

Financial Aid Options For Foster Youth 2021-2022

How to be Certified as a Foster Youth for the Cal Grant B Award

A current or former Foster Youth is defined as “a person whose dependency was established or continued by the court on or after the date on which the person reached 13 years of age”. This aligns with questions on both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Answer “yes” if at any time since you turned 13:

- You had no living parent (biological or adoptive), even if you are now adopted; or
- You were in foster care; or
- You were a dependent or ward of the court.

Cal Grant B Award

A Cal Grant can be used at a California Community College, California State University (CSU), University of California (UC) campus, and at certain qualifying private institutions in California. Students awarded a Cal Grant B while attending a California Community College, receive an access award (Up to \$ 1,648 per year; or for student with dependent children \$6,000 per year) as a living allowance to help pay for books and other community college costs. *For more information, visit csac.ca.gov/cal-grants.*

Cal Grant B Eligibility Expansion for Foster Youth

On July 1, 2018 California adopted new, expanded eligibility requirements for the State’s largest financial aid program, the Cal Grant, to make the program more accessible to foster youth.

The Cal Grant Changes

Application Window Extension

Foster Youth now have extended time to apply for an entitlement Cal Grant. Instead of having to apply within a year after high school graduation, foster youth are able to apply for an entitlement Cal Grant if they meet other eligibility Criteria and have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1 of the award year.

Time Limit Extension

The maximum length of time a foster youth is eligible for a Cal Grant has been extended from 4 years to 8 years of full-time status enrollment in an undergraduate program, provided that minimum financial need continues to exist.

Application Deadline Extension

The deadline for the Cal Grant entitlement application has been extended from March 2nd to September 2nd for foster youth attending community college.



The California Chafee Grant

This federal program offers college and vocational school financial aid to youth who are or were in foster care for at least one day, between the ages of 16 and 18 as a dependent or ward of the court and have financial need.

Students can receive up to \$5,000, a year to help pay for educational related expenses. Students must complete the FAFSA or CADAA, and the Chafee Grant Application at csac.ca.gov. You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college or university or career or technical school, as well as schools in other states.

To qualify, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current or former foster youth who was a ward of the court, living in foster care, between the ages of 16 and 18.
- If you are/were in Kin-GAP, a non-related legal guardianship, or were adopted, you are eligible only if you were a dependent or ward of the court, living in foster care, between the ages of 16 and 18.
- Not have reached your 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year.
- Not have participated in the program for more than 5 years (whether or not consecutive)



How to Apply

The first step in accessing these resources is to apply, even if you aren't sure you'll qualify. Applying is easy, and it's free!

To get started on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), go to fafsa.ed.gov. Or, to get started on your California Dream Act Application (CADAA), go to caldreamact.org. The California Chafee Grant Program Application can be submitted online at chafee.csac.ca.gov or completed in the paper form and mailed.

**Note: Forms are year specific. Be sure to complete the applications that correspond with the academic year you will be attending school.*

Overview of Other Financial Aid Resources

Type of Aid	Amount	Details
California College Promise Grant	Waives per-unit enrollment fees and reduces quarterly parking permit fee	For eligible California residents and AB 540 students
Student Success Completion Grant	Up to \$1,298	No repayment needed. To be eligible must have Cal Grant B or C and 12+ units during Fall, Winter and Spring quarters.
Student Success Completion Grant Bonus	Up to \$2,702	No repayment needed. To be eligible must have Cal Grant B or C and 15+ units during Fall, Winter and Spring quarters.
Pell Grant (Federal Financial Aid -> FAFSA required)	Up to \$6,495 for 9-month attendance. Up to \$8,660 for 12-month attendance.	No repayment needed. The amount of Pell Grant award is estimated for a full-time enrollment.

Additional Resources

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)

Former Foster Youth who are first-time college students or have very little college experience are highly encouraged to apply for EOPS services. EOPS provides: Individualized Counseling, Book Vouchers, Tutoring Services, and more...

Guardian Scholars Network (GSN)

By joining the GSN, we will know that you are here! You will be connected to a Foster Youth Liaison who will help you to navigate on and off campus support resources available to you as well as supporting staff who are dedicated to your success. To apply, click [HERE](#).

Foster Youth Liaison at Foothill

We are committed to supporting ambitious college-bound students who are current or former foster youth/wards of the court. If you need further guidance or assistance, please contact **April Henderson** at hendersonapril@foothill.edu.

iFoster

Visit ifoster.org to take advantage of hundreds of resources.

To learn more about additional resources available for Foster Youth students, please visit: foothill.edu/gsp/special.html



Connect With Us

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