

FOSTER YOUTH BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY (January 2022)

BENEFIT TYPE	AGE IN FOSTER CARE (OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT)	CURRENT AGE
Extended foster care – Continued foster care payments beyond age 18. Can be made to caregiver or directly to youth. Includes infant supplement payments.	18 and up	Under 21
THP-Plus – Transitional housing for up to 24 months (or 36 months if in college) with subsidized rent and supportive services.	18 and up	18-24 (or 25 if in college)
MediCal – Enrollment in MediCal health insurance program is guaranteed regardless of income eligibility.	18 and up	Under 26
Independent Living Program – Support for post-secondary planning and financial assistance for independent living costs, including education.	16-18*	Under 21
Extended guardianship payments – continued payments to legal guardians to age 21.	Entered kinship guardianship after 16 or non-related legal guardianship at any age**	Under 21
Extended Adoption Assistance Payments (AAP) – continued payments to adoptive parents to age 21.	Adopted after 16**	Under 21
NextUp – Support program at 45 community colleges that includes additional cash aid. Must be enrolled in at least 9 units.	13 and up***	Under 26
Priority registration – Allows foster youth to register for classes before the general student population at community colleges, CSUs and UCs.	13 and up***	Under 26
Chafee ETV Vouchers - Up to \$5,000 per year for foster youth enrolled in college at least half-time.	16 -18	Under 26
Cal Grant – Pays for tuition costs at a CSU or UC (and partial tuition at private colleges) and up to \$1,648 for non-tuition costs like rent and books. Foster youth attending a CSU, UC or community college can receive up to \$6,000 per year. Must have minimum 2.0 high school GPA unless enrolled in a qualified Career & Technical (CTE) program. Qualified foster youth are not subject to the requirement that they apply within one year of high school graduation and can receive the grant for up to eight years. Foster youth attending community college are not subject to the March 2 deadline and may apply through September 2.	13 and up for foster youth specific benefits	Under 26
FAFSA/CADAA Independent status - Qualifying as independent means that the student does not have to include parent's or guardian's income on the FAFSA/CADAA, which may increase the amount of financial aid available. Foster parent's income is never included.	13 and up (or in guardianship at age 18)	All students are independent at age 24
Priority housing – Priority access to on-campus housing at CSUs and UCs and access to housing over school breaks (not including summer).	Varies by campus	Varies by campus

*In a foster care placement (suitably placed) at any time from age 16-18; under a legal guardianship with a relative (KinGAP) and received KinGAP services between the ages of 16-18 years of age; or in a dependency court granted non-related legal guardianship that was granted on or after your 8th birthday.

**Youth who have a documented mental or physical disability that warrants the continuation of assistance are eligible to receive benefits to age 21 regardless of the age the child/youth entered guardianship or adoption.

*** Effective January 1, 2022, SB 512 expands eligibility for NextUp and priority registration to youth in care after age 13, instead of 16.