

YAVFC Fact Sheet

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, included an option for states to receive matching federal funds to extend foster care maintenance payments, to eligible foster youth ages 18, 19, and 20. To implement this option Michigan passed the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Act. By enacting this legislation, youth who were in state-supervised out of home foster care at the age of 18 or older may continue to receive foster care services until age 21. These services are provided without court jurisdiction and are considered voluntary.

Age requirements:

Youth must be between the ages of 18 and 21.

Benefits of YAVFC:

Extending foster care to age 21 offers a safety net of supportive services and financial benefits during the critical transition to adulthood, including:

- Extension of foster care payments.
- Continued oversight by a caseworker for additional support.
- Counseling services.
- Continued health care coverage.
- Training in independent living skills.
- More time to finish high school and pursue vocational or secondary education.

Program requirements:

Youth must be:

- Actively completing a high school diploma or GED.
- Enrolled in college (at least part time).
- Employed (at least 80 hours per month).
- Volunteering for a community organization (at least 80 hours per month).
- Incapable of participating in the activities above due to a documented medical condition.
- Completing a combination of the above requirements at the same time.

Where can youth live?

- With a foster parent.
- Rental home apartment setting with/without a roommate.
- Relative home other than a parent.
- Host home/Supportive adult home.
- College dorm.
- Friend/Partner home.

How do youth apply?

Youth may contact his/her current caseworker or local MDHHS office and ask for the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Liaison.