

New Driver's Assistance for Foster Youth in NJ

It's a little known but very useful fact - The Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) offers financial assistance to youth in care who want to take private driving lessons (from any driving school) prior to the state driver's test. You can find the answers to many frequently asked questions regarding new driver's assistance here.

Who is eligible for new driver's assistance?

Youth in care in New Jersey who are at least 16 years old are eligible to have the cost of their New Jersey driver's training course covered by CP&P. The course consists of at least 6 hours of behind-the-wheel driving practice. The department will also cover the cost of the state road test and driver's license fees, most often by using flex funds: www.embrella.org/fact_sheets/flex_fund.pdf.

What does the driver's training course accomplish?

Upon successful completion of at least 6 hours of behind-the-wheel driving practice, youth in care will be able to procure their learner's permit. Youth who have earned permits are allowed to drive with a licensed adult who is at least 21 years old and has held a valid NJ driver's license for at least 3

years. Youth with permits must practice supervised behind-the-wheel driving for at least six months, and not drive between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., before they can take a road test to become licensed.

Does CP&P cover the cost of the road test?

Yes. Once youth are at least 17 years old and have met all the requirements above, they can take the state road test. When youth successfully complete the road test they can apply for their probationary driver's license. This license allows drivers to carry one non-relative passenger and as many relative passengers as a vehicle can fit. The driving restrictions between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. remain until a driver turns 18 years old, unless exempted for work or religious reasons.

Is a vehicle provided for the driver's training course or the road test?

The company that provides the driver's training course will also provide a vehicle to be used in the course, however, it is the resource parents' responsibility to provide a vehicle for the state road test.

Does CP&P cover the cost of driver's license fees, vehicle registration or vehicle insurance?

CP&P covers the cost of a driver's license, but does not pay for vehicle registration or vehicle insurance. Resource parents are responsible for these and any other applicable fees.

Are caseworkers involved in this process?

Yes. Resource parents should discuss each aspect of the process with their youth's caseworker, who will complete all necessary documentation to receive funding.