

>> College financial aid resources available



to Washington
State foster
youth

College access for foster youth

>> The Department of Social and Health Services champions and promotes college access for current and former foster care youth. This document discusses financial aid options for those youth. It is designed to help you when discussing permanency options. As a reminder to CA workers, when considering permanent placement options, the conversation about long-term emotional benefits should far outweigh any discussion about financial aid a youth could receive.

Please note that colleges set student budgets (tuition and living expenses). They vary based on the type of institution: two-year, four-year, public, private, proprietary and program of study.

In addition, youth in foster care after their 13th birthday, even when subsequently adopted, do not have to include their foster, biological or adoptive parents' income when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This places the student in an "independent student" status, meaning the student could qualify for more financial assistance.



Financial aid typically is made up of federal, state, institutional (college) and private funding. The potential financial aid package scenarios shown on page 4 are for youth attending college in Washington State. The scenarios include seven types of aid including federal, state, and private funding sources. A brief description of each grant or scholarship follows:

FEDERAL PELL: are direct grants awarded through participating institutions to students with financial need who have not received their first bachelor's degree or who are enrolled in certain post baccalaureate programs that lead to teacher certification or licensure. Participating institutions either credit the Federal Pell Grant funds to the student's school account, pay the student directly (usually by check) or combine these methods.

STATE NEED GRANT: Helps the state's lowest-income undergraduate students pursue degrees, hone skills, or retrain for new careers. Students can use the grants at eligible institutions (public two- and four-year colleges and universities, and many accredited independent colleges, universities, and career schools) in Washington.

STATE WORK STUDY: helps students from low- and middle-income families earn money for college while gaining experience whenever possible in jobs related to their career goals.

State Work Study opportunities are available to students at public two- and four-year colleges and universities and many accredited private or independent four-year colleges and universities in Washington.

PASSPORT: Youth must attend a Washington State accredited college. The Scholarship helps students from foster care prepare for and succeed in college. Students receive a scholarship that helps with the cost of attending college (tuition, feeds, books, housing, transportation, and some personal expenses), specialized support services from college staff and priority consideration for the State Need Grant and State Work Study programs.

COLLEGE BOUND: Students in foster care are signed up automatically. This scholarship combines with other state aid to cover the average tuition, some fees, and a small book allowance.

GOVERNORS' SCHOLARSHIP: The scholarship can be accessed for up to five years to complete an undergraduate study. Students must be enrolled full time and maintain satisfactory academic progress in order to renew the scholarship each year. To learn more go to www.independence.wa.gov.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV): Awards are unique to each student and are based on the cost of attendance formula established by their college of choice and any unmet need they may have within their financial aid award.

To learn more about these grants and scholarships, go to www.independence.wa.gov.

Permanent placement or aged out of foster care

>> On page 4 are examples for youth who have achieved a permanent placement plan and for youth who have aged out of foster care. Student loans, subsidized or unsubsidized, are not included, but youth could be eligible for this type of aid. Note that costs significantly increase when a student attends college out of state. Those youth will lose some resources that are Washington state-specific.



Scenario A

Student A achieved a permanent placement plan between ages 13 and 16. He or she should complete and file the FAFSA without including parents' income. Below is a chart showing a financial aid package a college could offer if the youth meets all enrollment and financial aid deadlines.

Scenario A	Federal Pell	State Need Grant	State Work Study	Passport	College Bound	Governor's Scholarship	ETV
Two year college	X	X	X		X		
Four year college (public/private)	X	X	X		X		

Student A is not eligible for financial assistance through the Passport, Governors', or ETV programs, but could be eligible for institutional aid and private scholarships they apply for and are awarded.

Scenario B

Student B achieved a non-relative permanent placement plan (excludes return home, or third-party custody) between the ages of 16 and 17½. He or she should complete and file the FAFSA without including parental income. A college could offer the following financial aid package if the youth meets all college enrollment and financial aid deadlines.

Scenario B	Federal Pell	State Need Grant	State Work Study	Passport	College Bound	Governor's Scholarship	ETV
Two year college	X	X	X		X	X	
Four year college (public/private)	X	X	X		X	X	

Student B also could be eligible for institutional aid and private scholarships they apply for and are awarded.

