



## **State Support for the First Thousand Days After Birth**

### **State Spotlight: Kentucky**

*Information current as of December 2025.*

## **1. Care Coordination and Pregnancy Support**

### ***1.1 Pregnancy Support***

No applicable and/or known programs.

### ***1.2 Care Coordination***

#### **Kynect Benefits**

This is an online portal where Kentuckians can sign up for a variety of public programs such as Medicaid, KCHIP, SNAP, etc.

## **2. Women's Health**

### ***2.1 Prenatal and Postpartum Medical Care***

#### **Public Health Prenatal Program**

This program provides basic prenatal services through local health departments directly to eligible women or by referral.

### ***2.2 Prenatal and Postpartum Support***

#### **Evidence-Based Home Visiting (EBHV) Programs**

Kentucky's home visiting program is supported by federal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funds and run by the state. Expectant parents and parents with young children receive home visits weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Trained visitors teach parents about child development, how to develop parent-child relationships, and how to get their children ready for school. MIECHV supports one home visiting model in Kentucky:

- [Health Access Nurturing Development Services](#)

This is a voluntary home visiting program for pregnant or new mothers and their families (until the child turns three). Parents must sign up for this program during pregnancy or before the child turns three months old. Services provided by this program include the provision of child development educational materials, babyproofing participants' homes, and information on healthy parent-child relationships. This is a referral-based program.

## [Breastfeeding Resources](#)

### [Health Department Breastfeeding Promotion Coordinators](#)

Each health department in Kentucky has a staff breastfeeding promotion coordinator who helps prospective or active breastfeeding moms by providing them with resources or connecting them with support groups.

### [WIC Program](#)

The WIC program provides its breastfeeding participants with breastfeeding peer counselors.

### [Breastfeeding Law](#)

The [Kentucky Pregnant Workers Act](#) requires employers with 15 or more employees to provide accommodations for breastfeeding employees such as a private pumping space that isn't a bathroom, and to allow for pumping breaks.

## *2.3 General Medical Care for Women*

### [Women's Cancer Screening Program](#)

This is a federally funded program that provides free breast and cervical cancer screening services to eligible Kentucky women. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following criteria:

- Being 21 or older
- Have household income at or less than 250% of FPL
- Have no health insurance including Medicaid or Medicare Part B

### [Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program](#)

This program helps low-income participants get free or low-cost prescriptions from participating pharmaceutical companies. Another core component of this program is the collaboration between state workers in charge of the program with medical personnel, churches, hospitals, and social service agencies to educate the public about the program. Eligibility for this program is based on income limits set by the individual pharmaceutical companies. Kentuckians who are insured can also participate in this program if their required medications are not covered by their current insurance plan.

### [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)

This program provides free information and counseling services to seniors and disabled residents, their families, and caregivers regarding their healthcare options and coverage. The program focuses on educating participants on their rights as healthcare consumers through one-on-one phone or in-person counseling, presentations to community groups, the sharing of educational materials, and

referrals to social service agencies. This program is available to the public and Medicare beneficiaries.

### [H.B. 115 \(2024\)](#)

This bill was signed into law by Governor Beshear in April of 2024. It requires state health insurance plans to cover mammograms and other diagnostic breast exams at no cost to the patient.

### [Medicaid](#)

Medicaid in Kentucky provides health coverage to eligible Kentucky residents who meet the income guidelines and are U.S. citizens or have satisfactory immigration status. There are various Medicaid programs available in Kentucky for individuals and families, each with their own requirements.

Below are [several groups](#) that are eligible for Kentucky Medicaid:

- Pregnant women- Pregnant women are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid if they meet certain family size and income limits (up to 200% of the FPL). With the passage of [SB 178](#) in 2022 and CMS' subsequent approval of Kentucky's extension request in May 2022, postpartum Medicaid coverage for women was extended from 60 days to 12 months. If a pregnant or postpartum woman's income is at or below 218% of the FPL, she may be eligible for KCHIP (see section 7.1).
- Parents and caretakers - Parents with children living in their home who also meet resident, citizenship, and income requirements (up to 138% of the FPL) are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid.
- The expansion group - Adults whose income is up to 138% of the FPL are eligible for full coverage Medicaid.
- [Women's Cancer Screening Program enrollees](#) - Women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the state's Women's Cancer Screening Program are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid (treatment is included).

Lastly, those who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid apart from their citizenship status can receive Medicaid coverage for [emergency services only](#).

