

Highlights of YAVFC Eligibility Exceptions through September 30, 2020

The young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC) Program is available to youth who were in out of home care through an abuse/neglect order when they turned 18 years old and have not yet turned 21.

- The YAVFC program offers supportive services and financial benefits until the youth's 21st birthday. Youth can receive continued monthly payments/stipends, case worker support, and training in independent living skills.
- Youth must be told about the YAVFC program prior to their foster care case closing. Some youth may choose not to enter the program immediately; however, have the ability to return to the local DHHS office and enter later, provided they reside in Michigan and are not yet 21.
- Program eligibility requires that a youth be enrolled in an education program, working 80 hours per month, volunteering 80 hours per month, or have a medical condition that does not allow them to fulfill those requirements.
- **Due to COVID-19 and the challenges many people experience with finding employment, MDHHS is making a time limited exception to enter the YAVFC program. If a youth meets age and residency (must reside in Michigan) requirements, he/she can enter the YAVFC program and receive services and payment until September 30, 2020 without meeting the employment/education/volunteerism requirement.**
 - Eligibility: Interested youth will enter the program with the eligibly type "youth is incapable of doing any part of the employment or educational activities due to a medical condition" with a comment entered that "due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the youth is considered to be meeting YAVFC eligibility requirements."
- Youth who decide to enter the YAVFC program also agree to:
 - Keep in touch with the assigned caseworker and agree to meet in person at least once per month.
 - Inform the assigned caseworker of any changes regarding living arrangement or contact information.
 - Provide the assigned caseworker documentation to show when they are meeting eligibility requirements.
 - Attend and participate in any scheduled Family Team Meetings (FTM), including the Semi-annual Transition Plan meeting.
- The assigned YAVFC caseworker will provide case management services to the youth per FOM, including assisting with enrolling in school or finding employment/volunteer opportunities in order meet one of the YAVFC eligibility requirements by October 1, 2020.
- To enter YAVFC, youth must sign the DHS-1297, YAVFC Agreement, which states they are voluntarily agreeing to enter foster care placement. Payment and services will start on the date the 1297 is signed.

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- After September 30, 2020, youth will need to meet one of the eligibility requirements or will enter a 30-day grace period at that time. At the end of the grace period, if still not meeting eligibility requirements, the case will be required to close.
- To support vulnerable youth during the pandemic who are transitioning from care or who have already left care, local offices should engage in outreach to those youth who left care without transitioning to YAVFC to make them aware of this opportunity and assist them to enroll.