

LB 216: THE YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTARY SERVICES AND SUPPORT ACT

LB 216 Program Overview

Overall Highlights

Here are a few key things to know about LB 216:

- It is voluntary. Eligible young adults who choose to participate sign an agreement with DHHS to receive services.
- It is flexible. Eligible young adults can choose to opt in and/or opt out any time before turning 21.
- Periodic administrative/permanency reviews and monthly caseworker visits would help ensure young adults are safe and that their needs are being met.

Services and Support for Young People:

Services for youth who age out of foster care would include:

- Housing support
- Youth-directed case management services
- Medicaid coverage

Services for youth who were adopted or who entered a guardianship at age 16 or older would include:

- Continued adoption/guardianship subsidies
- Medicaid coverage

Who Could Participate:

To participate in the program, young adults would need to:

- Be doing at least one of the following:
 - Completing high school or an equivalent program
 - Enrolled at least part-time in post-secondary education
 - Employed at least 80 hours per month
 - Participating in a program/activity to remove barriers to employment
 - Unable to do any of these things because of a medical condition
- Meet monthly with a case manager
- Attend informal permanency and case reviews
- Participate in other program requirements

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LB 216 Talking Points for Adults

The current system results in poor outcomes for too many young people who age out.

- We're missing out on human potential and a stronger workforce.
 - Youth who age out are significantly less likely to get a college degree or a stable, well-paying job than their peers.
- We're paying more money in the long run.
 - These young people re-enter our prison systems and rely on our welfare systems at alarming rates due to homelessness, unemployment, lack of health insurance, and overall poverty.

LB 216 is a proven program.

- Fifteen other states have plans that are approved by the federal government, and many more are showing interest.
- National research shows that similar programs improve long-term outcomes by:
 - Decreasing homelessness, unplanned pregnancies, and incarceration rates.
 - Increasing lifetime earnings and college attendance.

LB 216 is a good investment in the future of our children and our state.

- It is cost effective.
 - The financial benefits outweigh the cost by a factor of approximately 2 to 1.
- It is supported by federal funding.
 - The federal government covers nearly half of the cost.

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