

Extended Support Programs for Youth and Young Adults

Navigating the complexities of adoption, guardianship, and foster care can be challenging, especially for youth, their attorneys, and caregivers. When making decisions about the future, it's important to understand what support programs are available and their differences. This publication highlights three key programs available to youth after the age of 18: Extended Adoption Support, Extended Guardianship Assistance Program, and Extended Foster Care.



By understanding these programs, youth, their attorneys, and caregivers can make informed decisions that will positively impact their lives. This publication aims to provide clear, concise information to help navigate these options and choose the best path forward.



Extended Adoption Support (EAS):

The Adoption Support Program provides crucial financial assistance to adoptive families, but it's important to note that these benefits will automatically end on a child's 18th birthday. However, there is an opportunity to extend these benefits if certain conditions are met through EAS.



Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP):




Guardians who receive a GAP subsidy benefit for a youth in their care should be aware this benefit will automatically end on a child's 18th birthday. The extended GAP program may offer extended benefits until the youth reaches 21 if they are eligible. This program was established to help ensure that guardians can continue to provide a stable environment to assist a youth to transition into adulthood.









Extended Foster Care (EFC):

Supports youth who age out of the foster care system, providing them with continued assistance as they transition to adulthood. This program offers services such as housing, education, and employment support, helping young adults build a strong foundation for their future.



	 Extended Adoption Support (EAS)	 Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP)	 Extended Foster Care (EFC)
OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A benefit program that provides youth, adopted at the age of 16 or older, the opportunity to receive the benefits listed in their agreement up until the age of 21 if they continue to meet eligibility criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A subsidy program that provides youth who previously had a GAP agreement before age 18, the opportunity to receive a subsidy up until the age of 21 if they continue to meet eligibility criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A voluntary program that offers eligible youth who remain in care through the age of 18 an opportunity to continue to receive foster care services such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement services Ongoing case management Financial support while working on their goals toward independence until the age of 21
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	<p>To be eligible for Extended Adoption Support, a youth adopted at age 16+ must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to receive ongoing financial support from their adoptive parents, and Be participating in one or more qualified activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in high school or high school equivalency program Enrolled, has applied for, or can show intent to enroll soon in a post-secondary academic or vocational program Enrolled in a program to promote or remove barriers to employment Employed 80 hours or more a month Unable to participate in any of the above activities due to a documented medical condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth and adoptive parent(s) must jointly complete an Extended Adoption Support application, and an Extended Adoption Support Agreement must be fully signed. Extended Adoption Support eligibility must be continually met beyond age 18. Youth may enter and exit the program as eligibility changes but must be eligible by age 19. Under no circumstances can this program go beyond age 21. 	<p>To be eligible for EGAP the youth must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a joint application with their guardian Have been in a GAP subsidy prior to their 18th birthday Meet one of the following activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in high school or high school equivalency program Enrolled, has applied for, or can show intent to enroll soon in a post-secondary academic or vocational program Enrolled in a program to promote or remove barriers to employment, including part-time employment Employed 80 hours or more a month. Unable to engage in any of the above activities due to a documented medical condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth may also be eligible to apply for TANF or state family assistance (SFA) through the CSO, per WAC 388-404-0005. Must continue to meet EGAP eligibility and provide verification every six months. Youth may enter and exit program as eligibility changes. Under no circumstances can this program go beyond age 21. 	<p>To be eligible for the EFC program the youth must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a legally dependent youth on their 18th birthday And not yet be 21 years old <p>Under no circumstances can this program go beyond age 21.</p>

