

Older Foster Youth Services Checklist

Age 15

- Within 30 days of your client's 15th birthday, his/her social worker is required to enroll him/her with the Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) by completing a Universal e-Referral Form.
- Your client's social worker should begin the transition planning process. Between the ages of 15 and 20, your client should be having transition planning meetings at least once every 6 months.
- Your client is eligible for pre-college services from OYE. If he/she is interested in college, you can contact Afrilasia Joseph-Phipps at OYE (afrilasia.joseph-hipps@dc.gov, 202-727-7517) to connect your client to OYE's Pre-College Services Program. There are four educational specialists, one for 9th grade students (Yvonne (Parker) Moore, Yvonne.parker@dc.gov, 202-727-3336), two for 10th grade students (Cordelia Cranshaw, Cordelia.cranshaw@dc.gov, 202-727-6962 and Alysia Greaves, Alysia.greaves@dc.gov, 202-727-7786), one for 11th grade students (Dr. Kimyatta Divinity, kimyatta.divinity@dc.gov, 202-727-6937) and one for 12th grade students (Jai-ahmal Mitchell, jaiahmal.mitchell@dc.gov, 202-724-2426).
- Your client is eligible to participate in the Making Money Grow program. CFSA requires each youth in care to enroll in and complete the program in order to receive his or her transitional care package at age 21 (see *CFSA Program Policy: Older Youth Services*). The program offers a 10-module online curriculum to help youth develop basic financial literacy and financial management skills. There are also workshops on banking, credit scores, credit cards, student loans, and mortgages, among other relevant topics. Social workers or other professionals can refer a youth by contacting Brian Stone at 202-909-3737.

Age 15 ½

- Your client's social worker should be holding transition planning meetings for your client at least once every 6 months beginning at age 15, so this is the latest date by which your client's first transition planning meeting should have occurred.

Age 17

- If your client is case-managed by CFSA or living in a congregate care placement, he/she is eligible to be transferred to an OYE social worker for case management. If you have not yet been told whether your client will be transferred to a new social worker or who that social worker will be, you should contact your client's current social worker to find out if there is a plan to transfer your client.

- If your client is pregnant or parenting, he/she is eligible to be transferred to a social worker within the Generation Unit, a specialized unit within OYE that serves teen parents.

Age 18

- Your client is eligible for the Career Pathways Unit, which assists youth who are not college-bound in seeking vocational training and/or employment.
- Your client is eligible for CFSA's subsidized employment program, which connects youth in foster care to internships. The program is open to both college-bound and non-college-bound youth.

Age 20

- Your client should be assigned an aftercare provider and specific aftercare worker with Young Women's Project. Your client's assigned aftercare worker should attend the first transition planning meeting after your client's 20th birthday, as well as all subsequent transition planning meetings. If your client has not been assigned an aftercare service provider or aftercare worker, you should contact Nicole Broome at OYE (nicole.broome@dc.gov, 202-727-7372) for more information.
- Transition planning meetings should occur at least once every 90 days until your client's case closes.

Age 20 ½

- Mandatory 21 JumpStart Reviews will occur when a youth turns 20.5 years old. The review can include youth, social workers, supervisors, GALs, placement providers, OYE Education and/or Career Pathways Specialists and any additional individuals that the youth identifies as a member of their team. A youth aftercare representative will be introduced. During the meeting, the youth's housing plan will be discussed. Additionally, barriers to a successful transition will be identified and next steps will be assigned to members of the team. These meetings will be led by JumpStart Facilitator Nicole Broome who will also follow up afterwards to ensure that the plan is on track.
- Your client's social worker should refer your client for aftercare services. Youth who age out of foster care at age 21 are eligible for aftercare services until they turn 23 and aftercare providers begin attending transition planning meetings for youth at age 20.5 while youth are still in care. Aftercare services are usually provided by the Young Women's Project. For more information about youth aftercare services, or if you are having trouble ensuring that a referral is completed,

please contact Nicole Broome at OYE (nicole.broome@dc.gov, 202-727-7372). For more information about the Young Women's Project, please visit <https://www.youngwomensproject.org/>.

- Youth aging out of foster care at age 21 are eligible for a transitional care package, with a value of up to \$1,000, from CFSA. Your client's social worker is responsible for ensuring that your client receives his/her care package. Please note that, in order to receive his/her transitional care package, your client must first enroll in and complete the Making Money Grow program (see above). The contact at OYE for transitional care packages is Brian Stone, 202-909-3737.

CFSA Transition Services

Older Youth Policy

Child and Family Services recognizes that different age groups have different service needs. The District's child welfare system has taken steps to ensure capacity for accessible and appropriate supportive resources specifically for all youth who had a committed status on their 15th birthday. To support social workers in this regard, the Office of Youth Empowerment has developed guidelines and policies that emphasize each social worker's responsibility for ensuring that all youth are afforded the opportunity to receive OYE's assistance and that all youth are successfully transitioned to adulthood. The guidelines and policy can be found [here](#).

21 Jumpstart

21 Jumpstart Review is a meeting that takes place between the youth and their supportive network to identify necessary resources that will prepare youth to age out of foster care. The 21 Jumpstart Review is required for ages 20.5-21. More information can be found [here](#).