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# **Transitional Living Services**

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**Ad Litem Seminar – Hill Country CASA**

# TLS Team Members

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# Transitional Living Services

Experiential Life Skills  
Training for youth ages  
14 and older

Rights for Children and  
Youth

Personal Documents at  
ages 16 and 18

Annual Credit Reports  
ages 14-17

Permanency Conferences  
and Circle of Support

Preparation for Adult  
Living (PAL) services and  
benefits

National Youth in  
Transition Database  
(NYTD)

## Post Secondary Education

Education and Training Voucher  
(ETV) services

- State College and Tuition and Fee Waiver
- Temporary Housing Assistance Between Academic Terms
- College Partnerships



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# Transitional Living Services Cont.

Extended Foster  
Care, Return to  
Extended Foster Care  
and Supervised  
Independent Living

## Housing Resources

\*811 Project Rental Assistance  
Program

\*Family Unification Program  
(FUP) and \*Foster Youth to  
Independence (FYI) Vouchers

## Medical Coverage

- Medicaid for Transitioning  
Foster Care Youth  
(MTFCY)/STAR Health
- Former Foster Care  
Children (FFCC)

Transition Centers  
(18)

Texas Workforce  
Commission,  
Workforce Solutions  
Boards and Centers

Statewide and  
Regional Youth  
Leadership Councils

Youth Take Flight  
Instagram

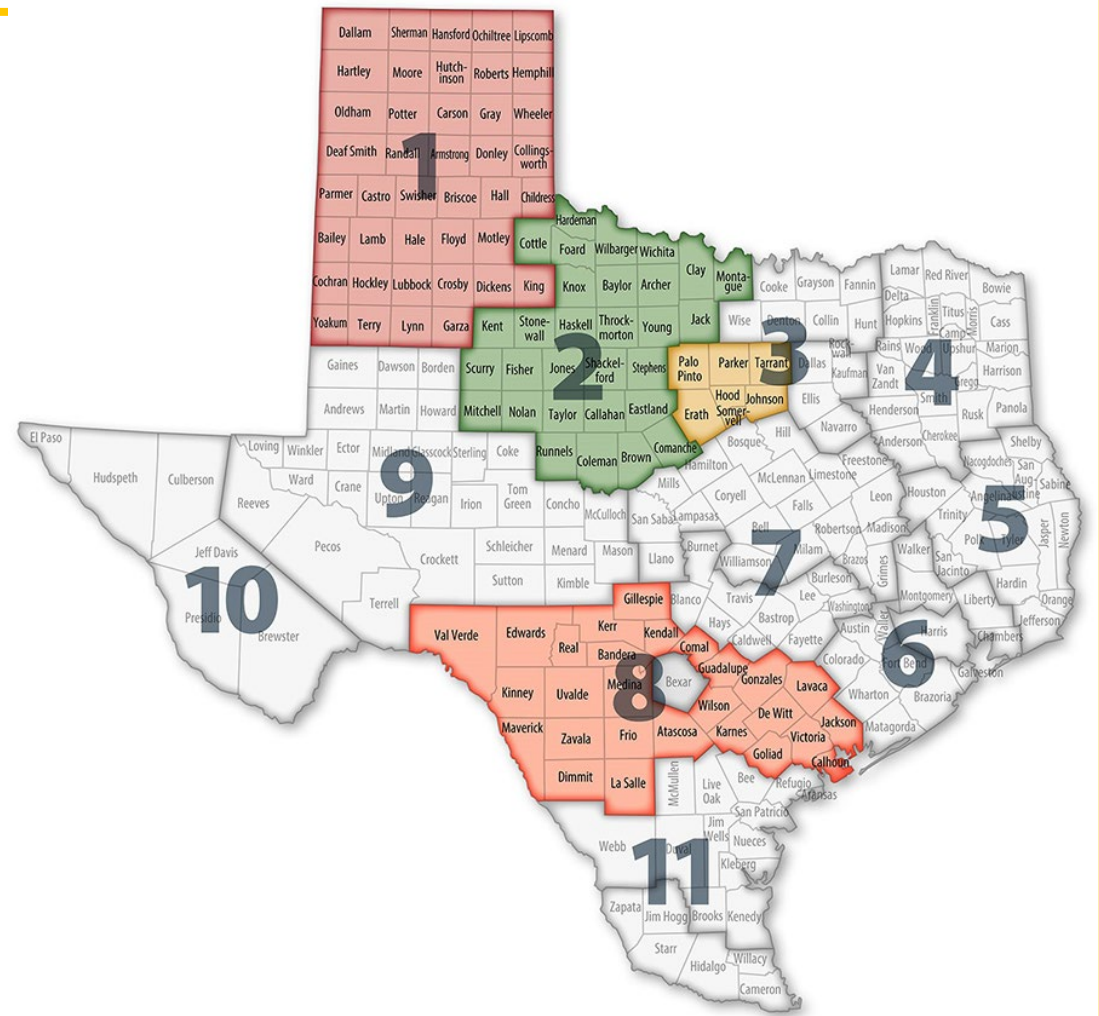
Other resources and  
benefits

# Statewide Preparation for Adult Learning



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- Subject Matter Expert for all Transitional Living Services
- At least ONE PAL staff is in every region
- Responsible for coordination of the PAL program services which may be provided by a contractor or other community organization
- Determines eligibility and provides referrals for Transitional Living Services



# Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)

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1. Life Skills Assessments & Training
2. Post-secondary waivers & vouchers
3. Medicaid
4. Transitional Living Allowance
5. Transition Support Services
6. Other supportive financial services
7. Statewide & regional conferences, seminars, college visits, camps, and events



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# Post Secondary Education Resource Tuition and Fee Waiver



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## Tuition and Fee Waiver (provided by Texas Law)

Provides exemptions from payment of tuition and fees at a **Texas state supported college or university** to individuals formerly in Texas state foster care and adopted youth.

