

FOSTER YOUTH BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY (March 2024)

BENEFIT TYPE*	ELIGIBILITY BASED ON AGE IN FOSTER CARE THROUGH OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED	CURRENT AGE
Extended foster care – Continued foster care payments beyond age 18 up to age 21. Can be made to caregiver or directly to youth. Includes infant supplement payments for parenting youth and Expectant Parent Payment for pregnant youth during the final three months of pregnancy.	18 and up	Under 21
THP-Plus – Transitional housing for up to 36 months for former foster youth with subsidized rent and supportive services.	18 and up	18-24 inclusive (up until turning 25)
FYI/FUP Voucher – Provides a 36-month rental subsidy paired with supportive services provided or secured through the county child welfare agency. Can be extended an additional 24 months through participation in Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.	Either 90 days from leaving foster care or have left foster care.	18-25
MediCal – Enrollment in MediCal health insurance program is guaranteed regardless of income eligibility.	18 and up	Under 26
Independent Living Program – Support for post-secondary planning and financial assistance for independent living costs, including education.	16-18**	Under 21
Extended guardianship payments – continued payments to legal guardians to age 21.	Entered kinship guardianship after 16 or non-related legal guardianship at any age**	Under 21
Extended Adoption Assistance Payments (AAP) – continued payments to adoptive parents to age 21.	Adopted after 16***	Under 21
NextUp – A statewide California community college support program that includes additional cash aid.	13 and up (can also include those with an open court case in Family Maintenance)	Must first enroll before age 26
Priority registration – Allows foster youth to register for classes before the general student population at community colleges, CSUs and UCs.	13 and up	Under 26
Chafee Grant - Up to \$5,000 per year for foster youth enrolled in college at least half-time.	16 -18	Under 26
Cal Grant – Pays for tuition costs at a CSU or UC (and partial tuition at private colleges) and up to \$1,648 for non-tuition costs like rent and books. Foster youth attending a CSU, UC, CA community college or qualified private college can receive up to \$6,000 per year for non-tuition costs. Must have minimum 2.0 high school GPA unless enrolled in a qualified Career & Technical (CTE) program.	13 and up for foster youth specific benefits	Under 26

Qualified foster youth are not subject to the requirement that they apply within one year of high school graduation and can receive the grant for up to eight years.

*A brief overview of each benefit type is provided in this chart, and may not include all details of each program.

**In a foster care placement (suitably placed) at any time from age 16-18; under a legal guardianship with a relative (KinGAP) and received KinGAP services between the ages of 16-18 years of age; or in a dependency court granted non-related legal guardianship that was granted on or after a child's 8th birthday.

***Youth who have a documented mental or physical disability that warrants the continuation of assistance are eligible to receive benefits to age 21 regardless of the age the child/youth entered guardianship or adoption.

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Student Success Completion Grant – Up to \$5,250 per semester if attending full-time (12+ units) at a California Community College and also receiving Cal Grant B or C.	13 and up	No age requirement
Middle Class Scholarship – Foster youth pursuing a bachelor degree program (or teaching credential) at a CSU, UC or California Community College that have a remaining unmet need that is over \$7,898 will be offered the award to cover the gap towards cost of attendance. Award amounts will vary by student and by school.	13 and up	No age requirement
FAFSA/CADAA Independent Status - Qualifying as independent means that the student does not have to include parent’s or guardian’s income on the FAFSA/CADAA, which may increase the amount of financial aid available. Foster parent’s income and SILP or THP-NMD payments made directly to a youth are never included.	13 and up (or in legal guardianship)	All students are independent at age 24
Priority housing – Priority access to on-campus housing at CSUs and UCs and access to housing over school breaks (not including summer).	Varies by campus	Varies by campus
California Foster Youth Tax Credit – \$1,117 tax credit for eligible foster youth who earned \$1-\$30,931, lived in California more than half of the tax year, and have a Social Security Number or ITIN.	13 and up	18-25 years old during the prior tax year

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