to be considered a “qualifying alien” (young adults who are undocumented...
residents of the United States are not eligible); and
b) Resides in the state of Tennessee; and

c) Does not have countable assets exceeding $10,000; and

d) Voluntarily signs an agreement, DCS form **CS-0488, Rights and Responsibilities to Receive Foster Care Services as an Adult**, and **CS-0968, Voluntary Placement Agreement for Transitioning Young Adults** as applicable, in order to accept foster care as an adult to include acceptance of a DCS placement option or supervised independent living setting (case management plus an approved living situation); and

e) Is completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential; or

f) Is enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education; or

g) Is not capable of doing any of the activities described in subdivisions of T.C.A 37-2-417(b)(1)-(4) due to a medical condition, including a developmental or intellectual condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the Family Permanency Plan of the young adult. In such cases, the young adult complies with a course of treatment as recommended by the Department

4. The procedures for establishing approval for extension or re-establishment of foster care for young adults are outlined in the **Independent Living and Transition Planning Guide**. The completion of DCS form **CS-0954, Certification of Eligibility for Title IV-E Fostering Connections; Extension or Re-Establishment of Foster Care for Young Adults**, to include all applicable signatures is required when a new IV-E eligibility determination is needed.

5. Young adults eligible according to the criteria outlined above may return and request re-establishment of foster care until their 21st birthday.

B. Maintenance of eligibility for extension or re-establishment of foster care for young adults

1. Young adults may be eligible to receive foster care services until the Family Permanency Plan goals are met, and there is an agreement by the Child and Family Team (CFT) that the young adult is reasonably capable of self-sufficiency. Eligibility must otherwise end upon the young adult’s 21st birthday.

2. Young adults, in conjunction with their CFT, determine the scope and appropriateness of service needs within the overall margins of eligibility as defined in this policy. Refer to DCS Policy **16.53, Eligibility for Independent Living Services**, for information on available services. Factors that may jeopardize young adults’ continued eligibility for foster care services may include:

   a) Conviction of a felony offense;

   b) Exhibiting a pattern of behavior that jeopardizes the safety and well-being of self or others;
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| c) Establishing a residence in another state or country; or  
  d) Consistently refusing to work collaboratively with the CFT or the court to make progress on mutually agreed upon goals, including educational objectives, and making reasonable efforts to increase self-sufficiency. |

C. Services available to foster care eligible young adults

Young adults eligible for extension or re-establishment of foster care receive the following services as needed and applicable based on assessment, decisions made by the young adult and their teams, and continued availability of funding; additional eligibility criteria by category may apply and such criteria are available in the policies and protocols referenced. These include:

1. Independent Living Wraparound Services as described in DCS Policy 16.53, Eligibility for Independent Living Services, Section A and as outlined in the Identifying and Accessing Independent Living Services Manual.

2. Housing assistance through placement support or supervised independent living options. The Independent Living Allowance may be provided according to the guidelines listed in DCS Policy 16.53, Eligibility for Independent Living Services, Sections B, and C. Refer to the Identifying and Accessing Independent Living Services Manual for details on administration of the Independent Living Allowance.


Forms:

- CS-0488, Rights and Responsibilities to Receive Foster Care Services as an Adult
- CS-0968, Voluntary Placement Agreement for Transitioning Young Adults
- CS-0761, Independent Living Program Review Request

Collateral documents:

- Independent Living and Transition Planning Guide
- Identifying and Accessing Independent Living Services Manual

Original Effective Date: DCS 16.51, 09/01/02, 16.53, 11/01/02, 16.55, 01/01/05, 16.57, 09/01/05
Current Effective Date: 03/28/19
Supersedes: 06/02/14
CS-0001
RDA SW22
**Subject:** Extension or Re-Establishment of Foster Care Services for Young Adults

### Glossary:

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<th>Term</th>
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<td>Young adult:</td>
<td>A person who meets the definition of an “applicable child” according to federal and state legislative and statutory guidelines for maintenance of federal Title IV-E Foster care. These criteria are established in Section A of this policy.</td>
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<td>Worker</td>
<td>A term used to identify the position assigned the primary responsibility of building, preparing, supporting, and maintaining the Child and Family Team and coordinating the provision of services, when that position is not within DCS. An example includes provider agency staff assigned to case manage Extension of Foster Care cases.</td>
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<td>Qualifying Alien:</td>
<td>A person who does not have U.S. citizenship established, but does have Special Immigrant Juvenile Status established, or otherwise meets the criteria to remain lawfully in the United States as an emancipated adult according to necessary verifications.</td>
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<td>Education and training vouchers:</td>
<td>Education and Training Vouchers were added to the Chafee Independence Program to assist youth and young adults connected with the foster care system due to the high cost of post-high school education. Vouchers can be used for eligible two and four-year universities, vocational training programs and job training programs.</td>
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<td>Extension or re-establishment of foster care services for young adults:</td>
<td>The eligibility criteria and procedures associated with providing foster care services to young adults. It includes an array of services available to eligible persons. These services require case management by the assigned Workers, Independent Living Services staff, and Placement Services staff (as applicable). These services are voluntary and require a young adult's initial and on-going agreement to receive them.</td>
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