

Financial Aid for Foster Youth: Grants and Scholarships

Federal Pell Grant: Foster youth are eligible for this grant as they have “independent” status. Accessed through <http://fafsa.ed.gov/>

The following website provides solutions to the questions foster youth, adopted youth, or youth in a guardianship have regarding how to answer questions about family income: <http://www.nasfaa.org/annualpubs/FosterYouthFAFSA.pdf>

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): Foster youth are eligible for this grant as they have “exceptional financial need”. Access through www.fafsa.ed.gov

Oregon Opportunity Grant: Foster youth often receive this grant due to financial need. It can only be used by Oregon residents and at a nonprofit college or university in Oregon. Access through completing the FAFSA. To get more information go to www.oregonstudentaid.gov

Education Training Voucher/Grant (ETV or ETG): Funded through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). This grant provides up to \$3,500.00 a year for youth who were in foster care (DHS or one of the federally recognized tribes) and dismissed from care at age 16 or older with 180 days of foster care placement services. If a youth is receiving these funds at age 21, he or she may be considered for up to \$5,000 per year until age 23. To be considered after age 21, student must maintain satisfactory progress and attend at least 3 terms per academic year. Access application through www.oregonstudentaid.gov/chafeeetv.aspx

Youth must apply for their financial aid between January 1st and March 1st (FAFSA, OSAC & ETV applications) in order to obtain maximum funding for post-secondary education.

“Foster Care to Success” (formerly Orphan Foundation of America) Scholarship Program: Several scholarships are available through the Orphan Foundation of America including the Casey Family Scholarships. For more information go to www.orphan.org and click on ‘scholarships’.

National Foster Parent Association Scholarships: To get more information go to <http://www.nfpainc.org>. This website also lists a full scholarship for the University of Phoenix.

Fostering A Future: Scholarship to benefit youth **adopted** from foster care after age 13. <http://www.childrensactionnetwork.org/scholarship.htm>

Office of Student Access & Completion: 400+ scholarships are available through the Office of Student Access & Completion at www.oregonstudentaid.gov including:

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- **Irmgard Schultz Scholarship:** This scholarship is privately funded and can be accessed through OSAC. Note: Foster youth are a secondary priority. First priority is to any graduate from Jackson County.
- **DREAM Scholarship for Foster Youth:** This scholarship was initially funded by the Oregon Legislature but is now funded by private donations. Primary eligibility is for those former foster teens who do not meet the requirements for the ETV listed above. However, as a secondary purpose, this scholarship can serve youth who were youth adopted from DHS child welfare between the ages of 14 ½ and 16; former foster youth who did not receive Chafee funds before age 21, or are over age 23 (less than age 26) and have not yet completed their education.

To contribute to the DREAM Scholarship:

- <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/donate.aspx>
- Make checks payable to: Office of Student Access & Completion
- Put Code 442 in the “memo” section of your check.
- Mail check to: Office of Student Access & Completion,
Grants and Scholarship Division,
1500 Valley River Drive, Suite 100,
Eugene, OR 97401.

Oregon Tuition & Fee Waiver:

Once a student is enrolled and receiving the tuition and fee waiver at one of Oregon’s public colleges or universities, the student is entitled to the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate studies. To be eligible a youth must:

- 1) Have at least 180 days of **Oregon** child welfare care (DHS or Tribe) after the age of 14 **and** have been in DHS or Tribal custody at age 16 or older.
- 2) Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- 3) A student must complete 30 hours of volunteer activities to retain eligibility for year 2 and all subsequent years.
- 4) **A student must enroll prior to age 25. If accessing the program at age 25, the student may continue until they have accessed the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate studies. Students must making satisfactory progress.**

QUESTIONS?? Contact the ILP Desk

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