



Benefits of Extended Foster Care in Louisiana



**Department of
Children & Family Services**

Building a Stronger Louisiana

Extended Foster Care-Louisiana

- History of EFC
 - Youth Villages' LifeSet Model identified as a case management model that Louisiana wanted to use to support young adults transitioning to independence.
 - Planning and Development began in 2018.
 - Law was passed in June 2019 that extended eligibility and criteria for EFC.
 - Since July 1, 2019 EFC has served 652 young adults and currently we are serving 186 young adults.

VOICES OF EFC YOUNG PEOPLE

“Since being in the program, my biggest accomplishment has been increasing my communication skills. Being able to express my needs and wants has been a big improvement for me.”

“Since being in the program, my biggest accomplishment has been staying sober. This program has helped me maintain sobriety.”

“This program is unlike any other service. They are here to help you be successful. Being eighteen is a very pivotal time in a person’s life. This program is cool.”



Extended Foster Care Facts

- Young adults are NOT in the custody of DCFS, and retain all adult legal rights.
- EFC is voluntary and the young adult can withdraw from the program at any time.
- Young adults can re-enter EFC at any time up to age 21, as long as they meet criteria.
- A 30 day grace period, on the front and back end, will be given to young adults to establish or re-establish eligibility criteria.
- DCFS utilizes the intensive Lifeset model through Youth Villages as the case management model for EFC.
 - In an effort to move youth toward self-sustainability, following the provision of intensive services, DCFS will continue to work with youth through a gradually less-intensive model.

Current Eligibility Requirements

- Adjudicated as a Child in Need of Care (CINC) before age 18.
- Aged out of Foster Care with DCFS on their 18th birthday.
- Meets one of the following criteria:
 - Enrolled in a secondary educational program or program leading to an equivalent credential
 - Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education
 - Participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment
 - Employed at least 80 hours per month
 - Incapable of above educational or employment activities due to a medical condition

Eligibility Requirements

- The young adult must be willing to:
 - sign a EFC Voluntary Placement Agreement
 - live in an approved placement in the state of Louisiana or an out of state licensed facility approved through the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) within the placement array (6-2220 Extended Foster Care Placement Array); and, satisfies one of the following conditions
 - work with a team to achieve goals set in a transition plan
 - meet with their caseworker

Placement Array

Certified Foster Family Home/Therapeutic
Foster Family Homes
Licensed Residential Facility
Relative/Fictive Kin
Transitional Living Placement (TLP)
Host Family Homes
Own Apartment/Home
Dorm

Placement with Caregivers

- Young adults **do not** receive a direct stipend if they are living in a:
 - Licensed Residential Facility
 - Therapeutic Foster Home
 - Licensed Transitional Living Facility**where DCFS is paying the provider for their placement
- When living in a certified foster home:
 - A shared living agreement will be signed by the young person and the certified foster parent at enrollment. This includes negotiations for room and board payment.
 - Board payments are made to the certified foster parent, unless the foster parent allows the youth to receive the stipend directly.

Shared Living Agreement

- The Shared Living Agreement is completed in all placement settings where the youth lives with a caregiver or roommate.
- Utilized to foster a conversation and agreement between a young adult and others living in the home.
- Establish guidelines, expectations and responsibilities of all parties living in the home.

Living Independently

The Readiness and Placement Safety Assessment is used to determine if a young adult in certain placement settings can receive their own stipend as a direct payment to them in support of their cost of living.

Categories of assessment: budgeting, rent/bill payment, responsible spending, banking, personal safety, medical/mental health, responsible substance use.

All answers to the direct stipend assessment must be “yes” for a young adult to receive a direct stipend.

Waivers can be requested.

Living Independently

The Readiness and Placement Safety Assessment is used to determine if a non-certified, non-licensed, or non-recommended placement meets the basic safety standards to be approved as a placement for the young adult.

Assesses for basic safety standards of a dwelling.

Answers to the safety checklist must be “yes” for DCFS to agree that the living arrangement is approved.

Waivers can be requested.

EFC Case Management versus LifeSet

Young adults enrolled in EFC must participate in LifeSet case management if they are appropriate for the model (as determined by LifeSet criteria).