	 Extended Adoption Support (EAS)	 Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP)	 Extended Foster Care (EFC)
LEGAL STATUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the adoption is finalized, the ongoing case is closed, and the dependency is dismissed. There will be no further court hearings or court involvement, and the youth will no longer be appointed an attorney. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the guardianship is entered, the ongoing case is closed, and the dependency case is dismissed. There will be no further court hearings, and the youth will no longer be appointed an attorney. This would end the youth and guardian's involvement in the court system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFC youth are legal dependents. Youth will continue to be represented by an attorney while in EFC. There will be a minimum of semi-annual court hearings where the court will review the youth's progress and compliance with EFC.
CASE MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The case closes, and there is no ongoing case management. The family is still assigned an Adoption Support Consultant who assists in managing the Extended Adoption Support Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The case closes there is no ongoing case management. The family is still assigned to a HQ GAP Specialist who assists in managing the Extended Guardianship Agreement. Youth must provide ongoing verification of eligibility to the HQ GAP Specialist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCYF retains care and authority. The case stays open with continued monthly health and safety visits and court hearings.
MEDICAL/ DENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For youth who are eligible for Extended Adoption Support, continued medical, dental, and mental health insurance coverage is available through the agreement up to age 21 if the youth continues to meet eligibility requirements. There may be limits to coverage if the adoptive parent and/or the youth move out of state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A negotiated cash payment of up to 95% of the foster care maintenance payment may be provided as one of the benefits. EGAP is paid to the guardian with the understanding that the guardian is financially supporting the youth with those funds. <p>The youth may reside in an approved Supervised Independent Living (SIL) setting. If the youth does not live at home, the family must demonstrate the funds are being used to support the youth's needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical, dental, and mental health insurance coverage is provided by the state. If the youth remain in care through the age of 18, they are eligible for coverage until their 26th birthday. (https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/apple-health)
MONTHLY BENEFIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A negotiated cash payment of up to 95% of the foster care maintenance payment may be provided as one of the benefits in the Extended Adoption Support Agreement. Any cash payment agreed to is paid to the adoptive parent, with the requirement that the adoptive parent is financially supporting the youth with those funds. If the youth does not live in the adoptive home, the family must demonstrate that the funds are being used for the youth's needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A negotiated cash payment of up to 95% of the foster care maintenance payment may be provided as one of the benefits. EGAP is paid to the guardian with the understanding that the guardian is financially supporting the youth with those funds. The youth may reside in an approved Supervised Independent Living (SIL) setting. If the youth does not live at home, the family must demonstrate the funds are being used to support the youth's needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the youth is living with a licensed foster parent, the foster parent and youth will decide which payment to receive, whether it is the Supervised Independent Living (SIL) payment to the youth or the regular foster care maintenance payment to the foster parent. The youth and their foster parent can make a room and board arrangement where the youth pays the foster parent an agreed amount for rent if the youth receives a SIL payment. Youth may also continue in a group care placement if agreed upon by the youth and the agency approves continued payment. If they wish to live in a SIL (apartment, room and board arrangements, college dorms, AmeriCorps or Job Corps, shared roommate, renting a room, etc.) the youth will receive a flat rate of \$860 per month.

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth eligibility for post high school grants and scholarships is program specific. Additional information can be found at https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth For college financial aid options visit a financial aid office at a local college or go to https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth eligibility for post high school grants and scholarships is program specific. Additional information can be found at https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth For college financial aid options visit a financial aid office at a local college or go to https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth eligibility for post high school grants and scholarships is program specific. Additional information can be found at https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth For college financial aid options visit a financial aid office at a local college or go to https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid
INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES (ILS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the youth was adopted after age 15 + 30 days, the child will remain eligible for the Independent Living Program and can apply at https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/ilp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth in GAP are eligible if referral is made before the dependency is dismissed and the youth was at least 15 years and one month old. (https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/ilp) To apply, caseworker or gatekeeper must contact ILSKIDS@dcyf.wa.gov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFC youth are eligible for ILS. To apply, case worker must contact ILSKIDS@dcyf.wa.gov
TERMINATION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCYF is not involved or responsible for case management or planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EGAP benefits can be terminated if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The youth passes away. The agency determines the youth is no longer receiving any support from the guardian. The youth falls out of compliance with the eligibility criteria. If the guardian makes a request. EFC is not an available option for youth receiving EGAP benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The youth can leave and re-enter the program if they meet the criteria any time before their 21st birthday.
NORMAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCYF is not involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCYF is not involved in the day-to-day activities of the youth. Youth must continue to follow the requirements of the approved SIL regarding activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must continue to follow requirements of placement regarding offsite activities. May leave placement setting for up to 72 hours, longer than 72 hours requires assigned caseworker and supervisor approval.