For more information, see section 6.1 for disability-specific Medicaid programs, section 7.2 for child-specific Medicaid programs, section 7.4 for adoption-specific Medicaid programs, and 7.5 for foster care-specific programs.

### [Basic Health Program](#)

This is a bridge between the Medicaid program and coverage through a qualified health plan or other commercial health insurance plan that allows potential enrollees to apply throughout the year, not just during limited open enrollment periods. This program is for adults younger than 65 who make between 138% and 200% of the FPL. Vision and dental services are included for individuals up to age 21. This program was created in 2022 as a result of [HB 708](#) being signed into law.

## 3. Finances, Work, and Education

### 3.1 Help Paying Bills

#### Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP)

This is Kentucky's TANF program. It provides monthly cash and medical assistance to eligible low-income families to help cover essentials like housing, food, and clothes. This program provides eligible families with monthly payments for five years. Some families may be eligible for other forms of financial assistance including assistance for childcare, transportation, relocation expenses, and expenses related to the Kentucky Works Program. The amount families are given each month depends on family size and income. Unless the parents are exempt, they must participate in the Kentucky Works Program to receive their monthly cash payments. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following criteria:

- [Meet income requirements](#)
- Be a Kentucky resident
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant
- Be a parent or caretaker relative for children up to 18 (or 19 if the child is still in high school)

KTAP members are exempt from the Kentucky Works Program (see below) if they are part of one or more of the following groups:

- They are adults caring for a child under one year old
- They are a parent caring for a disabled family member in their home
- They are receiving social security disability benefits due to a permanent disability
- They are under age 18 and have children under three months old. Once the child turns three months old, the parent must attend school unless they already have a GED

### 3.2 Employment Support

#### Kentucky Works Program (KWP)

This program is for eligible low-income families with a child living at home and all KTAP members that are not exempt. It focuses on helping participants become self-sufficient through employment and education requirements. Other KWP approved activities include volunteering for a nonprofit agency, caring for children for other KWP participants, or going to high school if you are under age 18 or 19 and don't have a GED. To assist participants with these activities. The program can provide financial assistance for childcare and transportation expenses, work-related expenses such as purchasing tools or uniforms, drug test fees, criminal record checks, licensing fees, etc. Reasons for temporary excusal from the program include any of the following reasons:

- Being a victim of domestic violence who is put in danger by participation
- Having a physical or mental limitation
- Losing childcare through no fault of one's own
- Not finding childcare suitable for one's special needs child
- Going to jail for 30 days or less
- Traveling more than three hours per day to participate in the program

## [SNAP Employment and Training Program \(SNAP E&T\)](#)

This is an employment training program for those enrolled in SNAP who are ages 16 to 59. It is available in all 120 Kentucky counties. The program is specifically for those who need to meet a SNAP work requirement, want to get a GED or take college classes, need help managing money, or want training in a new field or trade.

### *[3.3 Education and Training](#)*

No applicable and/or known programs.

### *[3.4 Financial Advice or Education](#)*

No applicable and/or known programs.

## [4. Material or Legal Support](#)

### *[4.1 Transportation](#)*

#### [Non-Emergency Medical Transportation \(NEMT\)](#)

This is a Medicaid benefit that provides all managed care Medicaid beneficiaries with transportation to non-emergency medical appointments. This benefit covers transportation to appointments outside of a Medicaid member's traditional medical service area or to specialty care appointments.

### *[4.2 Food and Nutrition](#)*

#### [WIC](#)

This program is funded by the federal government but run by the state. It provides healthy foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women and their children (up to age 5) who are at nutritional risk. Other [eligibility requirements include](#) meeting [income guidelines](#) and being a Kentucky resident.

#### [SNAP](#)

This program is funded by the federal government but run by the state. It provides supplemental assistance to low-income families' monthly food budgets. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following criteria:

- Be a Kentucky resident
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualifying immigrant
- Meet household income limits
- Work or participate in the SNAP Employment and Training Program if you are an able-bodied adult without dependents (see section 3.2)

## [Special Nutrition Programs](#)

### [National School Breakfast and Lunch Program](#)

This federally funded program is run by the state and provides needy children with free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunches at participating schools.

- [Afterschool Snack Program](#) - This is a component of the federal National School Lunch program and is administered at the state level. The federal government reimburses schools for providing low-income, eligible students enrolled in afterschool activities with free or reduced-cost afterschool snacks.
- [Seamless Summer Option](#) - This federally funded program is run by the state. It provides free meals to children 18 years or younger and to 19 to 21-year-olds receiving special education services. This program is a summer extension of schools' national school breakfast and lunch programs.

