

I'm turning 18 in Foster Care...Now What?

Why I'm Choosing Extension of Foster Care Services

MY FUTURE:

Extension of foster care services may be able to provide me with supports like **scholarships**, **a living allowance** and other services to help me **achieve my goals**.

Did you know that a new Tennessee law gives me the option to receive extension of foster care services and supports until age 21? Starting July 1, 2012, young adults like me who age out of foster care may receive extension of foster care services after age 18. These services will help me do things like:

- Get an education
- Find safe and stable housing
- Build lifelong connections with caring adults

MY CHOICE:

Receiving extension of foster care services is a choice. I can decide to leave foster care when I turn 18 and can leave extension services at any point. I am no longer in state custody. I can also change my mind and return to receive extension services before age 21, as long as I meet the requirements. In order to qualify, I must be doing one of these things:

- Completing high school or a GED program
- Enrolled in an approved post-secondary or vocational education program
- If you are unable to do one of the above due to a serious physical or mental health condition, you may still be eligible

WHAT'S THE CATCH? MY RESPONSIBILITIES:

There are some things I have to agree to. I have to:

- Sign an agreement to participate
- Work with my team to develop a plan to reach my educational goals
- Meet monthly with my Family Service Worker to identify any supports I need, and discuss how to achieve my goals
- Attend a court hearing or administrative review every 6 months to make sure I have what I need to succeed

MY LIFE: I'm choosing to be a success story.

