



**SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 19 TO 24 TRANSITIONING OUT OF CARE AND INTO ADULTHOOD**

The Ministry of Children and Family Development can help young adults who until their 19th birthday were in continuing care or a Youth Agreement. **Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs)** can provide financial assistance and support services to young people who want to continue their education, get job training, or take part in a rehabilitative program.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

You can apply if you are at least 19 and not yet 24 and on your 19th birthday you were:

- In the continuing custody of a director or permanent custody of the Superintendent or
- In the guardianship of a director of adoption or of a director under the *Family Relations Act*
- In a Youth Agreement

**WHAT TYPE OF EDUCATION, TRAINING OR OTHER PROGRAMS DOES AYA PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR?**

You can get funding to:

- Finish high school
- Learn job and life skills
- Attend college or university
- Complete a rehabilitative program

**WHAT IS A REHABILITATIVE PROGRAM?**

If you have personal challenges such as mental health or addiction concerns that are creating obstacles and preventing you from becoming self-sufficient, AYA assistance may be available to support you to participate in a recognized rehabilitative program.

**WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE?**

The Agreement may also provide for support services or financial assistance, or both, to assist you while you're enrolled in your program of choice. This may include:

- Living expenses for yourself and any dependent children
- Child care if you have dependent children
- Tuition fees and related costs for books, supplies and uniforms if assistance is not available through the Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEAF)
- Health care premiums
- Support from social workers

The amount of assistance you get will depend on your individual needs.

**IF I APPLY FOR AN AYA WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO DO?**

You will be asked to prepare a written plan explaining your goals and the support you will need to reach them. Your plan must involve a minimum of 60 per cent of a full-time educational or vocational program course load, or 40 per cent if you have a permanent disability; or a minimum of 15 hours a week participation in a rehabilitative program; or a combination of educational/vocational and rehabilitative program time equal to a minimum of 15 hours a week.

If you are enrolled in a course, you will be expected to attend class regularly and maintain a satisfactory level of performance.

**WILL I BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO MY LIVING EXPENSES WHILE ON AN AYA?**

A contribution may be expected depending on the amount of AYA assistance you need and your anticipated employment income during an AYA. A social worker will help you in determining whether a contribution is appropriate.

**HOW LONG DO AYAS LAST?**

AYAs last up to six months at a time. The total of all AYAs cannot add up to more than 24 months and an AYA cannot extend past your 24th birthday.

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MY PLAN?**

If you provide all required information quickly, financial support should be available within four to six weeks from the time you apply.

**DO I HAVE TO APPLY AS SOON AS I LEAVE CARE OR WHEN MY YOUTH AGREEMENT ENDS AT AGE 19?**

No. You can apply any time between your 19th and 24th birthday.

**WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Contact the social worker you had when you were in care or in a Youth Agreement. If you have moved since you were in care or in a Youth Agreement, phone your nearest ministry office and ask to speak to a social worker. Offices are listed in the provincial blue pages of the phone book.

If you need help finding an office, or if you need to call an office long-distance, phone Enquiry BC and ask to be transferred.

**Enquiry BC**

In Victoria call: 250 387-6121

In Vancouver call: 604 660-2421

Elsewhere in BC call: 1 800 663-7867

Outside British Columbia: 604 660-2421

E-mail address: [EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca)



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

For more information, go to any Ministry of Children and Family Development office in your area or view information online: [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/ayo.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/ayo.htm)