#### [Special Milk Program](#)

This is a federally funded program run by the state and provides milk to low-income or very low-income children in public and private schools, childcare institutions, and camps that do not participate in other federal child nutrition meal service programs.

#### [Summer Food Service Program](#)

This federally funded program is run by the state. It provides free meals to children 18 years or younger in participating communities and day camps. In Kentucky, this program is sponsored by school districts, local government agencies, camps, private nonprofit organizations, and public organizations.

#### [Child and Adult Food Care Programs](#)

This federally funded program is run by the state and provides reimbursable meals to childcare centers who take care of children under 13 years of age or adults with disabilities.

#### [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#)

This is a federally funded program that provides elementary schools with a wider variety of produce than is provided by the National School Lunch Program.

#### [Summer EBT](#)

This program first became available to Kentucky families in summer of 2025. It is a federally funded and income-based program that gives low-income families a \$120 benefit during the summer to buy food for their children when they are not in school. The benefits can be used in any store that accepts EBT cards. This benefit is available to qualifying families in addition to the summer meal programs listed above. Enrollment in this program is often automatic if the child is already receiving free or reduced-cost meals at their schools through the School Breakfast and Lunch programs.

Other groups of children are eligible for this program, including any of the following groups:

- School-aged children (between the ages of eight and 18) participating in any of the following programs – SNAP, KTAP, Medicaid, Head Start
- Students who are homeless, foster children, migrant children, or have run away from home
- Children whose parents' income meets the state's [limits](#)

### The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP is a federally funded program that provides states with 100% American grown foods which are allocated to participating food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens. Low-income individuals and families can then go and receive supplemental food boxes from these entities. These supplemental food boxes contain three to five days' worth of food. Monthly income limits apply.

### *4.3 Clothing, Household Goods, and Baby Supplies*

No applicable and/or known programs.

### *4.4 Housing, Shelters, and Maternity Homes*

#### Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This federally funded program helps eligible low-income families (at or below 130% of the FPL) pay some of their heating costs in the winter through subsidy funds. Asset limits apply. It also can provide a one-time crisis payment to prevent loss of service or to restore service during the months of January until the middle of March. Crisis funds go to households who meet the income and asset limits described above **AND** are at imminent risk of having their heat source shut off. The summer cooling program is only offered when additional funds are available. Other eligibility requirements for the receipt of summer cooling assistance can be found [here](#).

#### Weatherization Assistance Program

This federally funded program is run by the state. It helps low-income individuals and families save money on their utility bills by weatherizing their homes to conserve energy. Some examples of eligible weatherization repairs include installing insulation, sealing exteriors, duct repairs, and heating equipment replacements.

#### Housing Choice Vouchers

This is a federal housing assistance program, otherwise known as Section 8, that pays some or all rental costs for eligible households. Households must meet HUD income guidelines.

- [Family Self-Sufficiency Program](#) - This is a voluntary program funded and run by the state for those who participate in the federal Section 8 housing program described above. It helps families become economically independent by setting employment and homeownership goals and becoming free or all state and federal welfare programs. Program specialists help participants with employment, job training, money management, credit repair, etc.

#### Downpayment Assistance

This is a special loan program for Kentucky residents who are getting their first mortgage. It provides a downpayment assistance \$10,000 loan for homes up to \$510,939. The loan is repayable over a 10-year term at 3.75% interest.

## Olmstead Housing Initiative

This initiative is a partnership between the Department for Behavioral Health, New Beginnings Bluegrass (private organization), Community Mental Health Centers, Wellspring Health (a Kentucky Medicaid MCO), and the Kentucky Housing Corporation. It helps fulfill the housing needs of those with serious mental illness who are transitioning from long-term stays in an institution (psychiatric hospitals, personal care homes, etc.) or at risk of institutionalization to private housing. The program can pay for moving expenses, basic furniture items, security and utility deposits, and ongoing rental subsidies.

## *4.5 Legal Support*

No applicable and/or known programs.

## *4.6 Miscellaneous*

No applicable and/or known programs.

