

RESOURCES

Ask Rhody

www.dhs.ri.gov/askrhody/

Department of Human Services

www.dhs.state.ri.us/index.htm

Department of Labor and Training

www.dlt.ri.gov/

Family Resource Counselors (FRCs)

www.dhs.ri.gov/dhs/famchild/fam_res_counsel.pdf

Housing Locator (RI Coalition for the Homeless)

www.rihomeless.com/housing_locator.htm

Medical Assistance

www.dhs.ri.gov/dhs/famchild/dfcmap.htm

Rhodes to Independence

rhodestoind.startlogic.com/index.html

RI 2-1-1

www.uwri.org/ArticlePage.cfm?pg=78

RICORP—RI Council of Providers for Children, Youth, and Families

www.ricorp.net

RI Educational Opportunity Center

www.ccri.edu/eoc

RI Foster Parents— Real Connections

www.rifpa.org/programs/real-connections.htm

RI Housing

www.rhodeislandhousing.org/

Rlte Care

www.dhs.ri.gov/dhs/famchild/shcare.htm

Frequently Asked Questions II

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOUTH LEAVING DCYF CARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 21

Prepared by:

**The URI/DCYF Student Organization
and
The Rhode Island Department of Children,
Youth and Families**

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INTRODUCTION

Transitioning to adulthood can be a frightening, confusing time for all young people. Leaving DCYF care can be additionally stressful. This Guide has been developed with the help of youth who have made that transition, to assist you in understanding the services and supports that are available to you after your case closes to DCYF.

Upon your discharge from DCYF, you may continue to be eligible to receive transition services and supports in the areas of education/vocation, medical and housing and other after care services. Descriptions of these services and supports and eligibility criteria are identified in this Guide.

If you have any questions about the services, or need assistance, please contact your DCYF Caseworker or Kathi M. Crowe at 528-3790.

AFTERCARE SERVICES PROGRAM

If you have been accepted into an after care services program, such as the YESS (Young Adults Establishing Self-Sufficiency) Program, you will develop a self-sufficiency plan with the assistance of program staff, which will identify services and supports, including housing, that will be provided to assist you in your transition to independence. The anticipated length of time that each of the services and supports will be provided will be identified in the plan.

For more information about the YESS Program contact Madeline Burgess at 497-3545.

APPEAL RIGHTS

If you are not satisfied with these transition services, you have a right to file an administrative appeal with the Department in accordance with DCYF Policy 100.0055, Complaints and Hearings. **The DCYF Form 016 Formal Request for Hearing is available on DCYF website <http://www.dcyf.ri.gov> or please contact:**

**Administrative Hearing Office
101 Friendship Street
Providence, RI 02903
(telephone 528-3549; fax 528-3590).**

MEDICAL

You are eligible for Post Foster Care Medical Assistance through the RI Department of Human Services (DHS) if:

- You are under twenty-one (21) years of age;
- You were in foster care on your eighteenth (18th) birthday;
- You are no longer open to DCYF;
- You are a resident of Rhode Island.

You will automatically be transferred to the Post Foster Care Medical Assistance Program if you were open to DCYF and receiving RIteCare on your 18th birthday.

You must do the following to continue to receive Post Foster Care Medical Assistance until you reach the age of twenty-one (21):

- **You must notify DHS within ten (10) days of any change in your address. Returned mail will cause the medical coverage to be terminated.**
- **You must complete and return to DHS the re-determination form that you receive every year to make sure that you are still a resident of Rhode Island. Medical coverage will be terminated if you do not return the form.**

If Medical Assistance is terminated because DHS did not receive the completed re-determination form, you can contact DHS to reapply and regain eligibility under this coverage until you reach age twenty-one (21).

If you establish residency in another state, you will not be eligible for medical coverage through the State of Rhode Island. If you return to Rhode Island, you can contact DHS to reapply and regain eligibility under this coverage until you reach the age twenty-one (21).

If you have any questions about Post Foster Care Medical Assistance, please contact Kathleen Iadevaia at 528-3663 or kathleen.iadevaia@dcyf.ri.gov

EDUCATIONAL / VOCATIONAL SERVICES

You may be eligible for higher education assistance to attend a postsecondary educational program (e.g., college or trade school) through the DCYF Higher Educational Opportunity Grant Program and/or the Chafee Educational Training Voucher Program.

Information and applications are on the DCYF website www.dcyf.ri.gov.

For more information contact Kathi Crowe:

Phone: 528-3790

Email: kathi.crowe@dcyf.ri.gov

**Mail: Kathi M. Crowe
DCYF 5th Floor
101 Friendship St.
Providence, RI 02903**

DCYF Higher Educational Opportunity Grant Program

You may be eligible if:

- You have been in DCYF custody for at least 24 months **or** if you were previously in foster care and in DCYF custody from your sixteenth (16th) to eighteenth (18th) birthday;
- You have not yet reached the age of twenty-one (21);
- You have graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma not more than one year prior to the date of recommendation; and
- You will be attending on a full-time basis one of Rhode Island's three public institutions for higher education: Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), Rhode Island College (RIC) or the University of Rhode Island (URI) for a bachelor's degree or an accredited certificate program.

Chafee Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program

You may be eligible if:

- You have been in DCYF Foster Care since the age of 16 and are likely to remain in foster care until the age of 18 **or** you were discharged from DCYF foster care when you reached the age of 18 **or** you were adopted from DCYF foster care after turning 16 years old;
- You have not yet reached the age of 21; and
- You are enrolled on a part time or a full time basis in an accredited public or private program that provides an associate's or a bachelor's degree or an accredited certificate program

You can remain eligible until age 23 if you are participating in the ETV program on your 21st birthday as long as you are enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program and making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program.