

Eligibility for Extended Foster Care

Having an order for foster care placement includes youth who not physically in placement, including but not limited to, youth who are awaiting placement or are on runaway status.

If a youth is re-entering foster care, signing the Voluntary Re-entry Agreement is sufficient to indicate the Nonminor Dependent (NMD)'s willingness to meet a participation condition and satisfies that requirement pending the NMD's completion of the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), which documents the NMD's continuing participation.

Temporarily not participating in one criteria (i.e. if a youth loses a job) does not make the youth ineligible for extended foster care. As long as the NMD continues to work towards the goals set out in their TILP then they will not lose eligibility. Participation criteria number 4 "Removing Barriers to Employment" is intended to bridge the gaps in eligibility.

There are four basic eligibility requirements for a youth to continue to receive support after the age of 18 under the California Fostering Connections to Success Act. The youth must:

1. Have an order for foster care placement on his/her 18th birthday
2. Continue under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a dependent, under transitional jurisdiction or as a ward
3. Agree to live in a supervised placement that is licensed or approved under new standards for 18 to 21 years old. In addition, a youth has to sign a mutual agreement (note: this is not a condition of payment), meet with his/her social worker or probation officer every month and participate in six-month review hearings.
4. Meet one of the five participation conditions outlined below...

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive the benefits and services of extended foster care, a youth must be participating in at least one of the following activities:

1. Completing high school or equivalent program (i.e. GED) (enrollment is defined according to the definition employed by the school or program)
2. Enrolled in college, community college or a vocational education program (half-time enrollment, as the college, community college or vocational program defines half-time enrollment)
3. Employed at least 80 hours a month (this must be paid employment)
4. Participating in a program or activity designed to remove barriers to employment (this is the "safety net" category which is intended to capture all youth who are not eligible under the employment or education conditions)
5. Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical condition.