

Countdown to 21

The Countdown to 21 program is designed to support the successful transition of older youth to independence. The Program ensures that youth are involved in long term planning activities regarding their final living arrangement prior to leaving the Department's care, connections are established with family and community supports, realistic educational and vocational goals are established and in process, and participation in financial literacy training to promote financial stability.

Youth who successfully complete the eligibility criteria below can earn a one-time payment of $1,404 in transition funds. The purpose of the transition funds is to provide financial support as they leave the child welfare system and become self-sufficient.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Youth must be in a Department approved placement.
2. Youth must participate in a Countdown to 21(C21) Meeting at age 19 and develop a plan and are referred to Financial Literacy Course.
3. Youth must complete the CFS-2032-1 Youth Driven Transition Plan or CFS-375-2-ILO TLP Quarterly Discharge Transition Launch Plan.
4. Description and address of living situation upon exit from care.
5. Youth must identify a supportive resources person to work with the youth and participate in C21 Meeting.
6. Successful completion of the Department approved Financial Literacy Course.
7. Youth must participate in a C21 Meeting 90-days prior to 21 y/o, or case closure, to review plan, Transition Funds Application and Budget

For more information or to schedule a C21 Meeting,
please call 312-814-6800 and ask to speak to a C21 intake staff member.

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services