

Educational and Training Vouchers for Young People Currently and Formerly in Foster Care

Are you currently or were you previously in foster care and need help paying for college or career school? If so, you might be interested to know that the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood helps young people currently and formerly in foster care through the Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program.

What are Educational and Training Vouchers (ETVs)?

ETVs are grants, funded by the federal government and administered by the states, awarded to eligible youth and young adults currently and formerly in foster care to help pay for college, career school, or training. States may have a different name for the ETV program.

Am I eligible?

The ETV Program is intended to serve

- youth and young adults who experienced foster care after age 14, and
- youth who, after turning age 16 years or older, exit foster care to adoption or guardianship.

In 2018, the *Family First Prevention and Services Act* amended the ETV program to extend eligibility to youth up until their 26 birthday while placing a five-year limit on the total length of time a youth can receive an ETV voucher (whether or not the years are consecutive).

For detailed eligibility information, you must contact your state's and county's Child Welfare Agency directly. You can find the *State Independent Living and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Coordinator* list at

childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS_ID=145.

How much ETV funding can I get?

Students can get up to \$5,000 per academic year based on cost of attendance, available funds, the student's unmet financial need.

Note: For the federal fiscal year 2022, the voucher's maximum annual amount was temporarily increased to \$12,000. On Oct. 1, 2022, the maximum award will revert to \$5,000 per year.

How do I apply for an ETV?

Apply for vouchers and learn more about the ETV Program. Contact the Foster Care Manager at the Child Welfare Agency in your state. Find State Child Welfare Agency contact information at childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS_ID=158.

Some states have their ETV Program administered by a third party. Visit fc2sprograms.org/about-etv to find out if you live in one of those states.

Is there any other help for young people currently or formerly in foster care besides these education and training vouchers?

In addition to ETVs, young people currently or formerly in foster care may qualify for federal student aid if they meet the eligibility requirements for federal student aid. Learn about federal student aid eligibility requirements at StudentAid.gov/eligibility. For updates or additional information on federal student aid, visit StudentAid.gov or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Also, a number of states offer tuition waivers to help young people currently or formely in foster care attend certain state colleges and universities.

For general information, help, and more resources for youth people currently or formerly in foster care, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau at childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/youth/resourcesforyouth/child-welfare.

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