# 5. Recovery and Mental Health

## *5.1 Addiction Recovery*

### Quit Now Kentucky

This is a component of Kentucky's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program. It provides one-on-one coaching for Kentuckians via a 24/7 hotline. The program also provides free nicotine replacement therapy to eligible program participants. The program is available in multiple languages, to people of all ages, and for the hearing impaired. If program participants have depression, anxiety, or other behavioral health issues or are pregnant, younger than 25, on Medicare, or living in public housing they are eligible for extra services and resources.

### Transition Age Youth Launching Realized Dreams (TAYLRD)

This is a statewide program that provides recovery services to those ages 16-25 with mental health or substance use disorders. This program provides peer support services as well as employment, education, and career planning services. Other services include:

- Life skills support
- Medication support
- Help navigating health care
- Behavioral health services

### Kentucky Moms Maternal Assistance Towards Recovery (MATR)

This program connects pregnant and postpartum moms struggling with substance abuse with behavioral health and case management services. The program focuses on prevention and educating enrolled women about the risks of prenatal and postpartum substance abuse. Case management services focus on connecting enrolled moms with help for their immediate needs

such as housing, child care, employment, obtaining their GED, and providing transportation to medical appointments. This program is available in all counties across the state.

## *5.2 Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Trafficking Recovery*

No applicable and/or known programs.

## *5.3 Mental Health*

### Kentucky Interagency Mobilization for Progress in Adolescent and Child Treatment (IMPACT)

This is a statewide service coordination model that provides wraparound services for children with serious emotional disabilities (SED) and their families. Services provided by this program include mentoring, in-home and school-based counseling services, intensive in-home therapy, and financial assistance for community and family activities. This program aims to prevent enrolled children from being placed outside of their home because of their SED.

### Targeted Case Management and Rehab Services for Children/Youth with Severe Emotional Disabilities (Medicaid)

This is a component of Kentucky's Medicaid program that provides children in custody (or at risk of being in custody) of the state with case management, therapy, childcare, and day treatment services. Adults on Medicaid who are ages 21 and older who also need protective services are eligible for this program.

### Assisted Outpatient Treatment

This program provides individuals with severe mental illness with behavioral health outpatient services under the supervision of a court with mental health jurisdiction. This program works with Community Mental Health Centers and state psychiatric hospitals in the state to provide these services. It is supported financially by a federal SAMHSA grant. Concerned family and community members, behavioral health providers, law enforcement officers, and psychiatric hospitals can petition for the potential enrollees to be mandated to participate in this program.

### iHOPE (Helping Others Pursue Excellence)

This is a program that provides early intervention services for children and young adults (ages 15-30) who have or are at risk of having symptoms of psychosis. The aim of this program is to encourage participants to stay in school or work and live meaningful lives in their communities. Services included in this program are peer support services, employment and education support, case management services, medication management, etc.

## *5.4 Abortion Recovery and Healing*

No applicable and/or known programs.

## 6. Disability Assistance

### Kentucky Early Intervention System (First Steps)

This program provides early intervention and child development services to children (birth to age three) with developmental disabilities and their families in the child's home or childcare facility. The program partners with community agencies to provide its services but is run by the Department for Public Health in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Children who have been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition that is likely to result in a developmental delay also may be eligible for this program's services. The cost of services provided by this program depends on the family's ability to pay and their income.

### Hart-Supported Living Program

This program helps Kentuckians with disabilities live in their home and avoid institutional care. The program provides participants with financial assistance and encourages them to be engaged in their communities and be homeowners.

### Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

This program provides Kentuckians with chronic diseases (such as diabetes, arthritis, or high blood pressure) with a weekly workshop for six weeks about living and coping with their chronic disease. The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services partners with community-based organizations to provide these workshops.

### Disability-Specific Medicaid Programs

Kentucky Medicaid offers Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers to individuals who require comprehensive coverage and additional long-term support services that allow disabled individuals to live at home instead of in a long-term care facility. Kentucky HCBS waivers include:

- KY Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver - For those with brain injuries ages 18 or older who need a nursing facility level of care. Examples of covered services include respite services, group counseling, and occupational therapy.
- KY Acquired Brain Injury-Long Term Care (ABI-LTC) Waiver - This waiver provides more intensive services than the above waiver to the same population but is specifically for those who will need long-term care.
- KY Home and Community Based (HCB) Waiver - For those with physical or other disabilities ages 0-64 and those 65 and older with need a nursing facility level of care. Examples of covered services include home modifications, financial management services, and home delivered meals.
- KY Michelle P. (MPW) Waiver - For those with brain injuries 18 or older who need a nursing facility level of care. Examples of covered services include counseling, physical therapy, and adult day health services.

