

Extended Foster Care Extension Payments FAQ

Background

In early 2021, Governor Jay Inslee signed [Proclamation 21-02: Extended Eligibility for Foster Care Services](#) in response to the Federal requirement that states must not exit young people from care beginning in March 2020. The Federal moratorium, which removed the age limits on receiving Extended Foster Care (EFC), expired September 30, 2021.

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) applauds legislators for funding \$10.6 million in stipends for youth aging out of the agency's Extended Foster Care (EFC) program. This funding was secured thanks to the incredible advocacy of foster care allies, alumni of care, and legislative champions.

This funding has allowed DCYF to partner with Treehouse in providing direct cash payments to young people aging out of EFC through June 2023.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I sign up to receive funds?

A: DCYF will provide Treehouse with complete lists of all eligible youth, meaning there is not an application process for funds. All participants must confirm their contact information and preferred payment method at <https://forms.office.com/r/iSHsqhtVvy> before the first payment can be made.

Q: Are health and safety visits still occurring?

A: Youth who aged out after March 1, 2020 are no longer in dependency and will not receive health and safety visits.

Q: Are any DCYF caseworkers still working with youth?

A: Unfortunately, DCYF caseworkers are no longer able to support young adults who have had the dependency dismissed. Questions and concerns can be directed to EFC Program Manager Chris McLaughlin by calling 509-731-9946 or emailing christopher.mclaughlin@dcyf.wa.gov.

Q: Are young people who are in foster care through the Office of Refugee Resettlement eligible to receive the extra months of funding?

A: Only youth who were in dependency through DCYF are eligible for the funding through Treehouse.

Q: How will this transition funding impact youth's SSI benefits?



A: DCYF is still determining the impact to SSI. Please contact the EFC Program Manager (contact information above) with specific questions.

Q: If a young person needs help accessing housing support, basic documentation or other needs, who should they contact?

A: The first step is to contact their local independent living provider. Please also see information on the [Treasury Rent Assistance Program](#) and the [Youth and Young Adult Eviction Rent Assistance Program](#) through the Office of Homeless Youth at the Department of Commerce.

If you need assistance with navigating systems, please contact the DCYF EFC Program Manager, Christopher McLaughlin, at christopher.mclaughlin@dcyf.wa.gov.

Q: When will young people who age out become eligible for funding?

A: The funds will be available to youth beginning the month after their 21st birthday.

Q: What is the exact amount of funding youth will receive?

A: Each eligible youth will receive \$850 per month. For youth who aged out before April 2022, additional funds will be added to compensate for the gap in services from October 2021 through March 2022.

Q: When will funds be distributed?

A: Funds will be distributed monthly beginning in April 2022.

Additional Questions?

Contact us at EFCpayments@treehouseforkids.org or 206.267.5158

