

Maine Youth Transition Collaborative

Transition Fund Guidelines

1. To be eligible for Transition funds, a youth must be between the ages of 14 and 23 and must currently be in foster care, or have been in foster care, at age 14 or older.
2. A youth may apply for a grant once every six (6) months.
3. Applicants may only apply for one grant at a time.
4. The maximum amount per youth is \$300.00 per six (6) months.
5. Verification of the need is required. This can take the form of a document from the vendor, such as the bill of sale, estimate, invoice, past due or disconnection notice, or a letter/document of verification. This should be submitted with grant request. If the youth is still in care, a note from the case worker/life skills worker verifying the need for the request and that other resources have been sought out first must accompany the request.
6. The youth will identify attempts to find other resources to get the need met.
7. Grant applications will be considered for funds requested within the outcome areas of **housing, healthcare, employment, education, and supportive personal and community connections, and transportation** for emergencies, recreation or re-entry. For example, these may include the following:

- **Housing**
 - Utility assistance when disconnection notices are received
 - Phone connection
 - Food until food stamps arrive for those not in care (verification of application for food stamps needed);
 - Necessary furniture for those transitioning from care
- **Healthcare, for those without insurance coverage**
 - Prescriptions
 - Glasses
 - Shots needed for employment purposes
- **Employment**
 - Uniforms and tools needed for employment
 - Shot records, criminal check, police reports, birth certificates needed for employment;
- **Education**
 - ACT/SAT test payment/ classes for ACT/SAT
 - Tutoring
 - Book costs
- **Community Connections**
 - Prom dress, nails, hair, tuxedos
 - Class rings
 - Uniforms for athletic teams
 - Clothing for school plays
- **Transportation**
 - Car repair
 - Mechanic to check a car youth is considering buying
 - A bus pass to get to work or school
 - Down payments
 - Car payments

7. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are presented.
8. AFFM will review the criteria and see what **resources** the applicant has already attempted to find. Personal information about the applicant will not be discussed during the decision-making process.
9. AFFM will provide monthly transaction reports to Maine Youth Transition Collaborative, including documentation of applications and funds disbursed, as well as any follow up information re: impact for youth.
10. Maine Youth Transition Collaborative may also refer the youth to further financial literacy education as a follow up activity to receiving transition funds.
11. If an applicant purposely falsifies an application, the request will be denied.
12. AFFM will not fund any illegal or immoral activities.
13. Approval/denial of application:
 - Applicant will be notified by phone of the approval/denial of application within two days of decision.
 - Applicant will also receive a letter/form of approval/denial.
 - Once approved, checks will be mailed directly to vendor within two to three weeks.

For help completing your application contact AFFM at 800-833-9786 and ask for Cyndi Roberts. Cyndi will review applications to ensure they have complete documentation. Completed applications should be returned by mail, fax or in person to:

Maine Youth Transition Collaborative
Transition Fund
c/o Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine Inc.
294 Center Street, Unit 1
Old Town, ME 04468
Fax: 207-827-1974, Attn: Cyndi Roberts