

BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE (b2i) vs EXTENSION OF SUBSIDY

SERVICES & SUPPORT

Bridge to Independence (b2i)

- Monthly stipend paid directly to the young adult
- Monthly contact with the b2i Coordinator
- Court involvement
- Must verify program eligibility (such as education, employment, or other approved activities) at least every six months
- Medicaid coverage if the young adult meets Nebraska Medicaid eligibility requirements
- At age 21, Medicaid eligibility will be reviewed under the former foster care Medicaid category through age 26 if the young adult completes the b2i program
- Medicaid eligibility is reviewed annually and is based on applicable eligibility categories, such as disability, income, or pregnancy/parenting

Extension of Subsidy

- Subsidy payment made to the adoptive parent or guardian to help cover the young adult's expenses
- No case management through the Division of Children and Family Services; coaching is available at no cost through the Connected Youth Initiative
- No court involvement
- Must verify program eligibility (such as education, employment, or other approved activities) at least every six months
- Must provide proof of payment for the young adult's expenses upon request
- Medicaid coverage if the young adult meets Nebraska Medicaid eligibility requirements
- Medicaid eligibility is reviewed annually and is based on applicable eligibility categories, such as disability, income, or pregnancy/parenting

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Bridge to Independence (b2i)

- Must meet participation eligibility requirements, such as education, employment, approved activities, or a medically documented condition
- Must sign a Voluntary Service and Support Agreement to enter the program

Extension of Subsidy

- Must have previously entered into a subsidy agreement on behalf of a youth aged 16 or older
- Must meet participation eligibility requirements, such as education, employment, approved activities, or a medically documented condition
- The adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) and young adult must sign a new subsidized agreement
- A guardianship subsidy agreement extension must be signed before the young adult's 19th birthday
- An adoption subsidy agreement may be signed at any time for young adults ages 19–21

NEED TO KNOW

- Must choose between the b2i Program OR the Extended Subsidy Agreement.
- Young adults may enter the b2i Program anytime between the ages of 19 and 21. If the young adult chooses to enter b2i, the Extended Subsidy will be terminated. A guardianship subsidy cannot be re-entered after age 19.