

Financial Aid for Youth with Foster Care Experience

Grants and Scholarships



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is used by schools to determine federal financial aid (such as Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant), some State financial aid (Oregon Opportunity Grant and others...), and other public and private scholarships.

<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-app/ROLES>



By completing the FAFSA/ORSAA, you may have access to the following grants:

- **Federal Pell Grant:** Foster youth often receive this federal grant due to financial need.
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG):** Some foster youth are eligible for this grant as they have “exceptional financial need”.
- **Oregon Opportunity Grant:** Students with lived experience in foster care are prioritized to receive this grant due to financial need. It can only be used by Oregon residents and at a nonprofit college or university in Oregon. For more information go to <https://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/>
- **Oregon’s Tuition and Fee Waiver:** To be eligible, students need to have been in Oregon’s Child Welfare Custody (State or Tribal) with placement in substitute care for at least 180 days after their 14th birthday AND they need to have exited foster care on or after their 16th birthday, or experienced homelessness for a total of six or more months while between 14 and 24 years of age. Only Oregon State Community Colleges and Universities participate in this program.
Senate Bill 449 expands the Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver eligibility to include those children who were wards of the court (State or Tribal), experienced foster care for at least six months and were adopted after January 1, 2012, creating the new definition of “adopted former foster child.”
- **Undocumented/DACA student resources:** Undocumented students, including DACA students, are NOT eligible for federal financial aid (including the Federal Pell Grant), but may be eligible for other types of aid by filing the ORSAA application. As of the 2023-2024 academic year, this population is now eligible for Oregon’s Tuition and Fee Waiver at Oregon State Community Colleges and Universities. Find resources at: <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/>

Students who experienced foster care at age 13 or older qualify to complete their FAFSA as students with “independent” status, meaning they do NOT have to include their parents’ financial information.

Additional Grants/Scholarships



Chafee Education Training Voucher/Grant (ETV or ETG): This is a federally funded grant intended for young people who experienced foster care as a teen or young adult 14 or older, or adopted or guardianship at age 13 or older. Information regarding the eligibility criteria, application process, and fund disbursement can be found at <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/chafee-etg.aspx>.

“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.fc2success.org and click on ‘Our Programs’.

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

Office of Student Access & Completion: 600+ scholarships are available through the Office of Student Access & Completion at: <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/>

- **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 is funded by private donations. Primary eligibility is for those former foster teens who do not meet the requirements for the ETV listed above. As a secondary purpose, this scholarship can serve youth who were adopted from ODHS child welfare between the ages of 14 ½ and 16.

Oregon Promise: Oregon Promise is a state grant that helps to cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college for recent high school graduates and GED® test graduates. <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx>

Al Forthan Scholarship: This scholarship is geared towards at-risk youth who want to go to college but have had to overcome barriers/adversity – specifically drug/alcohol addictions – either themselves or via their parent's addictions. <https://alforthanscholarship.com/>

Go Forward with Confidence Scholarship: This scholarship is available to Oregon residents who are victims of domestic violence abuse or child abuse/neglect and are seeking higher education goals. <https://www.oregonfwc.org/scholarships.html>

QUESTIONS?? Contact the Oregon ODHS Youth Transitions Team:

Email: ILP.Central@odhsoha.oregon.gov