Texas Workforce Commission

Youth Driver Education Funding Program

Application Instructions

The Texas Youth Driver Education Program (program) helps some Texas youth and young adults pay for driver education and other costs of becoming a licensed Texas driver, including the cost of an in-car test at the driving school.

**DO NOT PREPAY ANY FEES TO A DRIVER EDUCATION SCHOOL.** This program will only pay fees directly to the school. You will NOT be reimbursed if you prepay.

Complete these six (6) steps to apply for the program.

**Step 1: Determine Eligibility**

Check one or more of the boxes that applies to you:

* You are younger than 18 years of age and residing in foster care now
* You are at least 18 years old, but younger than 21, in foster care being paid for by the Department of Family and Protective Services.
* You are younger than 26 years old and aged out of the Texas Foster Care system.
* You are a child\* or youth\*\* who has experienced or are experiencing homelessness[[1]](#footnote-2)
* You experienced dating violence, or you have a parent who experienced dating violence[[2]](#footnote-3)
* You experienced family violence, or you have a parent who experienced family violence[[3]](#footnote-4)

\*Child—Age 17 and younger

\*\*Youth—Age 18–21

Your TWC application will be reviewed within five (5) business days from the time it is received.

**Step 2: Get Proof**

If you want to apply for the program, you have to show that you belong to one of the groups listed above. Pick the group that describes you best. Then, when you apply, you’ll need to provide PROOF that you belong to that group.

**Foster Care:**

If you are in foster care or extended foster care right now, you can get your PROOF in this way:

* Ask your caseworker or Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) staff to fill out **one** of the following:
	+ Youth or Young Adult in Foster Care Residency Verification for a Driver License or State Identification Card Fee Waiver (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Form K-908-2042)
	+ Foster Care Verification Form (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Form K-908-4200).

If you are younger than 26 years old and aged out of foster care in Texas, you can get PROOF one of these ways:

* Ask your PAL staff to fill out one of the following forms:
	+ Foster Care Verification Form (Texas Department of Family Protective Services Form K-908-4200).
	+ Youth or Young Adult in Foster Care Residency Verification for a Driver License or State Identification Card Fee Waiver (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Form K-908-2042)
* If you do not have a PAL staff or don’t know how to contact them, contact the staff at the [State Office staff of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services PAL Program](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp) for assistance.

**Homeless:**

If you are younger than 26 years old and have experienced or are experiencing homelessness [[4]](#footnote-5) you can get your PROOF one of these ways:

* [Certification of Homeless Status for Texas Birth Certificate **and**Texas Identification Card and Driver License](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/vs/doc/Certification-of-Homeless-Status-for-Texas-Birth-Certificate.pdf) form
* If you can’t find the specific form, you can use the **TWC Eligibility Verification Form** instead. Just keep in mind that an adult \* who can verify your eligibility will need to fill out this form for you.

\*This form can be completed by your school’s homeless liaison or staff at a program that provides services to people experiencing homelessness, such as a drop-in, emergency shelter, transitional living or housing programs. See more information at [42 USC CHAPTER 119, SUBCHAPTER VI, Part B: Education for Homeless Children and Youths (house.gov).](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter119/subchapter6/partB&edition=prelim)

**Family/Dating Violence:**

If you have experienced family violence2, dating violence3, or are the child of someone who experienced family or dating violence you can get your PROOF one of these ways:

* The [Certification Letter for Family or Dating Violence](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/vs/doc/Certification-Letter-for-Family-or-Dating-Violence.pdf) signed by one of the professionals listed on the form
* If you can’t find the specific form mentioned above, you can use the **TWC Eligibility Verification Form** instead. Just keep in mind that an advocate \* will need to fill out this form for you.

\*Advocate at a family violence center who assisted the victim, a licensed medical care or mental health provider, the director of an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or the director of a transitional living program.

**Step 3: Select A Driver Education School**

Find a driver education school:

* Search online for a driver education school near you [here](https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/education/providers/search/).
* Check to see if the school is listed as an approved TWC vendor (If the school is not listed, we can help to get them approved, just email us to let us know).
* Call or visit the driver education school, be sure to have the **TWC Application** form with you and paper to write down any information that you might need.
* You can ask someone you trust to make the call with you or go to the driving school with you to ask these questions.

Here is an example of what you can say to the driver education school staff:

“Hi. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am ready to get my driver license. The Texas Workforce Commission has the Texas Youth Driver Education Program that helps some Texas youth and young adults pay for driver education and other costs of becoming a licensed Texas driver. This help includes the cost of an in-car test at the driving school. I’m eligible for the program. Can you help me with figuring out what services I need and other information so I can complete the TWC application?

Below is important information you need to complete your **TWC application** (be sure to ask the driver school staff these questions):

* Ask if they will help you find out what behind-the-wheel training you might need.
* If you are almost ready for driver testing, ask them about testing and access to a car for the testing.
* Ask how much each class, lesson, or service costs.

**STEP 4: Complete the TWC Application**

Complete the TWC application here.

**STEP 5: Submit Your TWC Application and Proof of Eligibility**

Email your TWC Application and Proof of Eligibility to DriverEducationProgram@twc.texas.gov.  You can get assistance from your local [Texas Workforce Solutions Office](https://www.twc.texas.gov/find-locations) to submit your TWC Application.

**STEP 6: Check Your Email Frequently**

Watch for the email from TWC that will let you know if you have been approved for the program

**CHECKLIST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE DONE ALL THE STEPS:**

☐ Step 1: Determine Eligibility (Are you eligible for the Texas Youth Driver Education Program?)

☐ Step 2: Get Proof

☐ Step 3: Select a Driver Education School

☐Step 4: Complete the TWC Application

☐ Step 5: Submit Your TWC Application and Proof of Eligibility to DriverEducationProgram@twc.texas.gov

☐ Step 6: Check Your Email Frequently

**QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions, you can email DriverEducationProgram@twc.texas.gov

1. as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. as defined by Section 71.0021, Texas Family Code [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. as defined by Section 51.002, Texas Human Resources Code [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a [↑](#footnote-ref-5)