

Financial Aid for Foster Youth: Grants and Scholarships

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (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. www.fafsa.ed.gov

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

- **Federal Pell Grant:** Foster youth are eligible for this grant as they have “independent” status. 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”.
- **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. For more information go to www.oregonstudentaid.gov
- **Oregon’s Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver:** To be eligible, students need to have been in Oregon’s Child Welfare Custody with placement in a foster home for at least 180 days after their 14th birthday AND they need to have exited foster care on or after their 16th birthday. Only Oregon State Community Colleges and Universities participate in this program.

Chafee Education Training Voucher/Grant (ETV or ETG): Funded through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). This grant provides up to \$5,000.00 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. Access application through <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.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>

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Office of Student Access & Completion: 500+ scholarships are available through the Office of Student Access & Completion at www.oregonstudentaid.gov including:

- **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.

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.oregongfwc.org/scholarships.html>

QUESTIONS?? Contact the ILP Desk

Sandy Raschko, ILP Postsecondary and Fiscal Analyst Phone #: 503.945.6612

Rosemary Iavenditti, ILP Coordinator Phone #: 503.945.5688

Catherine Stelzer, Education Coordinator Phone #: 503.945.5631

Email: ILP.Central@state.or.us