- KY Model II (MIIW) Waiver - For those of any age who are technology dependent and need a nursing facility level of care. Examples of covered services include services rendered by a licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, and respiratory therapist.
- KY Supports for Community Living Waiver - For those with intellectual or developmental disabilities ages three and older who need an ICF/IID level of care. Examples of covered services include psychological services, financial management services, and nutrition services.
- KY Community Health for Improved Lives and Development (CHILD) Waiver - For those ages 0-21 with autism, developmental or intellectual disabilities, or serious emotional disturbances who need a hospital or ICF/IID level of care. Examples of covered services include home modifications, clinical therapeutic services, and respite services.

[Aged, blind, and disabled](#) adults also can receive full Medicaid through the state's Medicaid program as well as adults with disabilities who are still employed.

## 7. Care for Children

### 7.1 *Childcare*

#### Childcare Assistance Program

This program provides financial assistance to Kentucky families with children under age 13 (or 13-19 if the child has a disability) who are Kentucky residents and either a U.S. citizen or qualified legal immigrant. Parents receiving assistance from this program must be in one or more of the following groups:

- Working an average of 20 hours per week as a single parent whose income is less than the program's income limits
- Working an average of 40 hours per week as a couple and “”
- You are a teen parent attending high school or getting a GED
- You participate in the SNAP E&T program
- You are an adult who is a full-time student at a certified trade school or accredited college/university
- You participate in Kentucky Works activities
- You need child care as support for child protective/preventative services
- You are looking for employment

The amount that families pay depends on the number of hours parents are working or are spending in school/a job training program, household income, and the state rate of childcare.

#### H.B. 561 (2024)

This bill was signed into law by Governor Beshear in April 2024. It established a Certified Child Care Community Designation program that is administered by the Cabinet for Economic Development. The purpose of this program is to increase the supply of childcare in the state by easing zoning and regulative restrictions.

## Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership Program

First created as a pilot program in 2022 as a result of the passage of [HB 499](#), this match program was allocated \$15 million in 2022. The Cabinet matches employer contributions to employees' child-care expenses and 25% of the allocated funding is set aside for small businesses. The state match percentage is based on the employee's income compared to the state median household income. For employees to be eligible for this program, they must work for an employer that participates in the program and have children enrolled in a participating childcare provider.

## **7.2 Children's Health Care**

### **Medicaid for Children**

Kentucky residents under age 19 can qualify for Medicaid if they meet the [following](#) citizenship or immigration requirements as well as income guidelines. The income of all individuals (such as a legal parent or stepparent) included in "family size" is counted. For children from birth to age one, the income limit is up to 200% of the FPL. For children aged one through 18, the income limit is up to 147% of the FPL.

Kentucky's Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment ([EPSDT](#)) benefit provides health coverage for well-child visits and diagnostic screenings for all children with actual or potential health issues, from birth to age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. This mandated Medicaid benefit screens children with actual or potential health problems to treat them before they become permanent disabilities. Preventive health services are also available to Medicaid-eligible children under age 21.

### **KCHIP**

This health insurance program is for children without health insurance because their parents make too much money to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance. Services covered can be found [here](#). To enroll, parents must have a household income at or below 218% of the FPL.

### **Newborn Screening Program**

All infants born in Kentucky hospitals must be tested for genetic disorders, hearing loss, and Critical Congenital Heart Disease. If an infant is diagnosed with any of the above, practitioners quickly refer them for or start treatment depending on the infant's needs. It is important to note that while this program is required, parents pay for these services as a part of the cost to deliver their child.

### **Vaccines for Children Program**

This is a federal program run at the state level, and it provides participating doctors' offices with free vaccines to administer to Kentucky residents who are under the age of 19 whose families could otherwise not afford to vaccinate their children. Other eligibility requirements include being a part of one or more of the following groups:

- Be American Indian or Alaska Native
- Be Medicaid-eligible

- Be uninsured
- Be underinsured

### Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs

This Kentucky office is a part of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. It provides health care to children with special health needs. The Office administers clinical programs related to autism, heart problems, Cerebral Palsy, cleft lip and palate anomalies, eye problems, neurological conditions, orthopedic issues, ontological conditions, and scoliosis. These programs provide medical, hearing loss, and support services and therapy related to specific conditions as well as financial assistance for children with asthma, cystic fibrosis, rheumatological disorders, or spina bifida. Services are provided at on-site clinics or satellite clinics. Primary care services are not covered by this program. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following criteria:

