

# EXTENDED SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO AGE 21

In 2008, a federal law gave states the option of creating a more comprehensive system of services and support for young adults transitioning out of foster care. Details are still being worked out, but this is an outline of what the program in Nebraska might look like.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

If this program is created in Nebraska, here are a few things you should know about it:

- ★ It is up to the young adult. The program being considered would be voluntary, so young adults would decide if they wanted to participate or not.
- ★ It is directed by the young adult. Services would be designed to help young adults meet their individual goals.
- ★ Young adults can change their minds. As part of the program being considered, if young adults decided to leave the program, they would be able to come back in later. If young adults decided not to sign up right away, they would be able to sign up any time before they turned 21.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Young adults must be doing at least one of the following to be eligible for this program:

- ★ Completing high school or an equivalent program (e.g. GED)
- ★ Enrolled at least part-time in college, community college, or a vocational education program
- ★ Employed at least 80 hours per month (about 20 hours a week)
- ★ Participating in a program or activity to remove barriers to employment (e.g. a job training program or applying for jobs at a job training center)
- ★ Unable to do any of those things because of a medical condition

## YOUNG ADULTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

To be part of this program, young adults would need to:

- ★ Sign up for the program and meet program requirements
- ★ Meet monthly with a program support person
- ★ Attend periodic case reviews
- ★ Participate in other program requirements

## SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults who aged out of foster care would receive:

- ★ Medicaid coverage
- ★ Year-round housing support

- ★ Young adult-directed case management services

**Young adults who were adopted or who entered guardianship at age 16 or older would receive:**

- ★ Medicaid coverage
- ★ Continued adoption/guardianship subsidies