

Independent Living Self-Sufficiency Program

How Can it Help You?



The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) offers a variety of services to support the successful transition into adulthood for young adults in Kansas.

Medical Coverage

Medical coverage is provided until the last day of the month when you turn 26. Limited vision and dental are included with your coverage until age 21.

- You must have been in DCF, Kansas Department of Corrections-Community Based Services (KDOC-CBS) or Tribal Authority care at age 18 OR exited the custody of the Secretary through SOUL Family Legal Permanency after age 16.
- You must live in Kansas.
- Apply through the KanCare Clearinghouse by completing an application for Families & Children available at kancare.ks.gov/apply-now.
- You may be eligible for this coverage if you move to another state. If you turn 18 on or after Jan. 1, 2023, all states must offer this coverage regardless of the state where you aged out of care.
Some states may offer this coverage even if you turned 18 prior to Jan. 1, 2023. Check with the state you move to for coverage and application guidelines. Please note eligibility in other states only applies to young people who exited DCF custody on or after their 18th birthday.

Independent Living Subsidy

Independent Living (IL) Subsidy provides monthly assistance to help with living expenses based upon need. Eligibility lasts until you turn 21.

- You must have aged out of DCF custody, KDOC-CBS or Tribal Authority from an eligible placement at age 18 OR exited the custody of the Secretary through SOUL Family Legal Permanency after age 16.
- You must be a Kansas resident.
- Marital status does not impact eligibility for subsidy.
- You must be financially responsible for maintenance and expenses.
- Living alone, with a roommate(s) or in a family setting, are all acceptable.
- A plan to obtain a high school diploma, GED or full-time employment is required.

Basic Chafee

Chafee funds are available to help former foster youth achieve self-sufficiency. Basic Chafee can be utilized for:

- supporting high school graduation
- GED completion
- daily living
- budgeting
- managing money
- transportation
- clothing

Additional Services

You may be eligible for an allowance for limited rent assistance, start-up household goods and car repair assistance. Eligibility lasts until you turn 21. Reach out to your regional IL Coordinator to determine eligibility.



Education & Training Voucher

Education & Training Voucher (ETV) funds are available to assist with post-secondary education completion. These funds can assist with attending a vocational school, community college or university.

- You must be a high school graduate or have obtained a GED.
- You must have aged out of DCF custody, KDOC-CBS or Tribal Authority from an eligible placement on or after your 18th birthday, left an eligible placement to a permanent order of guardianship or custodianship on or after your 16th birthday, or been adopted from an eligible placement on or after your 16th birthday OR exited the custody of the Secretary through SOUL Family Legal Permanency after age 16.
- You may also be eligible if you were in an eligible placement for any length of time after you turned 14. Youth who left a foster care placement subject to permanent custodianship or guardianship or who were adopted before the youth's 16th birthday are not eligible for ETV.
- You may participate in the ETV program for a maximum of five years. Eligibility for ETV ends when you turn 26.

Please note: Not all youth and young adults will be eligible for all IL program services. Services and benefits are subject to funding availability.

Find Out More

Call 785-296-4653
or visit il.dcf.ks.gov



Tuition Waiver

The Kansas Foster Child Education Assistance Act (Tuition Waiver) is administered through DCF. Tuition and fees are waived at select schools and colleges. The list of eligible post-secondary institutions can be found at www.kansasregents.org.

- You must be in/have been in DCF custody, in a foster care placement at age 18, adopted at/after age 16 or released from a foster care placement to a guardianship at/after age 16.
- You may also be eligible if you were released from foster care custody before age 18 and graduated from high school or obtained your GED while in DCF custody and an out-of-home placement.

How to Apply for the Tuition Waiver

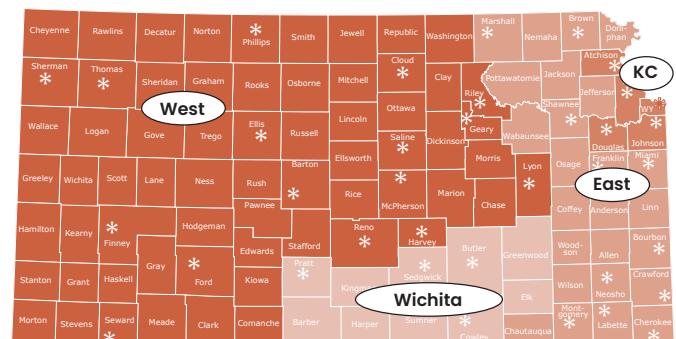
Apply through the registrar's office at your post-secondary institution by asking to fill out the application for the Foster Child Education Assistance Program. You can also find the application on the DCF website at shorturl.at/6yJa3.

SOUL Post-Secondary/ Certified Training

Available to assist with post-secondary education/certified training completion for young adults who exited the custody of the Secretary through SOUL Family Legal Permanency after age 16. Participation is limited to a maximum of five years, and eligibility ends at age 26.

Request Services

Contact your regional DCF IL Coordinator to discuss eligibility and request services.



* DCF Service Center

DCF.EastIL@ks.gov

DCF.KansasCityIL@ks.gov

DCF.WestIL@ks.gov

DCF.WichitaIL@ks.gov