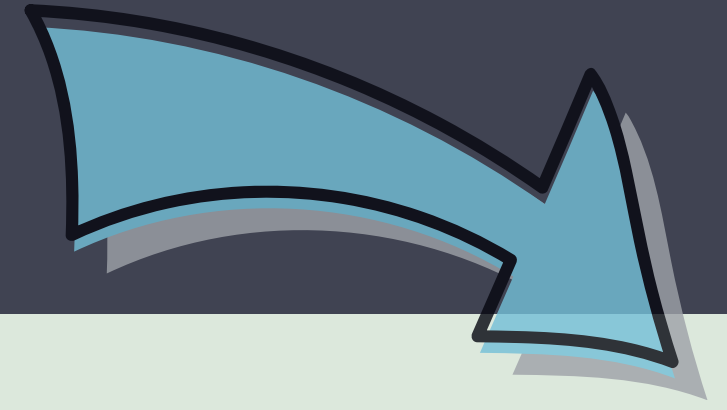


AFTERCARE BENEFITS INITIATIVE (ABI): FREE HEALTH BENEFITS FOR FORMER ONTARIO YOUTH IN CARE



WHAT IS ABI?

ABI stands for Aftercare Benefit Initiative (ABI). The program offers health, dental, counselling, and life skills support services at no cost to eligible youth.

The program's benefits are delivered in two parts:

1. Through **Green Shield Canada**, plan members up to age 25 are covered for a wide range of benefits and services, including prescription drugs, dental care, vision care, medical items, as well as various professional services (e.g., massage therapy, physiotherapy, counselling).

2. Through **Homewood Health**, plan members up to the age of 29 can access a suite of counselling and life skills support services, such as financial planning, smoking cessation, nutritional coaching, stress management, and relationship help. This part of the plan is called the Member and Family Assistance Plan (MFAP).

Important!

ABI is 100% funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. There is no cost to join, and all eligible expenses are fully funded.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible youth include:

- Former youth in Extended Society Care or youth who were eligible to receive Continued Care and Support for Youth (CCSY) or Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM). This includes youth who:
 - had Extended Society Care status that expired at age 18;
 - were subject to a protection (formal) customary care agreement or a protection custody order at age 18; or
 - were eligible for support under the Renewed Youth Support (RYS) program.
- Youth who were adopted on or after June 1, 2016.

Youth receiving Ontario Works (OW) or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) are only eligible for the counselling and life skills support services portion of the ABI plan.

HOW DOES ENROLLMENT WORK?

There are two steps to the ABI enrollment process:

1. **ALL YOUTH:** Complete the **youth application form**
2. **WORKERS:** Submit a verification of the youth's former status using the **worker form**

OR

ADOPTED YOUTH: Submit their adoption order by email to **abi@oacas.org**. (This document can be obtained from the **Ontario government**.)

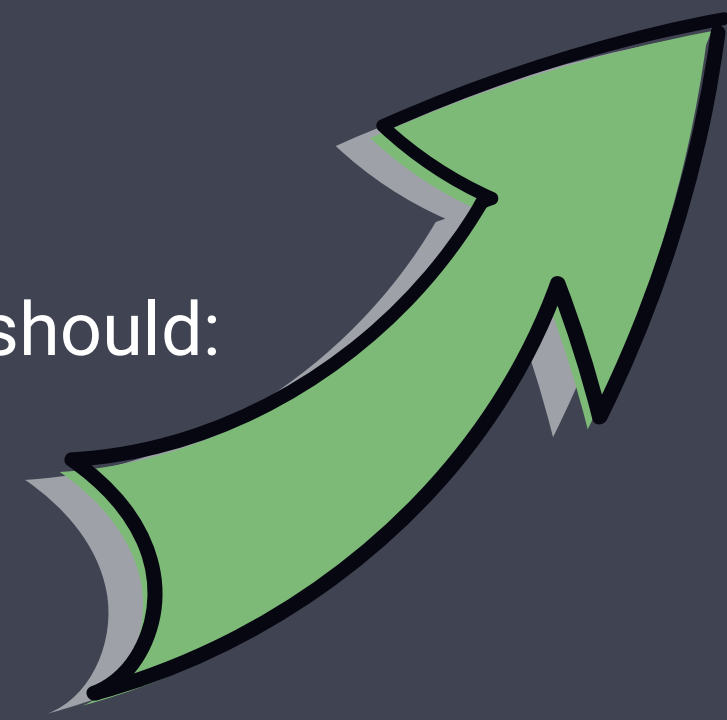
If the young person is on the agency's KARE plan, they can be automatically transitioned to ABI. Complete their information **here** and contact **abi@oacas.org** for details on how to securely send the worksheet to us.

WHAT DO WORKERS NEED TO DO TO SUPPORT ENROLLMENT?

Children's Aid Society and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agency staff should:

- Make sure youth know about the program
- Help them fill in the **application form**
- Provide a verification for each youth they support by completing the **online form**

(You will be required to include the following details: the youth's name, date of birth, and confirmation of their former status.)



HOW DO YOUTH ACCESS THE BENEFITS ONCE THEY ARE ENROLLED?

Once the youth's application and verifying information have been received, their information will be submitted to Green Shield Canada and Homewood Health and they will receive a welcome package in the mail within 3-4 weeks, including their benefit card.

To access the benefits through Homewood Health, plan members should call 1-800-663-1142. They will be required to provide the code "ABI199," as well as their name and date of birth to be connected to the available services.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFO ABOUT ABI?

Visit **oacas.org/abi** or email **abi@oacas.org**.

