

# THE YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTARY SERVICES AND SUPPORT ACT

In June of 2013, a bill (LB 216) was passed in Nebraska to extend voluntary services and support to age 21 for young people aging out of foster care. This program will begin sometime in 2014, so details are still being worked out, but here are a few things you should know about this new program.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **It is up to the young adult.** The program is voluntary, so eligible young adults decide if they want to participate or not.
- ★ **It is intended to be youth-directed.** Services are designed to help young adults meet their individual goals.
- ★ **Young adults can change their minds.** If young adults decide to leave the program, they can still come back in later. If young adults decide not to sign up right away, they can sign up any time before they turn 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 permanency and case reviews twice per year
- ★ Participate in other program requirements

## SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

**Young adults who aged out of foster care or were discharged to independent living:**

- ★ Medicaid coverage\*
- ★ Year-round housing support
- ★ Young adult-directed case management services from a Support Worker

**Young adults who were adopted at age 16 or older (and whose adoptive parents were receiving adoption assistance):**

- ★ Medicaid coverage
- ★ Continued adoption subsidies

**Young adults who entered a guardianship agreement at age 16 or older...**

**... with a licensed relative:**

- ★ Medicaid coverage
- ★ Continued guardianship subsidies

**...with someone who was NOT a licensed relative:**

- ★ Continued guardianship subsidies from a separate state extended guardianship assistance program (to the extent possible with limited existing funds)

\* Starting in 2014, young people who aged out of foster care will be able to receive Medicaid coverage until they are 26 under the Affordable Care Act