

Can I remain in care after I turn 21?

Frequently Asked Questions



What are the changes I need to know?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department is offering extended services, stipends and supports past a youth's 21st birthday until September 30, 2021.

What happens if I choose to stay in care?

If you choose to extend your placement, you will continue to receive the same supports prior to your birthday. This would be a board payment to a foster parent, relative, ILO/TLP or PAC arrangement.

What is a RAC and how do I receive it?

A RAC (Re-entry Alternative Contract) is a stipend payment of \$312 per month issued directly to youth until September 30, 2021 who do NOT extend their placement with DCFS. Youth can receive this stipend through their caseworker before their case closes, or by calling the Advocacy Office at (866) 459-6884 after their case closes.

How much involvement will I have with DCFS if I decide to get the RAC payment?

That is largely up to you. You will not be in touch with a caseworker after your RAC payment is set up. However, we will make a referral to youth housing advocate to help support you. Housing advocates maintain monthly contact with youth. They will provide more frequent support if you want or need it.

What does the housing advocate do?

Housing advocates help with looking for new housing or maintaining stable housing. They also help with employment leads and community supports. Youth are eligible for cash assistance as needed in addition to the RAC payment. The housing advocate will help you complete the cash assistance request.

What is the Housing Subsidy?

The housing subsidy is for youth who do not extend their placement with DCFS and close their case. It is available until October 1, 2021. Based on your income and current rent/utilities, a subsidy amount will be determined and paid to your landlord on a monthly basis. The subsidy can be used at different places if you plan to move.

Can I still go to a Family Advocacy Center if I get RAC/ YHAP until September 30, 2021?

Yes, you can always seek assistance from an alumni center. FACs provide additional supportive services to youth who age out of care until a youth's 30th birthday. It is a separate program from YHAP. Housing advocates might help link you to your local FAC, but you can contact the local FAC on your own too. FACs are available to help all community members and you can still receive services from an FAC as a community member after your 30th birthday.

Questions?

If you have additional questions you can ask your caseworker, C21 facilitator, or the YHAP coordinator about these supports. Please email DCFS.YHAP.Coordinator@Illinois.gov or call the coordinator's Google Voice # at 224.764.1553.

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