Opportunities for Young Adults
Formerly in Foster Care

When young people exit Nebraska foster care the state stops being their legal guardian and is no longer responsible for their care...so they are often basically on their own. There are two opportunities to support young people as they transition to adulthood.

The Bridge to Independence Program
The Bridge to Independence Act provides services and support for young adults between the ages of 19 and 21 who were in foster care.

Bridge to Independence Program (B2I): For young adults who live in Nebraska, had an abuse or neglect case and were in an out-of-home placement at age 19, were discharged to independent living, or exited foster care to a guardianship or adoption at age 16+, or had a disrupted guardianship (that was filed as 43-247(8)) at 16+:

- Medicaid coverage
- Monthly stipend
- Young adult-directed case management services

Extended Adoption & Extended Guardianship Programs: For young adults who entered into an adoption or guardianship agreement at age 16+:

- Medicaid coverage
- Extended adoption or guardianship payments

Young adults may be eligible if they:

- Are living in the state of Nebraska (unless in school out of Nebraska, or were placed in another state while in foster care)
- Do not meet the level of care for certain nursing facilities for persons with developmental disabilities
- And are doing at least one of the following:
  - Going to school (like high school, GED program, college, or vocational program)
  - Working part time (at least 80 hours per month)
  - Participating in a work program or activity (like an internship or volunteering)
  - Unable to do any of those things because of a medical condition

How to apply:

- Online: [www.dhhs.ne.gov/b2i](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/b2i)
- Phone: 402-314-8294
Many young adults exiting foster care are eligible to receive Medicaid coverage until they turn 26 under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Young adults who already exited foster care and aren’t yet 26 years old could also be eligible.

Services include: The full benefits of Medicaid, such as:
- Screening, prevention, and early intervention services
- Diagnostic services and treatment for physical and mental health conditions
- Dental and vision care

Young adults may be eligible if they:
- Were in foster care at age 18 or aged out of foster care at 19
- Were enrolled in Medicaid while in foster care

How to apply:
- Online: http://www.accessnebraska.ne.gov (make sure they click “yes” when asked if they want to find out if they can get help paying for health coverage, and click “yes” to answer the question if they were ever in foster care).
- Phone: 1-855-632-7633

For more information on both of these opportunities:
- Visit our B2I website at: https://neappleseed.org/b2i
• Visit our Medicaid to 26 website at: https://neappleseed.org/coveredtil26NE
• Contact Nebraska Appleseed at 1-800-845-3746