

IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM MCFD ON

AYA

(Agreements with Young Adults)

DURING COVID-19!

WHAT'S AYA?

The AYA Program, or Agreements with Young Adults, is run by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). It helps youth cover the cost of things like housing, child care, tuition and health care while you go back to school, or attend rehabilitation, a job training program or life skills program.

You might be eligible for AYA if you were in care on a Continuing Custody Order (CCO) or Youth Agreement (YAG) when you turned 19.

Eligible youth can be on AYA for 48 months total, from age 19 to your 27th birthday.

To help support young people during the pandemic, MCFD has made some important changes to AYA rules.>

1. Youth who are eligible for AYA have more program options with the **TEMPORARY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM!**

2. You won't have to use up your 48 months of AYA if your program isn't running due to COVID-19!

These measures are currently in place until September 30.

1. AYA TEMPORARY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

What does an AYA look like under the Temporary Life Skills Program?

✓ The focus of the program only needs to cover ONE of these areas (but it can cover more than one):

EDUCATION **SOCIAL SKILLS**
HEALTH & WELLNESS **EMPLOYMENT**
FINANCIAL LITERACY **HOUSING**

and now
CULTURAL LEARNING!

- ✓ Your program DOES NOT need to be from the ministry-approved list of AYA-eligible programs
- ✓ You only need to participate in the program for 5 hours a week
- ✓ Your program can be online or virtual
- ✓ You can start your AYA program anytime before September 30 and continue it for 12 weeks, even if it starts on September 29

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Programs like **FED CONNECTS** can now be your AYA program!

Other programs include **AGEDOUT.COM**'s Quests and Life Essentials Zoom chats!

HOW DO YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN?

If you're already on AYA or connected to a social worker, contact your worker to talk about updating your agreement or getting on AYA.

If you're NOT already on AYA or connected to a worker, call MCFD's centralized screening at 1-800-663-9122.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR AYA?

Youth who were in care on a Continuing Custody Order or Youth Agreement when they turned 19.

Not sure if you're eligible?
Contact your last social worker or call 1-800-663-9122.

NEED HELP??

Contact Fed staff at <https://fbcyicn.ca/contact-us>

or
contact an Advocate from the Representative for Children and Youth's office at rcy@rcybc.ca or 1-800-476-3933.

2. CHANGES TO 48 MONTH LIMIT FOR AYA

What happens to your 48 months of AYA while your program is paused because of COVID-19?

- ✓ If your AYA program isn't running because of COVID-19, you will still get AYA funding, and that time will NOT count towards your total of 48 months on AYA
- ✓ If you can't find a job during a scheduled break (like summer) in your program, you can still get AYA funding, and that time will NOT count towards your total of 48 months on AYA

✓ If you're going to turn 27, or 'age out' of AYA, while your program is paused, or if you'll be turning 27 after your program starts again, your worker can continue to provide funding

✓ If your program is still running, or you can access the new Temporary Life Skills program, your time in that program WILL count towards your 48 months.

CONTACT YOUR AYA OR SOCIAL WORKER TO GET MORE INFORMATION.

NEED HELP??

If you're having trouble reaching your worker, an RCY Advocate can support you in making the right connections with your local MCFD or DAA office. Contact RCY at rcy@rcybc.ca or 1-800-476-3933