- The waiver must be “activated” by the student’s 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- To be exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, youth or young adults **must have been in DFPS conservatorship**.
- Eligible population are individuals in DFPS conservatorship and meets one of the certain criteria to receive the waiver.

# Post Secondary Education Resource: Education and Training Voucher

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## Purpose of ETV:

- This benefit is to help support postsecondary education goals
- Federally-funded (Chafee) and state-administered program.
- Young people ages 16 to 23 MAY be eligible for up to \$5000 of financial assistance per year to help them reach their postsecondary educational goals.
- Youth who were in state custody / foster care are eligible if they meet the following criteria:
  - Must have completed a high school diploma or equivalent and enrolled at least part-time (6 hours) in an accredited or pre-accredited public or non-profit program that provides a bachelor's degree or not less than a 2-year program that provides credit towards a degree or certification; or
  - If youth is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance (age 18), she or he must be enrolled at least part-time (6 hours) in an accredited or pre-accredited program that provides training toward gainful employment.



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# Health Care Information

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## Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) Program

The FFCC program provides continuous healthcare coverage through age 25 to young adults who age out of Texas foster care and are receiving Medicaid when they aged out. This population will receive healthcare services in two separate programs based on age;

- Young adults aged 18 through 20 will be enrolled in STAR Health but can switch to STAR upon request; and
- Young adults aged 21 through 25 will receive Medicaid through the STAR plan of their choice.

## To be eligible for the FFCC program, the young adult must:

- Be age 18 through 25;
- Have been in Texas foster care on his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or older;
- Be receiving Medicaid when he or she aged out of Texas foster care; and
- Be a U.S. Citizen or be a qualified alien for example have an I-551 permanent resident card.

Manage Benefits @ [www.YourTexasBenefits.com](http://www.YourTexasBenefits.com) or call 211



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# Extended and Return to Foster Care

## *Extended Foster Care Eligibility Requirements*

To continue to receive foster care, a young adult must be...

and...

18, 19, or 20 years old...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regularly attending high school or a program leading to a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate (GED);</li> <li>regularly attending an institution of higher learning or postsecondary;</li> <li>vocational or technical program (minimum six hours per semester);</li> <li>participating in a program or activity that promotes or removes barriers to employment;</li> <li>employed at least 80 hours a month; or</li> <li>incapable of performing the activities described above due to a documented medical condition.</li> </ul>
21 years old...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regularly attending high school or a program leading to a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate (GED).</li> </ul>

# Supervised Independent Living Program

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- Component of Extended Foster Care
- Less Restrictive than non-traditional living arrangement
- Casework and supportive services (housing, food and funding for hygiene products and cell phone services) provided
- SIL settings can include:
  - ❖ Apartments;
  - ❖ Non-College Dorms;
  - ❖ College Dorms;
  - ❖ Shared Housing; and
  - ❖ Host Homes (must be through a CPA)



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# Housing Options

- Foster Youth To Independence (FYI) Vouchers
  - Age 18 and not yet 24 years old
  - Was in foster care
  - Homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers
  - Age 18 and not yet 24 years old
  - Was in foster care or will leave in 90 days
  - Homeless or at risk of homelessness
  - No time limit
- 811 Project Rental Agreement Program
  - Age 18 to 62
  - Youth with disabilities who were in foster care
  - Project based rental assistance for low income



# DFPS Partnerships: Transition Centers, TWC, and Workforce Solution Boards

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## Transition Centers

- Serve youth currently or formerly in foster care ages 15 to 25 (varies per center)
- Central clearing house of services to include employment, education support, PAL services, and referrals to community resources (varies per center).
- Co-locate with community partners.

## Texas Workforce Commission

- Agreement with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to prioritize workforce services for youth and young adults currently and formerly in foster care.
- TWC funds Workforce Advocates and other related expenses at all Transition Centers specifically to serve youth and young adults currently or formerly in foster care.

## Workforce Solutions Boards

- Agreement with all 28 local Workforce Boards in to prioritize workforce services for youth and young adults currently and formerly in foster care. Plan to include Transition Centers in agreements starting 2021.



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# Additional Benefits and Resources for Youth and Young Adults

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- Texas Youth Helpline
  - Parents and Teens
  - 1-800-989-6884 Call, Text or Chat
- Youth Take Flight Instagram
  - Information, resources, positive youth stories and inspiration to reach life goals
  - <https://www.instagram.com/youthtakeflight/>
- HHS Ombudsman Foster Care
  - Law: 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in 2015 to help children and youth under age 18 get the services they need.
  - 844-286-0769

# Important Contacts

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## **DFPS PAL Staff**

<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection/Youth and Young Adults/Preparation For Adult Living/PAL coordinators.asp>

## **DFPS PAL Transition and Financial Support Contractors**

<https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection/Youth and Young Adults/Preparation For Adult Living/aftercare.asp>

## **Transition Centers**

<https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection/Youth and Young Adults/Transitional Living/transition centers.asp>



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**Thank you**

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