

The Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Act

Legislative Bill 216: Key Provisions You Should Know



EXTENDED SERVICES PROGRAM

Eligibility Requirements

- Adjudicated under § 43-247(3)(a) and in an out-of-home placement at 19 or discharged to independent living
- Meeting at least one of the following requirements:
 - Completing secondary education
 - Enrolled in post-secondary education
 - Employed at least 80 hours per month
 - Participating in a program or activity to remove barriers to employment
 - Unable to do any of those because of a medical condition

Services for Young Adults

- Medicaid coverage*
- Continued foster care maintenance payments to provide ongoing housing support for the following housing options:
 - Foster family home
 - Supervised independent living setting (e.g. single/shared apartments, houses, host homes, college dorms, etc.)
 - An institution or foster care facility, if necessary due to developmental level or medical condition **
- Age-appropriate, young adult-driven case management services:
 - Assistance in meeting the young person's individual goals
 - A case plan, which incorporates the independent living transition proposal (developed jointly by the department and the young adult)
 - Continued efforts at achieving permanency and creating permanent connections

- Young people who were adopted (and whose adoptive parents were receiving adoption assistance) or entered into a guardianship with a licensed relative (and had a guardianship agreement) at age 16+ will receive:
 - Medicaid coverage
 - Extended guardianship/adoption subsidies

Obtaining Services

- Eligible young adults who wish to receive services sign a voluntary services and support agreement with the department
- Eligible young adults can opt in and/or opt out of the program any time after turning 19 and before turning 21
- Information about the program will be provided to potentially eligible youth at age 16 and every year thereafter, including 90 days prior to the youth's final court review

Oversight Mechanisms

- The Court's Role:
 - Review the voluntary services and support agreement, open an extended services and support file, and make a best interests determination
 - Conduct annual age-appropriate permanency reviews
 - Can appoint an attorney or CASA volunteer, if desired by the young adult
- Case Reviews
 - Held every 180 days to evaluate progress made toward meeting goals in the case plan
 - Conducted using a team approach by the department and one person not responsible for case management in collaboration with the young adult and others identified by the young adult
- The Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee
 - Created by the Nebraska Children's Commission
 - Make initial recommendations for a statewide implementation plan
 - Meet biannually to share recommendations and annual reports with the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, the department, and the Governor

* Starting in 2014, the majority of this population will be covered under the Affordable Care Act.

** For those residing in a foster care facility upon leaving care, the young adult may choose to remain at the facility until able to transition to a more age-appropriate setting.

STATE EXTENDED GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Eligibility

- Currently 19 to 21 years old
- Entered into a guardianship agreement at age 16+ that was NOT with a licensed relative
- Meeting at least one of the following requirements:
 - Completing secondary education
 - Enrolled in post-secondary education
 - Employed at least 80 hours per month
 - Participating in a program or activity to remove barriers to employment
 - Unable to do any of those because of a medical condition

Services

- Extended guardianship subsidies, to the extent possible with existing funds

Implementation

- A total of \$400,000 for 2014-2015 is appropriated by the Legislature
- The Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee will develop recommendations for maximizing and making efficient use of this funding

Implementation Timeline

