

Introducing the Path Program

It can be a challenging time when your permanent care or Youth Service Agreement ends. You have to take on new adult responsibilities and may not have all the skills or means, both emotional and financial, to handle them.

That's why we developed the Path Program.

Path provides financial support every two weeks, along with other support and services, to help you succeed on your journey to adulthood. If you are eligible, the Path Program will be there for you from age 19 until your 25th birthday.

Read the information below to learn more.

Who Is Eligible for Path?

You are eligible for Path if, as of January 1, 2024:

- you were 19 years old, but not yet 25 years old and
 - you had been in permanent care or custody of the Minister of Community Services when you reached age 19 or 21
- or
- you were being supported to live outside of your parent's or guardian's home through a Youth Service Agreement when you reached age 19

For example, if you were 23 years old as of January 1, 2024, and had been living in permanent care when you turned 19, you are eligible for Path.

Note:

- If you were supported by Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services, you should contact them to ask if you are eligible for post-majority support services through the First Nations Child and Family Services Program.
- If you were in temporary care and custody when care ended, or were formerly in care and were adopted, you are not eligible for Path.

If you are unsure about your time in care/ care status you can check by calling the Disclosure Program at 1-833-424-2755.

How Does the Path Program Work?

There are two parts to the Path Program: financial support and community-based program support.

• Financial Support

If you are eligible, the Path Program will provide you with money every two weeks. This chart shows you how much you will receive, based on your age.

Path Funding Schedule

Age	Annual Funding Amount	Bi-weekly Payment
19	\$20,000	\$769.23
20	\$18,000	\$692.31
21	\$16,000	\$615.38
22	\$14,000	\$538.46
23	\$12,000	\$461.54
24	\$10,000	\$384.62

Your payments start as soon as you become eligible and continue until your 25th birthday.

Note: If you were eligible for Path on January 1, 2024, you will receive a one-time payment to cover the payments you missed between the start date of the program and when you enrolled.

Good news! You do not have to pay income tax on the money you receive from the Path Program.

• Community-based Support

The Path Program provides links to local Youth Outreach Programs which are across the province as well as additional supports through Family Services of Nova Scotia.

These programs can help you with everything from developing skills, finding a job, and managing a household budget, to building your self-esteem and relationships. They can also help you make positive connections in your community. They're designed to support you in the ways you want to be supported.

Do I Have to Participate in Youth Outreach Services to Receive Path Payments?

No, you do not have to participate in the Youth Outreach services to receive your payments.

You are required to have check ins regardless of whether you participate in Youth Outreach Supports and Services.

- For those 19 and 20 years old, check ins happen every three months
- From ages 21 to 25 check ins happen every six months.

If you miss a check-in date, your **payments will be stopped** until the check in happens.

Will Receiving Money Through Path Affect my Eligibility for Other Financial Support Programs?

Receiving money through Path will not affect your eligibility for Post Care and Custody Agreements, Employment Support Services, Income Assistance or the Disability Support programs. It also won't affect the amount of support you receive through those programs.

However, receiving Path payments may affect your eligibility for other programs, services, and benefits.

You do not have to enroll in the Path Program. If you choose to, it is your responsibility to know how receiving Path payments may affect the support you receive through other programs.

Your CFW Social Worker or Family Services of Nova Scotia may be able to support you in seeking information on other programs or benefits and how they may be impacted if you enroll in the Path Program.

What If I Am a Trustee for a Youth?

If you are acting, or wish to act, as a trustee for a young person who may be eligible for Path, you must talk with a CFW Social Worker. Your services as a trustee must be voluntary—you cannot be paid for acting as a trustee.

If you are approved to act as trustee, you, the young person, and the CFW representative will all sign a trustee agreement, which will be reviewed every year or as required.

How Do I Enroll in Path?

If you are under age 19 and are either living in permanent care or independently with a Youth Services Agreement, your CFW Social Worker will discuss the program with you and how to enroll.

If you are between 19 and 25 years old and:

- were 19 or 21 when your permanent care ended,
or
- were 19 and living on your own when your Youth Services Agreement with CFW ended,

you can contact the Disclosure Program to discuss enrollment in Path.

Want To Know More About Path?

Phone: 902-424-2755

Toll-free (within Canada): 1-833-424-2755

disclosureprogram@novascotia.ca