

## Financial Aid for Foster Youth: Grants and Scholarships

**Federal Pell Grant:** *Foster youth are eligible for this grant as they have “independent” status. Accessed through <http://fafsa.ed.gov/>*  
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”. Access through [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)*

**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. Access through completing the FAFSA. To get more information go to [www.getcollegefunds.org/ong.html](http://www.getcollegefunds.org/ong.html)*

**Education Training Voucher (ETV or ETV grant):** *Funded through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). This grant provides up to \$3000.00 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. If a youth is receiving these funds at age 21, s/he is eligible to apply for funding until age 23. Access application through [www.OSAC.state.or.us/ChafeeETV.html](http://www.OSAC.state.or.us/ChafeeETV.html)*

**Oregon Student Assistance Commission:** *Hundreds of scholarships are available through the Oregon Student Assistance Commission at <http://www.getcollegefunds.org> including:*

- \* **DREAM Scholarship for Foster Youth aka Former Foster Children Scholarship:** *This scholarship was initially funded by the Oregon Legislature but is now funded by private donations. Primary eligibility are for those youth who meet the requirements for the ETV listed above. However, as a secondary purpose, this scholarship can serve any youth who was in a child welfare system - youth who are adopted between the ages of 14 ½ and 16, did not receive Chafee funds before age 21, or are over age 23.*
- **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.*

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### ***To contribute to the DREAM Scholarship:***

- *Make checks payable to: Oregon Student Assistance Commission*
- *Put **Code 442** in the “memo” section of your check.*
- *Mail check to: Oregon Student Assistance Commission,  
Grants and Scholarship Division,  
1500 Valley River Drive, Suite 100,  
Eugene, OR 97401.*

**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 <http://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>

Although the Chafee ETV grant can be accessed year round through the ILP Desk, we encourage all youth to apply for their financial aid between January 1st and March 1st (FAFSA and OSAC applications) in order to obtain maximum funding for post secondary education.

**Questions?      Questions?      Questions?      Questions?**

Contact the ILP Desk

Mailing Address:

Human Services Building  
Independent Living Program  
500 Summer Street NE, E76  
Salem, OR 97301-1069

Sandy Raschko, ILP Fiscal Assistant  
Phone #: 503.945.6612

Rosemary Iavenditti, ILP Coordinator  
Phone #: 503.945.5688

Fax #: 503.945.6969

## **Independent Student**

### College Cost Reduction and Access Act

In general, here are provisions of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which Congress is about to pass and the President has already said he will sign. It's the budget reconciliation bill for FY 2008. Read on:

The definition of independent student does add emancipated minor and being in a legal guardianship to the definition of independent student, effective July 1, 2009. It also changes the orphan or ward of the court until age 18 to be orphan or ward of the court or in foster care at any time on or after 13 years of age. So starting July 1, 2009 we will no longer have the issue of confusion over what ward of the court really means -- Congress has resolved the issue by saying that all of the above qualify as independent.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.2669>