Scenario C

Student C achieved a permanent placement plan (relative guardianship) after age 17½ or aged out of foster care at 18. He or she should complete and file the FAFSA without including parental income. A college could offer the following financial aid package if the youth meets all college enrollment and financial aid deadlines.

Scenario C	Federal Pell	State Need Grant	State Work Study	Passport	College Bound	Governor's Scholarship	ETV
Two year college	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Four year college (public/private)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Student C also could be eligible for institutional aid and private scholarships they apply for and are awarded.

When discussing financial aid, you may wish to note:

- The desire to seek all possible financial resources is understandable.
- None of the scenarios above should be put in the category of good, better or, best.

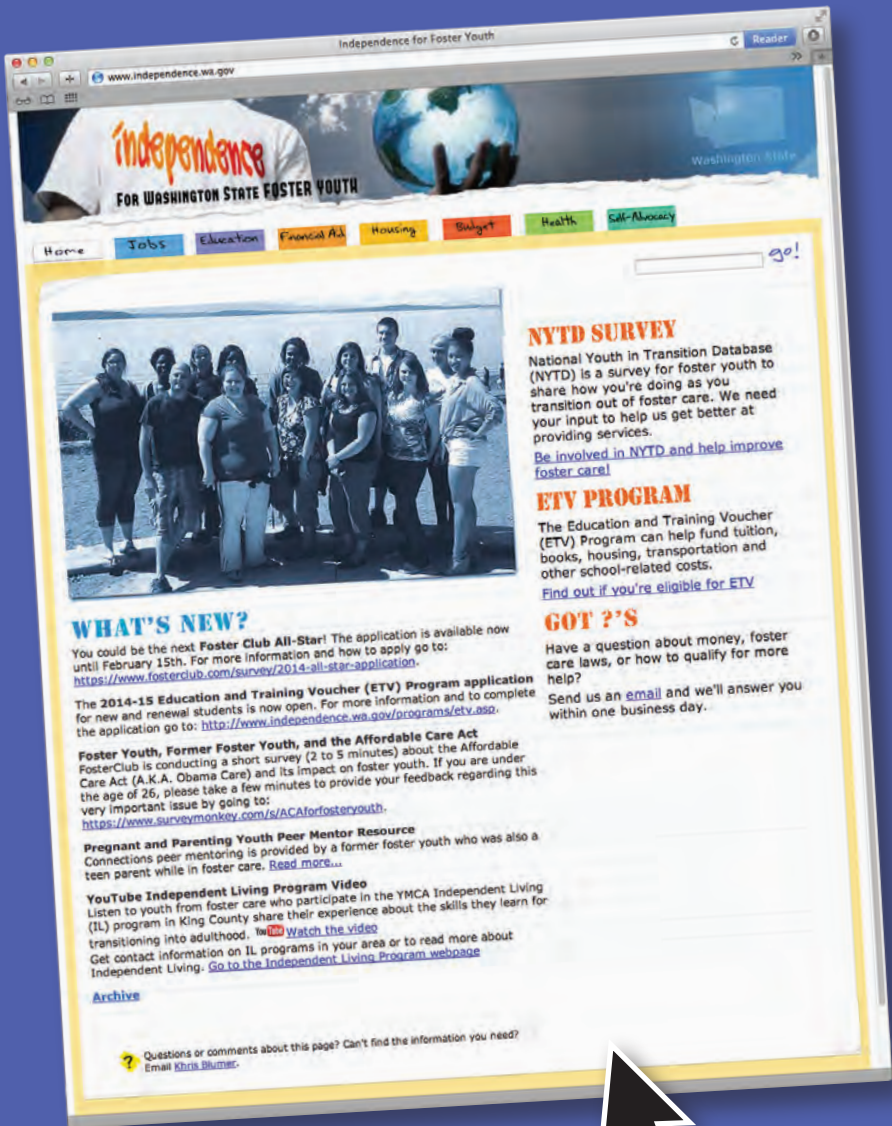
>> Resources

- www.wsac.wa.gov provides information on state financial aid programs and links to scholarship search engines.
- www.independence.wa.gov provides information on the State's Education and Training Voucher program and other programs that specifically serve youth in foster care.

If you have additional questions please contact the Children's Administration Education and Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program Manager at: 877-433-8388.

Notes





www.independence.wa.gov

