

## Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides up to \$5,000 per year to pay for post-secondary education at a college, university, vocational, technical, or trade school. ETV funding is a non-competitive grant based on need and availability of funds. The funds do not need to be re-paid.

**Who is eligible?** You must be under age 26; graduated from high school or received a GED; be accepted at an accredited college, university, vocational, technical or trade school using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine financial aid; have more school expenses than financial aid; and at least one of the following:

- ✓ Experienced foster care for 30 consecutive days at age 17
- ✓ Adopted from foster care at age 16 or older
- ✓ Had transfer of permanent legal and physical custody by the court from foster care at age 16 or older
- ✓ Under state or tribal guardianship, you were in foster care when turning 18, and your parent's parental rights were terminated or suspended.

If a returning ETV student, you must be making progress in completing your education.

**What can funds be used for?** The funds can be used for the following expenses:

- ✓ School expenses – tuition, fees, books, one-time computer purchase and more
- ✓ Housing – on or off campus, rent deposit, rent and utilities
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Personal expenses – phone, internet, laundry detergent, personal hygiene items and more
- ✓ Transportation between campus, residences, and worksite
- ✓ Child care.

You can use ETV funds for five years of post-secondary education.

**How do I apply?** ETV awards are made beginning July 1.

- ✓ Students attending a [Fostering Independence Grant Participating College or University](#) are automatically considered for ETV awards if they answer yes on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the question have you been in foster care at age 13 or older. No ETV application is needed.
- ✓ Students attending a school that is not a [Fostering Independence Grant Participating College or University](#) must submit an [online application](#) between July 1 and April 1.

**See the flipside for information on ETV and Fostering Independence Grant programs.**

For questions, email [DHS.ETVcoordinator@state.mn.us](mailto:DHS.ETVcoordinator@state.mn.us).

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## Two programs provide post-secondary education funds to current and former foster youth

The [Education and Training Voucher Program \(ETV\)](#) program and the Minnesota [Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants](#) program work together to benefit eligible youth. Those eligible for ETVs are also eligible for Fostering Independence Grants. ETV awards are made first, then Fostering Independence Grants. Youth not eligible for ETVs may still be eligible for Fostering Independence Grants.

Education and Training Voucher (ETV)	Fostering Independence Grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools in any state</li><li>• Under age 26</li><li>• In foster care for 30 consecutive days at age 17</li><li>• Adopted from foster care age 16 or older</li><li>• Had transfer of permanent custody by the court from foster care age 16 or older</li><li>• State/Tribal guardianship age 18</li><li>• 5 year cap</li><li>• Funds paid to student</li><li>• <b>For questions about ETV</b> <a href="mailto:DHS.ETVcoordinator@state.mn.us">DHS.ETVcoordinator@state.mn.us</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only participating MN schools</li><li>• Under age 27</li><li>• In foster care any time age 13 or older</li><li>• Adopted from foster care age 13 or older</li><li>• Had transfer of permanent custody by the court from foster care age 13 or older</li><li>• 5 year cap (4 year program)</li><li>• 3 year cap (2 year program)</li><li>• Funds paid to school</li><li>• <b>For questions about Fostering Independence Grants</b> <a href="mailto:info.ohe@state.mn.us">info.ohe@state.mn.us</a></li></ul>

If a youth applies to a [Fostering Independence Grant Participating College or University](#) and answers yes on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the question have you been in foster care at age 13 or older, they are automatically considered for an ETV award and a Fostering Independence Grant. No application is needed. If a youth applies to a school that is not a [Fostering Independence Grant Participating College or University](#), they must submit an [ETV application](#) to be considered for an ETV award. They are not eligible for a Fostering Independence Grant.

Please share this exciting news with agencies in your network who interact with current and former foster youth.

**See the flipside for information on ETV**