



The Voluntary Extended Care Agreement Can Help Your Future!

For all youth in foster care at age 18, except in limited circumstances. From ages 18-23, the Voluntary Care Agreement can provide support while you gain your independence. This agreement was created to help you continue with education or career training, work, or care for extreme health issues.

You can enroll in the Voluntary Extended Care Agreement anytime up to your 23rd birthday!

Benefits of the Agreement:

- ✔ Support for Post-Secondary Education or Training Programs
 - Post-Secondary Supports may include funds for Books, Supplies, Parking Decals, etc.*
- ✔ Driver's Ed and/or access to transportation resources
- ✔ Housing Assistance
 - Housing supports may include funds for deposits, utilities, and start-up items such as kitchenware, furniture, etc.*
- ✔ Collaborative team meetings to help you positively identify your strengths, needs and future plans.
- ✔ Financial support and resource support

**Financial supports are negotiated, taking into account your income, circumstances, and reasonable expectations of your contribution to living expenses.*

What to Expect:

Youth Responsibilities:

- ✔ Communicate progress about work/school grades and needs.
- ✔ Complete a budget
- ✔ Access supports that will help you succeed
- ✔ Provide needed documentation to show you remain eligible

Caseworker Responsibilities:

- ✔ Ensures the Agreement is consistent for all youth participating
- ✔ Work with you to promote self-sufficiency
- ✔ Continue to focus on building lifelong connections
- ✔ Work with you to develop an individualized plan that ensures you have a variety of opportunities, resources, and support.
- ✔ Support you to direct your plan, develop your skills, and achieve your goals.

For more information about the Voluntary Extended Care Agreement, talk to your caseworker or a Youth Transition Specialist, located in your local DHHS office. To find a Youth Transition Specialist visit <https://ylat.org/transition-workers>

Or contact Dulcey Laberge, Youth Transition Team Program Manager, at (207) 446-4227 or Dulcey.Laberge@maine.gov

