



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Children, Adults and Families

Independent Living Program

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To: Financial Aid Officers, School Counselors,
and other Youth Advocates

Subject: Post-Secondary Resources for Students from Foster Care

Current and former foster youth may be eligible to receive assistance with their postsecondary education and training needs. At a minimum, Students must complete the FAFSA. In addition, students from foster care should also complete the Chafee Education and Training Grant 2-page application available through the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) at www.osac.state.or.us/chafeeetv.html . Enclosed are materials to help increase awareness regarding the following post-secondary financial aid resources for students from foster care:

- Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)
- Tuition and Fee Waiver (HB 3471)
- DREAM Scholarship for Foster Youth
- Foster Care to Success (National non-profit organization)
- National Foster Parent Association

Please place the following materials in a location where young people will be able to view the information: Poster and Post Cards.

As a reminder, the Tuition and Fee Waiver is only valid at Oregon public community colleges and the Oregon University System (OUS) schools. Students from foster care may also be prioritized for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Additional details are in the attached FAQ document. Additional information regarding the Tuition and Fee Waiver and other resources for foster youth is available at the following DHS website:

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/fostercare/Pages/ind_living/ilp.aspx

"Safety, health and independence for all Oregonians"
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Also enclosed is a flyer with details regarding the Department of Human Services' Independent Living Program (ILP). The ILP works with current and former foster youth ages 14 to 20. The ILP provides a variety of services to prepare youth for the transition from foster care to adulthood and independent living. If you would like to connect with the local ILP Provider, a statewide list is attached for your use.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the enclosed information or if you would like additional copies of the enclosed materials.

Respectfully,

Rosemary Iavenditti
Independent Living Program Coordinator
Child Well-Being Unit
503-945-5688
rosemary.iavenditti@state.or.us

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:

Financial Aid for Foster Youth: Grants and Scholarships

- **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

Sandy Raschko, ILP Fiscal Assistant

Phone #: 503.945.6612

Rosemary Iavenditti, ILP Coordinator

Phone #: 503.945.5688

Fax #: 503.945.6969

Updated 02-16-16

Oregon Independent Living Program
List of Services and Eligibility Requirements

ILP Skill Building
(Federally Funded)

Eligibility:

- Age ***16** or older and in substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
- A former foster child who left child welfare substitute care placement at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of placement services after age 14.

Services: **Contracted** out to local non-profits, for-profits, or Tribes.

- Daily Living Skills such as: money management, household maintenance, transportation, legal issues, health, community resources, housing options, personal hygiene, employment readiness
- Educational Assistance such as: tutoring, homework/study groups, college tours, financial aid/scholarship applications

***Note:** *While youth may not be referred to an ILP Contractor until age 16, this does not relieve DHS of the requirement to assist those youth ages 14 and 15 years old to craft a transition plan and gain the life skills necessary to prepare for adulthood and self-sufficiency. DHS should use community resources to assist youth with skills (e.g. foster parents, Boys & Girls clubs, 4-H, etc.)*

ILP Discretionary Funds
(Federally Funded)

Eligibility:

- Age **14** or older and in substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
- A former foster child who left child welfare substitute care placement at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of placement services after age 14.
- Access using the Youth Transition Funds Request form (CE 78).

Services: Provided directly by DHS caseworkers

- Small amount of discretionary funds to assist a youth obtain items or services needed to meet his or her goals for transition and to provide age or developmentally appropriate activities.

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)
(Federally Funded)

Eligibility:

- Age 14 or older and is in child welfare substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
- A former foster child who left a child welfare substitute care placement at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14.
- Youth must be on the program prior to age 21
- If youth are receiving services at age 21, can continue to receive until 23rd birthday.

Services: Provided by DHS in collaboration with Office of Student Access & Completion (OSAC).

- Youth may receive up to **\$3,500** per academic year (**up to \$5,000 if age 21 or older**). Amount is based on need.

Youth must be accepted/enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program in order to receive funds (application available at: <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/chafeeetv.aspx>)

Note: Youth may not access both the ETV funds and Chafee Housing funds at the same time. However, if Room & Board is not included in a school's cost of attendance, then the youth may be able to simultaneously access both programs.

IL Subsidy Program (ILSP)
(State General Funds, some federal/other)

Eligibility:

- Age 16 or older
- In DHS care and custody
- 40 hours of activity per week (work, education, or combination of the two)
- Has at least one prior substitute care placement
- Has approval of the court to participate
- If youth has not completed high school, must be actively working to complete high school or obtain a GED.
- Youth must be enrolled for ILP skill building services.
- Youth cannot live with biological or legal parent(s).

