

Why would I want to reenter foster care?

Foster care offers more benefits than any other youth program.

Reentering foster care can help youth get lots of benefits, including:

- Help finding and maintaining safe, stable housing
- Finishing school (high school, vocation programs, and college)
- Health care, including sexual and reproductive health care
- Getting copies of important documents like an ID and birth certificate
- Supports to finish school or find and keep a job
- Education on how to manage money, file taxes, cook, etc.

Need help advocating for yourself at DSS?

Ask DSS about 18-OCFS-LCM-07, especially the appendices.

Where would I live?

It depends. You might be able to live:

- With a foster family you've lived with before
- In a group home
- In a supported apartment
- In a dorm room at college
- Somewhere else, with the help of a caseworker

How do I learn more?

Returning to foster care is a big decision, so make sure you understand your options first.

You can learn more by talking to a case manager at your program or by calling the department of social services (DSS) in the county where you used to be in foster care.

DSS contact information can be found at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/localdss.asp>

I was in foster care but I don't want to go back.

That's ok! (And you can change your mind later, until you turn 21.)

Even if you don't want to go back to foster care, it might be helpful to tell your case manager you have been in foster care before. This information will help them help you navigate your options and services you might be eligible for.

And don't worry—no one can make you go back into foster care if you don't want to!

Did you know?

If you were in foster care **after your 14th birthday**, there are still some benefits you might be able to access without going back into foster care.

To learn more about *Independent Living Support*, ask a case manager at your program or call DSS in the county where you used to be in foster care.

You're not alone!

Asking for help is an act of strength 

"The best thing is things get taken care of to help your needs, even though sometimes it takes so long; but it gets done and it gives me the knowledge that I have support and people who care about me."

- youth formerly in foster care

To learn more about your options

- Talk to your case manager or
- Call the department of social services (DSS) where you used to be in foster care.

Let them know you were in foster care and you want to know how DSS can help you.

(room for local program stickers with additional contact information)

Have you ever been in foster care?

Some youth who need a place to live don't know they might be able to return to foster care if their discharge plan isn't working out.



Does this sound like you?

1. Are you under 21 years old?
2. Were you in foster care on or after your 18th birthday?
3. Do you need a safe and stable place to live?

If the answer to these questions is "yes," reentering foster care might be an option for you!



Office of Children and Family Services

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an appropriate format upon request.

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Office of Children and Family Services

Young and homeless? Ever been in foster care? We can help.



Young people who are homeless, under 21 years old, and who left foster care sometimes need—and can get—help. This pamphlet can help you understand some of your options. **You are not alone.**