- Are a Kentucky resident
- Are younger than 21 years old
- Meet medical and financial eligibility requirements

## *7.3 Family and Parenting Education*

### Help Me Grow

This is a statewide, free call center for families that offers developmental screening and social service referrals for children from birth to age five and a half. It is a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Public Health and the Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

### Head Start and Early Head Start

This is a federally funded program that coordinates with service sites to educate low-income parents of children from birth to age five on child development and school readiness. Head Start typically serves children between ages three and five, and Early Head Start serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. The program is free to low-income families at or below federal [poverty guidelines](#). Children whose families receive public assistance, are in foster care, or are experiencing homelessness are also eligible regardless of income. The state's Head Start program is administered by the federally funded Kentucky Head Start Collaboration Office.

## *7.4 Adoption*

### Adoption Benefit Program

[Executive Order 2019-787](#) was enacted to enhance the Adoption Benefit Program and provide children with permanent and loving homes. This Order increases the adoption assistance amount to \$5,000 (\$7,000 for children with special needs) in the form of a reimbursement, a stipend, or combination thereof to help cover adoption expenses as well as offset future medical or educational expenses.

### Supporting Kentucky Youth

In Kentucky, children [who are eligible](#) for federal Title IV adoption assistance automatically become eligible for Medicaid (income is not considered). Children who receive benefits from the state's adoption subsidy program (described above), as opposed to the federal adoption assistance program, also qualify for Kentucky Medicaid. Coverage is available through the state's Supporting Kentucky Youth program, which is managed by a single managed care organization, Aetna Better Health of Kentucky. This program also provides Medicaid coverage to those in foster care or formerly in foster care and to eligible Department of Juvenile Justice youth.

## *7.5 Foster, Kinship, and Short-term Care*

### Kentucky Resources for Independence and Success (KY RISE)

This is an online portal for transition services for older foster youth. The portal contains [LYFT Learning services](#) which is an online independent living curriculum for foster youth (ages 16-21) about to transition out of foster care. Those who complete the online curriculum will be given a \$300 Visa gift card. The portal also contains links to sign up for [Aftercare Services](#) which include housing assistance, family unification services, and financial assistance. Aftercare Services include these specific housing programs:

- Project Life Housing Program- This program provides former foster youth (between the ages 18 ½ and 23) with 12 months of rental assistance and case management services.
- Family Unification Program- This program provides former foster youth (between the ages of 18 and 24) with 36 months of rental assistance if they are at risk of homelessness.

Aftercare Services provide financial assistance for drivers' education (up to \$500 reimbursement), transportation, work-related clothes or supplies, GED prep courses, tutoring, college registration and orientation fees, delinquent college bills, housing and utility deposits, etc. The portal also provides information on how to receive [Youth Benefits](#). These benefits help foster teenagers to have a normal teenage experience by giving seniors in high school \$600 for their prom experience, senior dues, cap and gown fee, class ring, senior trip, etc. Other Youth Benefits include car insurance reimbursement, youth development funds that can be put towards extracurricular activities, and a full tuition waiver for all four state public universities.

### Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV)

This federally funded program provides college tuition waivers to those who are in foster care when they turn 16 and those in the state's kinship-guardianship program. Youth can receive up to \$5,000 a year for tuition or other qualified school-related expenses. Other eligibility requirements include:

- Must be enrolled in an accredited college or vocational/technical training program and make progress toward completion of their degree
- Apply annually for the voucher

ETV funds can be accessed for a maximum of five years until the youth's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## 7.6- Safe Haven and/or Baby Boxes

### Safe Haven Law

Kentucky's Safe Haven law allows parents or someone acting on their behalf to leave their children younger than 30 days old with a staff member at a designated facility without fear of prosecution. Designated facilities include hospital emergency rooms, police stations, fire stations, EMS providers, participating places of worship, or Baby Box devices.

## Miscellaneous

### Choose life License Plate Program

Kentucky drivers can buy a "Choose Life" vanity plate for \$44, and \$10 of the sale will be donated to pregnancy centers across the state.

**This is a non-exhaustive list of programs, current as of January 2026, intended to make information easily accessible to moms and families. Program details are subject to change. Readers should always consult with the appropriate state agency for the most accurate and recent information. The information in this summary is for educational purposes only. CLI does not take a position on the merits of any specific program.**

*This document was compiled by Mia Steupert, Elyse Gaitan, and Tessa Cox.*