Services: Provided directly by DHS

- Youth may receive up to \$600 per month to live independently for a maximum of one year.

Chafee Housing Program
(Federally Funded)

Eligibility:

- Age 18 or older, but not yet 21
- A former foster child who left a child welfare substitute care placement at age 18 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14.
- 40 hours of activity per week (work, education, or combination of the two – must include at least 4 hours of paid employment)
- If youth has not completed high school, must be actively working to complete high school or obtain a GED.
- Youth must be enrolled for ILP skill building services.
- Youth cannot live with biological or legal parent(s).

Services: Provided directly by DHS

- Youth may receive up to \$600 per month to live independently, for a maximum of \$6,000 or age 21, whichever comes first.
- Please advise youth that Chafee Housing services vary from state to state. They should make certain to check with a state prior to moving.

ILP services are available to former foster youth that were discharged from care at age 16 or older with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14. Youth can be returned home, in a guardianship, or living independently and still retain eligibility for some ILP services. The ILP Housing services are the only ILP services a former foster youth will lose if discharged after age 16 and prior to age 18 (with 180 days of care).

To access services as a former foster youth, the youth will need to go to the local DHS child welfare office and request “voluntary services.” The youth will then go through the intake process. If the youth is under the age of 18, the parent(s) will need to sign the Voluntary Services request (form CF 304). If a young adult (age 18 – 20), the youth can sign for themselves. All services end at age 21 – ETV may be an exception.

**For details about Youth Transitions and ILP services see the DHS Procedure Manual
(Chapter 4, Sections 29 and 33) at:**

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/index.html

DHS Independent Living Program Website

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/ILP/Pages/Index.aspx>

Youth Transition Programs

Human Services Bldg
500 Summer St. NE – E76
Salem, OR 97301-1069
Fax# (503) 945-6969

Rosemary lavenditti (503) 945-5688

Overall Program Information
Technical Assistance/ILP Training
Contracts Administrator, Budget Management
Oregon Foster Youth Connection liaison

Rosemary.lavenditti@state.or.us

Monday – Friday 8:00 – 5:00

Carrie van Dijk (503) 945-5807

Technical Assistance and Training
ILP Website
Oregon Foster Youth Connection Liaison

Carrie.Vandijk@state.or.us

Monday – Friday 8:00 – 5:00

Matt Rasmussen (503) 945-6213

Young Adult Programs
Runaway & Homeless Youth (HRY) Program
Credit Reports

Matthew.RASMUSSEN@state.or.us

Tuesday-Friday 7:00-5:30

Mavra Toran (503) 945-5620

Credit Reports
RHY Support Staff

Mavra.Toran@state.or.us

Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30

Sandy Raschko (503) 945-6612

Contractor Travel Claims
Chafee Education and Training **Grant** Program
Overall Fiscal Tracking

Sandra.Raschko@state.or.us

Monday – Friday 8:00 – 4:30

Hayley Smith (503) 945-6619

Subsidy & Chafee Housing
Chafee Education and Training **Voucher** (ETV) Program
ILP Discretionary Funds

Hayley.B.Smith@state.or.us

Monday – Friday 7:30 – 4:00

Luke Walls (503) 945-5684

Client Discharge Profiles
Client Invoices
ILP Discretionary Funds
ILP Desk Mail/Resources/Training Materials

Luke.Walls@state.or.us

Monday – Thursday 7:00 – 5:30

Catherine Stelzer (503) 945-5631

Education Coordinator
Overall Education Information
Technical Assistance/Education Training

Catherine.R.Stelzer@state.or.us

Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/index.html
http://cms.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/pages/ind_living/ilp.aspx

Independent Student

College Cost Reduction and Access Act

In general, here are provisions of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which Congress is about to pass and the President has already said he will sign. It's the budget reconciliation bill for FY 2008. Read on:

The definition of independent student does add emancipated minor and being in a legal guardianship to the definition of independent student, effective July 1, 2009. It also changes the orphan or ward of the court until age 18 to be orphan or ward of the court or in foster care at any time on or after 13 years of age. So starting July 1, 2009 we will no longer have the issue of confusion over what ward of the court really means -- Congress has resolved the issue by saying that all of the above qualify as independent.

<http://beta.congress.gov/congressional-report/110th-congress/house-report/317/1>