



Aftercare
Benefits
Initiative.

Worker Fact Sheet

Updated November 2024

Who is eligible?

View the ABI Eligibility Criteria Chart.

- Former youth in care (18-25) - Adopted on or after June 1, 2016.
- Former youth in care (21-25) - Continued Care and Support for Youth (CCSY)
 - Extended Society Care/ Legal Custody Order
 - Customary Care Agreement
 - Voluntary Youth Service Agreement (VYSA)
 - Renewed Youth Support (RYS)

How does enrollment work?

A child welfare agency worker will need to complete the NEW ABI Registration Form, on behalf of the youth they support.

How does a youth access their benefits?

Once the application has been processed, the youth will receive a welcome package via email.

Youth will receive a GreenShield benefit card by mail within 2-3 weeks.

The ABI program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and is administered by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS).



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies

What is the Aftercare Benefits Initiative (ABI) Program?

ABI is a free health and dental benefits program available to eligible former youth in care (18* to 25). The ABI program supports the transition into adulthood and improves access to health services.

Being part of the ABI Program entitles youth to two different types of services:

- GreenShield Canada provides health and dental benefits for eligible youth between 18* and 25 years old.
- Homewood Health provides counselling and life skills supports for eligible youth between 21 and 29 years old.

Important Information

- Youth who are eligible for the Ready Set Go (RSG) program and/or are currently enrolled in the RSG program, are not eligible for ABI and will be required to remain on the agency's KARE (or equivalent) plan.
- Youth eligible for coverage under another health plan (e.g. a plan provided by an employer, spouse, adoptive family, or university/college) are not eligible for ABI.
- The program provides a broad range of benefit coverage for a maximum of four (4) consecutive years.
- Youth receiving Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) may only be eligible to receive counselling and life skills support through Homewood Health, if they are not receiving benefit coverage from another plan provider.

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