

## MY FUTURE. MY CHOICE.

You have the right to say what will happen to you.

Participation in the Fostering Futures program is completely voluntary and depends upon your agreement and commitment.

Your plan should reflect your input on personal goals, strengths, interests, and needs. Talk with a worker at your local Department for more information about all of your options.



### Foster Care Worker Contact Information:

To speak with your foster care worker about Fostering Futures, contact your local department of social services or visit [www.dss.virginia.gov/localagency](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/localagency).

### Fostering Futures can help me with:



housing support



education /job training



independent living needs



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**DFS** Division of  
Family Services

**FosterMyFuture.com**

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# FOSTERING FUTURES



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# WHAT IS FOSTERING FUTURES?

Fostering Futures is a foster care program available to youth in foster care after age 18. This voluntary program enables your local department of social services (LDSS) to provide financial assistance, support and services until you are 21 years old to help you successfully transition to independence.

## What can it cover?



### Housing Support

- › Continued placement with your foster parents if you decide to remain in their home, or
- › Room and board if you enroll in a vocational school/college, or
- › Rent or payment for an independent living arrangement when you are ready.



### Education/Vocation Assistance

- › Assistance with the costs of vocational training, college tuition, work uniforms, tools, computers, books, and related supplies.



### Independent Living Needs

- › Groceries, transportation, and clothing.
- › Child care and other supports, as needed, to help you be successful.
- › Support from a foster care worker to help you along the way.



## HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE?

### You may be eligible if on or after July 1, 2016...

- › You turned 18 in foster care and have not yet turned 21, or;
- › You turned 18 while in a juvenile justice facility but had been in foster care when you were committed and you have not yet turned 21.

## WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

- › Your commitment to go to school, vocational training, or work in order to maintain eligibility
- › The loss of a job or change in circumstances does not automatically disqualify you so long as you are working towards your goals.
- › Your willingness to continue to work with your foster care worker.
- › Your participation in the development of a transition plan and efforts to achieve your goals.
- › Completion of the Voluntary Continuing Services and Support Agreement (VCSSA).
- › Your attendance at court hearing(s), administrative review(s), and case planning meetings.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

- › You may apply for Fostering Futures any time between 18 and 21 years of age.
- › Before 18: Talk with your foster care worker and begin making plans.
- › Between 18-21: If you have left foster care, contact your LDSS and speak with your former foster care worker or another agency representative about Fostering Futures.

## WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

- › You can apply to transition to Fostering Futures directly from foster care at 18.
- › If you leave foster care or the Fostering Futures program, you may apply to come back to Fostering Futures any time before you turn 21.
- › You may leave Fostering Futures any time you decide it is not for you.

## NOTE

If you were 16 in foster care on or after July 1, 2016, and left through adoption or KinGAP prior to turning 18, you may be eligible for some extended services and assistance. Please contact your local department of social services to find out more.