



ORPARC Financial Aid Resources

*Information about Educational Grant and Loan opportunities, Scholarships,
and Mentoring Programs for Oregon former foster youth.*

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General Information

Former Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver:

Tuition waivers for Oregon foster youth will guarantee that these students (having spent at least 12 months in foster care between the ages of 16 and 21) have access to Oregon community colleges and public universities. Find out who's eligible and how to apply by accessing FAQ's [here](#).

Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act (Public Law 110-84)

This law made it possible for teens in foster care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid. Under this law, youth who are adopted from foster care at any point after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parent's income in the calculation for determining their need for federal financial aid. The law revised the definition of "independent student" and the definition now extends to youth who were in foster care on or after their 13th birthday, even if they have subsequently been adopted (refer to question #52 on the FAFSA form). *Courtesy of [Voice for Adoption](#).*

Independent Living Program

A program of the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Independent Living Program (ILP) assists youth who are or were in foster care to become independent adults. The program gives an opportunity for youth to learn valuable skills necessary to make a successful transition from state and Tribal custody to living on their own in the community. Resources include preparation for higher education. For more information contact the ILP. Click [here](#) to visit their website or use the contact information below.

Independent Living Programs
500 Summer Street NE, E76
Salem, OR 97301
503-945-5684

✉ foster.care@state.or.us

National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD)

A service of the Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau and a member of the TTA Network, the NRCYD's overall goal is to build the capacity of States and Tribes to provide high-quality services to their youth in out of home placements, former foster youth, and other youth in at-risk situations. Find Oregon resources and answers to state-specific questions online [here](#).



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Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC)

Plan and Pay for College. Get answers to basic questions like 'What is Financial Aid?' and more. Learn about the differences between subsidized and unsubsidized loans, grants, resources for all kinds of students. For more information visit www.getcollegefunds.org.

Download OSAC's Free College Tuition for Former Foster Youth FAQ's [here](#).

The U.S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance

An organization that maintains a list of more than 700 private scholarship sources for two- and four-year colleges, career and vocational schools, graduate institutions, and professional schools. For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to:

The U.S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance
PO Box 668
O'Fallon, IL 62269



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Mentorships, Grant, Loan, and Scholarship Opportunities

Chafee Education and Training Grant

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Independent Living Program (ILP) has received Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funding to help current or former foster youth with postsecondary education and training. Youth may be eligible to receive up to \$3,000 per academic year. Find more information, including who qualifies [here](#).

Foster Care to Success (FC2S) Scholarships

FC2S administers a variety of scholarships and grants to help deserving foster youth achieve a meaningful post-secondary education and a bright future. Two opportunities FC2S administers to former foster youth are:

- **Casey Family Scholars Program:** Since 2000 FC2S has administered over \$10M in scholarships to 1,200 former foster youth. For eligibility requirements and more details, click [here](#).
- **Sponsored Scholarship Program:** This program funds tuition and certain approved living expenses for students at community colleges, public and private universities and career programs all across the country. Find a program description, including what scholars receive [here](#). Contact Tina Raheem, Director of Scholarships and Grants, at scholarships@fc2success.org for more information.

Fostering a Future Scholarship

Sponsored by Children's Action Network and The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA), the Fostering a Future Scholarship is a national scholarship program designed to provide youth who were adopted from foster care at or after the age of 13 with financial assistance in pursuing a college, vocational, or technical education. View past scholarship recipients [here](#) or contact [Children's Action Network](#) for more information.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The largest provider of financial aid is Federal Student Aid, part of the U.S. Department of Education. More than \$150 billion in federal grants, loans, and work-study funds are awarded each year, helping more than 15 million students pay for college or career school. Apply online today at www.fafsa.ed.gov.



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Horatio Alger Scholarship

Seeks to assist students who have demonstrated integrity, perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a good academic record, commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society. Application is available August – October. For information about eligibility and requirements, and how to apply [click here](#). An online application will be made available at www.horatioalger.org/scholarships.

International Student Foundation Scholarship

Supports former foster youth and orphans who are interested in pursuing a degree with a 2- or 4-year college. Also provides scholarships for those who are pursuing their Bachelor of Arts, Masters or Ph.D. For more information, including requirements and ideal candidates, visit the [NFPA Youth Scholarship](#) page, or to apply directly visit www.ifsite.org.

National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) Scholarships

- **Youth Scholarship:** Established to benefit foster, adoptive and birth children of NFPA members. Up to five scholarships are awarded annually based on available funds. Scholarships may be awarded to current foster children and biological or adopted children of an NFPA member.
- **University of Phoenix NFPA Scholarship:** Through a partnership between the University of Phoenix and NFPA, five full-tuition scholarships will be offered, allowing prospective students the opportunity to complete an undergrad or master's degree program at the University of Phoenix. Recipients may choose to attend on campus, or online.

For more information on these scholarship opportunities, including requirements, visit <http://nfpaonline.org/education>.



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Mentorships, Grant, Loan, and Scholarship Opportunities

Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC)

The OSAC is a state agency dedicated to creating a college-going culture for all Oregonians by providing access through information, mentoring, and financial support. You don't need to be a merit scholar or a student with financial need to apply for OSAC scholarships. Over 400 scholarship opportunities are available, plus mentor opportunities including:

- **Access to Student Assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE):** A mentoring program that matches trained and supportive adult volunteer mentors with middle and high school students to develop a plan to help them meet their educational goals beyond high school. Find more information online at <http://oregonstudentaid.gov/aspire.aspx>.
- **DREAM – Former Foster Youth Scholarship:** This privately funded scholarship is based on financial need and applies to former foster youth who plan to attend college at least part-time. For more information, including qualifications please view the OSAC Scholarship Catalog online at <https://secure.osac.state.or.us/listScholarships.aspx>.

View their website at <http://oregonstudentaid.gov/>.

UMPS Care Charities All-Star Scholarship

Sponsored by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA) and Slate XP, partners, this scholarship is for children adopted from foster care at the age of 12 or older, in order to help provide a college education to students who otherwise might not be able to afford one. UMPS Care Charities made \$40,000 in scholarships available in 2013. Find more information and application dates online at <http://umpscare.com/AllStarScholarship.html>.