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If you have any other questions, please contact your local Ministry of Children and Family Development Office.

Applications

<p>Who can apply for an Agreement with Young Adults?</p>	<p>To apply for an Agreement, you must be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 19 and not yet 24 and on your 19th birthday in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the continuing custody of a director or permanent custody of the Superintendent; ➤ the guardianship of a director of adoption or of a director under the Family Relations Act; or, ➤ a Youth Agreement
<p>Where can I get an application form?</p>	<p>As of July 1, 2008, application forms will be available in Ministry of Children and Family Development offices and on the Ministry of Children and Family Internet site under Services for Youth.</p>
<p>What should be included in the section on "Program and Support needs"?</p>	<p>Your application should clearly state what goals will be achieved and supports you require to achieve those goals. For more information, see below: "What kind of assistance and support can AYAs provide?"</p>
<p>When should the application form be submitted?</p>	<p>You should submit your application 4-6 weeks prior to the start of your educational or vocational program to ensure financial assistance is available. If you want to participate in a rehabilitation program (for mental health or addictions concerns), your application may be reviewed sooner.</p>
<p>Where is the application sent?</p>	<p>Application forms should be dropped off or mailed to the MCFD office nearest to where you live.</p>
<p>How long will it take before I hear back about my application?</p>	<p>A Ministry of Children and Family Development social worker will respond within two weeks. Your application is the starting point for an assessment of your needs and development of goals to inform your plan. The social worker will assist with development of the plan as well as provide ongoing monitoring.</p>

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The “Plan”

<p>What do you mean by preparing a plan?</p>	<p>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 rehabilitation program; or a combination of educational/vocational and rehabilitation program time equal to a minimum of 15 hours a week. The plan also includes expectations – what the ministry expects of you and what MCFD and the social worker will do or contribute to your plan.</p>
<p>Are the costs of tuition, books and supplies covered?</p>	<p>The AYAs primarily provide assistance for living expenses while you participate in educational, vocational or rehabilitation programs. Where the program of study is eligible for YEAF funding, the program costs like tuition, books and supplies would be funded by YEAF. If assistance for program costs is not available through YEAF, (e.g., high school completion rather than post-secondary, or young adult was in a Youth Agreement rather than in permanent care), an AYA can help with program costs in addition to living expenses. Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF).</p>
<p>What if the tuition is more than the maximum amounts available (i.e., more than what is available through the Youth Education Assistance Fund - YEAF)?</p>	<p>Other sources of assistance can be explored if tuition, books and supplies are in excess of what is available through YEAF. These other sources may include: bursaries; scholarships; grants; student loans; estate and trust funds; Public Guardian grants; and family assistance. Options also include part-time employment.</p>
<p>How long is the Agreements with Young Adults program available for?</p>	<p>AYAs last for up to six months at a time. The total of all AYAs cannot be more than 24 months and cannot extend past your 24th birthday.</p>
<p>Can there be intervals between AYAs or do the 24 months have to be consecutive?</p>	<p>There can be intervals between AYAs as long as the total period of support does not exceed 24 months and does not go beyond your 24th birthday. For example, you could attend a training program for six months with AYA support, work for a year without an AYA, then go back to school and enter into another AYA.</p>
<p>Can the educational, vocational and/or vocational plan be done in a different community?</p>	<p>Yes, if the program you wish to take is located in a different community – you can still be supported through the Agreement with Young Adult service. Application should still be made in the community you are currently living in.</p>

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<p>Will I be required to make a financial contribution towards the Agreement?</p>	<p>A contribution may be expected depending on the amount of AYA assistance required and your anticipated employment income during an AYA. A social worker will assist you in determining whether a contribution is appropriate.</p>
<p>What about wanting to complete high school?</p>	<p>The Agreement with Young Adults can provide funding to pay for living expenses while you complete your high school education. An AYA can also pay for any cost associated with High School Courses</p>

Scholarships/Bursaries & Grants

<p>What is the Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF)?</p>	<p>The Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF) is administered in partnership between the Victoria Foundation, the Ministry of Advanced Education and MCFD. YEAF provides bursaries for former youth in permanent care between 19 and 23 years of age who are attending university, college, a university-college, an institute, or designated private school. Since its inception in 2002, YEAF has distributed almost \$3 million to over 400 young adults. The bursary amount is established each year (\$5500 in 08/09) to primarily assist with the costs for tuition, books and fees.</p>
<p>Where can I find more information about the YEAF program?</p>	<p>Information on the YEAF program can be found on the MCFD web site at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/other_services/yeaf/index.htm</p>
<p>What is the relationship between Agreements with Young Adults and the Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF)?</p>	<p>AYAs may provide assistance for living expenses while you participate in educational, vocational or rehabilitation programs. Where your program of study is eligible for YEAF funding, program costs like tuition, books and supplies would be funded by YEAF. If assistance is not available through YEAF, (e.g., high school completion rather than post-secondary, or if you were in a Youth Agreement rather than in permanent care), an AYA can help with program costs in addition to living expenses.</p>
<p>If the post-secondary school is not a “designated school” under the Student Aid BC guidelines; can YEAF still be available?</p>	<p>You do not have to qualify for student aid to qualify for the YEAF, but the Post Secondary school <u>must</u> qualify as a designated school under StudentAidBC in order to receive funding through the YEAF program. To ensure that the school meets the criteria for a YEAF the school can be searched on the Ministry of Advanced Education website. Your social worker can help you search out this information.</p> <p>If your program does not qualify for YEAF then an AYA can cover the costs of programs up to \$5500/year.</p>

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Where can I find more information about other scholarships and bursaries?	The Ministry of Advanced Education has information on many different types of scholarships, bursaries and grants available to those wanting to further their education. www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/welcome.htm
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Supports Available

What kind of assistance and support can AYAs provide?	<p>AYAs can offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support to cover basic needs like food and shelter (including any dependent children) • Babysitting and child care • Health care premiums • Tuition fees and related costs like books, supplies and uniforms if assistance is not available through the Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF) • Guidance from MCFD social workers and/or community support workers
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Rehabilitation Programs

What is a rehabilitation program?	If you have personal challenges that are creating obstacles that are preventing you from becoming self-sufficient, an AYA may support you to participate in a recognized rehabilitation program such as a mental health or addictions program.
I believe that a rehabilitation program would benefit me, what should I do?	You should complete an application form for the Agreement with Young Adult service and discuss your plan with a social worker.
If I have completed a Residential Treatment Program for Alcohol and Drug use and now require post-treatment support (relapse prevention), how can an Agreement help to provide this continued support?	A post-treatment support plan can be part of your Plan. However, you should work out a strategy with your social worker that will allow for the maximum benefit from the Agreements with Young Adults program.

Aboriginal Young Adults

Are Agreements with Young Adults available for Aboriginal Young Adults living on reserve?	Yes, if you are a member of a First Nations Band and have a plan that is consistent with AYA criteria, your Band or Tribal Council may be able to assist you with the required funding. If your Band or Tribal Council is unable to provide funding, an AYA can be provided to you from MCFD whether you are living on or off-reserve.
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