

## Questions to ask to Assure a Connection is **PERMANENT!**

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- If another family member needs to move in the home, will this youth remain in the home? Remember: In permanency, the family keeps the youth in the home, even if not in his or her room, just as it would keep another child in the same situation.
- If the family moves out of state, will the youth go with them?
- Has a plan been made for the youth should a parent be incapacitated? For instance, if the foster parent(s) die, where would the youth live? Remember: it's not permanency if the answer to this question is "back into foster care." Foster parents' relatives should be explored and committed as well.
- Is the youth included in any and all family decisions in which the biological children of this family are included?
- If the parent(s) were injured and end-of-life decisions needed to be made, would the youth be included in the family decision-making?
- Does the youth benefit from the adult's network of family and close friends?
- Is the youth invited to go on visits to relatives and holiday celebrations?
- Is the youth allowed to have disagreements and struggles with other children in the home, just as biological children do?
- Would the youth be asked to leave the house for mistakes or behavior for which other children would not be asked to leave?
- Is the same amount of money devoted to the youth as to other children in the family, e.g., violin lessons, soccer camp, money for housing, school, etc.?
- Does the parent(s) offer the same level of mentoring, career counseling and emotional support as he or she offers to the adult's other children?
- Is the youth included in inheritance?
- In all ways, is the youth treated as a member of the family?
- Other questions or concerns:

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## **Oregon Independent Living Program: List of Services and Eligibility Requirements**

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### **ILP Skill Building**

(Federally Funded)

#### **Eligibility:**

- Age \***16** or older and in substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
- A former foster child who left child welfare substitute care placement at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of placement services after age 14.

**Services: Contracted** out to local non-profits, for-profits, or Tribes.

- Daily Living Skills such as: money management, household maintenance, transportation, legal issues, health, community resources, housing options, personal hygiene, employment readiness
- Educational Assistance such as: tutoring, homework/study groups, college tours, financial aid/scholarship applications

*\*Note: While youth may not be referred to an ILP Contractor until age 16, this does not relieve DHS of the requirement to assist those youth ages 14 and 15 years old to craft a transition plan and gain the life skills necessary to prepare for adulthood and self-sufficiency. DHS should use community resources to assist youth with skills (e.g. foster parents, Boys & Girls clubs, 4-H, etc.)*

### **ILP Discretionary Funds**

(Federally Funded)

#### **Eligibility:**

- Age **14** or older and in substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
- A former foster child who left child welfare substitute care placement at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of placement services after age 14.
- Access using the Youth Transition Funds Request form (CE 78).

**Services:** Provided directly by DHS caseworkers

- Small amount of discretionary funds to assist a youth obtain items or services needed to meet his or her goals for transition and to provide age or developmentally appropriate activities.

### **Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)**

(Federally Funded)

#### **Eligibility:**

- Age 14 or older and is in child welfare substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
- A former foster child who left a child welfare substitute care placement at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14.
- Youth must be on the program prior to age 21
- If youth are receiving services at age 21, can continue to receive until 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**Services:** Provided by DHS in collaboration with Office of Student Access & Completion (*OSAC*).

- Youth may receive up to **\$3,500** per academic year. Amount is based on need.

Youth must be accepted/enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program in order to receive funds (application available at:

<http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/chafeeetv.aspx>)

*Note: Youth may not access both the ETV funds and Chafee Housing funds at the same time. However, if Room & Board is not included in a school's cost of attendance, then the youth may be able to simultaneously access both programs.*

Updated 8/05/15

### **IL Subsidy Program (ILSP)**

(State General Funds, some federal/other)

**Eligibility:**

- Age 16 or older
- In DHS care and custody
- 40 hours of activity per week (work, education, or combination of the two)
- Has at least one prior substitute care placement
- Has approval of the court to participate
- If youth has not completed high school, must be actively working to complete high school or obtain a GED.
- Youth must be enrolled for ILP skill building services.
- Youth cannot live with biological or legal parent(s).

**Services:** Provided directly by DHS

- Youth may receive up to \$600 per month to live independently for a maximum of one year.

**Chafee Housing Program**

(Federally Funded)

**Eligibility:**

- Age 18 or older, but not yet 21
- A former foster child who left a child welfare substitute care placement at age 18 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14.
- 40 hours of activity per week (work, education, or combination of the two – must include at least 4 hours of paid employment)
- If youth has not completed high school, must be actively working to complete high school or obtain a GED.
- Youth must be enrolled for ILP skill building services.
- Youth cannot live with biological or legal parent(s).

**Services:** Provided directly by DHS

- Youth may receive up to \$600 per month to live independently, for a maximum of \$6,000 or age 21, whichever comes first.
- Please advise youth that Chafee Housing services vary from state to state. They should make certain to check with a state prior to moving.

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ILP services are available to former foster youth that were discharged from care at age 16 or older with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14. Youth can be returned home, in a guardianship, or living independently and still retain eligibility for some ILP services. The ILP Housing services are the only ILP services a former foster youth will lose if discharged after age 16 and prior to age 18 (with 180 days of care).

To access services as a former foster youth, the youth will need to go to the local DHS child welfare office and request “voluntary services.” The youth will then go through the intake process. If the youth is under the age of 18, the parent(s) will need to sign the Voluntary Services request (form CF 304). If a young adult (age 18 – 20), the youth can sign for themselves. All services end at age 21 – ETV may be an exception.

**For details about Youth Transitions and ILP services see the DHS Procedure Manual**

**(Chapter 4, Sections 29 and 33) at:**

[http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety\\_model/procedure\\_manual/index.html](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/index.html) &

*DHS Independent Living Program Website*

[http://cms.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/pages/ind\\_living/ilp.aspx](http://cms.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/pages/ind_living/ilp.aspx)

# Financial Aid for Youth with Foster Care Experience

## Grants and Scholarships



### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The 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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)



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

- **Federal Pell Grant:** Some 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://services.vvac.org/wps/wcm/connect/ec726600473a4d47a188a9df272d52c9/Foster\\_Youth\\_FAFSA\\_Tip\\_Sheet.pdf?MOD=AJPERES](http://services.vvac.org/wps/wcm/connect/ec726600473a4d47a188a9df272d52c9/Foster_Youth_FAFSA_Tip_Sheet.pdf?MOD=AJPERES)
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG):** Some 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](http://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 substitute care 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.

# Additional Grants/Scholarships

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**Chafee Education Training Voucher/Grant (ETV or ETG):** 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](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>

**Office of Student Access & Completion:** 500+ scholarships are available through the Office of Student Access & Completion at [www.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://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 is 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 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 Oregon ILP Desk:

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