



Resources for Foster Care Youth

Financial Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Students who were in foster care or a ward of the court at any point after reaching age 13 are considered “independent” on the FAFSA. This means that no parental information is needed, and that the student will likely qualify for more financial aid.

- www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm Apply before March 1st
- Pell grant “should be approved” for up to \$5,500 per year, if student is/was ward of the court and in foster care since turning age 13.

Tuition Incentive Program

The Tuition Incentive Program provides tuition assistance funding for eligible students who received Medicaid for at least 24 months of a consecutive 36 month period after turning 9. Most foster care youth will qualify for TIP funding. Students must apply for this funding and accept it prior to graduating high school.

- baycommitment.org/pdfs/tip_flyer.pdf
- Phase I covers tuition at participating colleges/universities up to 80 semester or 120 term credits.
- Phase II covers tuition up to \$500 per semester or \$400 per term to a max of \$2,000 at participating colleges/universities; must first complete 56 semester or 84 term credits for Phase II colleges/universities.

Youth in Transition Funding

Youth in Transition funding is intended to cover expenses not covered by other government or community resources. A student is eligible if age 14 and older with open foster care case, or age 18-21 after foster care case is closed (if in foster care after 14th birthday). The funding can be used for college entrance tests, computer needs, graduation expenses, college application fees, assistance with moving, and more.

- Apply through foster care worker if case is open or at a local DHS office if case is closed.
- <http://www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,1607,7-240-44295-161180--,00.html>

The Michigan Education and Training Voucher

The Michigan Education and Training Voucher (ETV) provides up to \$5,000 a year to qualifying students who were in foster care. A student is eligible if the following things apply to them: in foster care on/after their 14th birthday, earn a diploma/GED, attend accredited school. They are eligible up to their 23rd birthday, but must receive first ETV prior to 21st birthday. If a student is receiving ETV funds, they cannot receive Youth in Transition funding for postsecondary education.

- <https://mietv.lssm.org/forms/ETVFlyer.pdf> or <https://mietv.lssm.org/factsheet.aspx>
- Must complete a face to face or phone interview with ETV office caseworker.
- Must also complete an [application form](#) as well as the **FAFSA**.

Foster Care to Success

Foster Care to Success (FC2S) administers a significant number of scholarships for qualifying students who have been accepted into accredited/Pell-eligible colleges or trade schools. To qualify, students must have been in foster care for 1 consecutive year at the time of their 18th birthday, be under adoption/guardianship after their 16th birthday, or lost both parents to death at least 1 year prior to their 18th birthday. They must also be under age 25 on March 31st. Awards range from \$1,500-\$6,000 per year. FC2S also offers mentoring and support to foster youth as they transition into college and their adult lives.

- <http://www.fc2success.org/> apply between January 1st and March 31st

Buell Family Endowed Scholarship Fund for Foster Care Students

The Midland Area Community Foundation offers a scholarship to Midland or Gladwin County residents who have come out of the foster care system and who plan to attend any public university or community college in Michigan as a full-time student. The student must maintain a 2.5 GPA and have evidence of completing 40 hours of community service annually. It is expected that the recipient could continue to receive funding for up to four years or completion of degree or certification program assuming acceptable academic progress. Consideration could be given for a fifth year if it is required for degree completion, and the student is still attending full-time.

- <http://www.midlandfoundation.org/scholarship-application/>

Casey Family Scholars Program

This is a scholarship opportunity for youth that have been in foster care for one consecutive year at the time of their 18th birthday or high school graduation.

- www.casey.org

Fostering Futures Scholarship

This is a scholarship opportunity for youth who have experienced foster care in the State of Michigan. Students must have been in foster care after their 13th birthday and must be attending a Michigan college or university. Visit the link below to for more information and to apply:

- <http://www.michigan.gov/setwithmet/0,4666,7-237-61346-331411--,00.html>

Choosing a College

Michigan College Access Portal

Utilize www.michigancap.org to search for suitable colleges. After creating an account, click “College Search” to search for a college that best suits you. Consider classroom size, location, financial aid, offered remedial courses, active residential life, and accessible faculty.

First Year Supportive Programming

When choosing a college, investigate their Equal Opportunity Programs (EOPs), often labeled as First-Year Experience Programs, Summer Bridge Programs, Freshman Seminars, etc. these programs are made to support and aid in the success of foster care and first-generation youth in the transition to college

Foster Care Alumni Services

Colleges and universities may offer services especially for foster care youth such as housing during holiday breaks. Be sure to check with your specific college when applying.

Michigan Colleges with Foster Care Scholarships and Services

Aquinas College

Two foster youth students each year receive scholarships to cover tuition, room and board, and books.

- http://www.aquinas.edu/undergraduate/foster_scholarship.html

Ferris State University

The Ferris Youth Initiative provides financial assistance and college guidance to low-income orphans and those who have aged out of the foster care system.

- <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/fofyi/>

Lansing Community College

Theresa and Frederick Junger Scholarship is awarded to students who spent time in the State of Michigan foster care system and were in foster care at the time of their high school graduation.

- <https://lansing.academicworks.com/opportunities/304> or 517-483-1987

Macomb Community College

United Way's Scholarship for Youth in Transition provides resources for those that are transitioning out of foster care to develop financial independence through education.

- <https://mietv.lssm.org/forms/Youth%20in%20Transition%20FINALpdf.pdf> or 586-463-5660

Michigan State University

- Program for foster youth, which offers a limited number of scholarships to cover tuition and living expenses Foster Care Youth Endowed Scholarship Program.
 - <http://spartanyouth.msu.edu/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=146>
- The Jim and June Grant Expendable Foster Care Scholarship Fund awards a scholarship that can be used to cover tuition, fees, books, room and board and emergency financial aid including travel for family emergencies.
 - https://scholendow2.ais.msu.edu/student/ScholDetail.asp?Schol_ID=2983
- Fostering Academics Mentoring Excellence (FAME) is a resource center for foster youth alumni attending MSU as well as for youth who were in kinship care, have experienced homelessness, or are otherwise independent. FAME exists to provide support and resources to these students during their time at MSU to help them be successful during their collegiate experience on MSU's campus and during their transition to becoming MSU alumni.)
 - http://socialwork.msu.edu/outreach/foster_youth_alumni_svcs.php

Saginaw Valley State University

The F.A.S.T. Youth in Transition program helps former foster youth develop necessary life skills, such as relationship building and finance management, as they transition into adulthood.

- http://svsu.orgsync.com/show_profile/65080-f-a-s-t-youth-in-transition-program

University of Michigan

The Blavins Scholars Fund provides assistance to foster care youth attending the U of M

- <http://www.finaid.umich.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=gmQt6Dn0uA8%3d&tabid=101>

Western Michigan University

The Seita Scholars Program at Western Michigan University provides assistance and mentoring to those aging out of the foster care system. Seita Scholars are paired with a mentor to assist them through the

college process, as well as to help them find the funds to attend college. These students are also allowed to stay on campus over holiday breaks, where activities are planned to help them celebrate together.

- <http://www.wmich.edu/fyit/>