Young adults who do not meet criteria for LifeSet are still eligible to participate in EFC without receiving LifeSet and will receive EFC Case Management.



EFC Case Management versus LifeSet

Reasons a young adult may not be eligible for LifeSet case management: (but can participate in regular EFC) Young adults must meet at least 2 of the below criteria to be determined ineligible for LifeSet case management unless there are protective factors or other adaptive areas that would address the concerns.

- Gang involvement
- History of violent criminal behavior
- Current homicidal ideations/threats/attempts or extreme aggression within the last 90 days
- Current suicidal ideations/threats/attempts in the last 30 days
- Current access to weapons that cannot be monitored
- Significant impairment due to mental health issues
- Intellectual disabilities or developmental delays
- Psychotic behavior not controlled by medication
- Untreated problem sexual behavior in the last 12 months.

LifeSet

EFC CM

ANSA-T PEA (Pre-Enrollment Assessment) & LifeSet enrollment packet	ANSA-T PEA (Pre-Enrollment Assessment)
Safety Planning	Safety Planning
Initial LifeSet Assessment	Youth Transition Plans
Comprehensive LifeSet Assessment	At Least Monthly Visits
Monthly Treatment Plans	Monthly EFC CM Support Meetings
Weekly Visits	Access to GuideTree Interventions
Red Flag Meetings	Educational Training Vouchers
Group Supervision and Clinical Consultation	Administrative Reviews
Access to GuideTree Interventions	Community and Peer Support
Program Model Review	
Educational Training Vouchers	
Administrative Reviews	
Community and Peer Support	



Additional Benefits to Staff and Young Adults

SURVEYS: Measures, program model fidelity and outcome evaluations will be reviewed and analyzed on an ongoing basis.

- Young Adult Satisfaction Surveys: young adults participating in LifeSet will be asked to complete surveys on a regular basis (during program involvement and after) to ensure their needs are being met.
- External Customer Survey: stakeholders involved in the young adult's life will be asked to complete a survey on a regular basis.
- Post Discharge Follow Up Survey: young adults who have aged out of EFC will be contacted 6 months and 12 months post discharge.
- Measures, program model fidelity and outcome evaluations will be reviewed and analyzed on an ongoing basis.

BOOSTER TRAININGS: Offered to staff quarterly and facilitated by Youth Villages' Licensed Program Expert.

Additional Benefits to Staff and Young Adults

SESSION RECORDINGS

EFC caseworkers record visits with their young adults on their case load periodically. These recordings are submitted to their supervisors so that feedback can be given.

Group Supervision Recordings

EFC supervisors record group supervision once monthly for review and guidance by the clinical consultant.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Case workers meet weekly with their supervisors for individual development and a developmental plan will be updated on at least a monthly basis.

Supervisors meet weekly with the EFC Manager and LifeSet Clinical Consultant for individual development.

Termination from Program

A young adult may also choose to terminate their participation in EFC at any time prior to age 21.

If a young adult becomes ineligible, they have 30 days to re-establish eligibility, with the assistance of their caseworker.

In both situations, a Discontinuation of Services Letter is sent to the young adult within 5 days to notify them of their impending discharge from EFC.

Thirty days following the notice to the young adult, DCFS may terminate their EFC participation.

Letter includes information on appealing the termination decision and how to re-enroll in the program.

Extension of Guardianship & Adoption Subsidies

Adoptive Parents and Guardians who entered into an adoption or guardianship subsidy agreement for a youth, age 16- 18, may be eligible for a continued subsidy, from age 18-21, if the youth meets EFC eligibility criteria.

The adoptive parent or guardian must remain financially responsible for the young adult to receive an extended adoption or guardianship subsidy.

EFC for extended subsidies participants does not include case management services.

EFC DATA

Education

- 49% enrolled in education setting

Jobs

- 56% are employed

Stable Housing

- 97% are living in a stable housing environment

Permanent Connections

- 95% have permanent connections

Adult Adoptions

- 8 Since July 2019

EFC Questions

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QUESTIONS

THANK YOU

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