

# PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLORIDA'S TRANSITIONING YOUNG ADULTS

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# Youth and Young Adult Outcomes

- Increase financial self-sufficiency
- Improve educational (academic or vocational) attainment
- Increase connections with supportive adults
- Reduce homelessness
- Reduce high-risk behavior
- Improve access to health insurance



# Independent Living Services

- Services to assist older children in foster care and young adults who were formerly in foster care
  - Obtain life skills and education for independent living and employment
  - Have a quality of life appropriate for their age, and assume personal responsibility for becoming self-sufficient adults

# Independent Living Services Young Adult Programs

- **Extended Foster Care (EFC)**
- **Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS)**
  - **Aftercare Services**

# EFC Overview

## Continued care for young adults

- Youth ages out in the legal custody of the Department
- Court maintains jurisdiction, providing judicial reviews
- Young adult continues participating in a qualifying activity
- Young adult resides in an approved supervised living arrangement
- Case management agencies coordinate services, provide home visits, and supervision
- Young adults transition to independence



# Qualifying Activities for Extended Foster Care

- Completing secondary education or program leading to equivalent credential
- Enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to employment
- Employed for a least 80 hours per month
- Unable to participate in any of the programs or activities due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric condition that impairs ability to perform one or more life activities, limiting participation

# Aftercare Services

## Eligibility Overview

- 18 years of age but not yet 23
- In the legal custody of the Department on 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Not in EFC or PESS

## Types of Services or referrals

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Counseling
- Temporary Financial Assistance



# Postsecondary Educational Services and Support (PESS)

## **Eligibility Overview**

- 18 but not yet 23 years of age
- Living in legal custody of the Department on 18<sup>th</sup> birthday AND spent a total of 6 months in licensed care prior to aging out
- OR was at least 16 and was adopted or placed with court-approved dependency guardian after spending 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding such placement or adoption
  - AND earned a high school diploma or its equivalent
  - AND has been admitted for enrollment full-time (9 credit hours) in Florida Bright Futures eligible postsecondary educational institution



# PESS

## **Eligibility continued**

- Has submitted applied for any other grants and scholarships
- Has submitted FAFSA
- Has signed an agreement to allow the access to school records
- Has completed an application with necessary documentation

## **Eligibility Ends**

- Not meeting academic progress at renewal, with certain exceptions
- Aged out, turned 23 years of age
- Eligibility may end before the renewal period if no longer enrolled or is no longer a resident of Florida.
- No longer a resident of the state of Florida.

# P ESS cont'd

Depending on certain statutory conditions, eligible youth may receive a monthly financial payment of **\$1,256**;

- The financial award is to secure housing, utilities, and assist with cost of living while attending a Florida Bright Futures-eligible postsecondary educational institution.
- This may include applicable Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funding.

# Other Service and Supports

- **DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption**
  - **Medicaid**
- **Campus Foster Care Liaisons**

# Other Service and Supports

- **One Voice Youth IMPAACT Leaders Zoom Call (Florida Coalition for Children)**
- **ILSAC (Independent Living Services Advisory Council)**

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/independent-living/advisorycouncil.shtml>

# Campus Foster Care Liaisons

Section 409.1452, F.S.



- Collaboration with Board of Governors, Florida College System and Department of Education
- Improve postsecondary outcomes and career transitions for foster care youth and alumni through support resources, networking and determining collective impact
- **For more information go to:**  
<https://www.positivepathwaysflorida.org/>





# K21

## Keys to Independence

[ABOUT](#)

[RESOURCES](#) ▾

[APPLY NOW](#) ▾

[REIMBURSEMENTS](#) ▾

[INCENTIVES](#)

[INSURANCE](#)

[FAQ](#)

[CONTACT](#)



# HOW TO QUALIFY

- Youth or young adult is between 15-21 years old
- Meet one of the following criteria:
  - Have an open dependency case that includes out of home care OR
  - Achieved court ordered permanency within the last six months (Adoption, Reunification, Legal Guardianship)

AND:

- Have the approval of a primary caregiver who would use the same standard that they would use for their own child – we call this the Prudent Parenting Standard
- Meet the Florida Department of Highway and Motor Vehicle Safety (DHMVS) requirements for a learners intermediate or full privilege drivers license

# AOK SCHOLARS

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LAWRENCE E. WHITE FAMILY FOUNDATION

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## REQUIREMENTS

- Enrolled and attending post-secondary program at least 9 credit hours for Fall and Spring semesters or equivalent full academic year for vocational/tech program(s).
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3
- Communicate at least twice monthly with designated AOK Specialist for status updates on education, housing, employment and overall wellbeing.
- Provide AOK Specialist with transcripts, reports, and certificates as requested to determine continued eligibility for the program.

# Forms and Contacts

## Forms

- ▶ <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/Forms.shtml>

## Statewide Independent Living Contacts

- ▶ <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IndependentLiving/IL%20Directory-Revised.pdf>

# Forms and Contacts

## Keys to Independence Program

- ▶ <https://keystoindependencefl.com/>

## AOK Scholars Program

- ▶ <https://aokscholars.org/>

## One Voice IMPAACT Contacts

- ▶ **Brandie McCabe, Director Of Policy and Youth Engagement, Florida Coalition for Children, [brandie@flchildren.org](mailto:brandie@flchildren.org)**
- ▶ **Elizabeth Wynter. Ed.D, LMHC, Executive Director, Selfless Love Foundation, [elizabeth@selflesslovefoundation.org](mailto:elizabeth@selflesslovefoundation.org)**

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