

## Region 8 PAL Benefits - Quick Reference Sheet

***PAL Youth that age out of care at age 18 are eligible for the PAL services and benefits listed below. These services are provided thru State and Federal funding resources.***

### **Transitional Living Allowance (TLA):** (\$1,000-Not to exceed \$500 in a one-month period)

A \$500 maximum for youth entering the military, or a semi-supervised living arrangement where room/board expenses are funded (ICF-MR, HCS facility), or Job Corps. Youth must be working or in school, aged out of foster care, and transitioning to adulthood. Youth must have completed PAL Life Skills Classes. Youth must receive first TLA within two years of leaving paid placement. Once first TLA check is received, youth has 1 year to collect the balance of the funds. All funds must be collected before age 21.

### **Tuition and Fee Waiver:** *The student must meet one of the following criteria to qualify:*

- Student was in the conservatorship of DFPS the day before the student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Student was in the conservatorship of DFPS on or after the day of the student's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and was eligible for adoption on or after that day.
- Student was in the conservatorship of DFPS on the day the student graduated from high-school or received an equivalent of a high-school diploma.
- Student was in DFPS Conservatorship on the day the student was adopted, and the adoption occurred on or after September 1, 2009.
- Student was in the conservatorship of DFPS on the day permanent managing conservatorship (PMC) was granted to a non-parent and the PMC occurred on or after September 1, 2009.
- Student was age 14 or older on or after June 1, 2016 and subsequently exited DFPS's permanent managing conservatorship to the legal responsibility of the parent.
- Student was age 16 or older on or after June 1, 2016 and subsequently exited DFPS's temporary managing conservatorship to the legal responsibility of the parent.
- Student is currently in the conservatorship of DFPS and is enrolling in a dual credit course or other course for which a high-school student may earn joint high-school and college credit.

Eligible students will receive a letter which waives tuition and fees at state supported institutions of higher education (college or university). Students must enroll as an undergraduate not later than the youth's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. High School students can enroll in a dual credit course or other course for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit. The waiver is good for life if enrolled in a state college or university before the students 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Education & Training Voucher Program (ETV):** (Up to \$5,000/year for post-secondary education costs)

ETV is a resource for college expenses.

*The student must be a US citizen, legal permanent resident, or have other qualified alien status and meet one of the following criteria to qualify:*

- Student is least age 16 and likely to remain in DFPS foster care until age 18.
- Student has aged out of DFPS foster care and has not yet turned 23.
- Student is at least age 16 and enrolled in a dual credit course or other course for which they may earn college credit (limited use of funds).
- Student was adopted from DFPS foster care after turning age 16 and has not turned age 23.
- Student entered Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) program after turning age 16 and has not turned age 23.
- Student is in the Extended Foster Care Program.
- Student is a former youth who was in custody of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) or under the jurisdiction of a local juvenile probation department and was in a Title IV-E placement which was receiving Title IV-E payments the day before they turn age 18.

ETV funding is based on need and the amount available factors in other monetary resources (i.e. Tuition & Fee Waiver, Pell Grant funds, Scholarships, etc.). Funds can be used for housing, food, books/supplies, childcare, computer, etc. To access ETV funds youth must also apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>. PAL education staff will assist with this application. Call **1-877-268-4063** or visit the website <https://discoverbcfs.net/texasetv/>.

**Case Management and Aftercare Services:**

Case management services are provided by the Regional PAL Contractor, currently Baptist Child and Family Services Health and Human Services (BCFS HHS), at both transition centers in San Antonio and Kerrville. Services are voluntary and are individualized for youth in and out of foster care until age 21. Education and employment specialists are on staff to meet those needs. A brief intake process is all it takes to obtain a case manager to link youth with the vast array of services available. Call for an intake 210-733-7932.

**Aftercare Room and Board Assistance (ARB):** (\$3,000 An **Emergency** funding source only)

Funds youth can access to help with rent, food, and utility bills in an emergency. Youth's name must be on utility bill or lease. Youth must be actively working, seeking work, or attending school or a vocational/technical program. Contact your PAL Aftercare case manager to access this emergency funding resource 210-733-7932.

**Former Foster Care Children Medicaid (FFCC):** (Must reside in Texas)

Youth must remain in foster care until age 18, with Medicaid coverage up to the month of their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. Youth must also be a US citizen or a qualified alien (for example have an I-551 permanent resident card). PAL staff will provide handouts with program details. It is important to keep the mailing address current with the Medicaid office after leaving foster care to receive regular program updates. For questions, contact STAR Health member services Superior Health Plan at 1-866-912-6283.

**Region 8 Transition Centers**

**BCFS Health and Human Services San Antonio Transition Center: 210-733-7932**, 4346 NW Loop 410 Midland Building, SA, TX 78229

**BCFS Health and Human Services Kerrville Transition Center: 830-896-0993**, 1127 E. Main St., Kerrville, TX 78028

**Region 8 PAL staff (last name assigned youth):**

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Kirk Barnes (Return to Care)	210-246-3619	<a href="mailto:kirk.barnes@dfps.state.tx.us">kirk.barnes@dfps.state.tx.us</a>
Michael Elliott (O,P,Q,T,V)	210-332-0125	<a href="mailto:michael.elliott@dfps.state.tx.us">michael.elliott@dfps.state.tx.us</a>
Kasandra Link-Charles (C,D)	210-232-5101	<a href="mailto:kasandra.link-charles@dfps.state.tx.us">kasandra.link-charles@dfps.state.tx.us</a>
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Kaylah Topasna, Youth Specialist	210-838-5039	<a href="mailto:kaylah.topasna@dfps.state.tx.us">kaylah.topasna@dfps.state.tx.us</a>
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