Young people who do not receive age-appropriate and preventative care are more likely to experience complications that affect their quality of life and ability to work and contribute to their community.

Learn more. Contact:
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18. It’s that kind of milestone.

Florida Health and Transition Services — FloridaHATS — ensures that all youth and young adults, including those with disabilities or chronic conditions, successfully transition from pediatric- to adult-oriented systems of health care.
advocates in Florida have worked hard to raise awareness of the problems young people with disabilities or chronic health conditions have as they age out of pediatric health care. Problems include finding adult providers, difficulty obtaining health insurance, and not being prepared to manage their own health.

Florida Department of Health’s Children’s Medical Services (CMS) has teamed up with the University of South Florida and Florida Developmental Disabilities Council to improve health care transition for youth and young adults. The goal of Florida Health and Transition Services (FloridaHATS) is to help youth transition to adult health care. Successful transition consists of the progression of youth and young adults from a dependent to an independent life, including adult health care, work and taking on adult responsibilities.

Health insurance is a major concern for many youth with disabilities or chronic health conditions as they turn 18 years of age. To assist youth and young adults with this transition a brochure titled: “Just the Facts: 411 on Health Insurance for Young Adults Age 18–30 in Florida” was developed. The brochure outlines the health insurance options available to young adults living in Florida. A website edition is also available at www.FloridHATS.org. Insurers and other funders help to develop policies that support patient-centered medical homes for youth and young adults. This includes activities such as care coordination and assistance in managing their medical needs.

FloridaHATS links with partners to develop and provide educational materials and resources for youth, young adults and caregivers. These resources help young people better manage their medical conditions by encouraging them to participate in their own decision-making and to choose providers that meet their needs and identify community-based resources that are easy to use. Educational materials and resources are available for teachers and health care providers.

FloridaHATS works on behalf of all youth and young adults, including those with special health care needs. This is done in partnership with advocacy groups and organizations throughout the state, including Family Café and Family Network on Disabilities.

Future goals include the development of peer mentoring programs to assist youth and young adults with transition. The peer-to-peer program will provide a natural support system to grow and develop new skills and with.