

Foster Care 18 to 21

North Carolina has a Foster Care 18 to 21 program. It gives people aged 18 to 21 foster care services. Young adults can be in this program if they turned 18 while in foster care. They must also be one of the following:

- Enrolled in high school (or equivalent program)
- Enrolled in college or vocational education
- Part of a program to promote having a job
- Working at least 80 hours per month, or
- Unable to complete the above requirements due to a medical condition or a disability



Pros of NC Foster Care 18 to 21

North Carolina's Foster Care 18 to 21 program gives young adults help and support. This lets them move towards independence while providing a cushion of support.

Joining the Program

Young adults join the program by signing a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA). Then, the court holds a first review hearing. The court may have more hearings. These will monitor the progress of the young adult.

The County develops a plan with the young adult. This plan is called the Transitional Living Plan. This plan says what will help the young adult. It includes goals, services, and independent living skills.

A team of adults will also help the young adult. They help create goals and find services. This team is known as a Transitional Support Team (TST). Young adults in Foster Care 18 to 21 have monthly check-ins.

Foster Care 18 to 21 Placements

Young adults can be placed out-of-county or out-of-state. Placements may include:

Foster Home/Facility

- Family Foster Home
- Therapeutic Foster Home
- Group Home

College/University Dormitory

- On-Campus Dormitory
- On-Campus Apartment
- College Co-Op

Semi-Supervised Independent Living Arrangement

- Shared Apartment/Townhome/House
- Relative or Family Friend
- Host Home

Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Young adults in Foster Care 18 to 21 can get monthly foster care payments. These payments are the board rate. They may be made directly to the young adult. They can also go to a rental agency or landlord. They could also go to a relative or a family friend. They can be used for the young adult's expenses. Young adults who have Supplemental Security Income, Education and Training Vouchers, and NC Reach can still get monthly foster care payments.

Resources

For more on Foster Care 18 to 21, go to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' [website](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/state-guardianship/independent-living-services-for-foster-children) (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/state-guardianship/independent-living-services-for-foster-children>).

North Carolina has other services for young adults. There is NC LINKS, which provides independent living services for young adults in foster care. There is also the NC Reach Program. Contact your county Department of Social Services (DSS) to learn more.

You can find the [Department of Social Services](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/local-dss-directory) directory in list and map form (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/local-dss-directory>).

Getting Started with Foster Care 18-21

Step 1. Determine if you qualify for Foster Care 18-21

Step 2. Identify what County you live in

Step 3. Find your County's Department of Social Services using the list or map at the Department of Social Services Directory (see Resources, above).

Step 4. Call the main number or, if it's listed, the number for the Foster Care Program.