



Youth in Foster Care in Virginia: What Happens When You Turn 18?



Turning 18 is a big deal, especially if you are in foster care!
There are some important things to know.

Fostering Futures (FF) Program

You have the choice to be involved with the [Fostering Futures](#) (FF) program after you are 18 and until your 21st birthday.

To be able to be a part of the FF program you must either be:

- In school
- Working
- In vocational training
- In a work program
- Or have certain medical issues.

Fostering Futures may provide money each month to help you with food, housing, clothing, supplies, and personal expenses. The money may be paid to you, your foster parent (if you are still living in a foster home), or someone else you choose.

Important Documents

Before you leave foster care, **ask** for your important personal documents for you to keep and protect. This should include:

- Your Social Security card
- A certified copy of your birth certificate or green card
- A government-issued photo identification card



WAZE TO ADULTHOOD

Planning for YOUR Future



Medicaid Health Insurance

If you were in foster care before you turned 18, you can still receive free [Virginia Medicaid](#) health insurance until your 26th birthday. This helps you pay for things like doctor visits or medicine.

Housing & Daily Living

Here are some programs that may be able to help with housing and daily living.

- [Chafee Program](#) – for young adults ages 18 to 21 who have aged out of foster care. This can help provide money for housing and related costs.
- [Family Unification Program \(FUP\)](#) – for young adults ages 18 to 24. FUP gives housing vouchers to help pay rent and provides support services like money management help.
- [Foster Youth to Independence](#) – for young adults ages 18 to 24. This program gives housing vouchers to help pay rent.
- [Department of Social Services \(DSS\)](#) – for young adults ages 18 to 21. If you chose not to enroll in Fostering Futures, your local DSS may be able to help provide money for housing for six months.

Check These Out

These resources are for youth like you and will be helpful as you get ready for adulthood!



[Project LIFE](#)

[Foster Club](#)

[Aging Out Guide](#)



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