

PERMANENCY AT A GLANCE

Implications for access to **independent living services** for Florida youth achieving permanency

Programs and Services	Age Parameters	Eligibility	Implications for Permanency	Other
Tuition Waiver	16-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 18 and in custody of DCF • Over 18 and in custody of DCF on 18th birthday • Under 18 and in the custody of a relative • Over 18 and in the custody of relative on 18th birthday • Spent 6 months in custody of DCF after reaching 16 years of age and placed in guardianship • Adopted from DCF after May 5, 1997 	Adoption or guardianship as permanency options for any youth ages 16 through 28 does NOT disqualify access to tuition waiver	
Post Secondary Supports and Services PESS	18 until 23rd birthday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in licensed care on 18th birthday • Currently living in licensed care • Adopted from foster care or placed with a court approved dependency guardian (through court custody order- can be relative or non relative and not required to be licensed) • Spent 6 months in licensed care before reaching 18th birthday (need not be continuous) • Earned a standard HS diploma or its equivalent and be enrolled as full time student (9 credit hours or vocational school equivalent) in a Bright Futures approved post secondary institution 	Adoption or guardianship as permanency option for youth ages 16 through 22 does NOT disqualify access to PESS	Must meet other eligibility requirements

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Extended Foster Care	18-21 (22 if disabled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in licensed care on 18th birthday and not achieved permanency <p>Must Be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing secondary education or program leading to equivalent credential Enrolled in institution that provides post secondary or vocational equivalent Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or eliminate barriers to employment Employed at least 80 hours per month Unable to participate in any of the above full time due to physical, intellectual, emotional or psychiatric conditions 	Adoption, return to parents or marriage for youth ages 18 to 21 (22 if disabled) disqualifies for extended foster care eligibility	If any of the permanency options fail before age 18 and the youth re-enters licensed foster care, they would be eligible to enter extended foster care at any time before age 21
Aftercare	18 until 23rd birthday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged out of licensed care but not in extended foster care or PESS or has left Road to Independence as grandfathered participant 	Adoption or guardianship between 18 and 23rd birthday disqualifies for eligibility for aftercare	<p>If any of the permanency options fail before age 18 and the youth re-enters licensed foster care, they would then be eligible for Aftercare</p> <p>Must meet other eligibility requirements</p> <p>Very temporary time-limited safety net assistance</p>

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Road to Independence (RTI)	18 until 23rd birthday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If enrolled as of December 31, 2013 can continue as grandfathered until they reach 23 or graduate from college or no longer meet eligibility requirements Can leave RTI and access PESS or extended foster care Cannot be also enrolled in PESS and extended foster care at the same time 	Adoption after the age of 18 does NOT disqualify continued access to RTI if other eligibility requirements are met	No new applicants accepted after December 31, 2013
Medicaid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any youth who ages out of care at age 18 and received Medicaid at age 18 is eligible for Medicaid until they turn 26 regardless of what happens after age 18 	<p>Permanency, including adoption, return to parent or marriage if the youth aged out of care at the age of 18, does NOT disqualify eligibility for Medicaid until age 26</p> <p>However, adoption or guardianship prior to age 16 disqualifies eligibility for Medicaid</p> <p>Permanency at ages 16 and 17 (with 6 months in licensed care) does NOT disqualify eligibility for Medicaid until age 21</p> <p>Adoption after the age of 18 has no impact on Medicaid eligibility</p>	Must meet other eligibility requirements